



Os Algarvios
Teatro Experimental



The Algarveans
Experimental Theatre

JUNE 2010 SPOTLIGHT

Just before going to press, the sad news that Graham Cooper had lost his long battle with Cancer was received. He passed away peacefully in a Lisbon Hospital on Saturday 29 May; Maggie was with him.

Graham was a terrific musician and singer who over the years had entertained us with a mixture of Jazz, ballads and comedy songs, not forgetting the jokes. An evening with Graham Cooper would have you listening to his own songs, those co written with Harvey Andrews, or those written by other songwriters from Trad. Anon, to Duke Ellington, taking in John Prine and Harry Chapin along the way. The songs would reflect Graham's love of quality songwriting in all the areas of acoustic music that he had been involved with, in a career spanning 40years. He has sung, and played piano or guitar, at folk clubs, colleges and concert halls across the UK and Europe, from Cambridge Festival to Reading Rock Festival, and been involved in numerous radio and TV programmes such as The Old Grey Whistle Test. Graham had lived in the Algarve with his wife Maggie since 2000 where he was much in demand as a solo artist or as part of the duo Simply Acoustic. For two years Graham played the piano with the Algarve's Good Time Jazz Band, and travelled with them to open the first International Jazz Festival in the Cape Verde Islands. Graham was the teacher of guitar at the International School at Porches, a project which gave him the chance to pass on to the younger generation a variety of music which they wouldn't otherwise hear in today's drum and bass driven musical climate. He was Musical Director for four Algarvean's shows. Three Old Time Music Halls in 2001, 2003, and 2004 performed in Lagos were extremely successful with Graham squeezing out what little talent we had to offer. He had the crowds screaming for more. Then in 2008, Graham came back as musical director of another Algarvean's success story - "Oh! What a Lovely War" and he also stepped in as the show's presenter at the last minute. Yes we Algarvean's have a lot to thank Graham for, his professionalism, his patience, and his gift as a teacher. Cut and paste the link below to your search engine to hear Graham singing a very poignant and beautiful song "Mindful Goodbye's." Music by Graham with Lyrics by Graham Cooper & Harvey Andrews. This song was originally performed by Graham for Judith Hancock who died suddenly last year. Jude was Graham's good friend and fellow entertainer.



Forty people made the journey from the Algarve to pay their last respects to Graham. Daryl Bye was asked by Maggie to say a few words at the crematorium in Lisbon. Daryl has been on stage many times but this was his best ever and most moving performance to date. He made everyone laugh and he made everyone cry but most of all he made all present thankful to have known Graham Cooper, the entertainer, the friend and the man. Daryl gave the most perfect eulogy and send off; Graham left us as he would have wished, with a standing ovation from his audience.

Friday 11th June: A musical celebration of the life and work of Graham Cooper will be held at the Amorosa Social Club. "Grand Musical Variety Evening" Entrance 8 Euros. Performers include: Class Act; The Good Time Jazz Band; Daryl Bye; the O Cais Rockers and special humorous acts. This event is being organised by Barry Skipper and Mary Bentley. For additional information and tickets please contact Mary on 918 691 506 or by email the2bentleys@aol.com

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www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBKvdQmkfeg



A word from the Chairlady I would like to say that all involved in 'Allo, 'Allo! deserve hearty congratulations, as you will see from reviews in the Press generally as well as elsewhere in this most important of missives! I am not going to single out all those involved, as the whole show was GREAT, but I do want to say a special 'Thank you' to David, as the Director; it was his idea, and in every way, his show. Everybody who went to the 'Quiz Night' in Silves had a great time, and many thanks to our new Committee member Pat, together with Nikki, for organizing that. More ease! I know how difficult it can be - not to say, frustrating - to get people to social events, but when they are as fun as that, hopefully it will get easier. No bad news this time, so I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of Spotlight, with special attention for the auditions for all interested!

