



www.arenatheatre.co.uk

Diary Dates

- Weds 24th March
Bouncers
Doors open 7.30pm, performance 8.00pm at The Winchester Pub, Bournemouth. Tickets just £5.00
- Sun 28th Mar
Rubyz-A-Go-Go
A Burlesque show at Rubyz, featuring HCP members, Lorraine Rowan and Emma Lane.
- Tues 6th April
Committee Meeting
- 18th & 19th May
Les Liaisons Dangereuses
Performances 7.30pm at the Regent Theatre
- Sat 22nd May
Bouncers
Performance 7.30pm at The Mowlen Theatre, Swanage.
- Sat 5th June
Bouncers
Performance 7.30pm at The Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne.
- 29th & 30th Sept and 1st Oct
Blood Brothers
Performances
- 19th & 20th Nov
Metamorphosis
Performances

“Bouncers” breaks the Bank.....

Well our first production for the 2010 season has certainly been a very successful one.

John Godber’s hilarious comedy, **Bouncers**, performed at The Regent Centre with a further show performed at Avonbourne School has been extremely well received.

Audiences seemed to love the show, the reviews have been fantastic and, the net profit for the show is expected to exceed a massive £2,000.

Many congratulations to all involved and “break a leg” for the next performance on Wednesday the 24th March at The Winchester Pub in Bournemouth.

If you haven’t seen the show yet then make sure you book your tickets.

Details for all future performances of **Bouncers** and how to secure your tickets can be found on the Arena Theatre Website.

Tickets Just £5.00

Bouncers by John Godber

The Winchester Pub, 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth
Wednesday 24th March 2010 - Doors open at 7.30pm
Reserve tickets via email - p.nelson@avonbourne.org

SceneOne
A superbly associated night out.
www.winchesterpub.co.uk
(01202) 552206

Next Wednesday’s production poster, come and join the fun...

Reviews for **Bouncers** are located at the end of this Newsletter.

Make a date for Les Liaisons

The cast are in place, rehearsals are under way and tickets are available online now.

Yes, our second production of the 2010 season is **Les Liaisons Dangereuses**, directed by Bernard Dunleavy.

Christopher Hampton’s stylish 80’s adaptation of the 18th Century French novel of the same name by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos.

A sparkling period play, a tragedy of manners, featuring sexual

intrigue, manipulation, power games, lust and debauchery in the decadent upper crust of 18th Century French society.

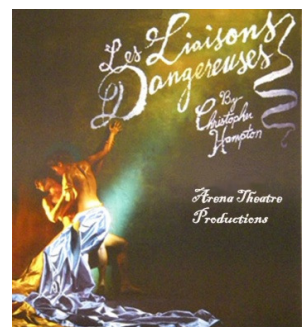
As the action is played out, we know that the blade of the guillotine is waiting in the shadows.

Scintillating wordplay enriches the much baser but more trivial pursuits of the ‘gentry’, and although the play is anything but a political piece, you may find yourself sympathising

with the Republicans by the end!

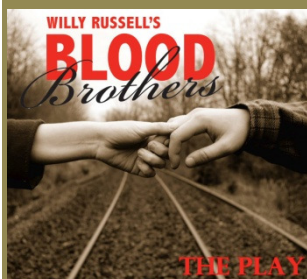
Performance Dates
Tues 18th May 2010
Weds 19th May 2010

Tickets
£10.00 Adult
£9.00 Concessions



<http://www.regentcentre.co.uk/event/les-liaison-dangereuses>

Blood Brothers

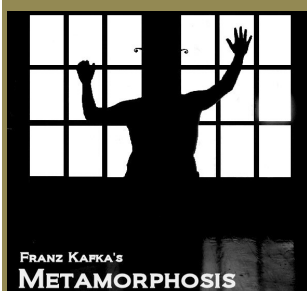


Our September production is Willy Russell's Blood Brothers (The Play) Directed by Bernard Dunleavy.

More details coming soon.

Quote of the month.

"Let us endeavour to live so that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry."
Mark Twain.



Our November production is Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis. Adapted for stage by Steven Berkoff and Directed by Paul Nelson.

More details coming soon.

Are you an aspiring Director

Okay so I know we are still only in March, that being just one quarter through our current season, however as the old saying goes "now is as good a time as any!"

Arena are looking for plays and directors for our 2011 season. If you have a particular play that you would like to be considered then please let one of the Arena Committee know as soon as possible.

