
CaAPA Newsletter

Dear CaAPA members

Please find a shorter and somewhat delayed autumnal Newsletter this time! Huge apologies! This is landing in your inbox in a tardy fashion because we have been extremely busy with several CaAPA events and with events-theatrical generally. So please forgive the shortened and less attractive appearance of this Newsletter – we hope to return to a normal service before too long!

Nevertheless, we hope this Newsletter continues to find all our members, your families, friends and loved ones healthy and safe. And especially for anyone who finds themselves alone: we hope that your faith is giving you the courage and resilience to live with the changing times, and able to keep spirits high despite the challenges.

*We also always welcome any news that members would like to share.
Are you involved in 'real' theatrical, TV, radio, film, or online projects?
What are your future professional plans?!*
*How have you kept yourself busy during the lockdowns? Have you
learnt new skills?*

We wish to thank **Michael Slater**, as always, for his invaluable contribution to this Newsletter.

We begin by remembering the past members of CaAPA whose anniversaries occur at this time. This includes those who have made an invaluable contribution to the life of our predecessor, The Catholic Stage Guild.

In Memoriam: September

Patricia Hayes OBE Chair - Catholic Stage Guild

RIP September 19, 1998

August

● Since she was 12 years old, actress Patricia Hayes, OBE, has brought a great deal of pleasure to a great many people. Now Chairman of the Catholic Stage Guild, the former Catholic Woman of the year entertained BERNARD WORKMAN at her London home

IF YOU'RE Irish, come into Patricia Hayes' Parlour. If you're not — and welcome to the club, neither am I, being Welsh — came in anyway.

So I did, following her as she unlocked the door in her sprawling Victorian home 10-minutes from London's East Putney Tube Station.

There in the parlour — or "sitting-room" as she calls it — was a beautiful, recumbent blonde on the sofa, blue eyes gazing up beneath the coverlet.

"My burglar alarm," bubbles the effervescent Patricia, whipping away the clothes to reveal a model's head.

"You see," she explains earnestly as she plonked me down upon a leather settee, "if a burglar broke in here he'd see her there, looking at him and go away. . . I hope."

She was born in Camberwell and has lived in her present home for 40 years come September. So Irish?

"Many years ago, a writer said he wanted someone to play the part of an Irish girl and then told me, you don't sound Irish. I told him that I had no problem doing a South of Ireland accent. He didn't believe me.

"When I told my father he was furious, and he was the mildest-mannered man you could meet. 'You get him on the phone,' he thundered. 'And you say to that fella that there is not a drop of English blood in your veins.'"

So tell me, I say, about being chairman of the Stage Guild, following in the wake of Eammon Andrews, John Gregson, Dickie Henderson, Michael Williams, Lionel Jeffries.

"Oh that," she replies. "The committee has a discussion when a new chairman is needed and I suppose what they want is a name, you see.

"But the spiritual benefits of belonging are colossal. You get a First Friday Mass in the Catholic Actors Church in Maiden Lane, off the Strand.

"It is a spiritual club you belong to. You get the benefits of Mass said for you when you die; an annual retreat; Mass every first Friday and a month-



A star forever shining

"We have the meetings and talk. Then people — if they want to — suggest that they entertain at the following meeting.

"Actors and actresses need to entertain. And somebody who hasn't done anything for ages can get together with somebody else in a sketch."

Sketches, on film, in television, on stage, this has been her life since the age of 12 when she appeared in her first professional show in the Royal Court Theatre in 1922.

"It was a play called *The*

unable to resist uncoiling her diminutive form from the chair and placing herself centre-stage — sorry, centre sitting-room, her audience me and her golden-haired burglar alarm — and treading the boards of these far-away times.

"I played Molly and I had these rave notices. If only I had been that young ten years later. Child-stars had never occurred to them then."

What occurred to a lot of people, producers, directors, other actors, comedians, was that Patricia Hayes was some-

"Well, I didn't do much as a child," she confesses. "I went to RADA and in 1928 won the gold medal there, but when I left I couldn't get work for 18 months.

"At 18 years, I looked so young for my age, like a child. When I took a tram I could go twice as far as any adult on a child's ticket.

"I've always looked young for my age (80 this year). Most healthy people look ten years younger than they are.

"But exceptional people, and I am one of them, look 20 years younger. It isn't only looks, it is energy, vitality."

