

# York Shakespeare Project



*“where there’s a will” or, “all the world’s a stage door”*

Newsletter – March 2008

## **How’s About It?**

The director for our summer production, *As You Like It* is Roger Calvert.

Here, Roger tells us something about himself;

I have a lot of experience of directing Shakespeare including Macbeth in French - the college where I was working had a very good French assistant at the time so one of my students adapted Macbeth into 'Lock, Stock and Smoking Barrel' gangsterese which he translated into French so I had the exquisite pleasure of seeing my principal nodding benignly at this enterprising piece of education whilst my students swore to their hearts' content in front of him. Another time we did a dance drama version of Midsummer Night's and in the pep talk I warned my cast against losing concentration and forgetting their lines and then had to take a prompt as I was playing Theseus - the only one!

I have directed out of doors - Twelfth Night as an assistant director jumped up to a full one when the chief had to go into a hospital for a serious operation so we'll hope that nothing like that happens again.

As for the play I think *As You Like It* is based on a court/country contrast so I see the court as London: banking, sharp dressing, gangsters and the country as the land of Carry on Camping, Scout camps and eco warriors.

I have been teaching and directing drama for over 30 years including professionally for the short-lived but much lamented 'Independent Productions', I'm a qualified drama therapist and I shall focus on Orlando's lack of education which is interesting since I'm also a tutor for learning disabilities!

Best wishes, Roger.

The dates of the production are 16<sup>th</sup> to 27 of July, and it will be at the Dean's Garden by the Minster, a first for the YSP. Rehearsals will generally be on Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays, with the first read-through on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>.

Auditions will be:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 10-4

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7-9

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10-4

They're at Holy Trinity Church in Heworth (just up the road from Muldowney Mansions and the Carrzi Cave and not dreadfully far away from the Black Swan. You'll need to have a speech from Shakespeare prepared, and Roger may also ask you to read something else. You can simply turn up, but if you want to book a slot for any of the auditions please contact "Soaraway" Sally Mitcham on [sfmitcham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sfmitcham@yahoo.co.uk). Potential crew are also welcome to come along to the auditions or simply get in touch with Sally.

There will also be a wildly exciting YSP fundraiser in late April/early May, which will be the most fun in the Universe, ever. And that includes Liverpool 1 Barnsley 2.

### **Any Other Business**

As there were no entries to the competition in the February newsletter, under the constitution of the YSP I get to keep the golden Ferrari. For those of you who may not have received the February newsletter, this is because, er, well, er, hem hem, er, isn't it nice that it's getting lighter in evenings now? Well? Isn't it?

There was another mention of the YSP in the Guardian t'other week, from our media mole Jeremy "Stop Press" Muldowney, saying that we were one of the prime reasons for moving to York. Can't find any fault in that argument: expect house prices to start shooting up any day now.

### **Any other productions**

There's a France-Doman production coming to York not this Friday but next (March 14th) and it would be lovely to see some of you there.

The play is called *Wealth*, it's funny, quite short (about 2 hours including the interval) and will make you think twice about amassing a small fortune. It's loosely adapted from a little known but very funny comedy by Aristophanes, and rude too, hurrah hurrah!

It features guitar playing and songs by our very own - touch him and you'll burn your fingers he's so hot - Mr Curry, and a Bill Laughey appearance in retro sun-specs. Apparently some of the scenery is also recognisable.

It's at the Friargate Theatre ([www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)), and starts 7.30 box office 01904 613000.

The full tour dates are;

28TH Feb- 1st March-The Priestley Theatre, Chapel Street Bradford BD1 5DL  
7.45pm £9, £7 Box Office 01274 820666 <<http://www.mypriestley.org.uk/>>  
www.mypriestley.org.uk

7th, 8th March- The Carriageworks, 3 Millennium Square LS2 3AD 8pm £8,  
£6 Box Office 0113 2243801 <<http://www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk/>>

14th March- Friargate Theatre York, Lower Friargate YO1 9SL 7.30pm £10,  
£7 Box Office 01904 613000 <<http://www.ridinglights.org/>>

15th March- Otley Courthouse, Courthouse Street Otley LS21 3AN 7.45pm  
£9, £7 Box Office 01943 467466 <<http://www.courthouseproject.org.uk/>>

Advance tickets £8, £6.

Moreover, Ben “Sooth” Sawyer is in a play set on the walls or something. Any second now, he’s gonna send an email to everyone convincing us to go and see it, even if they’re showing Moonraker on television.

And even moreover, Ben Fogarty, YSP alumni from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* is appearing as Romeo with Northern Broadsides in Partnership with the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle under Lyme. This is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse 26 March – 5 April. It’s his professional debut and according to the press release, features a scene with brief nudity. Gorblimey!

## **Socials**

The next social will be 13<sup>th</sup> March in the Black Swan. Dress code: optional. There may also be drinkage before, during and after the *As You Like It* auditions.

## **As Ever**

If you’ve anything you want to put in the Newsletter, or any general thoughts about the project, such as fundraising proposals or presents for the editor’s wife, please get in touch at [mr.alistair@talk21.com](mailto:mr.alistair@talk21.com).