

SPOTLIGHT

Edited by Doug Craig

SEPTEMBER 2025

d.craig754@btinternet.com

Website stageonetheatre.net

Enquiries 97697962

EDITORIAL

If you can hardly believe that we are technically in autumn then join the club. The scorching summer weeks seem to have whizzed by and for many in our theatre group there has been little break from theatre work, although the place is technically “dark”. The tech team have been working hard in moving electrical bits and wifi, aircon etc from the big flat into the long room behind the stage and the other flats. One of our newest members, Norman McIntosh was grabbed at the door and put to work designing a new layout for the theatre to cope with our loss of real estate. Norman has also spent much time with Clive Richards and others on various tech jobs around the theatre throughout the summer. We are fortunate indeed to have such dedicated people. Also work continues on the next 2 productions with both having had casting problems which are now resolved. As a general issue, we need more volunteers for acting, backstage and technical duties. Our society can only exist with voluntary help from the membership.

Barbara Lewis

Your Chairman and your Editor went to visit Barbara in her rehab centre in Limassol on 16 August. We found her in reasonable spirits and keen to talk even though not much of it was completely intelligible. It seems she really does thrive from visits from people she knows well. Currently it is unclear how long she will remain in this facility but really good people of our company are working hard to ensure her welfare and future comfort. If you feel you would like to visit her please contact Sandra McGuire, who visits her on a regular basis and has a handle on who is going and how many Barbara can cope with. Sandra can be contacted on 97634982.

Forthcoming Productions



Tickets will now be available via the Stage One Website and the Box Office as before. **Natural Causes** is a great show which has had many professional runs including a television production with George Cole and Prunella Scales. The play is written by Eric Chappel who wrote the hugely popular and critically acclaimed TV show *Rising Damp*. *Natural Causes* is a clever and very amusing black comedy and is expected to sell well when the box office opens. So ensure you get your seats for this not-to-be-missed show by going on-line right now or trotting down to the box office at the first opportunity.

The Spotlight Interview

This month Spotlight talks to Roger Bailey our new Chairman.



The Chairman relaxing at home.

Where did you grow up? Tell us a bit about your youth and career.

I was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and even though I was very young when the family moved away I can still speak fluent Geordie. My formative years were spent in Solihull in the West Midlands until I joined the army at the age of seventeen. After 4 years of military service I had a wonderful few years in the Lake District before moving to Jersey in 1979. Again, after some lotus eating years (my mis-spent youth went on into my thirties) I entered the finance industry, eventually qualifying as a Chartered Secretary.

How did you get involved in music?

At the age of 15 I found a guitar in the attic. It only had one string on it but I found that, without any assistance, I could pick out a tune on that one string. Bob Dylan and Donovan, among many others, were writing amazing songs at the time which were not difficult to play and I was swept up in it all. I bought a cheap acoustic guitar, painted it purple and off I went. Things have improved since then.

What was your first experiences of performing to the public?

Two examples are pertinent really.

At the age of 10 years old I won a talent competition with my sister Liz. We sang “We’re a Couple of Swells” a la Judy Garland and Fred Astaire in front of an audience of about 300, and each won a pen set which, for a 10 year old was unimpressive.

The first place I ever played as a singer/guitarist was a floor spot at a very famous, though small, folk club called The Boggery held in a rugby clubhouse in Solihull. I was a mere seventeen year old and the man in charge was Jasper Carrott. My

performance was so bad that that was the last time I ever played there. Again, things have since improved.

When did you come to Cyprus and why?

I first came to Cyprus in August 1974 when I was in the army. I was with the UN peacekeeping force stationed on Nicosia Airport and as you can imagine I have many a tale to tell about that. This was when I fell in love with Cyprus, the people, the wildlife, the food and of course the climate. I always knew I would return and in the 1990s I did, eventually buying a property here in 2006. I was able to revisit Nicosia Airport a few years ago with a UN guide which brought back some very interesting memories.

Can you tell us the story of how you joined Harmony and Stage One?

I was having a quiet dinner in Melitzia Tavern in Tala when Harmony Choir were there having a night out. They sang Siyahamba, which I had not heard before and it sounded like what I wanted to sing. I had wanted to join a choir so I took the opportunity to talk to them. The following Tuesday I was at rehearsals at Stage One. Not long after this Stage One was into rehearsals for Fiddler On The Roof and along with other Harmony members I joined the chorus.

How have you found acting in the variety of roles you have undertaken since joining?

