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WAITING IN THE WINGS

The image shows two theatrical masks, one smiling and one frowning, with wings. The masks are positioned to the right of the title 'WAITING IN THE WINGS'.

Welcome to the first ever issue of Waiting in the Wings magazine! This is a new venture for us two editors so we hope you enjoy our efforts!

The next two months seem to be providing plenty of opportunities to see your favourite actors in the theatre but there's a severe lack of TV/film appearances, summer TV sucks!

**Thanks for reading,
Liz & Katie xx**

REVIEW

**'The Seagull'
National Theatre**

'The Seagull' is classic Chekhov, the tale of Nina (Hattie Morahan), who wants to become an actress and who, at the beginning of the play, we see act in a play written by her lover Konstantin (Ben Wishaw). Nina then falls for the renowned writer Trigorin (played by Mark Bazeley), who is also the lover of Konstantin's mother, Arkadina (Juliet Stevenson). Arkadina is a vain mother who is embarrassed to admit she has a twenty-something year old son and who is torn between her lover, her career and her responsibility to her son.

Ben Wishaw's Konstantin is superbly acted and you feel, right from the start that he is to be condemned, by his own weakness, to a terribly unhappy end. Ben's performance is very impressive; a constant state of nervousness seems to envelop him. A performance to be proud of and one that certainly lives up to the hype surrounding his Hamlet performance two years ago.

Katie Mitchell's direction creates an atmosphere of intensity which enhances the play. The set in this production is beautifully stark and combined with the atmospheric lighting the mood of the piece is effectively conveyed and enhanced. However there are a few criticisms of the play, one is that you are left feeling that you do not see the full depth of any character, thus relating to them in certain situations is sometimes hard. Konstantin's relationship with Nina somehow disappears into the background, and to me this is an intriguing relationship in the play and should have been more at the fore-front. His love for her is what drives him to commit suicide at the play's climax, so why this love was not explored further is beyond me. The famous final line should not have been messed with, the shouting out of Konstantin's suicide ruins the wonderful anti-climactic ending; it is a completely unnecessary change. Also, there seems to be some confusion over what period it is set, Chekhov's play is set in the late 19th century yet it feels like you're watching something from the 1920s. But these downsides do not outweigh the upsides; this is a wonderful adaptation of a classic - catch it if you can.

-Liz

TV TV Guide

Now, this is supposed to be the section of the magazine where I review some television programmes featuring our favourite actors. However, with it being the summer, if channels aren't showing Wimbledon, The World Cup or the Golf, they they're showing repeats and reality shows. TV dramas - where a lot of our actors lurk - have been scarce (with the exception of 'Sugar Rush' on Channel 4 and Adam Paul Harvey making a return as Nathan in 'Where the Heart Is') therefore I have concocted a short, simple guide to help the fans amongst you seek out those talented young actors.

1. Buy the Radio Times, it has complete cast lists for most soaps, dramas and films that are broadcast on the terrestrial channels. It also has radio cast lists; there is at least one play a day on Radio 4, sometimes more.
2. Know the actors name, no actor will be billed as 'that guy who was in that play we saw last year!'
3. Check websites of the shows. The BBC's drama section is very good, it has quite a bit of information about current, and past shows, the cast and the actors.
4. Shows most likely to have one of our actors in a supporting role are shows that change the supporting cast each week. 'Casualty' and 'Holby City' and also all modern detective dramas 'Lynley' or 'Rose and Maloney'. Also, check out repeats of shows like 'Midsummer Murders' and 'A Touch of Frost' and you might just catch some of the actor's earlier work.

On the internet....

Just googling a name might not be enough, even if after persevering and searching 20 pages in you do find something. Try adding 'actor' or key words to your search.

Use www.imdb.com. If the actor you are after seems to only have appeared in one episode of 'Silent Witness' then you can generally pinpoint which episode on this website if you click 'more'.

Go to www.spotlightcd.org. If you type in the actor's name, you will be supplied with their agents address and possibly a website address also.

And if you're really stuck, you could always email us! Because we will probably have heard of them and will do our best to help you out.

