



Catholic Association
of Performing Arts

Newsletter : March 2016

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Dear Member

I hope you all had a very happy and blessed Easter. Spring is here, the clocks have gone forward and summer is on its way. Let's hope that it is a better one than last year!

CAA (CONCERT ARTISTES ASSOCIATION)

Please remember to have your **UP-TO-DATE** membership card with you at all times if you are visiting the CAA. A **SECURITY OFFICER (MALCOLM)** has now been appointed and you will be asked to show him your membership card. If you cannot produce it you may not be allowed in. You can only sign yourself and **TWO** guests in up until 7 p.m., apart from on an event night. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE STICK TO THE RULES. IF YOU VISIT THE CAA AFTER 7 p.m. ON A NON-EVENT EVENING PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE SIGNED IN BY A MEMBER OF THE CAA BEFORE GOING TO THE BAR. ALSO PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD OR DRINKS INTO THE CAA AS THIS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.** The bar is open from 12 noon until 11 p.m. Monday to Friday and you can obtain a very reasonably priced lunch from the chef.

A warm welcome to **Michael Harrington** who has recently become a member of CaAPA. **Michael** supported the concert given to raise funds towards the building works at Corpus Christi and was also at the recent get together at The Hub.

FRANK FINLAY RIP

The funeral of our late Vice President, Frank Finlay CBE, took place on 18 February. CaAPA were represented by Vice President, **Frank Comerford**, our Chairman, **Richard O'Callaghan**, and Master of Ceremonies, **Michael Slater**.

We will be arranging a Memorial Mass for **Frank** later in the year. **Frank** was a great supporter of CaAPA. He rarely missed the Annual Dinner and attended the last one in December. He was very frail but, even so, he seemed to be having a good time and was well looked after by **Richard**, who collected him and took him home again afterwards.

Frank was a distinguished actor who had a very long and very successful career. His theatre credits are many, too many for the newsletter but included **The Crucible**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Amadeus** (with **Richard O'Callaghan**), **The Cherry Orchard**, and **Beyond Reasonable Doubt**. TV Credits are numerous too and include **Les Miserables**, **Prime Suspect**, **Life Begins**, **How Do You Want Me?**, **Casanova**, **A Bouquet of Barbed Wire** and many more.

Reading through the many tributes to Frank I came across one from the Evening Standard – some of you may have seen it. It was an article about **Dame Maggie Smith** and she told the reporter how sad she was about losing so many friends one after the other. She mentioned **Terry Wogan**, **Alan Rickman** and **Frank** who was in the First National Theatre Company with her at the Old Vic in 1962: he played **Iago to Laurence Olivier's "notoriously hammy, blacked-up Othello."** (From the Standard, not me!!)

She played Desdemona and told the reporter **"One night dear Frank came off stage and he flew to the prompt corner and started tearing at his eyes like Oedipus. I got very worried and went over and said "Are you all right?" He had terribly bad sight, Frank, and was wearing contact lenses which he never normally wore and he said 'I've just seen Sir Laurence for the first time! And I never want to do it again'!"** On hearing that Frank had, sadly, died, **The Tablet** interviewed **Richard O'Callaghan** which appeared under the title of **Frankly Catholic**. **Richard**, who appeared in **Amadeus** with **Frank**, told them that he **"would look up at Mass and see Frank standing there. He was a Catholic lad who went on to great things, but that never left him, he knew where he came from."**

Dear Frank, CaAPA will miss you. You were, besides a great actor, a kind and gentle man. Rest in peace.

