



# Mana Little Theatre



Newsletter, April 2016

**President's  
Letter**

**Hi folks**

Hope you all had a happy and safe Easter and the chocolate binge eating has worn off. The 2016 season is well under way with all rehearsals for 'Under Milk Wood' in their final stages. We're almost ready for an audience! It's so lovely to see the mix of actors - some are very young, some are..... well let's leave it at that! As you can see from our photos, some are old hands at this acting lark and some are stage virgins. They've all spent long hours to produce something special for you and Maureen Aitken (Maus) has worked her magic, as usual.

'Under Milk Wood' was originally written in the 1950s as a radio drama by the Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas. Set in the sleepy little Welsh fishing town of Llaeggub (try saying it backwards), the play opens at night and allows the audience to catch fleeting glimpses into the lives and dreams of the town's inhabitants - and its ghosts. Beneath the seemingly charming old town lies an undercurrent of deceit and gossip; characters are either dreaming of lost loves, lusting after one another or plotting their demise! As the Reverend says, 'We are not wholly bad or good, who live our lives under Milk Wood.'

This is the third time that Maureen Aitken has directed this play over the many years she has been a part of the theatre, and it never fails to delight audiences. Maureen has managed to create another world on a tiny stage that is so close to the audience that you feel as though you are eavesdropping on conversations. One thing that has delighted me is that for the first time The Mana Arts Society has painted our set. They've done a wonderful job and I hope they've enjoyed themselves. It's certainly saved me a job! I think it's wonderful to combine societies like this and I hope they will do some more painting for us in the future.

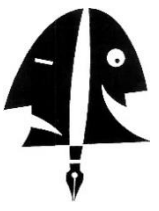
Another treat for you is the return of Fran Barton with the Kevin Clark Trio for an evening of jazz on Saturday 23rd April. Kevin says that many of the standards by Cole Porter, Gershwin et al are classics, but it's time to acknowledge and enjoy some later popular songs more relevant to the present: The New Standards. I'm looking forward to an entertaining evening of jazz-flavoured interpretations of these new standards by Sting, Billy Joel, Dave Frishberg, Halie Loren, Carole King, Michael Franks, Stevie Wonder and others. See below for details and please note - you buy your tickets directly from Kevin, NOT Mana Little Theatre.

We are already looking ahead to our second play of the year, 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)' with auditions set for Sunday 17th April. Please note the slightly later audition time of 7.30pm. Details below. As I said in our last newsletter, we need men! So if you know of anyone with a burning desire to step onto a stage please frogmarch them to see us. This play will need seasoned actors, but there are opportunities for new actors in our other two productions this year. We also like to ease new people into the theatre by giving them the opportunity to help backstage, or set build, or learn how to do the lights and sound. Our theatre only survives because we hand on skills to new people. Please note that Barbara Smith is always on the look out for anyone to help with front of house during production runs. Please contact us if you are interested.

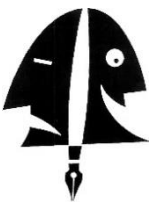
On that note - our AGM this year is planned for Sunday 29th May at 3pm - that's the last Sunday in May. All members are very welcome. It would be lovely to see some new faces on the Committee (not that I don't like looking at the old faces!) If you have a talent for publicity, organisation, or just want to have a role in the decisions we make, then please put your name forward for consideration to our Secretary, Alistair Smith at [mltcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mltcommittee@gmail.com)

So - on with the show! Please book your tickets quickly for 'Under Milk Wood' as we are selling out on some days. I hope you enjoy our 2016 season.

**Sue**



Coming up at MLT



## Under Milk Wood

By Dylan Thomas. Director Maureen Aitken.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 p.m.  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, matinee at 3.00 p.m.  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 p.m.


Tickets are on sale from [mlttickets@gmail.com](mailto:mlttickets@gmail.com)  
or 021 025 77648.



John Jolliff as 'Captain Cat'




Fran Forrest as 'Rosie Probert'



Mana Little Theatre  
*presents*  
**Under Milk Wood**  
*by Dylan Thomas*

**6 – 16 April 2016**  
8.00 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays  
3.00 p.m. Sunday 10 April

Bookings: [mlttickets@gmail.com](mailto:mlttickets@gmail.com)  
021 025 77648

Sponsored by 

**Fran Barton and the Kevin Clark Trio**  
**SETTING THE NEW STANDARDS**

Jazz flavoured music by contemporary songwriters-  
Sting, Billy Joel, Carole King, Dave Frishberg and others

**MANA LITTLE THEATRE**  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April 8.00pm  
**\$20 Bookings 2338202**

## Jazz Concert

**Setting the New Standards.**

**Something to look forward to!**

**Fran Barton and the Kevin Clark Trio**  
including Rowan Clark on bass and Lance Philip on drums.

At Mana Little Theatre

On **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 8.00 p.m.**

Tickets are \$20 on the door  
– please call 04 233 8202 to book.



## The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

**By Adam Long, Daniel Singer & Jess Winfield. Director Andrew Watson.**

'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)' is an extremely funny parody of the plays written by William Shakespeare with all of them being performed (in shortened form) during the show by only three male actors. Typically, the actors use their real names and play themselves rather than certain characters. The fourth wall is non-existent in the performance with the actors speaking directly to the audience during much of the play.

It is described on the Reduced Shakespeare Company's web site as: "All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes! An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) was London's longest-running comedy having clocked a very palpable nine years in London's West End at the Criterion Theatre! Join these madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter."

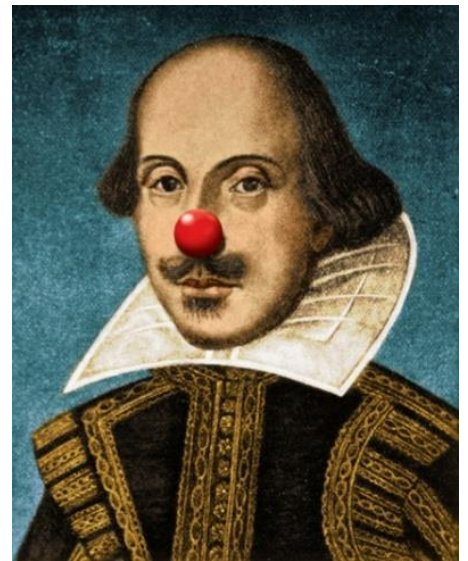
Ideally the actors will have a sense of humour, the ability to think on their feet, and the confidence to interact directly with the audience. They will need to be able to learn Shakespearean lines both forward and backward. Dressing up in tights and wearing a multitude of costumes – often at once – is a key requirement.

Rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday evenings.

**Audition date Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 p.m. at the theatre.**

We need 3 men.

**Production dates: 15<sup>th</sup> June – 25<sup>th</sup> June.**



## Blue Remembered Hills

**By Dennis Potter. Director Sue Mortimer.**

A drama in which adults take the roles of 7 year old children playing in the West Country of England during WW2 – at times both funny and tragic. Originally this was a BBC film starring Helen Mirren.

Please note that the audition date has been brought forward to a very much earlier date: Sunday 1st May, 7pm. We need 5 men and 2 women preferably at least late 20s – 50s. Preferably no big beards (that goes for the women too)!

**Production dates: 24<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

## Annual General Meeting

**Date** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Time** 3.00 p.m.

**Place** Mana Little Theatre

**Please come along!**

See penultimate paragraph of page 1 for more details.