Ideally the Committee would like to have a shortlist of plays and

Directors in place by June 2010.

Even if you have never directed before, now is the time.....

You will of course be offered plenty of advice and support from the

many talented actors, directors and busy bodies from the Arena membership, so don't delay, put your ideas forward TODAY.



Bouncer rehearsal – Mar 2010

One Act Night

A suggestion has come in to the Committee to consider putting on an evening of one act plays for any new directors wanting to "Have a go!"

Although this is at a very preliminary stage, if you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions for a one act play then please contact the Arena Committee as soon as possible.

Venue Ideas

Do you know of any suitable venues to put on further performances of our May production, Les Liaisons Dangereuses?

Following on from the success of Bouncers "On Tour", we would like to consider doing the same for Les Liaisons, if you know any venues that could work, please contact an Arena Committee member.

Math Time

Question 1

It took 8 people 6 days to build a house.

At the same work rate, how long would it take 3 people?

Question 2

A photocopier is set to reduce in the ratio of 3:5.

What is the length of the reduced diagram if the original is 12cm?

Midsummer Murder!!!

The Committee have been approached by The George Inn, Christchurch who are considering putting on a Murder Mystery evening at the pub later in the year. Although nothing has been confirmed as yet, we would of course be looking for Arena members to join in the fun.

If you have never participated in one of these events then do please consider having a go; it's completely different to performing on stage.

There is a sort of script and each character is defined before the evening starts. However, the nature of the evening

means that there are plenty of ad-libs and on the spot ideas. Really does keep you on your toes and is great fun.

Basically.....

WATCH THIS SPACE

Hopefully we will be able to provide more information in the next Newsletter.

Joke Corner

How many actors does it take to wallpaper an average sized room?

Only three if you slice them very thin.....

Birthday Boy

Many happy returns to Committee Member and double Director for the 2010 season, Paul Nelson who reached a milestone birthday of 40 years last Saturday 20th March 2010.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing Paul belated birthday wishes and, following on from the success of his directorial debut "Bouncers", continued success for his next effort Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis" later in 2010.

Math Time – Answers

- 1) 16 days
- 2) 7.2cm

How did you do?

Caption Competition

Time for a bit of fun.

There are no prizes on offer, just the glorious recognition of being our FIRST ever Caption Competition winner.

Take a look at the picture and see what witty, rude, funny, insane or downright ridiculous caption you can come up with for it and send your entries via email to Pete Griffiths.

The winning entry will be announced in the next edition of the newsletter.



petegriff1967@yahoo.co.uk

A BIG Thank You to Gareth Richards Have your say.

After many, many, many years of dedicated service, Arena's current graphic designer, Gareth Richards has decided to step down from the role of producing all the promotional material for Arena shows.

The committee would like to publicly thank Gareth for all his hard work and dedication in getting the job done.

He has produced countless numbers of excellent quality material over the years, that has provided Arena with an excellent visual presence.

I am sure that all members of Arena would join us in wishing Gareth every success with some very exciting ventures he has planned for later in the year.

Good luck from us all.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday the 6th April 2010.

If you have any ideas, thoughts, suggestions, or conversation topics, please contact one of the Committee by Sunday the 4th April so that we can include it in our agenda.

All contact details are available on the Arena website.

Special Offer

Bournemouth Oceanarium has a fantastic half price offer to any one who lives in the BH postcode.

All you need do to benefit from these half price tickets is take some proof of ID with you when you visit the Oceanarium that proves you are indeed a BH postcode resident.

OCEANARIUM
THE BOURNEMOUTH AQUARIUM

HALF PRICE
EXCLUSIVE TO BH POSTCODE RESIDENTS

DURING MARCH 2010...

Present proof of your BH postcode e.g. driving license or utility bill, at the Oceanarium during March and we will admit you and up to 3 friends at half price!

ADULT £4.47

www.oceanarium.co.uk

Offer valid from 01/03/10 to 31/03/10 inclusive.
Half price entry valid with adult, child, senior, student, disabled and carer tickets. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer, internet or family ticket.

SEA MORE

Oceanarium, Pier Approach, Bournemouth, BH2 5AA
T. 01202 311993 E. info@oceanarium.co.uk

March 2010 Only

Curry Night

We have received a suggestion for a Social evening to be a Curry Night.

The Committee is now looking into options and will hopefully have something arranged very soon.

So it's another.....

