The Bradfordians
Dramatic Society presents

ANTONY
AND
CLEOPATRA

by William Shakespeare

19-22 June 2013
Monkton Farleigh Manor
Box Office 01225 867446
www.TheBradfordians.com
Welcome to Monkton Farleigh Manor. We are very excited to be performing Shakespeare’s “Antony and Cleopatra” here in this beautiful setting.

This is my Fifth directorial outing with the Bradfordians’ Dramatic Society, and it has been, as always, a fabulous journey of highs and lows from the audition process in early December 2012 to performance. We have welcomed some new faces and welcomed back some old friends. The strong cast treated me to outstanding performances from the outset.

I would like to thank Sir Charles Hobhouse who has generously allowed us to perform our show in his beautiful gardens and against the impressive background of his home. It has been a pleasure to rehearse surrounded by such wonderful views, and I hope you enjoy them as much as we have.

“Antony and Cleopatra” is rarely performed because it represents such a logistical challenge, but it undoubtedly contains some of the greatest writing in the Shakespearean canon. Without wanting to give too much away, here is some background to the plot...

The Roman Empire extends from Europe to North Africa and parts of Asia. These territories are ruled as a triumvirate by three great generals: Octavius Caesar in Europe, Lepidus in North Africa and Mark Antony in Asia. Antony has encountered the rich and powerful Egyptian queen, Cleopatra in Alexandria, a city affording a lifestyle of unsurpassed luxury and sensual delight.

Antony has fallen head over heels in love with Cleopatra and her way of life.

Meanwhile the Roman Empire is under threat and Caesar needs to defend his position against the increasingly powerful general, Pompey. Caesar persuades the reluctant Antony to leave Egypt and Cleopatra and return to Rome to help defend the empire. They form an uneasy alliance, ratified by the marriage of Antony to Caesar’s sister, Octavia.

Antony’s heart and thoughts, however, remain with Cleopatra and eventually he leaves his new wife and returns to Egypt.

In this play Shakespeare has written his greatest love story and although he used the uneasy alliance between Antony and Caesar as a backdrop, the focus always returns to the doomed relationship between Antony and Cleopatra...............

Director Simon Blacksell
Bradfordian

History

The Society

The society was originally founded in 1931 as ‘The Bradford Social Centre Operatic and Dramatic Society’. The first production was ‘Pearl, the Fisher Maiden’, and was staged in the Town Hall, which is now the Catholic Church.

Following the Second World War it became a section of the former Fitzmaurice Grammar School and was renamed ‘The Old Bradfordians’ Dramatic Society’ – a name that still sticks with some of Bradford’s older inhabitants! In the early 1950s the annual membership subscription was 5p and additional funds were normally raised by jumble sales and dances.

The limitations imposed by the facilities at the school forced a move to St. Margaret’s Hall in 1956, and subsequently to St. Lawrence School, the comprehensive that replaced Fitzmaurice. Then in 1966 the Society’s name was changed to its present title.

For many years the Winter production has been a series of highly successful family orientated shows. 1988 saw the first of the Society’s acclaimed outdoor productions, which have mainly consisted of the plays of William Shakespeare, and here we are 25 years later, still going strong.

Past Summer Productions

Each year, normally in mid to late June, the Bradfordians’ Dramatic Society heads out into the great wide open with the intention of providing an evening of top-notch entertainment for the good people of Bradford on Avon and its surrounding areas.

The Bradfordians have developed an outstanding reputation for their annual summer production, and have received fantastic reviews and a constant flow of award nominations. Just last year we were very proud to have received RoseBowl nominations in both the best Shakespeare production and best actress categories for our production of ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ and Felicity Courage’s portrayal of Beatrice.

The last summer production we put on here at Monkton Farleigh Manor was Daphne du Maurier’s ‘Rebecca’ in 2009, and it really is great to be back. There are few things Bradfordians enjoy more than spending Sunday mornings rehearsing here in such beautiful surroundings, particularly when the sun decides to make an appearance!

Since 2009 we have been fortunate enough to perform in a number of beautiful locations. In 2010 we performed Shakespeare’s ‘King Lear’ at Westwood Manor, a venue we had used on a number of occasions in the past. We claimed rave reviews and a RoseBowl award for ‘Best Shakespeare production’ in what would be our last production at the manor for the time being.