Independent critique. 'Allo 'Allo!

Photograph: BJ Boulter

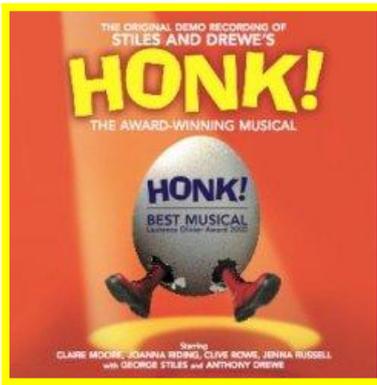


Now listen very carefully – no, I'm not going there! The direction of any play based on a TV series that has become a household name must be something of a nightmare! Try and copy it too closely and it may lack the lustre of a live performance but miss out the essence of the individual characters and the audience will feel cheated. David Butler-Cole is the kind of Director that anticipates what his audience expects and we were treated to a very good show that must have taken considerable thought and ingenuity. I really expected the accents to let the show down. I did not think that the performers could keep a

particular accent going for two hours without making several blinding mistakes. But it didn't happen and everyone who 'spoke' German or French must be congratulated for their attention to so much detail. Our hero Rene (Trevor Herrington) was perfect casting and brilliant in the part allowing just the right amount of anticipation before delivering the retorts that we were, of course, expecting. His dallying with his saucy waitresses Maria (Barbara Briggs) and Yvette (Sandra Inca) was funny but not farcical and of course his convoluted explanations for his long suffering wife Edith were eagerly anticipated. Colonel von Strom – my particular favourite - (John Havery) and Capt Geering (Lloyd Delderfield) worked very well together with the latter opening his mouth and putting his foot into it at every opportunity. They were ably aided and abetted by Lt Gruber (Charlie Bedingham) but I missed his 'little tank' – I suppose the Director didn't want the set constructors to walk off the job!!! Edith (Gloria Costa) had us looking for the cheese to stuff in our ears and worked so well with 'Mama' (Sian Hughes-Roberts). Excellent improvisation, incidentally, using a wheelchair to have 'ze flashing knobs' instead of a bed! We listened very carefully and had to when Crabtree (Des Briggs) regaled us with his 'wound-erful' command of French. I suppose it 'cod have been butter' – but not much butter! Herr Flik (Leonard Oblowitz) and Helga (Boe Williams) 'played' well together and Michele of the Resistance (Jenny Dackombe) switched seamlessly between 'English' and 'French' as she sought to find 'homes' for her airmen. Le Clerc (Greg MacDonald) flitted in and out sufficiently to have us thoroughly confused and with the support of onion sellers and airmen and an excellent General von Klinkerhofen (Tony Sanders) this was a well selected team, showing the value of efficiently run auditions. The Algarvean's are lucky in their production team. The sets (bar and back room) were very well designed and the moves between them seamless. A special mention to the pianist (B MacDonald) and the lighting crew. Altogether a brilliant show. I closed my eyes at one point (deliberately!!) and it really could have been the TV show. And at the risk of being repetitive, what does an audience want from an amateur theatre group? They want to be entertained with a show that they can understand and that looks like those performing are also enjoying the experience. Well done, again, Algarvean's. Here's to the next time! Sandra Wilkinson.



The ALGARVEAN QUIZ NIGHT Pat Sandford, our newly elected committee member and now also quiz master, reports that seven teams consisting of 27 people attended the Algarvean's Quiz Night held in Suzie's Bar, Silves on Friday 7 May. Pat was ably assisted by Jenny Dackombe (Michelle in 'Allo Allo'). The teams battled it out through a six category round, a picture round and also a round of audio clips. 75 points were up for grabs and the winning team, with a very admirable score of 63 was 'THE WAY WE WIN' consisting of Nikki Weijdom, Wendy Nazar, and Mel & Chris Winstanley picking up the prize of 20Euros. Second place was claimed by the BAFTA's, a team led by Peter, a regular Quizmaster at Suzie's, who was happy to be able to take part for once. They scored 59.5 points and picked up 8 Euros. A good fun evening was enjoyed by all as well as an excellent Chilli meal. Watch out for the next Social evening, coming soon!



