

# Wardrobe Matters #4 April 18

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*A general round up of activity over the last few months, plans for 'wardrobe working days' and looking forward to the new season at the Talisman Theatre.*

*My last Newsletter was back in November 17, so this is much overdue. I must apologise for not being in more regular contact but, as I explained in my brief email a couple of weeks ago, I had a family bereavement in December and it has taken me a while to grab the reins of this part of my life again. As always, I am very grateful to all of those people who have kept things going over these months and ensured that all the shows were beautifully costumed, and the dressing rooms staffed where needed. It's all about team work!*

*We have just completed 'My Cousin Rachel' which, if you missed it, was a real treat of a production. Due to the nature of the play, I had taken the decision months ago to hire a complete set of period costumes from Birmingham Costume Hire and we also sourced two wigs from the wonderful Brenda Leedham. Whilst this is not an inexpensive route to take and can probably only be done once a year, it was worth it on this occasion and we had many comments about the wonderful costumes.*



*The wonderful cast did not really need any dressing room support, other than assistance at the beginning with wigs, shirt washing, cravats etc. as they all mucked in to help with any quick changes. We did manage to provide assistance each night with yours truly popping in between 6.30 - 7.30pm every night and additional help on Monday and Thursday from Chris Carpenter and Vicky Whitehill. However, we would have been struggling if they had required additional support .....*

## **Wardrobe Working days**

*There is still an enormous amount of work to do in tidying and sorting in both the dressing room wardrobe area and the studio. To this end, I have scheduled in some working days (all on Saturdays) to try and get everything shipshape. These dates are:*

**19<sup>th</sup> May**

**30<sup>th</sup> June**

**18<sup>th</sup> August**

**8<sup>th</sup> September**

**10<sup>th</sup> November**

*Each session will run from **11.30am to 4.00pm** with a short break for tea/coffee/lunch – this will hopefully allow people the flexibility to 'pop in' for an hour or two if they are so minded. I will aim to have specific targeted jobs to do so that everyone knows what they are doing and we can make the best use of*

time. We can also use these days as an opportunity to start looking out costumes for the later shows, especially pantomime.

**Please help if you are able!!**

## **Staffing the shows scheduled in 2018/19:**

**These are the next few scheduled dates coming up:**

**Stones in His Pockets - 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May** - Rod Wilkinson has been fortunate enough to secure the wardrobe services of Claire Dempsey for this forthcoming production. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Claire to the Talisman Theatre and hope that she enjoys working with us. Rod has advised that he will not require any dressing room support for this play so I would urge you all to book a ticket to watch what promises to be a very entertaining show.

**A Midsummers Night's Dream - 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June** - I'm delighted to say that Dee Francis has agreed to pull the costumes together for this production. However, this play has a large cast with various historic ages being portrayed, so some assistance may well be required. **I am also anticipating that we will need assistance during the run of the play so I would be really grateful if some of you could offer some time to this. We would generally require someone for the week before the show opens and throughout the run - if you can spare a couple of nights then please let me know as soon as possible.**

- *Breath of Spring* - 27<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September - a riotous comedy directed by David Draper
- *Journey's End* - 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October - Directed by Steve Smith

Details of other dates and shows beyond this have not yet been announced. However, there will, of course, be the usual **Talisman pantomime** happening at Christmas time. Last year we had a great team, led by Sam Harris, to costume and support the show. I would suggest that this is the way to go with pantomime as it is such a big cast, often with a lot of costume changes. **If anyone is interested in being involved or is brave enough to take the lead - please let me know as soon as possible.**

**If you are interested in being part of the wardrobe team for any of these productions in 2018/19, please get in contact with me - the more people we have doing a small amount of time on a show makes life easier for everyone!**

**I think that's it for now. If you have any queries or questions at all, please contact me by email at [rosiegowers62@gmail.com](mailto:rosiegowers62@gmail.com) or on my mobile 07971147892.**

**Rosie**