Believe it. I do, because she bounds around the room as she talks, recreating parts, waving her hands, talking, talking. . .

Her husband left her after the war to return to the Army.

"We'd started our third child then," she recalls. "He didn't have a job and didn't want to return to the theatre so he signed up to go with the Control Commission in Germany and that was that, the end of the marriage.

"There was a divorce eventually, and he re-married.

"I have been alone ever since and I have brought up the children on my own."

There are, also today, three grandchildren.

"People say to me — 'why don't you get married again?'

"My answer to that is — where do you find somebody you like and can live with in harmony, not only with you but with three growing children?

"But then I had also decided that some people are not fit to live with anybody except their own children, and I am one of them."

The children have gone their separate ways, but they are a close family.

Perhaps her greatest role was *Edna, The Inebriate Woman*.

"Edna," she sighs. "I liked her because she was like Charlie Chaplin in a way. She was so tragic, yet she was so funny."

In *A Fish Called Wanda* Patricia Hayes is the up-market lady with the dogs who keeps coming and going.

And she's just returned from filming *The Last Island* in Tobago.

At pushing 80 she has a philosophy:

"I always say to old people," pausing dramatically as if to dare you to put her in this category, "don't look upon age as a tragedy. It is the most fulfilling part of your life.

"I have had my three-score years and ten. From now on every year is a bonus. You can love people at my age. You can put your arm around a man looking disconsolate and ask 'are you feeling depressed today' and he isn't going to think

FAREWELL PATRICIA HAYES



Actress Gemma Craven (right) a famous old girl of St Bernard's High School, Westcliff, is pictured here with two other former convent school girls, Pauline Collins (left) and Polly James. They were attending a thanksgiving service in Westminster Cathedral for the life of Catholic actress Patricia Hayes, a former Chair of the Catholic Stage Guild. Odd man out was actor Christopher Timothy.

Michael Slater writes:

A much-loved member and a hard-working Chair, I had some lovely memories of Patricia.

Mother of Richard O'Callaghan, meeting her quite often in Putney, in M&S as she lived in West Hill, "You know, dear, I just like the middle of the Mass, then I can get home to do my housework!" and "Of course, the priest should never give the homily, it should be left to actors!"

I would quite often travel on the Tube after committee meetings and at Embankment heading for Wimbledon, Pat would charge through the No Entry sign, "it's alright dear, this is the quick way - I know all the short cuts on the tube"!

Sharing a taxi she remarked to the driver, "I don't wish to be rude, but aren't you a bit old to be still driving?"

"Oh, I only do a couple of nights and stay with my son, then go back to Sandringham."

"Oh, you must see the Queen?"

"Oh yes, but she does get up my nose, she will put her washing out on a Sunday."

September 7, 2005

Sir Harold Hood KSG Vice-President

Michael remembers:

A most supportive and kind man, he always left a few bottles of wine at the office, if we were having an event!

In Memoriam: October

1983 **Sir Ralph Richardson** Vice-President

1993 **Cyril Cusack** Vice-President

1995 **David Healy**

1999 **Deryck Guyler**

2005 **Eileen Gaffney**

2007 **Moirra Lister** Vice-President



St Mary's Church
Cadogan Street
London SW1

A Memorial Requiem Mass

For



Moira Gachassin-Lafite, Vicomtesse d'Orthez
1923 - 2007

TOQUE SI CAUSES

Thursday, 21st February 2008
2 o'clock

Moira Lister

As Noël Coward's leading lady for two years in the first production of his classic play "Present Laughter" and a devoted friend for the rest of his life Moira Lister has a fund of stories and anecdotes as yet untold, of Noël Coward's life and work.

These have been compiled into a sparkling one-woman show containing stories and some of Noël Coward's best loved songs including "Been to a Marvellous Party", "If Love Were All" and "Three White Feathers".

It is an evening of charm, laughter and insight into the life of one of theatre's greatest talents.

'Moira Lister held Audience Spellbound'

Miss Lister has an extremely expressive face, and an exceptional talent for story telling... She is fascinating to hear and to watch.

Evening News

Much the most polished of story-tellers I have heard is Moira Lister.

The Tatler, London

Moira Lister certainly added another laurel to her acting... a brilliant stroke.

Manchester Evening News

During the course of the evening one recognised Moira Lister as a great actress who was able to call up in her audience strong emotions by her subtle and sensitive art. The enthusiastic audience, by long applause, left no doubt in Miss Lister's mind about how much the beautiful performance has been appreciated.

