

**July 2022**



# Spotlight

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If you have any articles you would like included in the next Spotlight, please ensure you send them to me before the 25th of the month.



**QUARTET**

Media Sponsor  **STAGE ONE THEATRE EMBA** 

29th, 30th September  
1st, 6th, 7th, 8th October 2022

 7.30pm Tickets  
€12

Play by Ronald Harwood Tel: 99967737  
Directed by Fiona Greavey [boxoffice@stageonetheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@stageonetheatre.com)

This amateur production of Quartet is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

## CLUB NIGHT 21<sup>st</sup> July

Don't forget club night this month is a DISCO by our very own DJ Moses (aka Steve Hales) who does this sort of thing professionally. It promises to be a great evening with the usual "donation" bar facilities and a stunning raffle with a star prize of either a bottle of wine or a six-week holiday in the Bahamas in a five-star hotel, whichever is the cheaper. Come and meet your friends and catch up on the gossip!

Thursday 21 July 19.00 for 19.30 start.

## CHRISTMAS PANTO - ALADDIN

Our Christmas panto, Aladdin, has now been cast and rehearsals will begin as soon as Quartet finishes in October.

Performances are scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> December. We have tentatively planned an earlier performance, starting at 6pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, in lieu of a matinee. Please note that due to financial constraints we will be raising ticket prices to €15 for this and future productions.

## SAD NEWS



We are sad to advise members that Steve Vincent, a former Chairman of Stage One has passed peacefully away at his home in Scotland after a long illness. In 2018 he was given 36 months to live but being Steve, he beat that. Steve had a varied career from running a village store to being a detective with Thames Valley Police Force. In his spare time he ran Cub and Scout Troops and Marine Sea Cadets.

In Cyprus Steve is best remembered as Professor Higgins in the 2005 production of My Fair Lady with Mike Crawshaw as Pickering and Emma Jane Sinfield as Eliza. Steve was also the Colonel in Caroline Harman Smith's memorable production Of Conduct Unbecoming in 2004. He is seen here on the extreme left in another of Cathy's stunning sets.

After returning to Scotland in 2010 Steve spent many happy years with the Inverness Opera Company, Starlight Musical Theatre and The Florians. We send our sincerest condolences to his wife Irene, who had known Steve for 65 years and their two sons.

## MISSING FURNITURE

We are currently missing two items of furniture from our props store: a Mahogany half-moon table and a 'Nest of Tables'. If anyone has borrowed them or knows of their whereabouts, we would be very grateful for their return as both have been very useful and have been used numerous times in different productions.

**POSTER  
DESIGNERS  
WANTED!**



**CAN YOU DESIGN POSTERS  
THAT CAN BE USED TO  
ADVERTISE OUR NEXT SHOW?**

Fiona has been doing most of them, successfully and beautifully, for the last 10 years and now wishes to take a break. We are very grateful to her. Is there anyone in the membership who would like to take on this job please.

