



Newsletter 3

December 2021

Another big, virtual 'HELLO' to you all from Bishopston Amateur Theatrical Society, otherwise known as 'BATS' in what is our third newsletter which has the aim of keeping us connected with our loyal patrons and followers during these unprecedented times.

Our Next Production

Normally at this time of year we would be completing our autumn production but, mindful of our duty of care to our members and our audience, we decided to wait until Spring 2022 for our comeback performance, the exact dates for your diaries are **Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th of April** ...and what a comeback! - Thinking big and bold, with fun in mind, our next production will be:-

One Man Two Guvnors by Richard Bean. Based on Carlo Goldsmith's *The Servant of Two Masters*.

This vibrant, fast paced, comedy, a huge hit in the West End in recent years, should be the perfect antidote to the lock down years. We are all very excited about it and the prospect of welcoming you and everyone back to live theatre at the Glebe in April 2022. In the meantime we will keep you posted on BATS activities. With that in mind read on.....

What Happened to The Weekend?

You may recall that as far back as April 2019 BATS was due to perform *The Weekend* by Michael Palin, directed by Julie Greenwood. At that time Julie's work was virtually completed, the assembled cast all poised for first night then the world changed with COVID lock downs etc.

In previous communications we talked about when we might dust off the scripts, props and costumes and finally tread the boards with this play. However, the passage of time has scuppered things to the extent that it is now no longer practicable to continue with it, in the foreseeable future. Big apologies for those of you who were excited by the prospect of seeing this play. We are always interested in your feedback so please let us know if you would like us to revisit this play at a later date or indeed if there are any of our past productions that you would like to see us re stage.

What Have BATS Members Been Doing?

Since the last newsletter we have been able to meet each month in the hall, subject to very strict COVID rules of social distancing, bringing our own beverages due to the kitchen being closed. As you can imagine that has restricted our activities somewhat but we have been able to read extracts from the plays and its always great to see each other in 'real life'.

BATS Membership

We are a friendly community organisation. We feel we have a refreshing approach to AmDram.

Leave your ego at the door, bring your skills, develop new ones, and have fun. Never acted before? Never Directed Before? Neither had any of us. We all help each other, and we are committed to engaging any new member. A very good example is Laurence Evans who joined in 2017 with no experience, he acted in *Tom Jones* that year and other plays since and is making his directing debut in 2022 with our comeback production. Not everyone wants to act and there is always plenty to do with costumes, props and stage production.

We are always looking for new members to perform and/or help both on stage and off stage or in a development/social media capacity so please email Heather Cooper BATS Secretary on heatherbishopston@gmail.com if you are interested. We would love to meet you!

Patrons

As we are planning for things to hopefully return to some sort of normality in 2022, Philippa will be contacting all Patrons with regards to their patron subscriptions in January. The subscription remains the same at £15 per patron which entitles you to a reserved seat at one of the performances in the Spring and one in the Autumn/Winter and a small contribution towards the running of BATS. If you are not a Patron and would like to support BATS, please get in touch by email at tickets@batsgower.co.uk or ring/text Philippa on 07805 362546.