



COMIC



2003



A strange oddity: The year in review

www.comus.org.uk

An Editor Writes:

Exactly 12 months ago I was parachuted in to the job of Comic editor by the usual amazing Comus election process; a process that would do Robert Mugabe proud.

I was apprehensive. I've done this kind of thing before, and in the past hoards of writers have promised reams of material only to deliver nothing and leave me to write it all. This time around its been different. Numerous people have supplied articles, ideas and photos and hopefully the finished result has something for everyone

There are some names I must mention. First of all Gary Ewer, who is credited with almost all the photos in these pages. His archive on the other society's website is an amazing resource. Also to Brian Tucker, Joth Dixon, Burly Cumberland, Eddie Brown, Clare Mitchell, Andrew Caisley and Darren Holmes for supplying enough material to enable me to be an editor not a writer.

Lastly, I hope you all enjoy the evening, and for those of you who don't like the content of Comic this year, I refer you, as I fear I must, to Figure 1.

Cheers,
Gus Paul



Figure 1

Comus Committee 2002

Chairman: Darren Holmes
Vice Chair: Erica Straus
Treasurer: Adam Mahomed
Secretary: Rolly Trice
Tier: Mike Moate
Pinner: Tom Dane
Badger: Erica Straus
College Sec.: Eddie Brown
Comic Editor: Gus Paul
OCMs: Ian "Animal" Cairns,
Paul Hickman

Mylan: "I can walk on water!"

Roly: "Yes, but we all know that shit floats"



From the Chair:

Dear Friends,

Welcome once again to the Comus Dinner and the latest edition of Comic. As ever Comic has been assembled behind closed doors by a "cell" organisation. No single person knows what the others have written or the ultimate goal to which they are working, much like many of the shows I've worked on in the past. Hopefully the result is a Rembrandt and not a Dali....

In this my final year as Chairman, Adam Mahomed has tracked down an item we thought extinct; a copy of the Comus Club Constitution. I find now that my role is described perfectly in

Black and White " a senior member of the Club who shall be responsible for using sealing wax, string or anything else considered necessary to keep the whole show together". In theatrical tradition it's best you are kept in the dark as to how often that's been true. So long as there is food on the table, drinks at the bar and old friends to share them with then you can't go far wrong.

I hope that you enjoy the evening and find time to catch up with friends in the few short hours.

Cheers,
Darren Holmes

From the Constitution:

Item 2 – Objects

*This Club objects to objects as such;
Such are stodgy, as it has such
Firm faith that procedures normal
Would be far, far, far too formal
In a Club, that merely wishes
Like Sun translucently to fishes,
To generate a general gleam
Of guidance to that glistening stream,
Tomorrow 's merry masqueraders.
First and foremost, let us grade as
Paramount, the pleasant linking
(Comus get the glasses clinking')
Of those with playful ways of thinking,*

*If not, may a forfeit pay.
Year by passing year at College.
Let's have laughter with our knowledge,
And in case we're worrying thinner
Let's precede our Annual Dinner
With a cock-eyed, cocktail fleeting,
Cocker-spaniel General Meeting.
Lots of bark, then lots of bite.
(If we cannot come, we'll write).
And let's, lest our laughter dies,
Strongly and weekly knot our ties
On each and every Tuesday*

"Brian 's fed Nick port, and I've got to live with the consequences..." Marian Hinds

EL PRESIDENTE

When Gus asked me (last Tuesday in the bar) to write something for "Comic" I happily agreed to do so. Unfortunately I then forgot (surprisingly without the aid of alcohol) everything that had been said.

I considered writing a small song or piece of creative writing. There is, as far as I am aware no Other Society song so far. Notwithstanding this, I cannot write songs.

I shall therefore resort to a more conventional task, an explanation of exactly how the Other Society has been spending the license fee in the last twelve months.

As we left each other last year the other Society was just waking up from a Christmas based "Midsummer Nights Dream". This was swiftly followed by "Run For Your Wife" a mindbendingly, wall paintingly, psychedelic bootcutlery, bed swappingly convoluted seventies sitcom pastiche. The show was triumphally directed by the Other Society Acting Director and minor sex god Patrick Hoar who once famously understated that the play "acted as a vehicle for stereotypes and attitudes that are really politically incorrect". Splendid! Unfortunately he then ruined this statement by adding, "Lighting should be quite simple", oh well.