In 2011 we performed ‘The Crucible’ at the Tithe Barn in Bradford on Avon, a wonderful venue on our own doorstep which we had not had the opportunity to use for some time. Again, we achieving positive reviews and award nominations.

Last year we were invited to perform at Belcombe Court, owned by film director Paul Weiland and his family. Despite some typical British summertime weather, Belcombe Court was the perfect setting for Shakespeare’s ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ which was similarly well received, earning further award nominations.

This year we are returning to Monkton Farleigh Manor with a particularly ambitious and challenging production of Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra. We hope you enjoy being here as much as we have.
Cast

Alan Burgess - Mark Antony
Lynne McCaffrey - Cleopatra
Graham Billing - Enobarbus
Gareth Lloyd - Octavius Caesar

Joe Gunn - Lepidus/Eros
Sue Bolden - Charmian
Tina Scudder - Octavia
David Gosling - Agrippa

Simon R. Green - Scarus
Karen Payne - Iras
Calum Grant - Diomedes
Tim Boughton - Dollabella

Ian Harding - Messenger
Susie Giles - Alexas
Freda Ferne - Soothsayer
Dominic Newton - Proculeius

Wafaa Powell - Dancer
Beryl Baggs - Attendant
Carey Chapman - Canidius
Ed Corrin - The Ambassador
Antony & Cleopatra in Rehearsal
Production Team

Crew
Director - Simon Blacksell
Assistant Director - Julie Butterworth
Prompt - Frances Hopwood
Production Manager - Andrew Morrison
Lighting and Sound - Rob Hearn and Kevin Lawrence
Costumes - Kate Bessant and Beryl Baggs
Stage Management and Props - Jackie Winchcombe and Linda Poole

Publicity - Mark Rawson
Front of House Manager - Evelyn Bates
Set - Earl Nuttall and Phil Courage
Site Manager - Phil Courage
Ticketing - Karen and Dora Bishop
Poster Design - Mark Bessant
Programme - Andrew Morrison and Mark Rawson

This Production has been entered for the RoseBowl amateur drama awards
The Bradfordians are proud to be members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Special Thanks
Special thanks to Sir Charles Hobhouse for allowing us to perform in the grounds of his beautiful home, the use of his house for changing facilities and for putting up with our disturbing presence early in the morning for Sunday rehearsals.

Also a big thanks to Closa for kindly lending us much of the set dressing, and Wiltshire Council for kindly donating the office chairs and allowing us use of the Bradford on Avon library as a box office.

We are extremely grateful to the front of house volunteers who we rely on heavily to keep our audience in good spirits and suitably refreshed! We also owe a great deal of thanks to the volunteers who manned our box office on Saturdays in the build up to the show.

We would also like to thank all members and friends of Bradfordians and the family and friends of those involved for being so supportive of our team and for providing time, effort and encouragement. There are far too many to mention all here, but if you have been involved, in even the smallest capacity, we are very grateful to you indeed.

WIN! WIN! WIN!
We are holding a raffle to give away the beautiful gazebo used as part of the set for our production of "Antony and Cleopatra". To be in with chance of winning please talk to a member of our front of house team.

More Information
What’s next? There’s some information about our next production in the "Coming soon" section, but if you would like to be kept up to date on forthcoming productions you can do so by going to our website www.thebradfordians.com. You will be able to view images of this evening’s production posted there soon. More importantly you can sign up to our mailing list for future information regarding the Bradfordians.

Belly Dancing
A fun and sensual way to tone up and get fit
- Weekly classes
- Birthdays, hen nights, women’s organisations
- Schools – enrichment days and cultural awareness for students and staff
- Corporate events – teambuilding, Christmas parties, leaving parties... men included

Belly dancing is an ancient form of dance originating from the Arab world where it was, and still is, an art performed in families to celebrate happy occasions.

Belly dancing has been a successful way for women to maintain their health; to control childbirth and period pain and tone their pelvic region throughout their life.

It is known to trim the waistline and strengthen the back and abdominal muscles. It increases suppleness and flexibility of the entire body whilst toning thighs, arms, shoulders and stomach. The movements improve circulation and exercise joints.