Honk! The Musical will be our first amateur musical on the Algarve for many years. This musical follows the Hans Christian Andersen story of the Ugly Duckling. The amazing script and brilliant music makes this a fairy tale for all ages as many adult themes are explored and all the farmyard animals are played in a human style and there will not be a feather in sight. The show is being directed by Chris Winstanley and the production team who produced the critically acclaimed production of “Daisy Pulls It Off” in October 2009.

Let’s tell you a bit about the history of the show, HONK’s big break came in 1999 when Sir Trevor Nunn invited actress Julia Mackenzie to direct the show on the Olivier stage at the National Theatre in London’s West End. To media amazement, in February 2000 HONK! won the Olivier award for Best New Musical beating both The Lion King and Mamma Mia to the award. Since then

Honk! The Musical has been seen in over 4000 different productions around the world, winning many awards along the way. This show will be a premiere for Portugal. The cast can be as big or small as parts can be doubled up, however we would love to have as many as possible involved to really make a great sound on stage. Please do not worry if you have never sung or been on stage before as many of the numbers will be sung by the chorus and we intend to make the music suit the cast we assemble. The parts call for all ages so whether you are 12 years or 70+ years we would love to have you involved. Would you like to hear and see excerpts from the show? Visit www.stilesanddrewe.co.uk/honk

Main Characters: ALL CAST: Will play the parts of a variety of farmyard animals, fish and froglets throughout the show.

MALE CHARACTERS

Ugly	The part of the ugly duckling can be played by a male aged 15 to 30. Very innocent and vulnerable
Cat	Can be played by older male, The bad guy in the musical. Any age
Drake	A Duck, Ugly’s Dad, a “bit of lad” who does anything for the easy life. Any age
Greylag	A goose, RAF type character, who is a bit dim. Very funny cameo role. Older age
Turkey	Nice non singing part who is terrified he won’t be around after Christmas. Nervous. Any age
Bullfrog	Befriends Ugly when he is at his lowest, has probably best song in the show. Loud and Brash. Any age
Father Swan	Penny’s Dad. Non Singing part. Stylish and elegant
Barnacles	One of the Geese, small part, any age

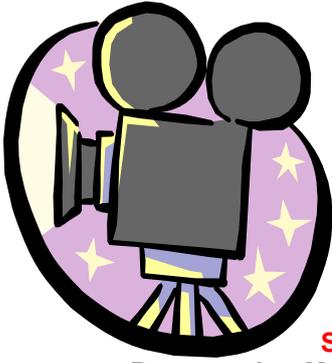
FEMALE CHARACTERS

Ida	A Duck, Ugly and the other ducklings Mother. Down to earth character. The lead part.
Grace	The “Queen” of the farmyard. Very proper. Older Character
Dot	A Goose, Greylag’s Wife, great part, long suffering of the not very bright husband, Any age
Lowbutt	A domesticated Hen, Friend of Queenie, very colonial, older age
Queenie	A domesticated Cat, Friend of Lowbutt, very Colonial, older age
Maureen	A duck, Friend of Ida, bit up herself, Comic part, any age
Penny	Young Female Swan, she and Ugly fall in love, Age 15 to 30
Mother Swan	Penny’s Mum, Non Singing Part, Stylish and Elegant

There are also 2 or 3 other small parts for females.

YOUNG PEOPLE: There are the parts of Fluff, Billy, Downy and Beaky which are great parts for teenager’s boys and / or girls, Ugly’s Brothers and sisters. Lots to do!

