



Catholic Association
of Performing Arts

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NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2018

**A Pontifical Solemn Mass of Corpus Christi & Formal Erection of
the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament**

will be celebrated by His Eminence, Vincent Cardinal Nichols,
Archbishop of Westminster, at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane on Sunday,
3 June, at 11 a.m.

**All CaAPA members are welcome to attend this very special
occasion.**

EVENT AT THE OLD BAILEY – 30 MAY

I am seldom at a loss for words (ask my family!) but this was an exception. From start to finish this was an event which I, and others I am sure, will never forget. To be at the Old Bailey was pretty incredible to start with. The reception was a time for meeting up with old friends, meeting new ones, having a glass or more of wine and enjoying the delicious canapes. And then, at the end of the reception, going to the Grand Hall, which was spectacular, for the performance of **Peter's Way of the Cross**. Our readers of the **Stations of the Cross** were **Gabrielle Lister, Richard O'Callaghan, Michael Slater, Jonathan Coote** and **Kenneth Michaels** who were all brilliant. And then there was the choir and here, words do fail me. How can you describe such singing? **Fr Pat Browne**, Parish Priest at Pimlico, what a voice. One of the sopranos – unfortunately I don't know her name – but her singing – indescribably beautiful. This is the choir of The Westminster Pilgrimage who sing in Lourdes every year and I only wish I could name each and everyone of them as they all deserve a mention. There were two standing ovations at the end which were more than fully deserved. I appreciate that £50 is a lot of money and that the cost probably put off a lot of CaAPA members from attending (this was actually reduced from the usual £90.) This was a one off event and I do not think CaAPA will ever see its like again and it was a great pity that not more members were able to be there.

The following is an e-mail to me from **Bernard Lavery**, who organised the whole event. He is very much a part of the Annual Lourdes

Pilgrimage and has been for many years since it was first started by **Mgr Vladimir Felzmann** at the request of **Cardinal Basil Hume**.

“I want to thank you on behalf of the Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage for all the help and assistance CaAPA have given us in preparing and staging St Peter’s Way of the Cross yesterday evening and the fund raising events you have generously hosted on behalf of volunteers at Newman House. Members of CaAPA played a significant part in the production at the Old Bailey, contributing to the tremendous success of the evening. I would like to offer my personal thanks to you for the assistance you gave in promoting the event and to the members who supported the evening as guests. Many have already said that they found it very moving and enjoyed the evening immensely. Thank you once again to you and members of CaAPA for all your help.”

And, finally, our very grateful thanks to **Judge Nicholas Hilliard** and his wife, CaAPA member, **Jane Garioni**. Without them this event would never have been possible.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Kenneth Michaels is to direct and appear in the Historia Theatre Company’s production of **Dear Chocolate Soldier** – a docudrama based on World War 1 letters from the front. The production travels to Staffordshire and then has London dates at the CAA on 1 June and All Hallows Church, Tower Bridge on the 2 June, before a week long Armistice residency at the Old Sorting office in Barnes in November.

Jane Garioni is currently filming in **Patience of a Saint** in which she plays the part of a prison warden who organises experiments on the inmates which then go terribly wrong. She ends up being shot in the head. I can’t wait to see it!!

STUNNING MEARA

Robin Marchal’s play, **Stunning Meara**, was performed at St Mary’s Church, Putney, on the 4, 5 and 6 May. **Michael Harrington** was at the 5 May performance and has written the following review.

“On the first warm night of spring, St Mary’s new play, **Stunning Meara**, Robin’s conscious raising character led play provided fascinating insight into selective Mutism and Asperger’s and offered a reminder of how those with such difficulties can often lead, with a little help, independent and fulfilling lives. The play provides three absorbing characters who fully engaged and touched the audience.

Meara, who has selective Mutism, performed by the exceptional **Leonora Fyle**, displayed palpable pain and was haunted with fear. Her unsympathetic mother, played convincingly by **Laura Fitzpatrick**, self-medicated on cans of lager and her daughter's pills and spent her days fantasising about her dead husband and admonishing her daughter. Light is shined brightly, however, into Meara's life and into the production by Steve, who has Asperger's. **Patrick Lynch**, as Steve, provided the standout performance. His timing, moving and comedic flair was perfect and was reminiscent of a young Lee Mack. The clumsy and burgeoning relationship between Steve and Meara is the thread that runs through the play and which ultimately transforms their lives.

Olivia Busby enthusiastically played a number of supporting roles that sowed the play's story together and **Maurice Thorogood's** direction ensured dramatic fluidity and brought fascinating characters to life. **Xanthe Goode's** set made best use of St Mary's cavernous and bright space and her sound enlivened Meara, at times, of most stress. **Robin's** play was well received by a large Wandsworth fringe audience, but this important play deserves to be seen by more.

REFUGEES

I would be grateful if those members expecting to submit a play could let me (Molly Steele) know in advance so that I can advise the organisers of expected numbers. All plays should be submitted to our Coordinator, Jimena Larraguivel by e-mail – coordinator@caapa.org.uk. **NO LATER than 31 August**. Also please remember that you will need to consider casting your play as this is down to you. All plays will be performed at the CAA on 14 November.

BRITISH 10Km PLACES AVAILABLE 15 JULY 2018-06-01

Run for the Catholic Children's Society and support local disadvantaged children and young people. Only 10 places available!

To sign up please call 020 8969 5305 or e-mail: kimberleyt@cathchild.org.uk

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Have a good summer and enjoy yourselves. The Monthly Newsletter will return in September as all goes quiet now for a couple of months.