

BLT Newsletter Autumn 2007

7th-10th November Doors
open 6.45 Curtain 7.30
Tickets on sale: 01495
223485 and online at

www.blackwoodlt.org.uk

Improbable Fiction – By Alan Ayckbourn Directed by David Livingstone

This clever, complex and hilarious new play from Ayckbourn features award winning actors and some new faces to the Blackwood stage. Here's a little more about the play:

Six aspiring authors meet on a winter's evening to discuss their work. Among them are writers of historical romances and children's literature who are finding it difficult to start writing, and a crime writer who can't stop. A creator of extremely complicated science fiction, a librettist without a musical partner and the Writer's Circle chairman, who produces

instruction booklets, make up the rest of the team. The chairman, Arnold, attempts to get the rest of the group out of a rut by suggesting that they collaborate on a piece of writing, an idea that is received without enthusiasm. However, as Arnold is clearing up after the meeting there is a clap of thunder, a black-out - and then the story that would have resulted from the collaboration takes place before his very eyes. Sharp comedy and affectionate satire characterize this zany, imaginative play.

Tickets are now on sale from 01495 223485 or online at www.blackwoodlt.org.uk

Sheep Goes International.

'Fancying Sheep' – the most performed play in the history of Blackwood Little Theatre is to go on the road again. Like 'Take That' or 'The Spice Girls' it seems this play will not lie down and sit quietly in a dark place. I say, 'the road again', more accurately, this time 'Sheep' is to take to the skies. The play, with its cast and mighty director, Neil Maidman, is to head for Canada – Liverpool, Nova Scotia to be exact. We have been invited by the organisers of an international theatre festival, with representatives from across the globe, to represent not just Wales, but the whole of Britain. What an honour for the writer, director, cast and indeed, the whole of BLT and Blackwood itself.

We will need to raise some £2,500 for the trip and fund raising will begin immediately. Please speak to a member of the executive committee if you have any ideas to help raise that money, or if you wish to make a donation.

'Frost At The Westgate'

Vic's new play has had its first reading at BLT and was well received by the group who attended. It deals with events from the nineteenth century which are very close to us in Blackwood: the events at the heart of Chartism in South Wales. The play will be performed at the theatre in June as part of this season, then we hope to involve arts and history groups in the Newport area in supporting a production in Newport in the succeeding months.

There is so much going on at your BLT – we need more hands to the pump. If you feel you could help in any way – on Tuesday work nights, onstage, backstage, the bar, front of house, cleaning – whatever, please offer your services. You will not find us slow to welcome you!

Jack and the Beanstalk

Work on this season's panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, moves on apace. Some of the main characters have already been cast and a promise to start preliminary discussions with Pete about the construction of the beanstalk has been extracted from our good friend Malcolm Tucker. Last year's experiment - with Yve taking charge of separate rehearsals for the younger members of the cast - proved such a success that we hope to use the same system (and the same Yve) again. Neil will once again be directing and a number of cast members from previous years have shown interest in being involved once more. It is hoped that our earlier, 'closer to the festive season' starting date of January the 18th will prove to be popular with audiences of all ages. All that remains to be done is for Graham J to get the thing written. He is running a *little* late but hey, nothing changes! Tickets are on sale now at www.blackwoodlt.org.uk

James and the Giant ...?

The theatre owes a real debt of gratitude to James Jarrett of Pencoed for the construction of a giant ... which appears in 'Improbable Fiction'. When Vic turned to James for advice on how to construct such a ..., James offered to make the ... for us. It has proved a mammoth task, which has seen the generous man still at work at eleven at night and coming into work during his holidays to complete the beast on time – all from the generosity of his heart. A huge thank you, James, from all at BLT – you really do have a big one – heart, that is. Watch out for James' Giant ... in Improbable Fiction!