

York Shakespeare Project

2010-2011 Newsletter No 7 April Issue



Saturday 9th April 2011 - Fundraiser Fun

Initial feedback on our Fundraiser is that it was our most successful foray into street theatre so far. We must be learning from our previous efforts. Well done one and all. Group hug etc.

Positive points:

The 4 rehearsed entertainments seemed to be hugely enjoyed by all those who were in them and by most of those who saw them. Apologies to one toddler early in the day who was upset by Hamlet's harsh treatment of Ophelia. Other adult material seemed to scrape under the bar.

*** A Special Moment ***

A special moment for Helen Wilson, Matt Simpson, Tom Straszewski and Jeremy Muldowney for directing these 4 pieces. Without their enthusiasm, energy, creativity and leadership we would not have had the great day we had.

It was fantastic to see the all new thespian antics of YSP debutants Karen Millar, Gemma Sharp, Myrna Michell, Tom Davies and Janice Lowther – we salute you please come back and do more.

We raised £188. Probably a record (with Janet Looker's sponsored dawn reading still to come).

Fundraiser Tsar Ben Sawyer, Matt t'wheel Simpson and Jeremy Mr Shakespeare Muldowney at different times operated with great aplomb as Master of Ceremonies. This made a big difference.

We loved The Wheel of Outrageous Misfortune – both the thing itself (thanks to... you guessed it... YSP Treasure Jamie Searle for making it) – and the format. This is a keeper.

The new addition to the Lara Pattison Shakespearean songbook: 'I kissed an ass and I liked it!' maintained the fantastically high standard of this precious and legendary resource. Janet Looker please negotiate for a perpetual YSP licence.

Special thanks to The King of Cake, Harold 'Colander-head' Mozley for cake.

Learning/discussion points:

We need to look at funding for rehearsal space and costumes/props for the future.

The additional seating and defined performance area were felt to be a help.

Our planned leaflet hand out about YSP and *Much Ado* was not printed up ready for the day. A big opportunity missed. This will not be missed again. Promise!

Do we also need an information stall?

We are not sure that collecting boxes are necessary, we may do just as well passing round a hat (or hats) at an announced giving opportunity at the end of every segment of entertainment. (Did someone really just write 'announced giving opportunity'?)

Can someone confirm the MCVI has now resolved his/her – um – balloon fixation?

There may just be an opportunity for a Fundraiser reprise of some kind in St Helen's Square as part of York Carnival 2011 on 4th June. Watch this space.

All further feedback to Ben Sawyer or to the editor. Do it now.

UPDATE ON RSC OPEN STAGES 2011-2012

We have now received accreditation for this initiative. Yay! And an initial emailed Welcome Pack.

We are one of almost 300 amateur thespian groups to be accredited.

Our partner theatre will be the Contact Theatre, Manchester. Check it out [here](#).

A representative from Contact (and possibly from RSC Open Stages) will come and see the shows to which we attach the Open Stages badge, which should be everything we do until the end of 2012.

We await an announcement from Contact about their plans to showcase performances from our region in Manchester sometime between April and June 2012. We hope to be invited to showcase something we do.

We are asked to record what we do both on DVD and with photographs so that if our shows are not seen by an RSC representative, they can at least enjoy a digital experience.

The Open Stages people will definitely see the showcase event at Contact and will be looking to programme their own showcase from what they have seen showcased around the country for a Stratford outing in July 2012.

Missed the whole Open Stages thing? Have a look at what it is all about [here](#).

YSP Membership Secretary Maurice Crichton writes:

The membership of YSP stood at 47 in this last year. As membership secretary my goal is to raise the number of members in the next membership year to 75. Our membership renewal date was 23rd April. (Thank you to the faithful 22 who have already renewed. You will receive your Membership cards soon.)

This next year promises to be one of our busiest and most challenging.

