



PROMPT!!!

Here is the next edition of Prompt,
the newsletter of Stantonbury Campus Theatre Company.

And with it comes a report from The Chair:

Stantonbury Campus Theatre Company has been around for a long time. When I first moved to Milton Keynes 20 years ago, the then SCTG was my first involvement in local theatre, as I took to the stage in "All Change" - the first revival.

This was a great experience for me, giving me an introduction to large-scale community theatre. It was also the first time that I had been in a run of so many performances. Arriving at the theatre every day I had a real sense of excitement and anticipation of another large audience.

There is no doubt that many, many people have benefited from the group over the years, and with pride we can look back on many splendid productions.

So many people have gone on to be involved in theatre, both within Milton Keynes and elsewhere, and I would like to think that SCTC has been a catalyst for much activity.

As we look back into history, SCTG / SCTC was unique in its position within local theatre. Part of this uniqueness was its relationship with Stantonbury Campus itself. We benefited enormously from the arrangement that allowed the group great access to the theatre, being the "home" company for many years. In turn, many students at the campus benefited from involvement in all the aspects of theatre required to stage a production.

The group took a pioneering role in community theatre, and eventually from this "The Living Archive" has become a hugely important part of the cultural life of our home area.

Inevitably times move on.

As we progress into 2005, SCTC no longer has that unique connection with Stantonbury Campus. Our members have gradually dispersed or have found new avenues in which to participate. None of this is a bad thing, in fact SCTC like a proud parent can look fondly at its offspring's achievements.

Since the last committee was elected, the group has continued along much the same path that it has been travelling for a few years now. We have continued to explore other ways of working.

A great success for all those involved was the "Under Milk Wood - In a Day" event. Working together as a small and enthusiastic group, in the course of one day the text was explored, parts allocated and a reading given that evening.

We have enjoyed some group visits to other productions, such as at The Globe Theatre. A dedicated web site has been running, generating good feedback and allowing SCTC to have a cyber space presence.

Last year a patrons scheme was launched in order to allow people the chance to positively link to SCTC in a real and tangible way, and I thank all those who have got involved.

Despite what we have been able to do, there is also a lot that we have not been able to achieve. Financially, there is no longer the resource to stage large scale productions. Additionally as time has gone by, less people are available to SCTC to be actively involved. This includes all areas of the group, and not just for individual productions.

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It has been a struggle to form a committee for some years now, and even more of a challenge to fit this into people's busy lives.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the AGM date has been set for Wednesday 13th April. It will be held in PA1 at Stantonbury Campus @ 7:30pm.

The purpose of an AGM is of course to review the past year, report the financial situation and elect / re-elect committee members. The present committee will fulfil the obligations of the groups AGM, but the events will be predominately directed by the EGM scheduled to occur immediately following the AGM.

The AGM meeting will be asked to elect / re-elect the committee with the sole purpose of presiding over the EGM, and if approved, completing the terms of the resolution. The EGM will have one resolution for members to vote on. You can read the details of the resolution in the EGM notification, but in short it is proposed that SCTC is dissolved.

The committee have decided after much discussion that it feels that SCTC is no longer a viable group, and as such it recommends that you support the resolution.

If the members present decide to vote against the resolution, the committee (as currently constituted) will in great probability disband by resignation. Therefore if anyone wishes to be nominated for election to the committee, they should contact the chair as soon as possible.

Why has the committee come to the decision to call this EGM?

As discussed earlier in my report, there is a definite lack of involvement from the "membership". This does not just mean people to act in productions. For several years the group has struggled to raise a committee. Many of the people who have become involved no longer have the time or experience to achieve the necessary roles needed to successfully run a production.

We lack finance. There is no money to give us a start in planning anything.

We no longer have any connection with Stantonbury, and have not been able to perform or rehearse there for some while.

SCTC has been fantastic in so many ways. But it has had its day, and we on the committee all feel that it is time to let it gracefully go to sleep now. Memories will live on for as long as there is anybody who had a place for SCTC in their hearts.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved with SCTC during the last year, and supported what we have tried to achieve. I would also like to thank all those that I personally have worked with during the past 20 years of involvement - and I also look forward to continuing involvement in a variety of future productions.

