



Players Patter No 180 - Sep 2017

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Michael Foster

Michael, who died on Wednesday 13th September, was President of the Haslemere Players for 15 years, from 1984 to 1998.

Michael, who was an architect, worked in London but immersed himself in the Town. Over the years he has been Chairman and President of the Haslemere Society as well as Chairman of Haslemere Round Table, 41 Club and Our Lady of Lourdes PCC. He was a Trustee of the Town Band, Comrades Club and Haslemere Hall. As Hon. Architect for the Haslemere Hall he designed many improvements including re-vamping the foyer and box office, and extending the Annexe to incorporate a larger kitchen and disabled loo. He was a Town Councillor for 16 years and Mayor in 2003/4 - the list goes on and on...

He was husband to Fay and father of Jonathan and Caroline so he was always very involved with the Players. He was such a nice able man who will be greatly missed.

Hamish

MY FAIR LADY

Rehearsals are going really well and this promises to be a wonderful and very fast moving show. So now is the time to book your tickets.

How to Book

- **Telephone** the Haslemere Hall on 01428 642161; Payment by credit/debit card.
- **By post** to Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS. Payment by cheque made payable to Haslemere Hall.
- **Online** at www.haslemerehall.co.uk.
- **In person** at the Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS, Mon – Fri 9 am to 1 pm; Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

Note that the Hall makes an admin charge of 50p per ticket - not charged to Members of the Hall (so why not become a Member?)

Chairman's Message

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer. That is unless you are rehearsing for My Fair Lady, in which case I am sure you will have been relentlessly learning lines, songs and numbers! I have dropped in on rehearsals and I am sure that you will agree that both Kim Seymour, the director, and Justin Luke, the musical director, have produced a spectacular show.

We had a good attendance at our summer barbecue which Jane McMichael kindly hosted in her lovely house and garden hidden in the centre of Haslemere. With thanks to everyone who put so much work into this both before and on the day, it was an enjoyable event at which members could get together and socialise. We will be planning more social events soon.

I want to look forward to our March production, The Full Monty, which Howard Bicknell is directing with Lizzie Hales as musical director. This is causing much excitement and I think there is also some anticipation amongst some of our audiences. We do, however, need six men who are willing to take their clothes off on stage. Particularly, we need a black actor to play the part of Horse. The lighting is being planned to ensure discretion. Please do get in touch if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in taking part in the show.

On the subject of lighting, we are lucky to have been offered some spaces on a forthcoming lighting workshop. This will give both The Thespians and The Players a nucleus of people able to plan and operate lighting. I want to encourage people, who have not done so before, to consider directing or production managing shows. Please get in touch if this is something that you would like to try. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming society that also puts on some very good shows!

Best wishes, Chris

Chris Lloyd
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Spring Show - The Full Monty

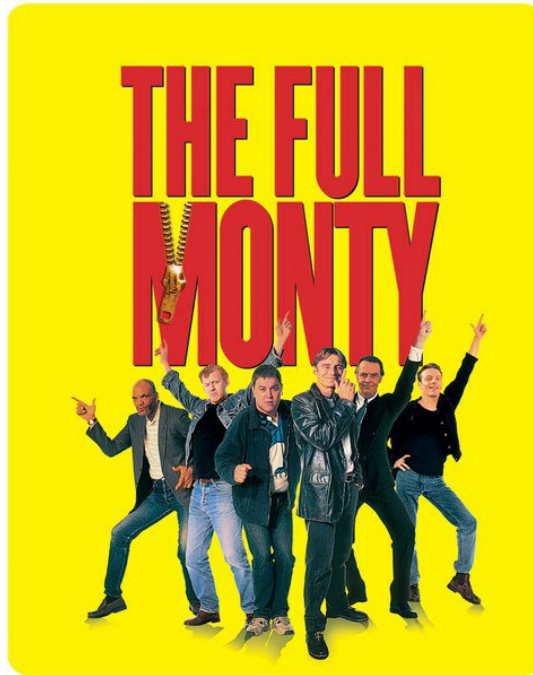
Like the original 1997 British film, this American stage musical adaptation follows the lives of six unemployed steelworkers, low on both cash and prospects who, having seen their wives' enthusiasm for a touring company of The Chippendales, decide to present their own strip show at a local club.

One of them, Jerry, declares that their show will be even better than the Chippendales dancers because they'll go 'the full Monty'—strip all the way. As they prepare for the show, working through their fears, self-consciousness, and anxieties, they overcome their inner demons and find strength in their camaraderie.

This is the first time that the Haslemere Players will be performing this musical and promises to be a huge amount of fun and is all about teamwork both on and off the stage. Performed well, the audience will be absolutely driven wild.

The main characters are:-

- ***Jerry Lukowski** is an unemployed mill worker, fighting to maintain his pride and the custody of his son. He is the definitive man's man aged approx. 30 – 40.
- **Nathan Lukowski** is his 12 year old son. He hears a lot of bad language hanging round his Dad and his Dad's mates. The only child in the show. It is a non singing role.
- **Pam Lukowski** is his estranged wife and high school sweetheart. She wants what is best for her son. A strong business woman with compassion, motherly and aged approx. 30 – 40.
- ***Dave Bukatinsky** is Jerry's best friend and fellow unemployed mill worker, Also a man's man but a follower rather than a leader. He is very self conscious about his size (large) and was at school with Jerry.
- **Georgie Bukatinsky** is Dave's wife. She loves her husband and worries about him. She is brash, out going and loud and very much the leader of her mates. She is between 30 – 40 years old.
- ***Harold Nichols** was the supervisor at the mill but hides his unemployment from his wife who enjoys spending his money. He enjoys providing for her so finds his unemployment extremely hard to cope with. Likes ballroom dancing. He is between 45 - 55



- **Vicki Nichols** is Harold's wife who also enjoys ballroom dancing. She is 40 plus years old and enjoys the finer things in life. She loves her husband come what may.