I had been on quite a lot of stages over the years but only as a singer/guitarist. When I joined Stage One I had never actually done any acting and I very much admire those who can act “properly”. I have done some small parts in general Stage One productions but I have found a bit of a niche as a pantomime dame, and I have to say I thoroughly enjoy it. I consider it to be larking around rather than acting, directors have been very patient with me.

You have taken over as Chairman of the group at a difficult time. How do you intend to secure the future of Stage One?

It is true that Stage One is facing some very serious challenges but I think this is a normal state for an amateur dramatics club, the challenges just change with the times. I see our current challenges as twofold. Money is always an issue and we have a falling, aging membership. The committee are working on a number of plans to raise money and increase membership, particularly among younger people. I try to be a steadying influence charting a course through the issues that we face.

Do you have any ambitions to perform in any particular part or play?

The simple answer is no. I like being the pantomime dame but I am not really a theatre buff. I have attended a lot of theatre productions over the years and have been very impressed and entertained by many of them. If I had to choose a part I think it would be that of the narrator in Blood Brothers. I have seen the play a number of times (including the Stage One production) and I have to say it remains my favourite at the head of a list of many other excellent performances. Having said that, if there is ever a play based on the Peaky Blinders I would love to play Thomas Shelby!

What show would you most like to see Stage One perform?

Mamma Mia, but I think this is a pipe dream. We would certainly need some younger members.

How do you think we can attract greater audience numbers to our shows?

This is a very tough one, I don't think there is a simple answer. Increasing membership will help, as will raising awareness of the existence of Stage One Theatre. I would like to get more interest in the theatre from other communities in Cyprus who may want to become involved and I believe in being friendly with our friends, ie, liaising with other theatres and other parties interested in putting on productions, perhaps even sharing resources with them. I think I have convinced the committee that we should consider giving away a small number of tickets for each production, on quiet nights of course, to get our name out there a bit more. I have been very surprised by the number of people I have spoken to who are not aware of our existence. I hope to change this. We have, for example, developed a formal relationship with Neo's Sports Bar in Peyia, I think this sort of thing will help and I hope to do more. The sub-committee charged with selecting which plays get performed has a huge responsibility. The adage "you can't please all of the people all of the time" certainly fits here but still these decisions have to be made. From an interpersonal point of view I would like to achieve better cohesion in the theatre group, emphasising that we are all trying to go to the same destination but there are many ways of getting there and we need to work together. We are running a theatre group, not the United Nations.

Things to do in September while waiting for the theatre to reopen!

By Jezebel Groove

Join the 'Natural Causes' company if not in already! Still room for helpers/trainees in tech, wardrobe, hair and makeup.

Grab a bunch of posters from any committee member and distribute them around town whilst window shopping or pubcrawling

Visit the box office staff at the theatre Mondays & Fridays from 8th 10am to midday for a chat (and maybe buy some tickets)

Visit the opera! Carmen comes to the harbour 5th and 6th of September – a fabulous spectacle even if not a fan. Ticketmaster.cy (beware booking fees which of course you won't find on stage one tickets!)

Dream up some fundraising ideas. The crankier the better!

Volunteer at a charity shop or animal shelter – help is always welcomed in all of them, whether walking dogs, cuddling kittens, serving customers or mucking out unmentionables

Catch an amphitheatre outdoor show – see www.morrellievents.com and www.kendallevents.com for various shows and locations

Hit the beach! It's what you moved here for...isn't it?

Ralph Taylor and Maxine O'Daly

By Peter Sandwith

Congratulations to Ralph Taylor on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Ably supported by Maxine whose birthday was the previous day. Twelve members of Stage One were able to join them at Martikas Restaurant in Tala on this memorable day.



Ralph and Maxine at Martika's

Ralph and Maxine, a great couple who are still very actively involved in our company, we couldn't run Front of House without them!
Ed.

Auntie Prue's Advice Column

Dear Auntie Prue

How can I find a suitable partner to share my life with. I have been on my own now since the Bay of Pigs fiasco and there's a lot of pent-up loving needs releasing here. What do you suggest?

Fatsi

Latsi

Auntie Prue says

Dear Fatsi

Try Tik Tok. I think if you dig deep enough you'll find something to solve your problem. (I know I did!)

Dear Auntie Prue

Our local authority has told us that the drought is almost certainly going to mean interruptions in the water supply. Do you have any tips for surviving without water for extended periods?

Grubby

Pafos

Auntie Prue says

Dear Grubby

I have three very good tips:

Beer,

Wine,

Gin & Tonic.



From Skevi, who has been a great contributor to Stage One over the years.

That's it for the August blurb. Enjoy the cooler weather and don't forget to book your seats for our forthcoming productions!
Ed.