Cunningly employing a winning combination of Mr Ewer's beauty and Mr Tierney's Hobbit impression, the other society ensnared many new members during Fresher's Week. Some (if not more) have joined and claim to like us.

Phil Lunn tried his best not to provide words for the Freshers' Play. The Acting Director and a number of experienced hands then tried their best not to learn them. Despite these efforts we all laughed ourselves silly and then retired to the bar (yes in that order!)

Productions of "And Then There Were None" and "Tender" filled the autumn term. Both Andre Refig and Nia Stevens extracted some splendid performances from talented casts. Special mention should be made of the contributions of Etienne Pollard and Gary Ewer for pushing the boundaries of art as far as Level Five of the Electrical Engineering Building.

In summary we acted lots, made a considerable amount of noise, rigged a good deal of Parcans upside down (still), and drank an extraordinary cocktail of Ale n' Girly Drinks. Audiences were sizable, and happily regularly included Comus' cohorts.

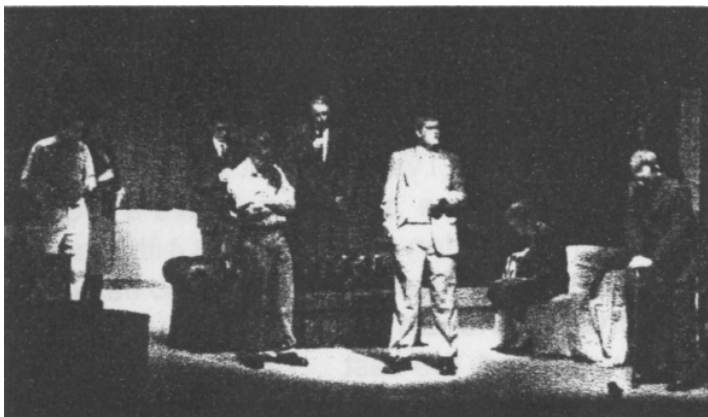
It remains for me to wish you all a profitable 2003. We hope to see you in the bar or the theatre very soon.

Best Wishes
Andrew

*Nia: "I slept with Gary and Ed but they both fell asleep."
Everyone else: "That's just a reflection on you. dear."*

The Other Society Review 2002 Burly Cumberland

The other society started the 2002/2003 year with a freshers play. I only mention this because the play was based around a script by Philip Lunn, a name that should ring a bell with many of you. The current acting director, Patrick Hoar, saw it through to the stage. I've no idea what it was like as I failed to see it (Editor: I hope all the reviews aren't going to be like this...).



Next up was a run of Agatha Christies, And Then There Were None (ATTWN). Directed by Andre Refig and produced by the all rounder Andrew Caisley. ATTWN faced many challenges not least of all that it was supposed to be Dead Famous by Ben Elton until the rights people got in the way. The change of script could only have deprived Andre of a summer preparing his ideas and then he was confronted with one of the shortest rehearsal periods for an Other Society show in

the last 5 years! Despite these challenges the show turned out fine, however one couldn't help but feel that another week or two could have given Andre and the cast time to produce something special.

The plot was classic Christie, a murder mystery where an unassociated group are gathered on an island with two servants and are slowly killed off one by one till no one survives! As usual with Christies writing I found it virtually impossible to guess the killer and

the ending twisted nicely to add to my confusion.

One of the strongest relationships is between Philip Lombard (Marc Luness) and Vera Claythorne (Eleanor Harrison). The endless flirting and advances of Philip on the young Vera left you in no doubt of what he'd like to happen. However you are left wondering if it was all a sham when they are the

only two still standing towards the end. Marc is beginning to prove that he's an extremely talented actor and Eleanor put in another solid performance. Daniel Key's performance as Sir Lawrence Wargrave was both cold and calculated, exactly what was demanded of the role. Tom Dane also made a come back to the Other Society (did he really ever leave?) as the dithering General MacKenzie.