- ***Malcolm Macgregor** is pigeon chested, depressed, suicidal, awkward and feeble. He lives at home with his Mother and finds comfort in Ethan. Aged approximately 30+.

- ***Ethan Girard** is the youngest of the unemployed mill workers who has a blind determination and confidence to succeed. Probably the best dancer, probably the fittest and aged between 21 – 30. He finds company with Malcolm.

- ***Noah (Horse) T. Simmons** is a retired mill worker aged approx. 50 – 60. He is embarrassed about being an "average sized" black man and needs to be played by a black man. Despite being slow when walking in general he is explosive when it comes to dancing. Frequently

grumpy.

- **Jeanette Burmeister** is a crazy pianist of indeterminate years and a show business pro. Sassy, quick witted, loud and larger than life but slowed down in recent years. Done the rounds in her 60 – 70 years.

The six male steelworkers who perform the "Full Monty" are marked with an *

Smaller parts are:

- **Teddy Slaughter** is Pam's live in boyfriend.
- **Molly Macgregor** is Malcolm's aged and ailing Mother who dies.
- **Buddy (Keno) Walsh** is a male stripper with a Chippendale body.
- **Reg Willoughby** is an unemployed mill worker who tends to be the spokesperson.
- **Tony Giordano** is a club owner.
- **Estelle Genovese** is Jerry's on off girlfriend
- **Susan Hershey** is a friend of Pam and Georgie.
- **Joanie Lish** is another friend of Pam and Georgie.

We are looking for approximately 10 – 12 female chorus to include Estelle, Susan and Joanie and we need 8 – 12 men who will all have smaller roles to play.

The read-through will be on Thursday, 2nd November at 7.30 at the Grove with Principal auditions on Sunday, 12th November at 2.00 pm at the Haslemere Hall.

Full Monty

Both Lizzie and I are working very hard with preparations for The Full Monty. To ensure that we fulfil the needs of the show, we do need 6 men who will be (by March) willing to be naked on stage. Elsewhere in this newsletter we have given a brief description of the characters and cast required. We are fairly confident that we have some self-assured among our members however if you know anyone (particularly for the part of Horse as the Haslemere Players are a little short on black actors since the departure of Bill Hudson) that would like the opportunity to "star" in this amazing musical - we would be grateful for you to invite them along.

Many thanks, Howard



GRAPEVINE News of Members

Sadly we have to report the death of two of our members.

Michael Foster, who was our President for 15 years, died very peacefully on 13th September after a long illness. Hamish has written a tribute to him elsewhere in this Newsletter which makes you realise what an incredibly clever and versatile man he was, and all the things he did for the town, about which most of us were unaware. He will be very sadly missed by everyone. There will be a private family funeral, but later on Sunday, 19th November, there will be a Thanksgiving Service.

Another long-standing member who has died is Helen English, mother of Alan and mother-in-law of Jennie. Helen died very peacefully on 27th July. She was on no medications and had no medical problems – amazing for someone of 93! Although a member of the Players, she was originally a thespian in Shropshire and then latterly with the Lynchmerians. A lovely lady who was always on hand to help with anything that needed doing, and was so proud of son Alan and Jennie. She lived with them both right up until her death.

Our thoughts are also very much with Richard and Sue Tytler who were involved in a very nasty car accident a few weeks ago. Richard took the brunt of the crash and has been in the Atkinson Morley Hospital at St. George's with 16 broken ribs and a broken sternum. He is home now but it will take a while for the bones to mend. Sue was badly bruised but has been an absolute stalwart soul, driving up every day and now doing all the ministering at home!

On a warmer note, Elizabeth Chester is one of the three apparitions in Guildford Opera Company's production of Macbeth on 8, 10, 11 November at the Electric Theatre.

Pirates from Scratch

Date: Saturday 14 October
Venue: The Medici Theatre, Weydon School
Tickets: £15 for both performers and audience
Time: 1.30pm rehearsal for chorus of Daughters & Pirates
7.00pm performance

If you would like to sing, you need to email farnhamfestival17@gmail.com to 'book' and let them know which voice part you will be singing (we are particularly short of altos).

It's all in aid of two charities, The Farnham Festival, promoting music for young people, and DMWS, the Defence Medical Welfare Service who provide help and support to anyone in the armed forces when they are receiving medical treatment. The strong cast includes Vicki as Ruth, Andy Boughton as the Major General and Alex Boughton as Kate.



Dates for Your Diary

- 28-30 Sep **The Free From Show – Sketches Without Taste** by The Haslemere Thespians
14th Oct **Pirates from Penzance** from Scratch by Farnham Operatic
24-28th Oct **My Fair Lady**
2nd Nov Read-through of **The Full Monty** (please note this is a Thursday) up at the Grove
8, 10, 11 Nov Guildford Opera present **Macbeth**
12th Nov **Auditions** for the Full Monty 2 p.m. in the Haslemere Hall
16-18 Nov Grayshott Stagers present **Quartet**

Social Report

A big thank you to Jane and Jim McMichael who were the hosts for this year's BBQ in August. Luckily the weather was glorious and a wonderful time was had by all.



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