## Did you know...?

### **The first female English actor**

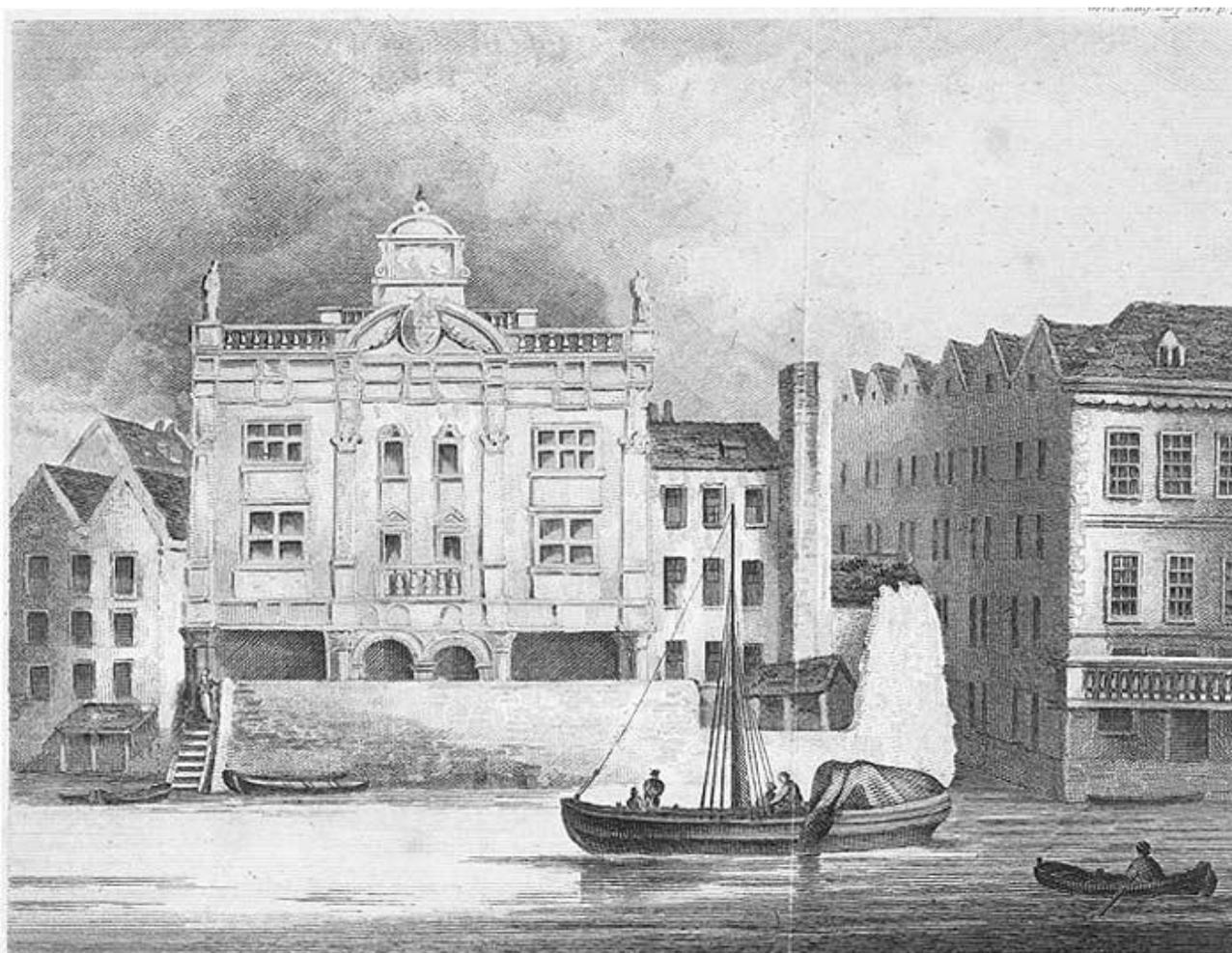
Contrary to popular belief it wasn't Gwyneth Paltrow (Shakespeare in Love)! Margaret Hughes (29<sup>th</sup> May 1630 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 1719), is credited as the first professional female actor on the English stage.



*Portrait of Margaret Hughes by Sir Peter Lely, 1672*

Hughes became an actor during a period of great change in English drama which had, been banned by the Puritan Long Parliament in 1642. This ban was finally lifted upon the Restoration of King Charles II.

During the Renaissance women did not appear as actors on the stage, resulting in male actors in female roles. There were concerns over this practice encouraging "unnatural vice", i.e., homosexuality, which influenced Charles' decision in 1662 to issue a royal warrant declaring that all female roles should be played only by female actors. Thomas Killigrew and William Davenant were casting women almost immediately following the Restoration and, once women began appearing professionally on the stage in the early 1660s, they won quick acceptance. (Killigrew staged an all-female-cast production of his own play *The Parson's Wedding* in 1664 and again in 1672.)



THE DUKE'S THEATRE, DORSET-GARDENS.

*This Theatre was built by Sir Christopher Wren, and first opened by the Duke of York's Company, on their removal from the Swan-house in Little Lincoln-Inn fields, the 9<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1671. — Betterton, stage manager; with Kynaston, Hart, Trigg, Leigh, Lady Shingby, J.P. Betterton, and other principal actors, performed here until the union of the Duke and the King's Companies in 1682, and performances were continued occasionally until 1697. — The whole building was demolished about April 27<sup>th</sup> 1709 and the present offices of the New River Company have been erected on the site of the Theatre.*

London, Published July 1771 by J. Stacks W. Red Lion Passage.

***The Dorset Garden Theatre of the Duke's Company of actors, where Hughes spent a busy season in 1676 performing in eight productions.***

At the age of 30, Hughes made theatrical history by becoming the first woman known to perform on an English stage. Her first performance was on 8 December 1660, when she played the role of Desdemona in Shakespeare's play *Othello*, in a production by Thomas Killigrew's new King's Company at their Vere Street theatre.