

Prospectus

The Newsletter of the Cayman Drama Society

June 2006

Editor – Alan Hall

Inside this Issue

- 1 Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell
- 1 Elmina's Kitchen
- 2 And Then There Were None
- 2 CDS Patrons and Friends of the Theatre
- 2 2006 CDS Executive Committee
- 3 Prospectus Brief Notes
- 4 2006 Calendar of Events

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Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell

Modesty prevents me from commenting in any great detail on our last production, except to say that the whole cast and crew derived immense satisfaction from their involvement, and from the audience reaction, including one and a half standing ovations.

Although the audiences were slightly smaller than we would have hoped, it seemed that even those who expected to be shocked by the production ended up enjoying it, thanks largely to the comedic writing of Keith Waterhouse who manages to elicit laughter from language and situations which many of us under different circumstances would consider to be unacceptable.

Congratulations to the Director, Penny Phillips, for going ahead with the production despite being told by a number of people (many of whom changed their views afterwards) that it couldn't, or shouldn't, be done in Cayman. Penny indicated beforehand that she would be unlikely to direct any more productions, but she has now ordered copies of all of the scripts written by Keith Waterhouse in conjunction with Willis Hall, as the CDS has now performed both of his solo plays (the other being *Good Grief*)

Congratulations also to Paul de Freitas who stepped into the cast with only 3 days notice when an original cast member went

off the island the weekend before opening night and was unable to return for the final rehearsals or the first week of performances. Paul's mastery of both the script and the necessary multiple characters forced the director, with the full support of the CDS Executive Committee, to request that he remain in the cast for the full run. Thanks also to David Godfrey for taking over as Assistant Stage Manager, and playing the unseen role of Norman, in the style of Godot.



Elmina's Kitchen by Kwame Kwei-Armah

This production with a cast of Vincent Francis, Leroy Holness, Fritz McPherson, Deon Mattis, Dennis Hue and Lionel Durrant opens on Thursday 29th June and runs each Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 15th July at 7.30 pm.

This tense drama set in a West Indian café in East London portrays the struggles of widower Deli desperately trying to keep his café open whilst at the same time keep his son from slipping into a life a crime.

The strong message is a timely reminder of the dangers facing young people today, and the fact that none of us is immune from outside influences in our society.

Director Bill Bewley and Producer Phil Pace are still trying to find sponsors so that free tickets for this production can be supplied to young people, and it is also hoped that a professional video can be

made for distribution to schools and youth groups.

Tickets are priced at CI\$ 15 and can be booked by phoning the Box Office on 949 5054.

We would also remind all CDS members that you can gain admission to opening night for only CI\$ 12 (a saving of 20%)



And Then There Were None

by Agatha Christie

One of Agatha Christie's best known murder mysteries comes to the Prospect Playhouse stage each Thursday Friday and Saturday from September 14th to 30th. Set on an island somewhere, the Owens have invited 8 guests, for different reasons, to their country house for the weekend. None of the guests have met each other, or the housekeeper, butler or boatman, or their mysterious hosts before and, as they prepare for dinner, each one is accused of murder – not murder that can be tried in court, but murder just the same. Then one dies from cyanide – one down and nine to go. Who are Mr and Mrs Owen? Who is murdering the murderers? Who will survive?

The Production Team for this exciting venture will consist of:

Director Ian Morgan
Asst Director Caroline Neale
Producer Penny Paterson
Asst Producer Janine Moss
Stage Manager Pat Steward

Auditions will be held on Tuesday 4th July at 7.30 pm at the Prospect Playhouse, in order to cast the following characters.

Rogers – a middle-aged, shifty looking butler

Mrs Rogers – a middle-aged, frightened, old-world housekeeper

Narracott – the hardy, local boatman (any age)

Vera Claythorne – The Owen's secretary, late 20's to mid 30's

Philip Lombard – attractive, mid 30's ex-army captain, a tanned adventurer

Anthony Marston – rich, spoiled but intelligent, mid 20's to mid 30's

William Blore – middle-aged private investigator, ex-police detective

General McKenzie – upright, elderly soldier, ready to be with his late wife once again (60's)

Emily Brent – disagreeable, suspicious, old-fashioned spinster (late 40's to early 50's)

Sir Lawrence Wargrave – retired judge, mid 50's

Dr Armstrong – retired surgeon now a nerve specialist, late 30's to late 40's



CDS Patrons and Friends of the Theatre

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Mariko Jack has accepted our invitation to become the Honorary Patron of the CDS, and we hope to see both her and her husband, His Excellency the Governor, at the Prospect Playhouse whenever their busy schedule allows.

