

JULY 2015

# newsletter

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THEATRE

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## Our Next Production

# Copenhagen

Michael Frayn | Directed by Carole Lovett

**16-18 & 22-25 July at 7.30 pm, matinée on 25 July at 2.30 pm**

Copenhagen is a work that continually engages the mind and sparks up new meanings and interpretations within the text. It is horrific to think that Hitler could have been given an atomic bomb and it is also horrific to realise that the Allies did get it and used it with devastating results in the war against Japan.

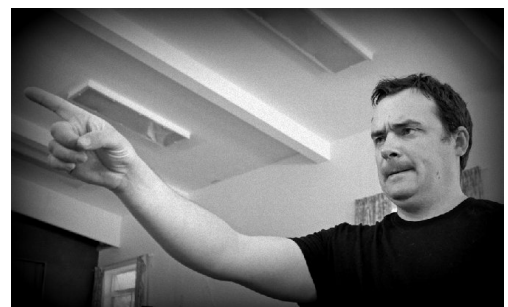
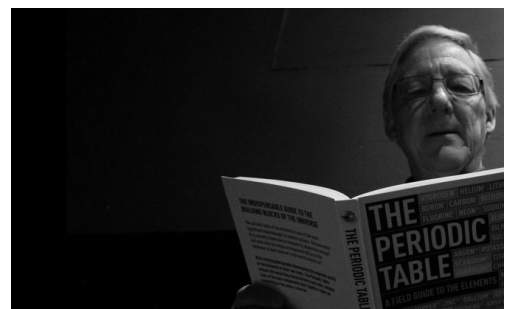
A meeting between the German physicist Neils Bohr and the Danish physicist Werner Heisenberg in Copenhagen in 1941 might have been the crucial factor in deciding the future of the whole world. The meeting really did happen but it was shrouded in secrecy right from the start and the dangers of being overheard by the Gestapo meant that hints, double meanings and misunderstandings abounded. Even the two protagonists seem never to have been absolutely clear as to what was said and what was intended.

Frayn puts them together once more with the added participation of Bohr's wife and helpmeet in an attempt to get at the meaning of the whole episode. After all, if they can finally understand the truth behind their meeting then they might understand themselves and we might eventually be able to understand them. This is a remarkable play from a remarkable writer.

*Carole Lovett*

## Booking

Tickets can be booked at Prelude Records who are located on St Giles Street in the city centre. With this new service, you can continue to buy tickets in person and over the phone by calling 01603 628319. We've also introduced online booking, available on our website and via Prelude Records (a small booking fee applies if you use a credit card online). You can book tickets for any of this season's shows, so why not check your diary and book us in now?



**PRELUDE  
RECORDS**

## Our Previous Production

# Mint

by Clare Lizzimore | Directed by Jen Dewsbury

**11-13 & 17-20 June**

A thought-provoking, moving production, the mood being set even before the play began. Entering the auditorium we were confronted with three stark brick walls, a small, brightly lit window glowing high up at the back, and in this cell sat Alan, the prisoner, waiting... waiting... just waiting! Top marks to the director and set designer.



The passage of time was emphasised by authentic news headlines, many of them I remembered, flashed up above the set between scenes; sporting triumphs, political changes, terrorist atrocities, millennium celebrations, running from 1998 to 2006 as did the play.



Act 1, a series of short scenes, showing prison visits, one suspects infrequent, from members of his family to Alan where he learns of their ongoing life outside. These visits were rarely sympathetic and often accusatory with an underlying feeling of resentment.



Act 2, release and home. But the welcome quickly fades as the harsh reality of life with a criminal record sets in and resentment and accusation re-emerge and build to a dramatic climax. The play leaves one with the question “Has the word ‘forgiveness’ finally disappeared from our vocabulary?”

It would be invidious to mention any one of the cast; they were all totally believable. They were not actors but real people, an aim all actors aspire to attain. However, a word of congratulation to Connie Reid who played the young Amber with every look, gesture and response so exactly right. Well done all.

