



"On Cue"

Email us on info.sbads@gmail.com

SUMMER EDITION

26 JUNE 2017

If anyone hears of members who feel they aren't getting info from SBADS, ask them to send an e-mail to the above address so we can check that they have given us their up to date e-mail address

South Brent Amateur Dramatic Society Newsletter

In This Newsletter

- ⇒ Death by Design: The Director's Cut
- ⇒ SBADS Member Focus
- ⇒ Theatre Trips
- ⇒ Social Events
- ⇒ Annual General Meeting
- ⇒ 2017 / 18 Programme
- ⇒ Sports News

SBADS MEMBER FOCUS

Since no member has shown any interest in this feature, it will not be taken forward. Similarly, without feedback on the newsletter, positive or helpfully critical, its value is unknown and is unlikely to be continued.

Death by Design : The Director's Cut ...

We steamed into Death by Design with a shorter than usual rehearsal period on account of a last minute change of plan. I had been thinking about doing another piece, the original stage version of Bram Stoker's Dracula. So Melodramatic in the style of it's times that it would stand out as a rather overblown comedy. Then we realised that *Le Navet Bete* were bringing their '*Dracula - The Bloody Truth*' to the Village Hall the following week and it was decided that too much confusion may ensue and how many "Draculae" does one village need? Not that I had any concerns with regard to comparison, I knew our talented pool of actors would deliver.

A concentrated search for a suitable alternative led me, after reading 5 plays in their entirety and the synopsis of a further dozen or so, to Death by Design. Written by New Yorker Rob Urbinati in 2011 it was a beautifully observed and executed homage to the murder mysteries of Agatha Christie and the society comedies of Noel Coward. And I told the author so via Facebook messenger (he started following SBADS page) after the second night performance and after the pub. I let him know how well he'd done "for an American" and gave him a few pointers on some semantic details - you say "arugula", we say "rocket", you say "root cellar" we say "What?", you say "Eyeglasses", we say "we know where they go." Strangely, he didn't reply. It was a perfect piece for our sort of group, great characters who all got to have a good go, no spear carriers in this one.

(continued overleaf... with Full Cast photo)

Theatre Trips

There was only a single response to the proposal to hold a Society trip to a local theatre production. With that the Committee has accepted that members are not interested in such organised trips. To facilitate members making their own plans the SBADS website now promulgates the "**Torbay Thespis**", produced by John Miles of Torbay, listing all forthcoming Amateur productions in the South Hams who let him know what they are doing.

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Death by Design—The Directors Cut—continued...

We auditioned quickly, in fact the audition became the first rehearsal, despite being two characters shy of a full set, but that was quickly remedied by Ben Butcher and Sarah Lannin stepping up.



We had two newcomers to the Village on board with Alan and Cathryn Wilkes and relative novice Ben Butcher went from his maiden role as the front end of the Panto horse to the deep end in the pivotal role of Jack the chauffeur. Cathryn and Ben opened and closed the play and working with them I think I came to with my favourite direction of the production. “You’ve got to be like the two Ronnies.” I said, “But both Ronnie Barker.”

This was the third piece I’ve directed for SBADS and I have to say I am always delighted by the way our little ensembles have bloomed and the ideas come in from everyone. Once that starts to roll and you can see you have a good text and the actors are on it the best strategy is often to get out of the way.

The chemistry and commitment from the cast was fantastic, it might have been more comfortable for everyone to have had another week or two but in the event the ensemble rose to it with energy, vigour and delight and totally pulled it off and I would say, without fear of contradiction the quality of performances and entertainment value delivered was comfortably comparable with the Navet Bete Show the following week.

I cannot recommend the experience of directing with SBADS enough and would encourage anyone who has had even the merest notion of having a go nurture that inkling into bloom. We always need plays and players to do them, the further in advance the better. We have great resources in terms of tech, costume and set components, apart from one door frame the entire set, including the French windows (It turns out I just love a box set with some French windows, I expected myself to be way more edgy and experimental than that) all came from our stock of flats and scenery bits and bobs, it was like playing with big lego. We have the resources, we have the village hall booked years in advance, we just need you to come and watch, or act, or direct, or play with the big lego and all the other things that bring stories to life before your very eyes.



Our November production is yet to be confirmed so get your ideas in quick. You won’t regret it.

I shall leave you with the line play which, strangely resonates, as delivered by a slightly wounded Edward as played by Alan Wilkes “I should rather like a cocktail”

Ta ta, Tim McGill

SBADS Skittlers End a Good Season on a High



After coming runners-up in the League competition, SBADS’ variable member skittling team fought through to the final of the Carnival Skittles against their old nemesis the owls. Although the Owls triumphed it was a good result for a team which, owing to the commitments of some team members, changed composition throughout the tournament.

Team Captain Adam Cook looks forward to another good season after the summer break.



The SBADS AGM will be held on Thursday 20th July at 7.30pm in the Stansbury Room of the Village Hall. All current and prospective members are welcome and are encouraged to attend and participate. Should you wish to have a say, and your membership is no longer current, you will be able to renew your membership at the AGM.

An agenda, including a list of Committee members who wish to stand down will be passed to all members and available on the website by the 7th July. Now is your chance to help run SBADS.

Refreshments will be provided; in order to gauge the catering requirement we would be grateful if members planning to attend could let us know by the 15th July, by email or by putting your name on the sheets which will be displayed in the Village Hall and in the Old School Centre.

Electronic Ticketing



SBADS will be trialling electronic online ticketing in November, in parallel with its traditional sales in the village.

We hope this will open access to audiences from a wider area.

SBADS Programme mid 2017 to 2018

Dates	Event	Remarks
June 27th	Pizza in the Pack horse	7.30pm all welcome
July 20th	SBADS AGM (VH)	Stansbury Room 7:30pm
July/ Aug	Workshops (VH or OSCC)	date and type to be confirmed
August	Youth SBADS Event (VH)	Week-long workshop early in school hols leading to a performance . details & dates to follow
10 Sep	Auditions for Nov Production (VH)	possibly "Teechers" by John Godber
17 Sep-12 Nov	Rehearsals for Nov Production (VH)	schedule to be published
16-18 Nov	Nov Production Performances (VH)	

Long Look Ahead 2018

Our Spring Production will be a debut by a young Director and member, Sarah Lannin - JB Priestley's "An Inspector Calls". The full audition, rehearsal and production schedule can be found on the SBADS website for this and all future productions

2018—Centenary of the Armistice to end WW1 SBADS will be involved in a number of events surrounding this momentous anniversary, including a Vigil in the Church (postponed from 2017 owing to the restoration works) as well as something on stage; further details will appear as they become available