Mike Thomas

March 2005

Following on from that, comes the announcement of the
AGM:
STANTONBURY CAMPUS THEATRE COMPANY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Stantonbury Campus Theatre Company will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 13th April 2005 in PA1 at Stantonbury Campus.

1. Apologies.
2. To receive the minutes from the previous AGM.
3. To receive the financial report.
4. To receive the Chair's report
5. To reappoint the existing committee members for the purpose of presiding over the following Extraordinary General Meeting. (If the EGM resolution is not agreed, then the meeting will need to appoint a new committee).

M. Thomas
Chair

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Stantonbury Campus Theatre Company, will be held immediately after the AGM on Wednesday 13th April 2005 in PA1 at Stantonbury Campus, to consider and if thought fit to pass the proposed special resolution:

Special Resolution

It is hereby proposed by the executive committee of Stantonbury Campus Theatre Company, that the said charity shall be dissolved.

The terms under which the charity will be dissolved are:

1. That any outstanding production liabilities will be met from any such funds that the charity may hold.

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2. That any physical assets belonging to the charity will be disposed of under the discretion of the acting executive committee. Any funds generated from such disposal shall be used to meet production liabilities (term 1), refund patrons (term 3), transferred to another charity (term 4).
3. Any remaining funds after clearing such production liabilities remaining to SCTC (Term 1) will be used to offer patrons of the charity a refund of their membership should they so wish. Patrons will have a period of twenty-one days in which to request such a refund from the date of the approval of this resolution.
4. Any remaining funds will be transferred to a suitable charity operating locally within the Milton Keynes area with the purpose of promoting dramatic arts. The acting executive committee will undertake such transfer within a period of two calendar months from the date of the approval of this resolution.
5. That the website will be kept "live" indicating the history of SCTC for whatsoever period it can without the occurrence of further cost.

M. Thomas
Chair

And finally, news of another production, coming from *Pepper's Ghost*, one of the "offspring" of SCTC, under the enthusiastic and talented leadership of Rosemary Hill:

"The Caretaker" was the play that made Harold Pinter's name when it was first performed at the Arts Theatre, London in 1960, and it remains probably his most famous. The play has always been regarded as remarkable because of the central role of Davies the tramp. Never in the English theatre has such a lowly figure taken centre stage and been realized with such vivid perception.

"The Caretaker" might be seen as presenting a very bleak vision of the isolation of mid century urban man. All three characters are to an extent alienated from society in general. They are deeply affected by factors beyond their control. In their different ways they are all surviving with a degree of courage in the face of circumstances which are, in the main, oppressive. Davies is certainly in part responsible for his rejection at the end of the play. He has been offered security by Aston but out of ignorance and selfishness he loses this opportunity and is cast out. The nameless and faceless authorities that frighten Davies and keep him on the move have also damaged Aston. His narrative account of the forced electric shock treatment in hospital is a gruesome account of an "official" assault on a helpless individual. Aston too has been dumped and left to look after himself. He has become a recluse and is as much cut off from society as Davies. The third character, Mick, is better able to look after himself, but is also a disturbed individual. All three are lonely and isolated. They are unable to communicate effectively, however hard they try. This lasting impression of the play, of characters isolated in an unsympathetic, violent and unsupportive environment, is a disturbing comment on 1950's England.

Contact Madcap for further information: 01908 320179: We accept all major credit and debit cards. You can also make reservations by phone and tickets will be held for 48 hours

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(cheques should be made payable to MADCAP Trust Ltd). There is a 50p administration charge for posting tickets. Orders left on the answerphone will be dealt with the following day, or you can call into MADCAP (Creed Street, Wolverton) and purchase your ticket by cash or cheque (made payable to MADCAP Trust Ltd).

Apologies for the "low tech" appearance of this newsletter. This is particularly evident in Rosemary's bit. She sent through really whizzy graphic stuff, which my computer doesn't want to know about - or rather, I don't know how to persuade my computer to know about. Still...it gives you the information you need, & I'm sure that if you contact Madcap they can give you any further details.

We hope to see you at the AGM/EGM. Your opinion and support is needed.