



Catholic Association of Performing Arts

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

I hope you all had a good summer break. Not a very good August, though it did warm up for the Bank Holiday weekend. A bit TOO hot!!

CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY-O'CONNOR

Cardinal Vincent has circulated all Parishes in the Westminster Diocese asking for “**Your prayers for Cardinal Cormac who is seriously ill in hospital. His health has taken ‘a defining turn’. As you will know so clearly, for Cardinal Cormac these loving prayers are a source of great strength and comfort as he calmly ponders on all that lies ahead, all in God’s time**”. Please remember Cardinal Cormac in your prayers.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2017

Michael Slater writes: This was my 20th year and having travelled by train, ferry, overnight coach and plane, it is a joy to be able to travel by Eurostar to Paris and then by TVG to Lourdes all in one day! Staying in a family hotel in a room overlooking the garden is sheer bliss. My duties over the years have been varied. I have been a redcap pushing the sick in wheelchairs and also been in charge of wheelchairs, some of which tend to end up in strange places! I have also been the MC at Masses with a Cardinal, several Bishops and 45 priests which is a huge difference from a Parish Mass. During the past few years we have been blessed to have students from Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy to join us at St Frai Hospital which looks after the sick pilgrims. CaAPA has been instrumental in assisting the students with the cost of travelling to Lourdes by hosting several concerts at the CAA at which they perform and for which they are so grateful. This year CaAPA member, Dominic Hecht, was also at Lourdes doing his bit to make the Pilgrimage such a success. It was a real pleasure to have him there and to also be able to have a drink together once our duties were over which was always pretty late in the evening. Colette Gleeson, whose late mother, Florence Gleeson, was a valued member and supporter of the former Catholic Stage Guild, and actor Alex McQueen, were also working in St Frai. We should also remember our Chair of Trustees, Mgr Vladimir Felzmann, who, with Cardinal Basil Hume, was responsible for getting the Pilgrimage off the ground all those years ago. This year I

was privileged to act as the narrator for Peter's Way of the Cross, with singers and music in the underground Basilique which holds 34 thousand people. Words by Bernard Lavery, President of Lourdes Pilgrimage, Music by Giovanni Battista-Marseglia, Director of Music, Lourdes Pilgrimage. The Cardinal, Bishop John Wilson and Bishop Paul McAleenan were in attendance. It was a most moving experience and a very special moment in my long Lourdes journey.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to **Jeremy Rowe and Emily Swain**, who have recently re-joined CaAPA. We hope to see them again at one of our CaAPA events. **Emily** is the daughter of **Michael Murray** who sadly died some years ago. He was an actor and director, a great supporter of CaAPA and a good friend of **Richard O'Callaghan**.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Michael Harrington** who has received an offer from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to study for a Masters in Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy. **Jonathan Coote** is filming in an episode of **Casualty** – good luck, Jonathan.

NEWS OF OUR SIR ALEC GUINNESS AWARD WINNERS

Asif Khan, who won the Award in 2011, appeared in **Love, Bombs and Apples** at the Edinburgh Festival. **AND** the winner of this year's Award, **Evangeline Osbon** was also at the Edinburgh Festival. The following is a review of her play. “**THINK** is a powerful piece of new writing from Evangeline Osbon, recent graduate from the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA), in collaboration with MindOut Theatre. Impressively, Osbon also doubles as the play's director and even triples as a performer in the multi-rolling ensemble. Her short play charts anorexia nervosa sufferer, Jay, as he journeys into an in-patient unit. There he befriends Molly – who has spent years in and out of the facility due to her bipolar disorder – and, aided by this unlikely friendship and a diligent healthcare plan, starts off on a path of recovery.” **Hannah Traylen**, our winner last year, is on her first tour and will be appearing in **Heroine** at the HighTide Festival Aldeburgh from the 13-16 September, followed by the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, from 19-23 September, HighTideFestival Walthamstow from 27 September-8 October and finally at the Theatr Clwyd, Cymru, from 18 October-4 November. (For your information this theatre is in Mold, Flintshire) Good luck Hannah. We look forward to hearing how it all goes.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

4 October at the CAA, 20 Bedford Street commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Nearly 20 actors, mostly CaAPA members, will be reading up to eight new, specially written scripts/monologues on the theme of **Women in the Church**. Casting is imminent. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest and submitted their names so far. Anyone else? Please e-mail Robin – rcmg444@outlook.com. The evening will close with Sisters Mary and Moira of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre telling us about their work in Essex and East London, as well as in Rwanda and the dangerous Democratic Republic of the Congo. **Family and friends are very welcome. Please come along for an evening of thought, perceptions and fun.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will take place at the CAA on 25 October commencing at 7 p.m. This is also the time when the Officers and Committee are elected.

I enclose a Committee Nomination Form which should be returned to me either by e-mail – secretary@caapa.org.uk – or to my home address,

Hon. Secretary, 11 Stamford Brook Road, London W6 0XJ NO LATER THAN 11 October 2017.

LOCKS AND STOCKS, 23 November, Holy Apostles, Pimlico.

Michael Harrington's play, which had its first performance at the CAA in May, will be performed again at Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland Street, SW1V 4LY on 23 November. This will be a script-in-hand performance and is a chance for members who didn't see the first performance on 10 May to come along to this one. Further details, including the start time, in the October newsletter.

ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY, 8 DECEMBER AT ALLEN HALL

Please make a note of the date. Full details in the October Newsletter.