Finally special mention should go to the epic effort made with regards to the set. The Other Society ran in black box mode for a long time but since Popcorn and Run For Your Wife (a truly excellent show) full sets have made it back. ATTWN's set was rather impressive and Andrew Tierney, Andrew Allen and Andrew Caisley should all get a pat on the back for their efforts. On the whole the show was good, the cast and crew should be very happy with what they achieved.

Now you may think that that covers the first term, alas not. Two main shows in a term.. you'd be forgiven for thinking that the acting side is thriving and I hope it's doing exactly that. Following on the heels of ATTWN was Tender by Abi Morgan, directed by Nia Stevens and produced by Etienne Pollard.

Abi Morgan is an up and coming play right it would appear. Cheery stuff Tender is not. That's not to say that it isn't without moments of humour, all too often missed by the audience that surrounded Toby and myself (or perhaps it really wasn't supposed to be funny at all). Tender focused on relationships and loneliness. It deals with the question of what it is to be lonely and illustrates that a relationship doesn't necessarily equate to a person feeling any less lonely. The six characters at first feel and appear unconnected but as the play develops you begin to see where the connections lie. However this isn't Hollywood, some of the connections are almost tenuous just as you'd expect in real life. If you have a problem with the play it's that it illustrates life in a way that is only too easy to integrate into the world in which you live. Having done this the lack of happy ending or answers to the questions the play raises forces you to look at your own relationships or ignore it completely. This is not mainstream theatre and as they mention in Stones In His Pockets: "It's what theatre is for".

The cast all put in extremely good performances, Catherine Rix's portrayal of the pregnant Hen was surprisingly convincing, Dan Stokeley proved himself rather flexible and adapt as Squeal.

"What the fucks going on here. By the looks of the book, I've got this multipin all wrongs."
Iain Campbell

However the character that gave me most trouble was Marvin played by Julian Flavin. For some reason I expected him to return to his wife Gloria (Shima Kadkhodazadeh) or provide us with some sort of moral to the story. However any such action would have left the audience comfortable.

The other unusual thing about Tender was that it was performed in an Elec Eng Lecture theatre. I believe this is the first time the Other Society has strayed from the concert hall for a production since Antigone in 2001. The play was performed with the audience on three sides and a huge white cloth forming the backdrop. Locations were effectively set with the minimum of set and some of the best sound effects I've heard in a long time. The seagulls passing overhead sounded only too

real and would probably have awakened bad memories for those who partake in the other other society's summer tour. The lighting was minimal but robust and very effective.

On the whole Tender was well performed, directed and produced. On the fringe perhaps but was well worth seeing even if you don't enjoy fringe theatre. I have to say that I have my own little top three list for the Other Society shows and Tender would probably make it into this list, undisputed champion for me is still Run For Your Wife. My point is that two of my top three have been preformed since the last Comus dinner and I believe that out of the 15 shows or so that I've seen the other society perform, this only goes to show that the society is going from strength to strength.



"What's that orange thing on my pole?" Paul Hickman

The New Comers

Nia Stevens (Director/Actor/Lighting Designer): A very confused member of the Other Society, not fitting into either "actor" or "techie" Whether its acting in "Midsummer Nights Dream", Lighting "Run For Your Wife", Directing "Tender". Apparently she has decided that she wants to complete her PhD. Of course you do Nia.



Esteban Perito (Actor): Formerly in charge of the publicity machine at the Other Society, and also acting in a number of plays. For some reason, the thing that sticks in my mind is Steve playing a Elvis Chicken.



James Gallagher (Treasurer/LX Tech): The latest person to use the phrase "I don't decide what we buy, I just pay the invoices" frequently. The only member of the crew who is never late.

Patrick Hoar (Acting Director): Acting director extraordinaire, Patrick is as committed and enthusiastic as actors come. Which is good!

Jenny Hatwell (Actor/Producer/Director): The current Secretary of the Other Society, and director of this term's upcoming play. Sexual Perversity in Chicago. Catch it if you can!

