

NEWSLETTER January 2018

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YOUR NEWS:

Please keep us informed – do tell us about your Society's productions, so that they can be included on the KDA website.

Add admin@kentdrama.org.uk to your publicity e-mail, and join KDA's Facebook group to publicise your society's activities.

2018 FULL LENGTH PLAY FESTIVAL

There are again 18 entries in this year's Full Length Play Festival.

We welcome a new adjudicator Amanda Sharpe-Conroy. She attended many of last year's entries, and so is familiar with the festival. Her details are included on the reverse of this newsletter.

Copies of a list of all the entries are enclosed with this newsletter. Please disseminate this amongst your members, and encourage them to see as many of the productions as possible. Seeing another society's production, and hearing the adjudication, is an enjoyable evening and a good way to learn how to improve your own productions.

Tenterden Operatic and Dramatic Society has kindly agreed to host the **Awards Evening**, which will be held on Saturday 23 June 2018 at Benenden Village Hall, a venue used in previous years. Tickets will be £12 per person, to include food, and a bar will be available. Full details, including the ticketing arrangements, will be sent to participating societies nearer the date.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The KDA would like to present the **Lifetime Achievement Award** again this year, and we would welcome nominations from societies.

If you know of someone in your group who would qualify for this award, would you please send the name with brief reasons to **Michael Patrick** at angelampatrick@btinternet.com by **20 May**.

Previous entries can be resubmitted.

We would like to hear from more societies, including those whose members have not previously received this award.



THE FESTIVAL'S ADJUDICATOR
Amanda Sharpe-Conroy



Amanda has been actively involved in all sorts of theatre since a child. Trained at a London drama school, she is a long standing member of Equity and has worked extensively in both amateur and professional theatre. Some of her professional engagements include a nationwide tour of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Gingerbread Man", "The Easter Bunny" and "The Tudors". Her favourite roles include an open air production of "Titus Andronicus", and "The Little Matchgirl".

She has managed her own theatre company for children which has included writing, directing and performing for schools, acting workshops and performing Shakespearian plays on the National Curriculum. Her work as a founder member of a children's entertainment company enabled her to study clowning. Working in all mediums her other professional engagements include radio, television, adverts, show reels, training information films, stage management.

She adjudicated the Duncan Rand One Act Play Festival, Rochester in 2016. Amanda is currently studying at Middlesex University Professional Practice, BA Honours Degree - her special project for her final dissertation is "The Role of the Adjudicator in Performance Arts".

Amanda is familiar with many societies through the Duncan Rand Festival and from attending many of the entries in KDA's 2017 Full-Length Play Festival. She is looking forward to seeing the variety of plays that the Festival provides.

GENERAL NEWS

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on 14th October, and we need more societies to attend this - to establish better contacts between societies, to explore ways in which KDA can assist drama societies in Kent and to consider how we can sustain our finances without unduly increasing the cost of entering the Festival. Last year, there was a fruitful discussion between those who attended from various societies, sharing ideas for how to attract and keep members and ways in which amateur drama groups can be run more effectively.

Kent is a wide county, and distance prevents close contact between many societies. Some societies have established working groups with other local societies, to their mutual benefit in sharing resources and experience and potentially increasing support for productions and social and fund-raising events. We would like to encourage this, and attending local societies' festival entries can be a way to achieve it.

This newsletter and the list of Festival productions can be downloaded from KDA's website www.kentdrama.org.uk, which also gives details of all member societies, and of their forthcoming productions.

KDA also has a Facebook page: [KentDramaAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/KentDramaAssociation)