

# RAVING MAD NO 20

*‘Waltzing, skipping and spinning towards spring with a Yuletide Theme’*

Well just looking back to this time last year we had just finished our seasonal production and our June production had yet to be cast. This year everything has been brought forward and all is ‘topsy turvy’ because our next production is ‘The Lying Kind’, by Scottish playwright Anthony Neilson, and the action takes place on Christmas Eve. A little odd you might think for a production going live between 18 – 21 May, but what the hell we are MAD and it is the funniest production I have ever had the pleasure to Direct (that is true).

So be warned if you were turned on by Garry and Edd in the last production they come together as two hapless British ‘bobbies’, throw in some other amazing characters brought to life by Keith, Wendy, Steve and Shaz, a Chihuahua and a sprig of holly and you have what the Guardian refers to as ‘a wicked little comedy to warm the cockles of your heart’ and by what the Observer describes, ‘A writer who has been shockingly underestimated for far too long’.

Well what about ‘Saucy Jack’, then, was it not the most ‘off the wall’ and fun production we have ever put on? The critics were all up beat and positive about our endeavours and you only have to read the first paragraphs of Brenda our Noda rep. and Amanda’s critique, to feel tremendously proud for what all the actors and Dan achieved in our small venue. Not forgetting Gary, Dom, Keith and Shaz for the awesome sound and lighting. See attachments if you have not read them.

Okay, so the production did not engage the local community as much as we would have liked, reflected in disappointing ticket sales and among other things we got stung to pay 20% Vat totalling an extra £120 on top of the royalties bill, but I can

honestly say those involved will never forget the fun and personal achievement they got out of this production, I know this to be true because I keep hearing about it from them in places like pubs and other seedy dives. So again another tremendous thank you to Dan, the actors and support crew you did MAD proud and will be carved out in that great achievement board in the sky for everyone to look back in years to come with affection.

As was mentioned about our singing in Saucy Jack, it reminds me of a quote;  
“Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang the best”. William Blake 1757-1827.

Tony Gibbs (Chairman)



## Fun Raising Evening

Well now what to the future, first and very important, A big Fun-Raising Night on **Saturday 26 March 7.30pm Meeching Hall** – ‘Awesome Fun Raising Evening’ – tickets available from 1<sup>st</sup> March at £3 each, the evening will include the following gems, a first time big screen showing of Mad’s involvement in ‘The Re-enactment of the fleeing King Louis Philippe of France at Newhaven in 1848’ (and his subsequent rescue by a motor launch!) on Sussex Day last year.

A first showing of Mad’s recent short film debut of three of its members in ‘The 60 Watt Conundrum, written by John Lacey. In it they worked

with students from Brighton City College to produce this glowing (excuse the pun) conundrum of where it is possible to stick a light bulb, other fun items will be included after which there will be a full evening of Film Horse Racing, the full-on experience where you will be able to lose or win money all for a good cause. If you want to embrace this Mad evening fully, when you buy your tickets, I have 4 costume suggestions for the ladies and 4 suggestions for the men so don’t be shy. Of course light refreshments and drinks (donations) will be available.

The more people the better we urgently need to raise money

## Jokes

A little old lady bought a new car and decides to take it on a driving holiday on the continent. She was very excited about the trip but on the day she was due to leave she phoned her friend to say she had changed her mind. “Oh dear” said her friend “what made you change your mind?” “It’s all this business about driving on the other side of the road” she said “I thought it would be easy but when I had a practice drive around the town I almost killed myself!”



A little pig walks into a bar, orders a drink and asks where the toilet is. “Just along the corridor,” says the bartender. Then a second little pig walks into the bar orders a drink and asks where the toilet is. “Just along the corridor,” says the bartender. Then a third little pig walks into the bar and orders a drink. The bartender says: “I suppose you want to use the toilet too?”

“No, I’m the little pig that goes wee wee wee wee all the way home.”

Sunday 3 April 1030am Seven Sisters Visitor Centre – A walk - through forest to Litlington and then back along river bank to start about 4/5 miles. Contact Tony 07912 965507.

Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21 May 7.45pm Meeching Hall – ‘The Lying Kind’ by Anthony Neilson our funniest comedy to date – tickets £8 from Meeching Estate Agents from April Fools Day, adult language not suitable for those under 16, special first night ticket offer buy one get one free.

Also a feast of professional productions and gigs, some of our members will hope to go to, including Theatre Royal, Tell Me on A Sunday, Journey’s End, Avenue Q. Other Venues, Sid Lester’s Big Night In, (Marion’s favourite) also The Return of Boothby Graffoe, It Could be Any One of Us, Blackheart, La Photo Comunale, and of course Brighton Festival.