

PLAYER-PLAYWRIGHTS SUMMER PROGRAMME 2010

Monday meetings 7.15 for 7.45 pm downstairs in the Porter's Bar at the Green Man pub, 383 Euston Road, NW1 3AU [020 8258 6911]. Casting Secretary: Anthea Courtenay: [anthea@antheacourtenay.plus.com] Treasurer: Tony Diggle [020 8998 3225] Programme manager: Peter Briffa [peter@chillingout.co.uk] Publicity: Peter Thompson [020 8883 0371: P-P@dial.pipex.com; 9 Hillfield Park N10 3QT]

For previews, updates and reviews go to www.playerplaywrights.co.uk

12 Apr	Peter Briffa	BONFIRE NIGHT	Stage	80 m
19 Apr	Eliza Wyatt	THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT	Stage	90 m
26 Apr	Peter Vincent & Barry Cryer	DEADLOCK	Stage	60 m
3 May	BANK HOLIDAY			
10 May	Jean Rees	CUCKOO	Stage	70 m
17 May	Peter Cox	"GIVING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS: 28 YEARS OF WRITING, REWRITING AND PERFORMANCE"	Talk	
	Tim Gambrell	NORMAN'S INVASION	Sitcom	30 m
24 May	Denise O'Leary	TIME PLEASE	Radio	45 m
31 May	BANK HOLIDAY			
07 Jun	David Carr	MEADOWLANDS	Stage	60 m
14 Jun	Mary Conway	WHERE ARE YOU LILLIE?	Stage	90 m
21 Jun	James Gill	BAD MAGAZINE	Sitcom	30 m x 2
28 Jun	<i>COMPETITION DEADLINE</i>			
28 Jun	Jan Harris	THE GREEN CROW	Stage	60 m
05 Jul	Philippa Tatham	ROBOTS	Stage	75 m
12 Jul	COMPETITION BEHIND THE MASK			
18 Jul	<i>Showcase</i>	<i>Live at the King's Head</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>7.30 start</i>

Summer break - we resume on September 13th

It's a cracking programme, I feel. It's been many a moon since Barry Cryer graced us with his presence, and a co-written comedy thriller with last year's comedy playwright of the year Peter Vincent should be a hoot. As a tribute to the outgoing Deputy Prime Minister we have also scheduled a preponderance of women writers. Mary Conway's twice postponed play looks quite likely to take place. It's also been way too long since Eliza Wyatt and Jan Harris gave us full length plays. And Denise O'Leary hasn't written anything since Pandora's Boxes made it to radio. I'd also recommend Peter Cox. He won the George Devine Award in 1984, has been produced by the Royal Court and the National, and written more episodes of Brookside than is humanly possible. His talk on the art of rewriting must be written into your diaries, now. Read more about him at <http://tiny.cc/vt4is>.

For those who haven't yet joined the 21st Century, I'd like to remind you of the blog, where you can read all about our latest successes. It's been a particularly successful time of it lately for P-P and you could have read about them first at www.playerplaywrights.blogspot.com

John Morrison has helpfully rounded them all up in his Celebrity News Sheet which accompanies this programme, but if you wanted to read about Bede Blake's tv debut, Julian Armitstead radio four debut, Jamie Brough's movie premiere on BBC2 and DVD release, Napoleon Ryan's self-titled TV series, and many many more, the blog is the place you should go.

Peter Briffa

SUMMER COMPETITION: BEHIND THE MASK

This competition requires writers [P-P members only, please] to construct a piece of drama on the above theme'. The reading time must not exceed ten minutes or fall short of five, **on pain of disqualification**; and it should include all Stage Directions and introductions. Please note that we have reverted to our traditional times, as distinct from the one off extension held for the Spring competition. Authors should clarify the difference between Stage Directions which are to be read out loud (eg in **Bold**) and directions to aid the actors (*eg italics in brackets*). Scripts should include a list of characters (with ages) and there must be speaking parts for at least one male and one female actor. Scripts, one for each player (including someone to read directions) plus one extra, must be delivered to **Lynne O'Sullivan** by **Monday 28th June 2010** for her to arrange casting. The scripts are not to be rehearsed but the cast may discuss the script with each other on the night and raise any questions with Lynne (but not the author who must remain anonymous). Submissions by post should be addressed to Lynne at 202, Eastern Avenue, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 4PX [07710 525434]. Author's name should be on the envelope but not on the scripts. **Only the first ten entries to be received will be accepted for the competition [postal entries will not be treated as "received" until delivered] but we may be able to arrange readings of surplus scripts on another occasion. Casting and distribution of scripts will take place on Monday 05th July 2010 Actors line up then if you would like a part.**

REPORT ON WINTER COMPETITION: THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING, THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

It was another popular competition, oversubscribed by at least two entries, so commendations to Peter Thompson for coming up with the title. In last position was John Hone's THE MESSAGE MAZE, which was sadly disqualified for the unusual reason of being too short. It's good to know that John is recovering from his accident, at least. Ninth with 158 points was SNOW CLUES by Rosalind Hewitt, about two people stranded in a snowbound b & b in Muswell Hill who compete in a quiz to win a ride to their required destination. Only afterwards is it revealed that the mode of transport is a mobility scooter. Next with 171 points was Belinda Blanchard's GREEN MAN OLD MEN – SEVEN about a rich Russian model buying up English football clubs. In 7th with 174 points was UNREAL ESTATES by Amy Ng – preparations are made (including a supply of mushrooms) for the arrival of the Russians (who end up not coming) to a grand hotel on the Baltic sea. 6th with 176 points was Adrian Chadburn's THE APPLE ORCHARD, which concerned two characters and an author with some strange ideas about a 21st century version of The Cherry Orchard. 5th with 184 points was John Morrison's DON'T STEPPE ON THE GAS in which Russian Queen Natasha of Gazprom moves into Buckingham Palace. All is well until she lights up a fag! 4th with 185 points was EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE by Tim Gambrell in which various disguises are removed to reveal surprises beneath, not least the entire Russian nation! In 3rd place with 190 points was Lynne O'Sullivan's TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE about a production of The Three Sisters that goes horribly wrong. In 2nd place with 196 points was THE STORY OF MY LIFE by Peter Vincent in which a series of books coincide with the events in the life (and death) of Dr Klein's patient, Conrad Morbius And the winner with 218 points was LOOK AT ME by Peter Briffa about an encounter in a cocktail bar where a couple discover they have more in common than they thought.

Lynne O'Sullivan