



BALALLY PLAYERS NEWS

December 2003

Here we are folks - another Newsletter. Nearly into Santa Claus time so everyone will have to behave themselves.

Did you see *The Heiress at Airfield House*? Wasn't it just the perfect setting for this play, ably directed by Sharpie (otherwise known as Sir Paul Sharpe). Congratulations to Paul and all concerned. I enjoyed this and I was glad to see full houses as well. Our upcoming events include, as you already know, "Christmas at Airfield", being rehearsed at the moment and will run from Wednesday December 10th to Saturday 13th incl. This was a great success last year what with mince pies and mulled wine etc. and it looks like the same again this year. Bookings can be made at 295 6015 (that's Jean) and please come along and bring your aunts and uncles, grannies and granddads and your favourite cousin - "support your local sheriff" and all that.

The forthcoming comedy at the Pavilion has had a change of heart; no longer is it to be 'Out of Order, Minister' . Due to circumstances beyond control, it has now been changed to "Rumours" a very funny play by the master of comedy, Niall Simon. That'll be in January. It involves four couples and a dinner party and a missing host. I hear it's a hoot.

Also in January, **Seamus Whelan is considering readings/auditions** for a play in Feb./March. I believe he's thinking of "Last Tango in Little Grimley" which is hilarious. I think he's looking for talent as we speak.

I also hear that there will be **workshops in January**, two on voice and one on mime. These are always of interest and I'm sure we'll have a good attendance.

Now to the 1-Act circuit. We're doing well here folks. The weird and wonderful **La Corbiere** has chalked up three firsts in - Virginia (Best Play, Best director, Best Actress - Ciara O'Byrne), Haulbowline (Best Play, Best Director, nominations for Jean Monahan, Judy McKeever, Ciara O'Byrne and myself, Bernard and Patrick), Waterford, a very close run second (first got 80.9 marks and we got 80.5), Ballymahon, nothing unfortunately, but once again in Carrigallen, a Best Play.

At this point, a big thank you to all who came and supported us and to all those who sent good wishes and helped otherwise, to Dymrna for her lovely costumes and to

Brian Dempsey for the set. We had great craic on the coach to Ballymahon and thoroughly enjoyed Dave Walsh' hilarious account of the Roly's staff outing to the Abbey (get him to tell you over a pint or two/three). Congrats to Geoffrey O'Keeffe and co. (including me) on being in the finals in Ennis first w/e in December. We've also received an invitation from Chrissie Poulter to put this play on in the Samuel Beckett theatre in Trinity. No date available just yet, but we'll let you know. A special thanks to Karen who came to the rescue after my car broke down in Kilmacanogue on the way to Waterford. She gallantly stepped in, so to speak, and drove us all down to Waterford and on to Haulbowline and back again to Dublin (delicious bread from Cashel!!). Cost me a *#+*@~# fortune for a new clutch.

The Bear, which was also on the circuit was nearly going to Ennis but unfortunately got pipped at the post. They took a first prize in Manorhamilton and, John D. Byrne got two Best Actor awards, one in Manorhamilton and one in Palmerstown. Nevertheless congratulations to Paula Callaghan and her gallant crew - and a little bird told me they also had great craic.

Timeless Players, i.e. Lorcan Dunne and his lot, are also doing well on the circuit and will be heading to Ennis, and although we wish them the best, we also wish ourselves even more best wishes. By the way, to correct an error, it's Jamie who is with this play and not Basil. Sorry about that lads.

Anyone planning to travel to Ennis for the 1-act finals should contact Judy McKeever re accommodation possibilities.

OTHER NEWS

We also hear that Hugh Gallagher has got engaged to Sarah, whom he first met in Haulbowline during the 1-act circuit of a year or two ago. So you see anything can happen on the festival circuit. Heartiest congratulations to both of them!

We're on the web now, this is our address <<http://www.balallyplayers.com>> . I'm told there were two hits from the Seychelles of all places!! I hope everyone has paid their subscription at this stage.

Claire & Tony Joyce's new arrival hasn't quite arrived yet, but soon, and John Canning's is due in the new year.

May I wish the whole lot of you a very Happy Christmas & Delightful New Year.

Doris.