

# On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe – April 2012

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## Haunted Through Lounge

'Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Amateur Dramatic Society's production of The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook' on Friday 18 May at 8.00 pm and Saturday 19 May at 7.30 pm



Only in Farndale Avenue do you get the chance to see a member of the cast in the wrong costume, playing the right character in the wrong scene and the audience didn't even notice!

In this sparkling new production, all your old favourites ham it up, there is a dynamic young 'producer', sets fall over, babies wail and mysterious happenings occur.

Do not miss this glittering and thoroughly 'professional' production by the Ladies of Farndale Avenue. The last show sold out, so book your tickets soon – £15.00 to include two course supper. Licenced Bar. Box Office: [SGFKingston@gmail.com](mailto:SGFKingston@gmail.com)

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## Waiting in the wings

**September 21/22** – the Royal Jubilee Variety Performance (on tour in Spring Grove). Dust off your very best party piece. Who knows how many Queens will be in attendance!?!

**November 23/24** – an evening of one act plays.

We are still finalising some 3-4 week 'theatre skills' workshops on Wednesday evenings between productions.

## SGF email & website



We have a new email address, to be used for the box office for future productions.

**[SGFKingston@gmail.com](mailto:SGFKingston@gmail.com)**



We have a 'community' website, hosted by e-Voice, which is being developed – a stage presence for SGF in the vast internet auditorium.

**[www.sgfkington.org.uk](http://www.sgfkington.org.uk)**

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## Future of the Parish Hall

Together with Spring Grove Residents and other regular users, we have been in discussions with Revd Jonathan Wilkes (Rector of the Parish of All Saints with St John's) about the suggestion that the Hall might be sold in order to redevelop the church to provide community facilities.



Essential repairs to heating and lighting and improving the access to the church building are estimated to cost £500,000.

The Church Council agrees that the ideal future is one in which the St John's re-development does not require the sale of Hall, and is very keen to work with the residents and community groups to secure the future of both building.

We are hoping that the future of the Hall can be guaranteed in one way or another.

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## Message from Suzanne

Suzanne Jones' mother died last month, and on behalf of the SGF, we sent flowers and our sympathy to her, Jonathan, Emma and Julius. Suzanne has sent her thanks and appreciation to you all.

# Another SGF sell-out Production



The phenomenal Spring Grove Fringe can truly be said to have joined the ranks of The Donmar and RSC in providing theatre productions of such seductiveness and promise that they sell-out immediately the box office opens and leave thousands clamouring at the gates and searching ebay for tickets at any price. Such was Jason and The Argonauts, the debut of writer and director, Adrian Treloar, a new pantomime which will surely become a Christmas staple.

Treloar directed an enormous cast of stalwarts and newcomers with breathtaking assuredness and precision timing, enabling a focus during rehearsals rarely seen at the Fringe.

From the opening curtain it was evident that no expense had been spared and no detail overlooked in the outstanding sets, lighting and sound. The well-benched ship was a creation worthy of the National Theatre and is rumoured to have been borrowed for the forthcoming Titanic TV series; note the many similarities, e.g. both had ropes! Similarly the truly terrifying Hydra is now on loan to the Dr Who set. And we saw them first!

The uniformly brilliant cast was ably led by Daisy Jones as Jason, managing to appear as bemused by events as the audience but not quite as confused as her crew of Greek heroes. What an insight into these legends we were given: what fearlessness! what intelligence! And all superbly portrayed by Fringe legends in their own right.

Guiding her 'Lovelies' from the rear (should that be stern?) was Allan Lloyd as the singing figurehead, Dodona, wooden only in concept, surely, and a new pantomime dame for our troubled times: blind

senior citizens on meagre Osborne pensions and looting hoodies always with us. Fine casting of Linda Rhead as the wise and curiously non-dancing Zorba gives us all hope for the Greek economy. Amanda Shaw was perfectly cast as The Oracle – where else do we pilgrimage for the latest Spring Grove news and gossip?

At court David Hamilton's performance as Evil King Pelias was nicely petulant and Jenny Robson, as his Courtier, portrayed time-honoured political expediency. However, it was the brilliantly understated and restrained performance by ingénu David Treloar as Evil King Aeates which will somehow be etched forever on the memories of this audience. We look forward to him being given parts in future productions which will allow far greater rein to his immense talent.



Music and dance was of the now expected quality but a special mention must be made of superbly choreographed and performed skeleton dance. Also most notable for their beautiful singing, eclipsed only by their startling beauty, were the sirens; indeed many men in the audience were seen to dash themselves onto the bar to recover composure. We were treated to jigs from sailors and juggling from cocktail shakers who had clearly taken lessons from Tom Cruise.

And all, of course, watched over and controlled by the mercurial Gods led by the SGF's very own Godfather, Dick Need, who were partying with a strangely (for SGF) absent Bacchus throughout the show and who left us in doubt that "As flies to wanton boys are we to th'gods".