This production is going to be the biggest Algarvean production for a while and we hope as many people as possible will get involved off and on stage. The great thing about this show is that there are many parts and we are planning to make the rehearsals workshop based which always prove to be great fun and full of laughter. On Sunday 13th and 20th June from 10am to 1pm there will two open workshops where Chris and the team will introduce the show and run drama and music activities to start assembling the cast and crew. The location of these workshops will be at Cine Teatro in Silves, which is situated behind the football ground. Full rehearsals for *Honk! The Musical* will begin at the beginning of September. If you would like more information about the show contact Chris on 919 198 840 or email him at winnies@btopenworld.com or call Nikki on 917 776 245.



SILVES CINE-THEATRE CLUB

Saturday 26th June: at 7.30 pm. A race night. All the fun and excitement of racing without stepping onto the turf. Tickets are 10 Euros which includes a buffet. You can become a race horse owner on the night or when you purchase your ticket. Tickets available from Deanna 282 445 902 Chris 282 322 355 or Celia on 282 332 665.

Saturday 24th July: A 60's and 70's music night with 3 course meal. To be held at Restaurant Recanto dos Mouros in Silves. Music by Just John. Silves Cine-Theatre Club is not involved in this event which is being run by Celia Mossman, the information is being forwarded because all proceeds will be donated to the Castelo de Sonhos. For further information, booking and choice of menu please telephone Deanna, Chris or Celia on the numbers given above.

The Beggar's Thruppence.



Combining the funniest parts of the 18th century Beggar's Opera by John Gay with the most telling parts of Brecht's 20th century version, The Threepenny Opera, Aperitivo Performance Group have now combined the two in a 21st century version that has the best of both worlds. Aperitivo's *The Beggar's Thruppence* will be performed at the Museum in São Brás on the 4th and 5th of June at 7.30pm and at the newly restored theatre in Messines on the 11th and 12th June at 8pm. In central Messines, not far from the Ecomarché supermarket and opposite the Churrasqueira Fatinha. The theatre is above a large café area. Their re-written play takes full advantage of the humour and light heartedness of Gay's script, while adding some of the sharpness and irony of the Brecht version - which uses basically the same characters and story, but with a darker element and the inimitable music of Kurt Weil. Aperitivo's play is set in the 1920s era of

gangsters and prostitutes, all of whom revolve around the elegant, arrogant and superbly cheeky Mac the Knife. But even this archetypal anti-hero gets his come-uppance – on the scaffold about to be hung with two wives arguing over him, a huddle of lamenting hookers bringing him drinks and his friends and ill-wishers stoically awaiting his end. Ah, but is it the end? For more information contact admin@amigos-museu-sbras.org or visit the website of the Friends of the Museum at www.amigos-museu-sbras.org

ITEMS FOR SALE.

Zanussi ZDF 100 Dishwasher. New kitchen with integral units forces sale of this free standing machine. Photograph and details can be viewed on the following link: http://www.ciao.es/Zanussi_ZDF_100_511555 Cost new €245 only: €40.00. Phone Jenny 963 871 494.

Two single mattresses for sale, as good as new and only €50 each buyer collects. Ring Brian Pemberton 282 322 030 or 911 077 538.

AND FINALLY Are you involved with another group that would benefit in receiving this Spotlight newsletter? If so, feel free to post it at your website or circulate via your email list. We are a non-profit making organisation and give to charitable causes whenever and wherever we can. The more people we can get the message to and bring to our live shows the better for all. Forward it to your friends and neighbours. Please don't forget your letters to the editor, just send your input via email Desbabs@hotmail.com alternatively, you could write to me; Des Briggs BEM, Apt 1123 Carvoeiro, Lagoa 8401-910. If it is easier, ring me at 282 084 438. Do you want to advertise another group or organisation then send input to me, at the above address. Maybe you have something for sale, a joke or cartoon, an article, a photograph or information on forthcoming shows or just information of a general interest. "Ta-ra" everybody, see you next month. **Des the Ed.**