- * We will stage *Much Ado About Nothing* in Rowntree Park for 11 performances.
- * For the first time ever we will take a production (*Much Ado*) out of Yorkshire to Stratford-upon-Avon for one performance.
- * On the fallow Monday of our York *Much Ado* run, we will devote an evening to *Venus and Adonis* in Gray's Court. Boutique Shakespeare, people.
- * Later in the year we will stage *Troilus and Cressida*, a less well known play but what YSP is really all about.
- * We have received accreditation from the RSC's Open Stages initiative which means our 2011 programme will be marketed under the Open Stages logo which we hope will boost our membership and our audiences.
- * We hope to repeat our fundraising and promotional activity in King's Square in April 2012.
- * And we hope to get a spot in St Crux church to run refreshments and stalls one Saturday after September 1st and to do some serious cake selling. A Harold Plus Experience.

Looking ahead to 2012, we hope our involvement in RSC Open Stages will give us the chance to showcase our first production in that year at the Contact Theatre, Manchester. And who knows, even in the showcase of showcases in Stratford.

In August 2012, the city will stage a large scale production of the Mystery Plays for the first time since the year 2000. It was out of that Millenium production that YSP came into being. We hope the legacy of the 2012 Production will be to give still new added impetus to YSP.

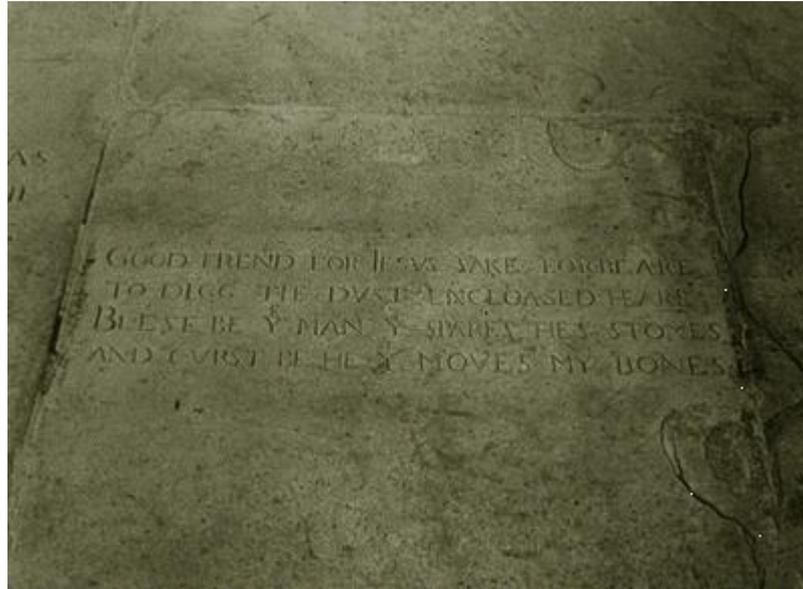
Whether or not you will be able to be involved in a production in the year ahead, I hope you will want to express your ongoing support for YSP by becoming a member this year. If you are feeling particularly supportive, notice that we have introduced a new membership category – 10 year membership – for £100. That might even take you through to the 'end' of the Project! Step up people.

The Membership Form is available [here](#). If you haven't already done so, why not print it out, fill it in and return to me. Do it now.

UPDATE ON THE DELL 16th July 2011

We have submitted promotional copy to the RSC and expect the programme at The Dell for 2011 to be announced soon. Paul Taylor-Mills and one other have a place at an RSC voice workshop to be run by Victoria Williams in Stratford on Saturday 7th May.

Shakespeare in 100 treasures: Number 7 **Holy Trinity Church Stratford-upon-Avon**



Good Frennd, for Iesvs sake forbear
To digg the dvst enclosed heare.
Blese be ye man yt spares thes stones,
And cvrst be he yt moves my bones.

William Shakespeare died on 23rd April 1616. So he will be 400 years dead before our Project runs its course. A date with YSP for your diary: 23.04.2016. And as for his last resting place, when we are a stone's throw away at The Dell this Summer – worth a visit surely?

Where be your gibes now? Your gambols, your songs, your flashes of merriment that were wont to set the table on a roar?