Whatever your age and size, belly dancing improves your posture and body confidence and reduces your stress levels. It helps to express your feelings and emotions.

Contact Wafaa on 01225 355072 or email wafaa.powell@yahoo.co.uk

Closa is an ambitious and dynamic furniture brand that specialises in products for inside and outside the home. With its roots in garden furniture, Closa has evolved into a full ‘lifestyle’ brand stocking a vast array of both contemporary and classic furniture, plus associated products

Closa has commercial relationships with numerous leading manufacturers such as Neptune, Bramblecrest, Fama, Westminster, Eggersman and Fatboy which ensures their showroom is always packed with new and exciting items.

Visit the Closa showroom on Bristol Road, Allington, Chippenham, SN14 6NA

More Information
www.ibellydance.co.uk

www.bellydancing.co.uk
Coming Soon

The Herbal Bed

Our next production is Peter Whelan’s challenging play “The Herbal Bed” based on a real-life episode in the life of Shakespeare’s elder daughter, Susanna. It is a very human story which shows us that, just as Shakespeare’s plays seem timeless, people’s problems haven’t changed through the ages.

In 1613, Susanna was accused of adultery by a neighbour, and sued for slander. Her story is involved and puzzling, leaving the audience with an enigma, which they will delight in unravelling. Fascinating characters, each with their own “back story”, people the quiet streets of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Open auditions will be held on Tues 2 July, and Thurs 4 July at 7.30p.m. in the Lambert Rooms, Mount Pleasant, Bradford on Avon. Rehearsals begin on Thurs 29 Aug, and thereafter every Tues and Thurs. Performances have been scheduled from Thurs 31 Oct - Sat 2 Nov at St. Laurence School.

Further details from the director Evelyn Bates - tel: 01225 859658.

THE CHARACTERS:

Susanna Hall - aged 30. Unfulfilled in many aspects of her life. Devoted to her husband. A complex and enigmatic figure.

John Hall - her husband, aged 38. A highly respected physician in Stratford on Avon. Highly moral. His world is turned upside-down by events.

Rafe Smith - aged 30 - 40. In love with Susanna. A Puritan, staunchly loyal to his friend John Hall. Not weak but under great emotional strain, which compromises his values.


Hester Fletcher - aged 16 - 25. A much more interesting “servant” role than is usual. Devoted to both Susanna and John.

Bishop Parry - Enjoys the good things in life. Kindly and likeable, but self-indulgent, definitely a cleric of the old school. Admires and likes John for his work, but dislikes rigidity, and Barnabas Goche!

Barnabas Goche - the arm of the law. An ultra-Puritan, cold and austere, intent upon rooting evil.

The Bradford on Avon Fringe Festival was conceived as a complement to the town’s Arts Festival in 2010 to extend the Festival’s reach. The Arts Festival in 2013 concentrates on a programme surrounding the Barnstorm showing of Britten’s Noyes Fludde in the Tithe Barn.

The Bradfordians’ are producing a short production called Calling Time by Derek Webb and will be appearing on Wed 4 Sept at 7.30pm in the Cellar Bar of the Swan Hotel....

How long does it take to drink a pint, about 10 minutes or so? If that’s your pace, then you could sit back and enjoy it while watching one of the short sketches from Derek’s play. Of course, if you drink more slowly, you can stay long enough to see all four of them! All the separate scenarios involve two different characters meeting in a pub for the first time for a variety of distinctly dubious, but often amusing, reasons.

FringeBoA is keen to involve everyone in Bradford and the surrounding community in getting an exciting week together so if you would like to be involved in the festival in any capacity please contact Kurt Paulus on 07845 119492 or email kurtpaulus@hotmail.co.uk

You can find the full programme of events at www.fringeboa.co.uk.

Self catering accommodation to sleep 2, 4 or 12 in our tastefully converted farm buildings, with a shared luxurious indoor heated pool and games room. Available for short breaks, week stays and longer term lets.

Ideal for those visiting relatives and friends, when you need the extra space!

Special Offer: 10% off* with bookings made from this advert. (*5% in high season)

Book online at www.churchfarmcottages.com or email stay@churchfarmcottages.com
Tel: +44(0)1225 722246