WATCH THIS SPACE

Reviews - Bouncers

Stour & Avon Magazine – Regent Centre 11th February 2010

THEATRE-goers on a cold night in the 21st century very quickly became night clubbers of the 1980s, as they absorbed the disco scene on stage, complete with flashing lights and pulsating music. A quartet of mildly menacing, broad shouldered men in evening suits wearing bow ties and brooding expressions watched every arrival, making sure there was no trouble. And that was before the show started.

The four men were the bouncers of the title, overseeing the action in this John Godber play, written as a piece of theatre in which the audience becomes part of the humour, violence and pathos of the characters involved.

Early in the evening on of the bouncers observed: “All human life is here before us.” And so it was. We met Northern girls getting ready for a big night out, chattering about hairdos and high heels. Then Hooray Henrys drinking heavily on a rugby tour and laughing hysterically at trouser-dropping antics. More lads, this time on a stag night and trying drunkenly to get into the night club without tickets. The lasses, giggly and tipsy, clinging to their partners but still eyeing up the other male talent. Finally a disorderly queue for taxis and the decision whether or not to buy kebabs. Through it all, the bouncers interacting, watching and mulling over their lives as the nightclub music throbbed away into the small hours.

The action moves seamlessly and swiftly as the four principal men, on a minimalist set and with no changes of costume, played the majority of characters.

Russell Biles totally convinced as Lucky Eric and was outstanding. So too was Scott Sullivan playing Les while Simon Meredith (Ralph) and Pete Griffiths as Judd also excelled. Even as women they were believable, such was the calibre of the acting but it was in the roles of bouncers the characterisations became larger than life. Vulgar - comparing notes in the urinals and acting out a scene from a blue movie - and violent, with fights breaking out in the club and between themselves. Yet showing sensitivity, especially when Eric revealed, in moving monologues, the deep thoughts which went on inside his bullet head.

Completing the talented cast, Adam Donoghue impressed in a potpourri of parts from DJ to kebab seller.

Paul Nelson made a fine directorial debut for the company by deftly handling the balance between the uncouth behaviour of most of the characters and the unexpected depth of feelings of others. The result was a roller-coaster of emotions in a powerful piece of theatre which will have touched each person in the audience in some way.

Every credit to all those involved in this production by Arena Theatre for rising to the challenge of Bouncers. The play dealt well with difficult issues, made much of comedy antics, sometimes felt uncomfortable to watch yet was at all times totally compelling.

PS

Daily Echo – Regent Centre 12th February 2010

To arrive at a theatre to be greeted by two, apologies in advance, foreboding “toughies” in dinner attire, and one could quite understandably wonder what was in store. The answer very quickly became clear – a superbly executed “night out” where the audience was introduced to an array of experienced clubbers, their relationships and expectations.

The small (5 in total) cast members quickly made their mark as through the eyes of the “Bouncers” the audience viewed various members of society, male and female, at various stages of a typical night out, from the preparation, a hilariously choreographed male checklist, through to the taxi ride home, complete with inevitable kebab stop.

(Cont.../)

Credit must go to the fine cast who delivered first class performances, Les (Scott Sullivan), Judd (Pete Griffiths), Ralph (Simon Meredith) and notably Lucky Eric (Russell Biles) who under the skilful direction of Paul Nelson managed to bring a strong element of Men (and women) Behaving Badly to the stage.

The various snapshots into the lives of differing groups of people, brought together at the night club were ably supported by Adam Donoghue whose kebab seller was particularly entertaining.

The simple set, clever lighting and sound effects all contributed to create the atmosphere in this very funny and also extremely moving play.

SV

Scene One – Avonbourne School 4th March 2010

MY colleague sang the praises of Bouncers when it was at the Regent Centre a few weeks ago so I took the opportunity to catch up with it when it was repeated at Avonbourne School - minus Adam Donoghue, whose roles on this occasion were played by director Paul Nelson - and I can only echo all that she said.

What particularly struck me, apart from the superb performances, was how much of a part was played by the considerable amount of non-verbal communication, which was brilliantly done and meant that the rapid changes of character and sex were never in the least confusing. It came into its own particularly during the final scene, set in a taxi after a booze-fuelled night, and left me almost crying with laughter.

I was also impressed at how the 'bouncers' remained in character as the audience arrived, especially as a good percentage of that audience was teenage girls from the school who no doubt had a few comments to make on their way in.

Russell Biles, Scott Sullivan, Pete Griffiths, Simon Meredith and Paul Nelson – you just couldn't have been better, making John Godber's funny, profound script absolutely come to life with a vengeance.

LK