

Prospectus

The Newsletter of the Cayman Drama Society

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Editor – Alan Hall

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Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell

This hilarious comedy by Daily Mail columnist Keith Waterhouse, who is a prolific novelist, playwright, TV comedy writer and screenwriter, and is probably best known for his novel, play and film *Billy Liar*, opens at the Prospect Playhouse on Thursday 18th May and runs for three weekends until 3rd June.

Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell was written by Waterhouse to chronicle the life and work of his friend and fellow-columnist, with many of the scenes and much of the dialogue taken from Bernard's *Low Life* column in *The Spectator*, in which Bernard wrote "a series of personal and, at times, embarrassing columns about his own wretched experiences."

When the play opened for a hugely successful 12-month run in London's West End in 1989, starring Peter O'Toole (a role which he repeated in 1991 and 1999) many of the cast and audience were unaware that Jeffrey Bernard could regularly be found propping up the bar in the foyer.

For the CDS production the title role is played by Alan Hall, supported by Valerie Cottier, Caroline Neale, Rick Glass and Brad Renford, who between them play dozens of characters in cameo roles, some of whom appear for only a single line.

All of the action takes place in the Coach and Horses, Jeffrey Bernard's favourite pub in Soho, where he finds himself locked in for the night, and in between

attempts to telephone the landlord to come and let him out, he reminisces, via a never-ending string of flashbacks. These take him from an account of his birth to his own idea of his obituary, with vivid descriptions of the highlights (which, with his propensity for inverted clichés, he would probably describe as the lowlights) of his life and loves. Along the way we meet many of the colourful and bizarre characters who have influenced his life and are therefore partly responsible for the situation in which he now finds himself, even though he admits that most of his problems are self-inflicted.

The play is directed by Penny Phillips, with Regina Oliver as Producer and Peter Phillips as Stage Manager.

As the play contains some strong language, it is suitable only for adult audiences and no-one under the age of 18 will be admitted. Ticket prices are \$15 and can be booked by telephoning the box office on 949 5054.



Elmina's Kitchen by Kwame Kwei-Armah

Following auditions held on 30th April, the cast for this production will be as follows:

Deli	Vincent Francis
Digger	Leroy Holness
Ashley	Fritz McPherson
Anastasia	Deon Matthis
Clifton	Dennis Hue
Baygee	Lionel Durrant

Whilst Deon and Dennis have appeared on stage, and worked backstage, for the CDS over the past few years, we should like to welcome Vincent, Fritz and Lionel for their first production at the Prospect Playhouse, and welcome back Leroy, appearing for the first time since *Pirate Princess*, our very first production at the Playhouse in October 1990.

The play is to be directed by Bill Bewley and Alison Maxwell, with Phil Pace as Producer. Production Dates are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 29th June to 15th July.

Further details will follow in the next edition of The Prospectus.



Peter Pan

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of *Peter Pan*, which ran for 15 performances, most of them to full houses, and closed on 2nd April.

The production was tremendously successful in the following respects:

- It introduced the theatre-going public of Cayman to the attraction of flying for the first time;
- It attracted record audiences to the Prospect Playhouse, many of whom had never been before;
- The cast included a whole new generation of performers, and we hope that a large proportion of them will remain hooked on the performing arts;
- The financial results gave the CDS a desperately-needed flow of revenue.

Whilst the success of the production depended upon the dedication of everyone

involved, special thanks must be given to two individuals who may not be able to "Share the Show" again.

Janine Moss has been an ever-present on stage for the CDS since she arrived here (the productions with which she has not been involved can be counted on one hand!) For those of you who may not be aware, Janine and Karl Nyssonen (who has also appeared on stage and worked backstage for the CDS) were married in Cayman Brac over Easter weekend. Our congratulations to you both! Unfortunately, the downside for the CDS is that Janine and Karl plan to leave Cayman soon. Please keep in touch with us, and we hope to see you back here, in Cayman and at the Prospect Playhouse, soon.

Colin Wilson, after more than 20 years of service to the CDS in every possible capacity, has announced that *Peter Pan*

was his last Cayman Drama Society production. He plans to start his own production company and also to devote more time to playwriting, with which he has had considerable success in recent years. Hopefully Colin's departure from the CDS will be no more permanent than his previous stage exits, and he will reappear after a short interval. Either way, we will all miss Colin around the Playhouse, and we wish him well for the future.