-Katie

UPCOMING APPEARANCES

Theatre

Gavin Brocker and **Jonathan Bailey** – in 'Beautiful Thing' at the Sound Theatre in London
Dan Stevens – in 'Hay Fever' at the Haymarket in London
Steven Webb, **Ben Barnes** and **Thomas Morrison** – in the UK tour of 'The History Boys'
Andrew Garfield – in 'The Overwhelming' at the National Theatre, London and on UK tour
Samuel Barnett, **Dominic Cooper**, **James Corden**, **Russell Tovey**, **Stephen Campbell Moore**, **Andrew Knott**, **Sacha Dhawan** and **Jamie Parker** – in 'The History Boys' on Broadway
Geoff Breton – in 'Mariana Pineda' at the Arcola Theatre in London
Michael Camp – in 'Market Boy' at the National Theatre
Alexander Campbell – in 'The Prodigal Son' at the Stephen Joseph theatre Scarborough
Geoffrey Streatfeild – appearing in the 'Henry VI' trilogy for the RSC
Craig Gazey – in 'The Tempest', 'Anthony & Cleopatra' and 'Julius Caesar' for the RSC in Stratford.
Con O'Neill – in 'Midnight Cowboy' at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms as part of the Fringe festival
Joseph Thompson – in 'Petrol Jesus Nightmare #5' at the Traverse Theatre
Ben Whishaw – in 'The Seagull' at the National Theatre

TV/Film

Daniel Brocklebank – currently in 'Emmerdale'
Steven Webb – will be appearing in 'Bad Girls' (on 10 & 17 August) and 'Aftersun' (2 September, BBC1)
Lenora Crichlow, **Sarah-Jane Potts** and **Olivia Hallinan** – in 'Sugar Rush' on channel 4
Cillian Murphy – 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley' is in cinemas now
Adam Paul Harvey – in 'Where the Heart Is' on ITV 1

WEBSITES

Talented Young Actors

The reason I started my website <http://thetyasite.tripod.com> was because I was frustrated that I couldn't find any place on the net that celebrated and acknowledged talented young (British) actors. Unless they were in Harry Potter, and then only the main few stars ever get press.

I really wanted people to appreciate the actors that I did and so armed with a list of a few favourite actors and with the help of Tripod, I made my site. It was a small affair, just a few pages, some pictures. This was the summer of 2004. The site started to spread. I was adding more actors and writing more reviews and the site just grew.

And as the years have gone on a lot of who were then unknowns have gained a varied amount of work and some even have some recognition elsewhere.

All the reviews on the site are written by me. Some are more in depth than others and some see me despair at some of the awful programmes the TYAs appear in.

Most of the actors on there are still working and many of them still have such little write up on the net or anywhere else. Other commitments means I don't tend to add many new people to the site. Just because of time constraint. Not that I wouldn't if I was asked. Writing these reminds me how I really should update.

All in all the TYA site (I hope) does its bit to help people recognise the talents that appear to be ignored elsewhere.

-Katie



TYA

Talented British Actors

Now in its second year of operation, Talented British Actors (www.talentedbritishactors.co.uk) has far exceeded my expectations. Made in August 2004 out of pure boredom, it was originally entitled Pretty British Actor Boys, and as its popularity grew so did the site. In November 2005 I decided a new name was needed and so it became TBA and I started to include actresses on the site, too.

TBA aims to promote the talent of young, talented British (and Irish) actors and actresses as well as providing information of their work to fans. At the latest count there are 95 actors and actresses listed and there are loads more to come in the future.

To suggest an actor to be listed on TBA email me at liz@talentedbritishactors.co.uk

-Liz



TBA

SPOTLIGHT

Steven Webb

Steven is a veteran actor, even though he's only 21. He got his first taste of acting at the tender age of 4 in a school nativity play and hasn't stopped since! He has recently become more of a house-hold name with his role in the original touring cast of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*.

Age: 21 (born 8 November 1984)

From: Merseyside

Training: Sylvia Young Theatre School

Stand-out role: Definitely '*The History Boys*'. Steven gave an absolutely beautiful performance as Posner in the original UK touring cast, and we're delighted that we get to see him reprise his role in the second UK tour which kicks on in Birmingham on 31 August. His appearance as Solange in '*The Maids*' at the tiny Etcetera Theatre in May this year also gained critical acclaim from the one and only Katie who described his performance as "bloody good!".

Back in the day: Steven has been acting since 1993 when he appeared in '*Twopence To Cross The Mersey*' at the Liverpool Empire Theatre, and who can forget his adorable TV appearance in '*Julia Jekyll & Harriet Hyde*'! Not to mention him being most adorable and putting on a grand performance in '*The Magicians House*', Sunday tea-time TV at its best!

Awards: Steven was nominated for Outstanding Newcomer in the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2003 for his role in '*Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*'. '*The Magicians House*' was nominated for Best Drama in the 2000 BAFTA Children's Award and won the Children and Young People award at the International Emmy Awards in 2000. That's not nearly as many awards as this boy deserves to have won.

Website: Check out Steven's official site at www.steven-webb.com



NOW AND THEN!

[Left image copyright Roy Tan]

That's all folks!! Thanks for reading issue one, we hope you liked it! If you'd like to contribute anything to future issues of WITW please contact us on witw.mag@googlemail.com