*Terry and Anthea Dabbs*

## Coming Soon

*Copenhagen* concludes our 2014-15 season. The 2015-16 season has yet to be announced in its entirety, but work is underway on the first two shows.

***The Thrill of Love*** by Amanda Whittington | Directed by Ginny Porteous | **October 1-3 and 7-10**

This is the story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain for murder

***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare | Directed by Carole Lovett | **November 26-28 and December 2-5**

One of the Bard's best-loved romantic comedies

# Company News

## Front of House: we need you!



We are still looking for people to help as **stewards** at productions. This is not an arduous job. It involves checking people in at the door and then being in the theatre during the performance to ensure there are no problems with the audience and to help if there is an emergency. We will pair new people with someone experienced to start with so there are no worries about 'what to do'. We also need **bar helpers**; this involves serving behind the bar and clearing the glasses afterwards. Again, not a very arduous task.

New people are desperately needed as we really cannot function without! Legally we cannot open the theatre without stewards and it would be a shame to have to close the bar! So if you could possibly spare an evening during the run of a play, **please contact Jane Page** and she will talk to you about it. Jane's contact details are: [bernardpage@ntlworld.com](mailto:bernardpage@ntlworld.com) or 01603 429360.

We have just one more production this season, but why not get involved now ready for next season? Being front of house is a great way to meet people and is actually a very sociable thing to do!

*Jane Page*

## Membership renewals

Just a quick reminder that membership fees are now due, and a reminder is enclosed with this newsletter where appropriate. It's an excellent way to support our work at the Sewell Barn, and we very much appreciate it. It costs £10 for a year, £15 for a couple at the same address, or £50 per person for lifetime membership.

## Workshop

Wednesday 29 July, 7.30 pm at the Barn

### **Mask Theatre: Led by David Green**

Join us and enter into a world in which the smallest gesture can convey the biggest idea.

## Audition : Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Director: Carole Lovett [carolelovett@btinternet.com](mailto:carolelovett@btinternet.com)

**Performance dates: 26-28 Nov & 2-5 Dec (including a matinee on 5 Dec at 2.30pm) 2015**

Initial auditions will take place at the theatre on **Monday 13th July 2015 7.30pm** with recalls to be scheduled later if necessary. I would ask that you prepare any speech from a Shakespeare play. Should anyone arrive without, I will have a stack of speeches at hand!

### The Play

This is one of Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedies. Mistaken identities and deliberate trickery lead to a great deal of complication for the wonderful characters that are caught up in his play.

Orsino is in love with Olivia, but Olivia is in love with Cesario. Cesario is actually Viola, a girl dressed as a boy – don't ask! Just come and see the play! Viola is in love with Orsino. She has a twin brother, Sebastian, and they both think that the other one is dead. Meanwhile the humourless and judgemental Malvolio thinks that Olivia loves him and she really, really does not.

### Casting

I have listed the main characters and the approximate ages that the actors need to be. When I cast, my decisions will be based on how the actors correspond in age and appearance to each other.

**Duke Orsino** 30

**Lady Olivia** 30+

**Malvolio** 40+

**Maria** 30 +

**Sebastian** late teens, early twenties

**Viola** late teens, early twenties

**Sir Toby Belch** 50+

**Sir Andrew Aguecheek** 30+

**Feste** 30+ (must be able to sing)

**Fabian** 20+

**Antonio** 40+

**Sea Captain** 40+

### Rehearsal details

Once cast I will devise the schedule to fit around all of us, rehearsing some weekday evenings (probably starting at 7.30) and the occasional Sunday afternoon if required.

*Carole Lovett*

## What else is on in the area?

### The Maddermarket Theatre

**Quartet** by Ronald Harwood

23 July – 1 August at 7.30 pm, matinées 25 July and 1 August at 2.30 pm