Etienne Pollard (Stage Crew): Crew clothing Guru. Etienne/James/Polly/etc. does all sorts of techie things, just so long as someone tells him how to do it, like stage managing, producing, and Tape Op for International night



Simon Fothergill (Lighting Director): He waves his hands around and is excitable!!! His idea of what makes a good show, is one that uses every possible light we own.... Just your typical theatre LD really, who has been involved in "Midsummer Nights Dream" and "And then there were none" amongst other things.

Pascale Taylor(Stage Crew?): Not sure why she's here, but someone voted her in...

With Apologies.....

The Techies finally met their match when called in to technically support the Lambeth Schools Music Festival on July 11th & 12th 2002. Marion Hinds and Laurie Tweedale would publicly like to apologise to the esteemed Editor for breaking him. We would also like to thank:

- *Dr: D. Gathercole for resuscitation, medical assistance and emergency accommodation.*
- *The learner driver (our accident prone Editor) for taking out a row of cars in Brixton and leaving us to explain the charges to Lambeth Council. (Editor's note: It was only one brake light...I think)*
- *Brixton Recreation Centre for:*
 - a) *their spacious goods lift - being out of action*
 - b) *2 flights of stairs morphing into 5 overnight*
 - c) *locking us in the car park - at midnight*
- *Messrs Tucker, Hickman, Gathercole & Jones for braving 5 flights of stairs with 40 steel deck when many experienced techies had already fled.*
- *Jamaica for their Steel Pans. Mr Paul is now available for all your removal needs.*
- *KFC for their sponsorship.*
- *The pub of undisclosed opening hours.*
- *To all of the above for agreeing to make themselves available for Lambeth Schools Music Festival 2003.*

The Other Other Society 2002 Gus Paul

2002 could also be described as year of the big production at the other other society. Also known as "cashing in", the Other Other Society launched its new name by staging the second production of Grease! in 10 years. Luckily for the techies this time it took place in the concert hall not the Great Hall, but it was an equally successful production, selling out on almost all 5 nights.

With Adrian Lillie and friends designing some fabulous costumes (as usual) and solid performances from the well cast principles and it was a very well staged production, the pink light /dry ice extravaganza for the Teen Angel song particularly standing out. The quality of the show was put into perspective by the quality of the King's production of the show just a few weeks later. This years production, of Personals,

a musical written by the creators of Friends, will be the third in the row for the now familiar Director/MD team of David Phipps-Davis and Tom Caradine, and promises to be something a little different again, with the audience being encouraged to interact with the cast during the show. It opens at the beginning of March.

The Other Other Society continues to tour to Budleigh Salterton under its old guise, and last year staged Pirates of Penzance, one of the more popular G&S shows. More excellent design from Adrian, this time on the production as well as the costumes, and a solid all around effort from the company made sure the regulars weren't going to go away disappointed. A combination of hot sunshine, cold rain and a rather persistent virus (nicknamed "Gerald") made life interesting for the company in their time off.

The Other Other Society had an admirable year in 2002 and should continue to do so this year.



*Discussing a member of the female chorus: "Would you go down on her?"
David Phipps-Davis: "I'd send in the canary first"*

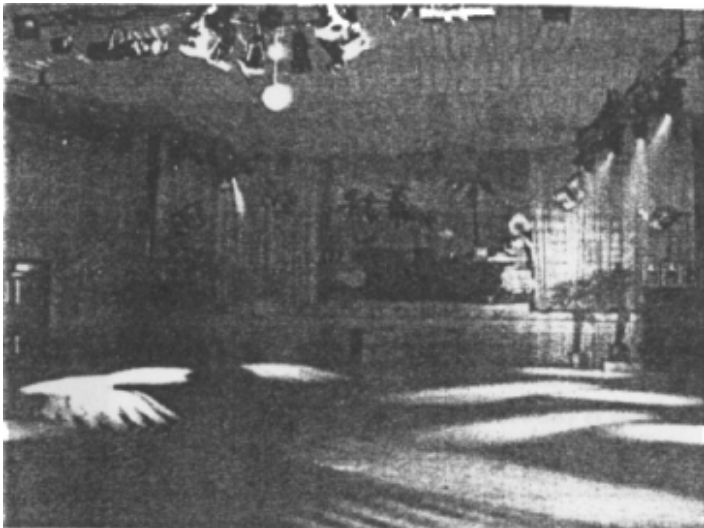
The Dark Side Eddie Brown

3 plays, 3 Great Hall shows, the Other Other Society doing Grease, were just some of the events taking place for the crew in 2002. School girls, including a Rag Back To School Night, and the annual visit from QueensGate were a common site around the crew too (or should that be the other way around?)

