

York Shakespeare Project

Newsletter 2009-10, issue 4

Another year, another Old English font...

Hello. It has been a long time since the last newsletter. Several months, in fact. This is incredibly slack, and all I can say is that it's the project's fault for appointing someone as flakey as myself to the vital position of Newsletter Man. What have I been doing instead of clogging up your inboxes (Spam folders)? Well, I have been rather busy, seeing as you asked. I have started a new job and read the entire works of David Gemmell (for the fifth/sixth/seventh times). You should, too. It would embiggen your souls.

An apology

The YSP Newsletter owes a large apology to the only innocent little lamb affected by my new year feast of Gemmell: Strasz, YSP's answer to Pele (in that he only has one name, not because he uses Viagra). He asked us to give a shout out to his recent production with the Lords of Misrule, Malory's Le Morte D'Arthur. A number of YSP members were involved, including Mark Burghagen (Julius Caesar, Richard II), Andraea Zambakides (Henry VIII, Richard II) and Luca Wollny (Richard II). Like the YSP, the Lords of Misrule are dedicated to a rather narrow swathe of theatre history - in their case, medieval drama in the original languages.

So here is a belated shout-out – I hope the production went well, and that some of you got along to see it despite my laziness. To keep updated on The Lords of Misrule in future – and maybe even get involved – head along to

the Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204332562>.

Strasz, please forgive me. And if you want to take it out on someone, take it out on David Gemmell. Although that might be tricky, as he died tragically young in 2006. Now, while I shed a few tears for the death of my hero, you can read about...

The Next Production!

Following the exclusive announcement in the last newsletter that Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 will be York Shakespeare Project's next production, I'm delighted to bring some more news...

Director

Following a rigorous recruitment process, YSP's incredibly intelligent and good-looking recruitment team have appointed Tom Cooper to direct our forthcoming production. Previous Newsletter Men might have provided an interview with Tom to whet your appetite. I, however, take a much more journalistic approach to this position, and have used my in-depth knowledge of the entwined worlds of theatre and journalism to Google him.

This is one of the earliest search results; there may be more. But taking advantage of another of my journalistic attributes (laziness), I can't be bothered to look.

http://www.heritageopera.co.uk/Tom_Cooper/index.htm

Tom is currently working with Opera North, but his theatre experience is extensive, and he is very excited to be working with YSP.

Auditions

We have our audition dates and locations for the production now, and they are as follows:

Sunday 9th May

St Luke's Church Hall, Burton Stone Lane
1:30pm-6:15pm

Monday 10th May

Southlands Methodist Youth and Community Centre, Bishopthorpe Road
6:15pm-9:30pm

There will be recalls the following week, and please get in touch if you would like to audition but are unable to make those dates. You can use the usual address: info@yorkshakespeareproject.org.

So, whether Falstaff, Hal, Hotspur or Bardolph is the part of your dreams, get the dates in your diary!

The production will take place at the end of July and beginning of August, and more details of the format of the auditions and the production will follow nearer the time (and I promise not to wait three months before sending you another newsletter.) (Unless I start reading the complete works of another fantasy great).

Fundraising!

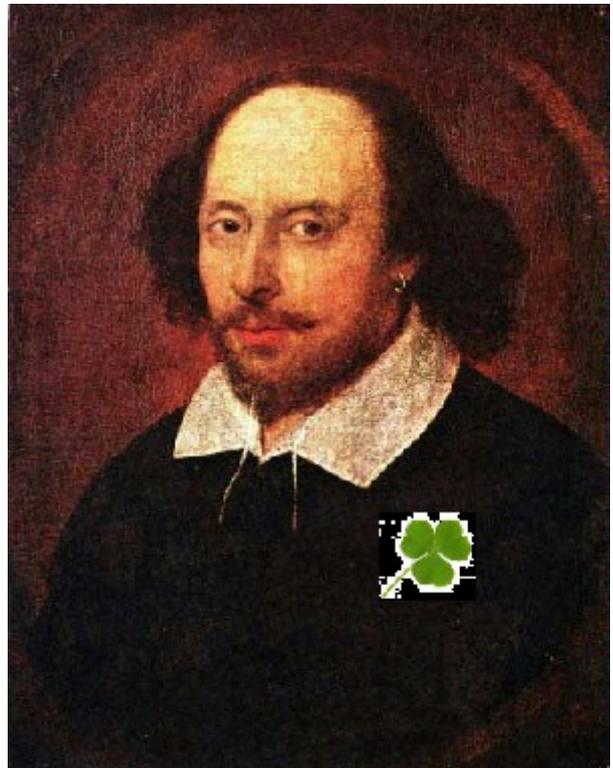
It's nearly that time of the year again! No, I don't mean Easter. (Not that I'm denying Easter's existence, or that it is quite soon.) I mean time for the YSP Fundraiser. As usual, this will take place as near to Shakespeare's Birthday as a Saturday falls – in this case, Saturday 24th April in King's Square.

Get the date in your diaries: there will be plenty of opportunity to get involved in raising money for – and the profile of – York Shakespeare Project in town. If you'd like to get involved, either to perform, coordinate a performance, or to help organise, collect money, give out fliers or... well... anything else,

please email
fundraising@yorkshakespeareproject.org.

Well, that seems like plenty to be getting on with. It's shaping up to be a busy year for York Shakespeare Project, with the most ambitious production since Henry VI, and plenty of fundraising, social events and trips to follow!

To finish, as usual, I've dug up an interesting and topical picture of Shakespeare from the archives. With St Patrick's Day only just behind us, does this one show that our Will had an Irish heritage? I'll leave it to you to decide...



Oh, and you may notice that we only have two columns this issue. Obviously as a grown-up, I'm immune to peer pressure (except when it comes to smoking and drinking), but even I have my limits, and after countless emails from members expressing their disgust at the four-column format in issue three, I have bowed my head in shame and clicked the all-important 'two-column' button. I hope you're all happy.