De Telegraaf, The Hague

CaAPA Committee Nominations

prior to the:

CaAPA AGM

on Tuesday 16 November 2021

at the CAA, 20 Bedford Street, Covent Garden
at 7pm

As this is the time that the Officers and Committee are re-elected, if you wish to propose a member to serve on the Committee, please complete below and return to the Honorary Secretary CaAPA by 19 November: (*kennethmichaels@hotmail.com*)

Committee Nomination 2021

..... whose consent I
have sought.

My proposal has been seconded by

.....

Please do try to attend our next event:

**Tuesday 16 November - CaAPA's AGM at the
CAA - 7pm**

.....

And another date for your diary:

The Annual Dinner

will be held at the CAA on
Tuesday 14 December - 7pm for 8pm

(The CAA Xmas menu is below; please click on the link)



CaAPA Xmas
menu.docx

(An Xmas Dinner booking form will soon be sent separately.)

[Link to Blessed Sacrament Sodality Newsletter](#)

Best wishes and with prayers from the Shrine.

The Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament

www.sodality.co.uk

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Maiden Lane
London
WC2E 7NB

This is an appeal from the Chair of CaAPA's
trustees Fr Vlad Felzmann:

Fr Vlad writes –

I have had this slightly mad idea!

God is in/at the centre of everything. At St Mary's University, Twickenham, that central presence is symbolised by the Chapel. Its voice, the organ, is silent. That voice needs to be restored.

We need £500,000 to achieve that restoration – for the 175th anniversary of St Mary's University in 2025.

CHAPEL ORGAN RENEWAL ENDEAVOUR (CORE)

To raise these funds, given my 52 years of priesthood and 83 years on this planet, I plan to walk 52 circuits of the Sir Mo Farah running track for 83 days: @ possibly 5 a week = 16.6 weeks. (Total distance around 670 miles, some 25 marathons.)

To reach £500,000, each lap needs to be sponsored to the tune of £120. Sponsorship of a full day = £120 x 52 = £6,240.

***SPONSOR A LAP – OR A MULTIPLE, OR FRACTION
OF ONE, FOR FR VLAD!***

***St Mary's University Chapel Organ Fund
– Fr Vlad steps up!***

**Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann is raising funds to support the
replacement of the Chapel Organ at St Mary's University,
Twickenham.**

We have several ways online, and off, by which you can support the fund with a gift.

Donating online via JustGiving:

Donations may be made via our main JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/campaign/SMUChapelOrgan

Donating online via our website:

You may make an online donation by card or PayPal online, via our website: <https://estore.stmarys.ac.uk/product-catalogue/development/donations/chapel-organ-fund>

By donating online, you will have an opportunity to allow us to claim Gift Aid on your donation.

Donating by cheque:

Please send your cheque payable to St Mary's University to:

Finance Office
St Mary's University
Waldegrave Road
Twickenham
TW1 4SX

(Please include a note with your name, address, email address and contact number and state that you would like your donation to go to the CHAPEL ORGAN FUND in support of Fr Vlad.

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please complete a Gift Aid Form.)

Contact us

If you would like to discuss your donation you can contact Fr Vlad at vladimirfelzmann@cdow.org.uk or www.fathervlad.com or call him on 07810116508

**Yesterdays are taken.
Today is mine to take.**

Professor Mons. Vladimir Felzmann

**Catholic Chaplain to Sport
Catholic Chaplain to Canary Wharf
Visiting Professor at St Mary's University**

Fr Vlad ends by thanking you and writing:

The last chapter of Papal encyclicals, and the like, are always Marian. As it has turned out – thank God – the last chapter of my life is also Marian, not only in Radio Maria, but here at St Mary's.

**Dedicated to CORE
Chapel Organ Rebirth Endeavour**

Please be aware that if this appeal does not raise sufficient funds to replace the organ at St Mary's, we will use the funds to refurbish the existing organ to the highest standards possible. Any excess funds raised will be used to further the musical life of the University. If Fr Vlad's plans are disrupted or amended in any way, we will retain the funds raised for the purposes described here.

Please do send in any items you have written, or think may be of interest to members, for inclusion in future Newsletters to:
kennethmichaels@hotmail.com

Until next time, may you all remain safe.

God Bless.

Kenneth Michaels
(HonSec)