Become a Cayman Drama Society Patron

Following the announcement in the last edition of The Prospectus, that we were planning to commence a scheme whereby CDS members could become Patrons of the Society, we are pleased to announce that one Life Member has already made an Anonymous Donation at the Gold Patron level, Cathy Wight has made a similar donation in memory of her mother Marion Auld, who passed away recently, and we have also received an extremely generous contribution from Peter and Anne Pasold of such an amount that we have decided to create an extra level of Patron, Platinum, in order to recognise gifts of CI\$ 5,000 and over.

We are also very grateful to Butterfield Bank for providing us with two boards to be installed in the theatre foyer, to be inscribed with the names of the CDS Patrons and also names of the Friends of the Theatre (our corporate supporters). For this as well as their previous generosity, Butterfield Bank will be

2006 Executive Committee

Chairman Alan Hall

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Committee Members

Valerie Cottier

Rick Glass

Regina Oliver

Penny Paterson

Penny Phillips

recognised as a Friend of the Theatre, as will Andro Group, who recently donated a new air conditioning system for the foyer.

What is surprising is that we have not yet heard from the people who first suggested the Patron scheme to us! For their benefit and those of you who may not have seen the previous announcement, these are the details of the scheme and its purpose.

The Cayman Drama Society at present has five means of raising revenue:

1. Membership Subscriptions;
2. Programme Advertising by local businesses;
3. Corporate Sponsorship;
4. Ticket Sales;
5. Bar Profits.

You will all be aware of the increase in property expenses, particularly insurance and utilities, over the past few years, resulting in vastly greater operating costs for the Prospect Playhouse.

Costs of materials for sets and costumes have also shot up proportionately, increasing the expense of every production which we put on. In order to cover these higher costs and balance our annual budget it is necessary for us to increase our income.

However, we are reluctant to make any major adjustments to our present revenue streams, as any increase is likely to force our members, corporate supporters and theatre-goers to consider the requirements of their own financial budgets, and is therefore unlikely to result in additional revenue for the CDS.

We have recently been approached by a number of our members with a potential solution to our financial shortfall, which is that we offer the opportunity to individuals to become a Patron of the CDS.

Within the professional theatre producers enlist the help of "Angels", theatre lovers who support productions financially in the hope of getting a return on their

investment if a show is successful and profitable.

The only difference with our scheme, being a not-for-profit association, is that for our "Angels" (to be known as Patrons) the only return will be a formal acknowledgement, to be listed in each production programme and to be inscribed on a permanent plaque located prominently in the foyer of the Prospect Playhouse, and the satisfaction of supporting a very worthwhile scheme of community involvement in the performing arts.

We are therefore pleased to invite application from any member to become a Patron of the Cayman Drama Society at the following levels:

PLATINUM by a donation of CI\$ 5,000

GOLD by a donation of CI\$ 1,500

SILVER by a donation of CI\$ 1,000

BRONZE by a donation of CI\$ 500

Patronage may be in the name of an individual, a family, or in memory of a loved one, or may be secured by

anonymous donation

Anyone becoming a Gold, Silver or Bronze Patron may upgrade to a higher level by subsequent payment of the difference in donation level.

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee for further information about this scheme.



Club Nights

For those who were looking forward to the Jazz Night which was originally planned for the end of March, unfortunately this had to be cancelled when Jacy had to leave the island and then Wil Steward was unable to replace one of his band-members at short notice.

We hope that it will be possible to reorganise something similar later this year, and the Executive Committee is also looking to hold a number of different informal social events in June and August, between our major productions. If you have any ideas for such occasions, please contact Penny Phillips.

Pirates Week Float Parade

This year the CDS hopes to enter a float in this year's Pirates Week Parade in November, probably on the theme of *A Christmas Carol*, which will be performed at the Playhouse later that month. If you would like to serve on a small committee to organise this and to build a float during October, please contact Rick Glass.

CDS Website

Over the past few months Paul De Freitas has been doing a fantastic job of upgrading and updating our website. For those of you who have not visited it recently, please log on to www.caymandrama.org.ky

Please also take the opportunity to add your contact information and, if you wish, further details for future participation as cast members or production crew.

Paul is also keen to receive photographs of past productions for inclusion on the website. If you have prints or digital photos which can be used, please contact Paul by e-mail on pdf@megasol.se

Cayman Drama Society 2006 Calendar of Events

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 18th May to 3rd June at 7.30 pm
Please Note: This play is suitable for adults only and no-one under 18 will be admitted

Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell by Keith Waterhouse
Directed by Penny Phillips

Thursday 29th June for 3 weeks

Elmina's Kitchen by Kwame Kwei-Armah
Directed by Bill Bewley and Allison Maxwell

September

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
Directed by Ian Morgan

November

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
adapted by Shaun Sutton
Directed by Alan Hall