Box sets (bright yellow and purple ones at that, or how about a lovely pink...) Band nights, Freshers week and other carnivals (some in the UCH, some for RAG, some with lots of Toys and some in the rain).

The Summer Ball, once again given a large grant from college, was once again held in the grounds in and around the Sherfield building, and once again involved a huge, ultimately successful effort from the crew, past and present.

Oh, and the discovery that it is possible to hold the occasional bar night in dB's with a barrel or two of Beer, and of course our 10K PA with a computer playing DJ, putting a new angle on a Tuesday night... come to drink and play loud music... rock!



Rigs have been installed, trusses flown, Sets built. The lampys have bought another couple of stage scans, the Soundies have (almost) finished rewiring the UCH with a very big fat multicore, the set builders now have a few more power tools.

We have a load of new techies, a number here tonight. This year has seen a swelling in the number of soundies (re hab is being tried to get them off the cider) but people are still signing up to do events.

And here, with Tamil Night tomorrow, we go again... Planning for events already takes us all the way up to the summer ball!

It never seems to end, long may it continue (as long as union politics allows...)

Tom Dane: "I can't believe I'm having to give him lessons in being butch"

A Comus occasion Clare Mitchell

(Editors note: Jonathan and Emma Dixon (nee Lucas) celebrated that rare event in September - a Comus wedding where both halves are members of the society. Both stalwarts of the technical crew for the past 7 years, it was only natural that comus members would be drafted in to help with the reception. This is the story of how it happened...)

When Joth and Em announced that they were getting married little did we humble crew members realise what we were letting ourselves in for. For Luke, Clare and Adam it would mean an amusing if not sometimes scary journey down to Devon in a very overloaded 3.5-ton truck. For the others an interesting day in a marquee in a field.

Thursday 5th September 15:00hrs, Imperial College Union: This is where it all began, the overloading of our poor little van. We seemed to take everything including two stage scans (that didn't make it on the rig) - one of which nearly got left behind in favour of a puppy or two!! Better luck next time Nia. It was when we reached the hills of Devon that the fun really began. Due to the lack of loading weight (thanks Joth!) there were some hills where our little van only made 25mph in second gear!

Friday 6th September 06:30hrs: Woken up by the phones ringing.



Like with most crews if you keep supplying them food they will keep on working. Em's mother certainly did this: the day was started with a huge fried breakfast with half a cow and a vegetarian (I have been told on good authority that if you pan fry in butter for around 30 minutes they taste good - I wouldn't know Brian!). Then it was setup time and with copious amounts of tea it all went very well. That is until we decided we needed to check that the PA was fine. I take it that the pigs are not Bryan Adams fans because when "Summer of '69" was played we were asked to turn it off because they were upset! Another half a cow was produced for dinner and we happily ate it!

Saturday 7th September: The wedding - Em and Joth both looked wonderful and even the crew looked relatively smart. It is amazing that when they want to they can all turn out very nicely... The ceremony was lovely and the weather held out for the pictures afterwards. The crew and others spent the afternoon in

Brian: " There's not a lot you can do with it. Cable ties will be your best bet."

the pub before heading for the evening party! The main event was Burly's dancing: I know the less said about it the better, but maybe it is an Irish thing?!,also I like his style, he managed to wipe out most things around him when he fell over but he did save his drink – that definitely is an Irish thing....



The crew also lead the way at the bar... the evidence at the end of the evening is shown here

Sunday 8" September: Some very sore heads made the strike a relatively quiet one, although at least the weather shone on some rather sorry hangers. And of course Towers turned up at lunchtime just as packing the van finished. Some things never change!

The crew who took part certainly enjoyed the event, although maybe not the hangovers!

