



THE LIGHTSHIP THEATRE

JOHN SEBASTIAN QUAY

*coming events*

CCC Regatta Saturday and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September  
4.30pm

*A Touch of Fool*



**5 in a Hat Theatre Company** and **Atomic Rhubarb** from Weston-Super-Mare are bringing back their zany comedy **by popular request!** CCC members enjoyed the show in May and invited the company back for the CCC Regatta/Bristol Open Doors event in September. For those of you who missed out on the fun of this grizzly tale, with its highly-charged physical-theatre tricks, beheadings, songs, cross-dressing, King (well, bury me in a car park) Richard III etc, etc – be sure to catch it this time! No tickets required but there will be a retiring collection that will be split equally between Cabot Cruising Club and the theatre group.

Cash bar open. Just turn up and be seated by 4.25pm.  
Retiring collection.

Saturday October 5th

*The Antics Joke Show*

***A night of alternative comedy***

7.30pm (cash bar open) for 8.00pm. Further details will be published nearer the time.

Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>

***'Flying Chairs Theatre'***. An innovative group of four Drama and Acting students currently studying at the University of the West of

England will present twenty-minute plays written for their second year playwriting module.

7.30pm (cash bar open) for 8.00pm Further details will be published nearer the time.

## Postponed

Our Star Theatre Company presents



## REBECCA

7.30pm (cash bar open) for 8.00pm Further details will be published nearer the time.

A new production of Daphne du Maurier's literary masterpiece, bringing to the Lightship Theatre a delightful blend of Cornish romance, music, choreography, suspense and theatrical magic.

## Postponed

SPP Theatre Company presents **'Buckets'** a play by Adam



**Barnard** An exuberant series of snappy inter-connected scenes that provoke us to consider what it is to be human. Explores happiness/sadness, illness/health, youth/experience, kissing/crying, singing/dying....

*'Exuberant and winningly absurdist... it will make you feel better about your own mortality.'*

7.15pm (doors open) for 8.00pm

Cash bar from 7.30pm

## REMEMBER!

There are plans to produce an all-singing, all-flouncing, **Old Time Musical Hall** event next winter, starring....yes, you guessed...Merchants Landing, FOBB and CCC members (with and without talent but definitely with wonderful costumes) for the entertainment of themselves and the audience. All party turns welcome.

To suggest songs and acts and offer practical support,  
email Briony Pope: [thelightshiptheatre@gmail.com](mailto:thelightshiptheatre@gmail.com)

## 2 REVIEWS OF *Checkpoint*, by Startled Cat Theatre.

For those of you who saw the Edinburgh Festival Preview of *Checkpoint* on July 28<sup>th</sup>, you may be interested to read a couple of shortened reviews that have been written by Edinburgh critics, both of whom gave the play three stars out of a possible five.

**\*\*\*** **C** *Checkpoint* is the story of two border guards trying to work out whether a mysterious man with a large suitcase is a “tourist or terrorist.” Although categorised as a comedy, this isn’t a laugh-a-minute show; it’s a serious, thought-provoking emotional rollercoaster. You find yourself laughing at the incompetent foolishness of Lieutenant Ozick (Kieran Boon) and Captain Schulz (Ashley Shiers) whilst being hyper aware that mishandled border crime is rampant throughout the world. We laugh along to Schulz’s dehumanisation of Roman (Matt Gras) whose “lot are like a disease”, with awkward unease.

What’s clever about the show are the parallels it draws with reality of absurd border laws. It’s cleverly political when listing the various ‘edicts’ Roman is somehow always ‘in breach of’. It’s a lose-lose situation for Roman, even when his comedic deception plays to the incompetent weaknesses of border security. The script is polished, subtle and full of tension. The play is cleverly cyclical, full of foreshadowing with the ever-looming reminder that a captain goes down with his ship - so you mustn’t sink.

Boon’s comedic timing is always spot on as he captures the role of lovable idiot with his obedience and constant faffing. Shiers’, as the corrupt, incompetent border control Captain, is thoroughly unlikable, but he manages to humanise his character to inspire sympathy. I felt bad seeing him want a promotion in a job he isn’t very good at, doing his best in a system he doesn’t really understand.

The production of this play is truly exquisite. Everything is thought through to keep the question of ‘what’s in the suitcase?’ alive. Costumes and lighting work well to capture the mood perfectly. Impressive attention to detail has gone into every element.

**\*\*\*** **A** Although newcomers, Startled Cat! Theatre Company radiate passion and potential, with a bright future ahead of them. A thought-provoking play which has you questioning your laughter and the state of the world- see *Checkpoint* whilst you can.

‘What do you want then?’

‘A world where men live together in peace and harmony - is that too much to ask?’ ‘Yes.’

At a time when increased nationalism throughout Europe has prompted waves of racism and discrimination, Startled Cat’s *Checkpoint* is undeniably relevant. This original production follows Roman’s (Matt Grass) attempt to cross a border at a checkpoint manned by two incompetent guards:

the commanding but clueless Captain Shultz (Ashley Shiers), and the lovable Lieutenant Ozick (Kieran Boon).

There are some well-constructed comedic elements in the production; the relationship between Ozick and Shultz, for example, is certainly entertaining, as Ozick's admiration for the Captain leads him to repeat almost every sentence his superior utters. Also enjoyable are the moments when Shultz orders Ozick to note down his conversations with Roman, while the Lieutenant's hands are so full he can hardly reach into his pockets. Shultz's command to take ten paces backwards in order to shoot Roman is particularly amusing; the theatre is so small he only manages about two and a half. However, Startled Cat describes *Checkpoint* as a 'savagely black satire', and while there are moments of light comedy, more could have been done to make this production more entertaining.

The costumes - particularly Shultz's vintage army uniform - are detailed, and props are used well. Lighting is employed effectively throughout the performance; the red haze when Shultz describes his hatred of foreigners reinforces his stubborn, unchangeable opinion. The red spotlight in the final scene which slowly fades into darkness is also powerful, and makes for a sinister and thought-provoking ending as the two guards slowly realise the gravity of the action they have just committed.

While *Checkpoint* has potential, a few elements need polishing. I appreciate the questions the production raises, but it requires pace and further work in order to achieve 5 star status.