Coming Soon:

Burgher Hall. Ged Cooper. Upstage Centre, 41 Monkgate. Piggyback Theatre for St Leonard's Hospice. 11th to 14th May. Feat: Daniel Wilmot, Matt Pattison, Alan Flower. Tickets from YTR.

Two Planks and a Passion. Anthony Mingella. York Theatre Royal and Riding Lights Theatre Company. York Theatre Royal 'in the round.' From 1st July. Feat: Maurice Crichton, Toby Gordon 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16(Mat) July and Feat: Helen Wilson, Lee Maloney, Jon Adams 2, 6, 9(Mat), 12, 13, 15, 16 July.

Is it a History? is it a Tragedy? It's Troilus and Cressida

Keeping an eye on our forthcoming Winter Production we bring you:
T 'n C the Synopsis Part 3 (this month with suggested Product placement)

In Troy, Pandarus refuses to tell Paris and Helen where Troilus will be dining. They guess that he will be in pursuit of Cressida, and bawdy banter duly follows. Pandarus reaches for a bottle of Herbal Essences shampoo and sings a song about – there is no easy way to say this – sex noises. ‘O ho to ha, ha, he!’

Later in a Braeburn orchard, Troilus and Cressida meet and declare their love for one other. But the whole tryst is undermined by the comings and goings of the more than slightly creepy Pandarus. That said, Cressida's declaration is one of the most lovely in all Shakespeare and worth the ticket price alone:

C Boldness comes to me now, and brings me heart:
Prince Troilus, I have loved you night and day
For many weary months.

T Why was my Cressid then so hard to win?

C Hard to seem won; but I was won, my lord,
With the first glance that ever – Pardon me:
If I confess much you will play the tyrant.
I love you now, but till now not so much
But I might master it. In faith I lie –
My thoughts were like unbridled children, grown
Too headstrong for their mother. – See, we fools!
Why have I blabbed? Who shall be true to us
When we are so unsecret to ourselves? –
But though I loved you well, I wooed you not;
And yet, good faith,. I wished myself a man,
Or that we women had men's privilege
Of speaking first. Sweet, bid me hold my tongue,
For in this rapture I shall surely speak
The thing I shall repent. See, see, your silence,
Cunning in dumbness, from my weakness draws
My very soul of counsel. Stop my mouth.

T And shall, albeit sweet music issues thence. [*Kisses her*]

P Pretty, i' faith.

The happy couple drive off in a blue Aston Martin to consummate their passion. But meanwhile, unbeknownst to them, in the Greek encampment, Cressida's father, Calchas, who has betrayed Troy in order to join the Greeks, asks for a prisoner swap: Antenor for Cressida. Think you can see where this is going? Know what it is yet?

The Third act ends with spinmeister Ulysses baiting the sulky Achilles with news of his rival – cleans like a white tornado – Ajax, against whose dazzling reputation Ulysses says he will be quickly forgotten. Patroclus persuades Thersites to talk Ajax into bringing Hector, safely conducted by Agamemnon, to Achilles's tent after their big fight live the next day. (Had to rush at the end).

The next YSP Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st May.

Latest Comments:

I AM 'straight forward' !!!! - Matthew Wignall

What a happy way to go to bed so far from home. - Gareth Lewis in Hong Kong

Greetings from the Colonies! Although I'm on the other side of the world, the YSP is never far from my heart and I love to read of all the upcoming adventures of the company in your excellent newsletter. - Krystal Evans in Oz

****The May edition target date**** is Friday 22nd May. Cast list for *Much Ado*. And a Downstage Centre interview with a prominent member of the cast. Updates on The Dell planning and on Open Stages. Also the severally promised instalment of Archive Corner telling the story of our first ever production in 2002 of *Richard III*. Want to plug your show? Paid-up member? Email your plug to the address below before then please. There should also be more substantial news about Troy n Cress.

*Gentle breath of yours my sails
Must fill, or else my project fails,
Which was to please.*

Feedback to:
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