

Theatre & Arts Centre

Talisman

Monday 16th – Saturday 21st February at 7.30 p.m.

Alan Ayckbourn's

COMMUNICATING DOORS

The year is 2014 and Phoebe (Poopay), a prostitute specialising as a 'dominatrix', is summoned to a sixth floor suite in a five star London hotel by an infirm elderly businessman

Directed by Eric Taylor

TALISMAN THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, BARROW ROAD, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE
Box Office: Kenilworth 858548 – Mon to Fri 7.00 to 8.00 p.m.
week prior to show and show week,
or telephone Kenilworth 857718 – most evenings.

Founded October, 1942
Monday, 16th to Saturday, 21st February, 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company

presents

COMMUNICATING DOORS

by Alan Ayckbourn

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ERIC TAYLOR,
WHO DIED BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETE
THE WORK OF DIRECTOR OF THIS PRODUCTION**

Cast:-

Reece	Mick Ives
Jessica	Sue Newton
Ruella	Judy Murdoch
Julian	John Fenner
Phoebe	Julie Godfrey
Harold	Mike Santos

Act 1.	A view of part of a suite in the five-star Regal Hotel in London
Act 2.	The same. A few minutes later

The time varies between the years 2014, 1994 and 1974.

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

Co-directed by	John Fenner
Designed by	Tim Eden
Stage Manager	Dik Thacker
Assistant Stage Manager	Joan Jury
Lighting Design	Ian Roberts
Sound	Ben Shaylor and Steve Roberts
Wardrobe	Yvonne Shillington and Audrey Jacques
Properties	Laura Power

The sofa constructed and upholstered by Mark and Sue Robottom

Set construction by Tim Eden, assisted by John Ellum, Robert Draper, Stuart Morris, Richard Orr, Mark Robottom, Angie Giliver and Jenny Skidmore.

Production photographs by Zoë Jelley

The Talisman Theatre would like to thank Splashout Bathrooms & Showers, 55 Abbey End, Kenilworth, for assistance with the supply of sanitary ware.

Communicating contrasting feelings

Communicating Doors - The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth
DARKLY comic and frighteningly menacing this is a rather unsettling production. Set in a suite of the Regal Hotel, the play traces the lives of three women from 2014, 1994 and 1974, who are trying to change their histories - and prevent their own murders. Domatrix Phoebe, played by Julie Godfrey, arrives at the room in 2014 to discover she is going to be killed.

She escapes and hides between two communicating doors. She is transported into the past - where she meets two other women under threat and wins the chance to alter history. The Alan Ayckbourn play is cleverly directed by John Fenner, who stepped in after the sad death of Talisman stalwart Eric Taylor. He worked hard to bring out the contrasting feelings of fear and desire in being able to change the past.

Allyson Fielding

Puzzling doors in need of oiling

COMMUNICATING DOORS - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday. Running Time: 2hr 20min.

A TIME-TRAVEL comedy thriller can seriously damage your mental state. Trying to keep track of the different time zones and twists needs the expertise of Dr Who, at the very least. Alan Ayckbourn's play is set in a hotel room over 60 years. Walk through a door and you can find yourself 20 years in the past - or the future. The idea is the starting point to catch a triple murderer, but the communicating doors at the Talisman do seem at times to need a little oiling. Only Judy Murdoch, as Ruella from 1994, seems to get to grips with both the thrills and laughs in the script. The rest of the action seems stuck in a cheap B movie, where room service and maids do not exist and the decor remains unchanged for decades. Julie Godfrey, as futuristic Lady of the Night Phoebe, does a good line in screaming but the unexpected turns in the production may leave the audience wondering what year it really is.

Marlon McMullen

Time travel tale was a little tardy in taking off

DOPSCOL

I think that Eric Taylor would have been proud of the work that John Fenner and Beryl Milner contributed to his final production for the Talisman. Communicating Doors developed into a taut, riveting evening's drama. Everyone involved has been absolutely wonderful, under the tragic circumstances of Eric's untimely death. They bravely battled on to give us a play of high standard which audiences really enjoyed. A huge thank you to you all, especially Dik Thacker who stepped in to stage manage at the last minute. I would also like to thank the cast, crew and front of house staff who gave up a Saturday evening to enable the Kenilworth Lions' Ladies to organise a charity night in aid of meningitis research. Thank you Lions for selecting us.

Communicating Doors by Alan Ayckbourn, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until tomorrow (Saturday) at 7.30pm.

IT was not so much communicating doors as wobbling wardrobes in this tale of time travel and altering history.

The door spun alarmingly every time somebody passed through to a different era and walls wobbled disconcertingly.

This was an ambitious play for the company to tackle and at times the plot was difficult to follow as certain parts were acted off stage to not much effect.

However the cast attacked the play enthusiastically and Judy Murdoch as Ruella was marvellous in her portrayal of a woman who tries to alter the rest of her life. Julie Godfrey was soundly cast as Phoebe, the obligatory tart with a heart, and Mick Ives did a convincing portrayal of a man depicted at various ages of his life. John Fenner could have been a little more threatening as Julian. The play took some time to get going but had warmed up nicely by the middle with people whizzing back and forth through time at a terrifying rate. The plot seemed to leave the audience a little behind, especially towards the end, but it was a mainly enjoyable production which had plenty of laughs and shocks. The production was dedicated to the memory of Eric Taylor who died before he could complete his work as director. - Sarah Portlock