The main event went off without a hitch, and I'm sure every member of Comus will join in wishing Joth and Em a happy and prosperous future together.

WANTED! Have you seen this man? He is wanted in connection with the order of an obscenely big follow spot that was subsequently not used. Last seen boarding a cruise ship in western France, he will wave his arms frantically if threatened. Do not approach - he is considered armed and dangerous (boom-boom)



*Paul H: "I'm coming out"
Roly: "Well that's not unusual for tour"*

The Comus Collection

Brian Tucker, fashion correspondent

Burly Cumberland (right) "Burly is wearing a Vivienne Westwood skirt and top. Unfortunately this makes him look like a girl. What he should wear is black combat trousers and a crew T-Shirt, this will reduce advances by amorous male techies who haven't been allowed out of a dark room for several days."



Jonathan Dixon: (left) "Jonathan is wearing a Crew T-Shirt and trainers. Unfortunately this makes his bum look big. What he should wear is black combat trousers and a crew T-Shirt, this will stop him standing out like a sore thumb during scene changes"

Paul Hickman: (right) "Paul is wearing a sensible striped shirt, black trousers and a leather cap. Unfortunately the outfit highlights his camper aspects, and makes him look like look like a reject from the village people. What he should wear is black combat trousers, a crew T-Shirt and a yellow hard hat, this combination will offer both comfort and safety combined with high-visibility so that he can't be lost if does anything silly."



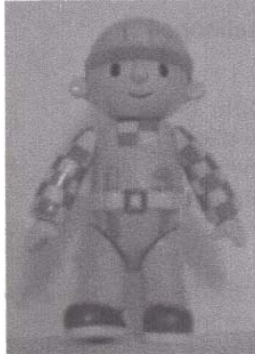
"There's a huge amount of testosterone in my body" Phil Lunn

Comic: What tool should everyone have in their kit?

Paul: A rubber headed one so you don't dent the surface you're hammering against

C: What is the best way to screw something in?

P: Stand with you legs shoulder distance apart and lean into the job. You may need to back off occasionally to clear the debris that accumulates.



C: Have you had problems erecting anything?

P: Only after having too many pints at lunchtime

C: If so, what do you recommend as a solution?

P: I can't remember how I solved it. I may have just passed out on the job.

C: What's your favourite measurement?

P: Inside leg, because it feels nice.

C: How important is hygiene in the workplace?

P: One needs a clean place to put one's donuts down.

Comic: What tool should everyone have in their kit?

Dave: The best tasting one available. Or at least the right tool for the right job.

C: What is the best way to screw something in?

D: Gently unless told otherwise

C: Have you had problems erecting anything?

D: Personally no, unless Brian has



designs on it.

C: If so, what do you recommend as a solution?

D: A member of the band

C: What's your favourite measurement?

D: The ratio of people who owe me beer to people I owe beer.

C: How important is hygiene in the workplace?

D: It depends on the procedure. Some are more hygienic than others. If in doubt ask the DSM,

Where's Eddie?

aka The Mark Home Challenge

One of these three people is Eddie but can you identify mini Joth himself, hidden somewhere in this picture with real Joth and micro Joth?

If you think you know, find the editor sometime this evening and he'll direct you to Figure 1.



ICU Dramatic Society presents:

Sexual Perversity in Chicago

**A play by
David Mamet**

"Sexual Perversity in Chicago is like a sleazy sonata of seduction involving two couples; Mamet is the first playwright to create a formal and moral shape out of the undeleted expletives of our foul-mouthed time."
- Time Magazine

**Union Concert Hall
18th-21st March 2003**

**ICU Musical Theatre Society
presents:**

PERSONALS THE MUSICAL

**Book and Lyrics by
David Crane, Seth Friedman &
Marta Kaufman**

**Music by
William K. Dreskin, Joel Phillip
Friedman, Seth Friedman, Alan
Menken, Stephen Schwartz &
Michael Skloff**

**Union Concert Hall
4th-8th March 2003**

Animal "If I shave my beard off now, will I have white patches?"

Brian "You'll look like a Panda Bear"

Nia "You'll only get sex for one month a year"

Dave G "I'm jealous of Panda Bears"