

York Shakespeare Project

Newsletter 2010-2011 Issue 3 Christmas

Happy Christmas Very Much



The Governor of Messina's residence 7 December 2010

Cheer up! It could be worse. This could be the scene in June 2011 and then where would we be? In the meantime, to all you lovely people, have a really satisfying Christmas from all of us at the YSP newsletter. With love from the whole crew. XXX
The Team.

- Aw! That was so lovely.

YSP Patron Voted the Greatest

Our heartfelt congratulations to Dame Judy Dench, YSP Patron since 26th June 2001, and national treasure, who was this week voted the greatest ever stage actor by *The Stage* magazine. And a woman. So - Smith, Rylance, McKellen, Scofield, Gielgud, Gambon, Richardson - you fellows were good but not quite good enough.

Much *Hoo Ha* About A Director

[*Serious face, sober expression*] Here is an official announcement:

YSP is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic director to direct its next production, *Much Ado About Nothing*, to be performed in Rowntree Park next Summer. There will be at least 11 performances of this open air production between 27th June and 9th July 2011. This is a paid position and anyone interested should send a CV and outline of their concept and interpretation to recruitment@yorkshakespeareproject.org by 11th January 2011. Queries about the position may also be sent to the address. Promising applicants will be invited to interview in York shortly after the application deadline.

[*Pause*]

So, you have until Tuesday 11th January to get your act together. Not much more than a fortnight after Christmas. If you don't yet know the play, you'd better get cracking. Be bold. Be brilliant. A deadline for your diary, dear.

Shakespeare in 100 treasures: Number 3 The Women

Shakespeare's women by which we don't mean the women with whom he... we mean Shakespeare's female parts. Er. No. We are not suggesting that Shakespeare was... nor do we mean his parts intended for women [or his parts at all!] but the parts what he wrote for men pretending to be women. And sometimes boys pretending to be women pretending to be men. Oh lord.



Our Judy as Beatrice

Daughter or Duchess, Mother or
Mistress (Quickly or Overdone),
Widow or Witch, Bawd, Nurse or
Queen - we just lov'em don't we?

And still to be seen in a YSP
production these big roles – Cleopatra,
Imogen, Helena, Isabella, Desdemona,
Emilia, Viola all in the top ten biggest
women roles.

For a glimpse of some more see [here](#).

****Joke**** The hair on Al Carr's top lip.

****Serious point****

The next YSP Committee meeting is on Tuesday 18th January. Feat. the *Much* call for directors longlist. Warning: New Year's Resolutions could be passed. What else do we need to deal with? Let the Committee know about your stuff. Get it on our agenda. People.



The RSC have announced a new initiative to promote Shakespeare among adult drama groups:

RSC OPEN STAGES 2011-2012

Your Committee like this idea very much and want to apply.

Full details can be perused [here](#).

If successful in our application we can:

Use their logo (see above) until December 2012 which could help us recruit new members and sell our productions

Have the opportunity to send YSP delegates to an 'exchange event' probably to The Sage, Gateshead or the Contact Theatre, Manchester to learn new skills, exchange ideas, and network with other drama groups between April and June 2011

Use their *marketing pack* for our Open Stages production(s)

Use their *recruitment pack* to help us expand our membership and tie in with their national campaign: 'Shakespeare needs you' to be launched in February 2011

Use our allocated space on the Open Stages website to publicise our production(s) with photos, films, blogs

'Showcase' our Open Stages production at The Sage or the Contact Theatre sometime between April and June 2012. One showcased work from each venue will then be asked to perform at Stratford

Take up other Open Stages opportunities yet to be announced

Before we get too excited we should note that if successful:

At least one representative from the YSP will need to get to an exchange event *at our cost*

We need to 'pitch' on their application form by the end of February 2011

Involvement in any 'showcase' will be at our cost

We must not get sidetracked from our Project

YSP FUNDRAISER 2011

The YSP Committee have applied to conduct a street collection in King's Square on a Saturday close to Shakespeare's birthday in April. News of the actual date will be announced as soon as our booking is confirmed. We will be staging street theatre in that Square as we did in April of this year to raise our profile in the city, promote our forthcoming production(s), and collect funds to help us in our Project.

Experience has showed that songs and rehearsed scenes from Shakespeare work best in attracting interest from passers by. Ben Sawyer is going to co-ordinate our efforts this year. If you want to be involved – get your ideas and enthusiasm to him. This is a chance for those wanting to have a go at directing on a small manageable scale to do just that – have a go. Back seat directors (you know who you are) show us what you are made of! It is a chance to perform that speech, that part, that scene that you always wanted a go at. If we've already done the play and you didn't get the part – show the city just how fab you would have been. Romeo on stilts, Falstaff on ice, Lady M in drag, Mark Antonia's speech to the plebs, Hamlet on kazoo, your songs, your dancing, your silliness.

You might even want to do proper macho fighting:



The important thing is to get involved. And if we are very lucky, Ben will even wear his Hawaiian shirt again.

A Special Moment

A special moment therefore for Ben Sawyer for taking on the task of organising this event. Thank you Ben.

Christmas presents

A bit late for these ideas but:

Book: Don Paterson Reading Shakespeare's Sonnets

The Don, highly rated Scottish contemporary poet and sonneteer reads a sonnet a day and writes a wee bit about the process. Full text of sonnets included. Hardback direct from Faber £12.59.

DVD: York Mystery Plays 2010

The Doctor does *Hamlet* is old hat now. Whereas this is hot off the press. YSP Treasure Paul Toy was Artistic Director. See the MCVI on a wagon! 4 hours. All this year's plays. £22.50 (but if you were in it £15).
www.yorkmysteryplays.co.uk

Download: Cleo Laine 'Compleat Works'

As YSP Chair Janet Looker has pointed out, this ought to be our theme song. Learn it for the Fundraiser? £0.79 from a well known online music store.

Tickets: Greg Hicks as King Lear

The first RSC run to appear on the new main stage in Stratford from 23rd February. A few opening night seats still available apparently.

Tour: The Georgian Theatre, Richmond, North Yorkshire

Every hour from 10 till 4 Mon - Sat. Britain's most complete Georgian Theatre. And future YSP tour venue?

Next year there should be some of our own merchandise on this list...

QUIZ

Ahem. Entries to last month's quiz?

- No sir. Not one sir.

Quizzes!

End of.

Instead, next edition will feature *Archive Corner*. The YSP is nearly 10 years old. We've a lot of history many of us don't know or have forgotten. We'll take a wee look each month. Plus. There will be Ben 'the Destroyer' Sawyer *Downstage Centre*.

Really wanted to do last month's quiz and can't find the Newsletter?

Don't worry you can still go to the [the YSP website](#) and view it there.

While you are at it, sign up there to our mailing list.

And why not become our Facebook friend [here](#).

****The next edition**** will be the all new 2011 inaugural issue, the target date for which is Sunday 23rd January. Want to plug your show? Paid-up member? Email your plug to the address below before then please.

Latest reviews of the MCVInitiative.

- Enough about Al Carr's facial hair. Have you seen my chest recently? - *Toby G*
- 'Not enough for women' - *a female YSP member* [Fair point – so this is for you love:]



- At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows,
But like of each thing that in season grows.
Berowne [LLL]
- I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow - *La Denche*

Wait a minute. You said: 'Happy Christmas from all of us'. All of us? Excuse me. This Newsletter is solely produced by the Maurice Crichton Vanity Initiative!

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

Feedback to:
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