PAUL RANDALL

The funeral of **Paul Randall** took place on 18 January in Chelmsford where he lived with his wife, Ursula. **Paul** was a Trustee and, until his illness, was also a very active and valued CaAPA committee member. At the Mass which took place at Paul's local church, CaAPA member and close friend of Paul's, **Joe Morris** did a reading, **Mgr Vladimir Felzmann**, Chairman of Trustees, gave the homily, and **Vice President, Robin Marchal**, read a poem. **Michael Slater** and I were also at the funeral. It was a lovely service, sad but uplifting. Our hearts go out to Ursula, their two daughters and their grandchildren. Life is very cruel at times and I know that Paul suffered a great deal in the last few months of his life. Rest in peace now, Paul. We will miss you.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Alastair Kelly appeared in *Cheshire Cats* at Turvey Hall in Bedford. **Jimena Larragivel** will be appearing in the first episode of *Apple Tree Yard* which will be showing on BBC 1 later on this year. Following on from his recent stint with the National, **Jonathan Coote** will be appearing in *A Kingdom for a Stage* at the Chelsea Theatre, World's End Place, Kings Road, SW10 from 28 April until 7 May when he will be playing the role of William Shakespeare. Do go along and support Jonathan.

PAST EVENTS

The 29th Students Evening took place at the CAA on 4 March and I am happy to say that, once again, this was a fantastic success. Over 90 students from the various accredited Drama Schools were out in force and learnt so much from the panel which was chaired by **Ros Hubbard** from **Hubbard Casting**. The panel included **Louise Grainger** (Equity), **Pippa Harrison** (Spotlight), **Roger Charteris** (The Artists Partnership), **Jim O'Hanlon** (Director), **Neil Rawlinson** (Actors Centre), **Michael Wharley** (Photographer) and our very own **Richard O'Callaghan**. **John Hubbard** (Hubbard Casting) was also present in the audience. **The Sir Alec Guinness Award** is an integral part of the Students Evening when we invite final year students to apply for this Award. This year there were over 40 applications which gave the Administrators a tough task. **Paul Randall** had been one of the Administrators, the other two being **Michael Slater** and **Patrick Lee**.

We invited **Jane Garioni** to take on the role of third Administrator and we are so pleased she has taken this on. The winner of the Award was **Hannah Traylen** from **Italia Conti** and a huge cheer went up from the audience when her name was announced by **Richard O'Callaghan** who also presented her with her Certificate. (**Have a look on our website – a lovely photograph of Hannah and Richard**). She is a lovely young lady who was ecstatic to have won and one of the first things she did was to phone her Mum to let her know. Putting this together each year is hard work (very) and a lot rests on the shoulders of **Gabrielle Lister**. Our grateful thanks to her, **Michael Slater**, **Jane Garioni**, **Patrick Lee** who is CaAPA's own and valued photographer, **Richard O'Callaghan**, **Charlotte Williams**, who NEVER fails to be at the door checking the students in and finally, but not least, to **Ros and John Hubbard**, who have been an integral part of the Students Evening from the first year and who, despite their very busy lives, are **ALWAYS** there every year for which we are eternally grateful.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, 10 MAY at the CAA – commencing at 8 p.m.

To mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare **Siobhan Murphy** will be performing some readings of her own published work and some Shakespeare verses which includes a sung Sonnet. Following this there will be about 30 minutes of Theatre Verse based on William Shakespeare. Do come along and bring family and or friends with you.

SUNDAY, 22 MAY AT TYBURN CONVENT – MONASTIC AFTERNOON – PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING

You can start arriving from 12 o'clock onwards. Just ring the bell and one of the nuns will let you in and direct you to the crypt where we will be gathering. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE – IF YOU ARRIVE LATER THAN 1 P.M. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS AS THERE WILL BE NOBODY AT THE DOOR TO LET YOU IN.**

Mass will be celebrated by Mgr Vladimir Felzmann at 1 p.m. One of the nuns will be giving a short talk during the afternoon about Monastic Life at Tyburn. We will join the community for Vespers at 4.30 p.m. Please bring your own sandwiches, tea will be provided. Tyburn Convent, 8-9 Hyde Park Place. Marble Arch nearest tube station. The Convent is directly opposite Hyde Park. After Vespers we will make our way to a local hostelry which we did when we had our last Monastic Afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, 1 June from 7 p.m. onwards. Get Together at The Hub (Golden Lion), King Street just off Piccadilly. Friends welcome.