In response to our recent appeal for CDS members (or even non-members) to become a Patron of the Cayman Drama Society, we are happy to advise the following response:

Platinum Patrons

(for Donations in excess of CI\$5,000)

Peter and Anne Pasold

Gold Patrons

(for Donations of CI\$1,500 to CI\$4,999)

In Memory of Marion Auld

Anonymous

2006 Executive Committee

Chairman Alan Hall
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alanhall@candw.ky

Secretary Cathy Wight
Tel - 916 8221(c) / 947 8616 (h)
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Tel - 926 2655 (c) / 949 5585 (w)
philelec@weststartv.com

Committee Members

Valerie Cottier
Rick Glass
Regina Oliver
Penny Paterson
Penny Phillips

Silver Patrons

(for Donations of CI\$1,000 to CI\$1,499)

None yet, so you can still be the first!

Bronze Patrons

(for Donations of CI\$500 to CI\$999)

Joyce Cantlay

The names of these, and future, Patrons will be permanently displayed on a board to be installed in the foyer of the Prospect Playhouse. If you would like to make a donation, so that the name of an individual, a family, in memory of a loved one, or anonymously, can be added to the list, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

We also maintain a similar list of Friends of the Theatre, updated at the discretion of the Executive Committee, to recognise those companies who have provided

ongoing support of the CDS without any expectation of benefit or reward. The current list of Friends of the Theatre is as follows:

Phillips Electrical Ltd

Androgroup Ltd

Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited

CITN

Cayman Coating Industries Ltd

Deloitte

Island Electronics Group

The future generosity of our Patrons and Friends is essential if we are to continue to present quality productions and to maintain the Prospect Playhouse to acceptable standards without the need to:

- increase membership subscriptions (which would undoubtedly reduce our membership list);
- increase ticket prices (which would prevent many audience members from attending as regularly as they would like);
- increase bar prices (which would discourage theatre-goers from socialising before and after performances, and would also be disastrous for members of cast and crew!).

As previously mentioned, our costs are continuing to spiral upwards, and we expect to have a further increase in our insurance premium this year, having just been advised that, following restoration of the Prospect Playhouse, the building and contents are now valued in excess of CI\$1million !! We are hopeful that our insurers (British Caymanian) will be as sympathetic as they were when considering our damage claim.

Prospectus Brief Notes

We are very grateful for the complimentary comments about the present format and content of The Prospectus. We encourage feedback and any member of the CDS can feel free to address comments, positive or negative, to alanhall@candw.ky. Hopefully, responses will not be in the style of those included in the "Jeffrey Bernard Collection of Letters from the Editor". We would also welcome any items from members for inclusion in future editions of The Prospectus.

Thanks to Martin Wicks (or was it Roland Stacey?) for pointing out that Hackney, the location of Elmina's Kitchen, is in East London and not South London, as erroneously mentioned in an earlier edition of this newsletter. Unfortunately, this error has been repeated on a number of occasions by the Caymanian Compass (who obviously give great credibility to what they read in The Prospectus).

We should like to apologise for the delay in sending out the last edition of The Prospectus to members. The previous CDS Secretary (who maintained the membership database) was prevented by her internet provider from sending it out to such a large number of addressees, and also encountered technical difficulties in sending the database to our new Secretary, Cathy Wight, who was forced to compile a new database. If you know of any member who has not received a copy, please ask them to provide their e-mail address to Cathy so that they can be included in future. Alternatively, all editions of The Prospectus for the current year, as well as masses of information about past, current and future productions, can be viewed on our website at www.caymandrama.org.ky

In the April/May edition of The Prospectus we said farewell to Karl and Janine (nee Moss) Nyyssonen, but have since heard that they now plan to remain in Cayman for a further year. Welcome back!

This year the CDS hopes to enter a float in the Pirates Week Parade in November, probably on the theme of *A Christmas Carol*, which will be performed at the Playhouse later that month. If you would like to serve on a small committee to organise this and to build a float during October, please contact Rick Glass.

Cayman Drama Society 2006 Calendar of Events

Thursdays 29th June, 6th July and 13th July at 7.30 pm

Fridays 30th June, 7th July and 14th July at 7.30 pm

Saturdays 1st July, 8th July and 15th July at 7.30 pm

Elmina's Kitchen by Kwame Kwei-Armah

Directed by Bill Bewley and Allison Maxwell

Tuesday 4th July at 7.30 pm

Auditions for *And Then There Were None*

Sunday 10th September – Time to be announced later

Auditions for *A Christmas Carol*

Thursday 14th September for 3 weeks

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Directed by Ian Morgan

Thursday 16th November for 3 weeks

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

adapted by Shaun Sutton

Directed by Alan Hall