



**The International Theatre Studio
The President's Report to the AGM on 13th March 2019
Mrs Diana King**

2018 was another great year taking us now into our 44th year of theatre on the Costa del Sol coast. (1975 to 2019)

The search for a venue

It was the year we spent looking for a permanent venue for ourselves and it was a significant challenge. We viewed many venues, some of which were theatres but none of which were available to us for a week of consecutive evenings that we need for rehearsals and performances. Most venues were outside our budget or had other restrictions like size, access, storage or car parking.

In the two years since we lost the use of the Atalaya Park Hotel (following it's sale) we have been extremely lucky to be able to use El Paraiso Golf Club. We are very grateful to Paul Crumpler and his team for their generosity and support in letting us use the clubhouse. And now we have been fortunate to be offered the use of Los Arqueros Golf and Country Club for our spring production.

However, we feel that the longterm solution is to purchase a property if we can but first we have to raise the money. This is on the agenda for the meeting tonight.

Some special mentions

I am breaking with tradition by making some special thank yous at the start of my annual report because the following people deserve special recognition.

Firstly, I want to thank Karl Maresz for all his work on the storeroom, the set building and the search for a new venue. He is on the Board too and he simply just gets on with the jobs he has volunteered to do for us. He is, of course, ably assisted for the set building by Geoff Woolnoth, Fridrick Ragnarrson and Ian Mackay. Thank you gentlemen; we appreciate what you do for us.

Secondly, Alan Jones, our volunteer photographer attends all our performances to take photographs and is creating a superb record of our work that you can see on the ITS website page. Thank you Alan.

Thirdly, I want to thank Dennis, my husband, and Delia Maresz, Karl's wife, for their excellent work on the front of house for our events.

Fourthly, thanks to Alfonso at El Candil Bar for allowing us to use his private room without charge throughout the year. And to Eileen and Keith Audas for letting us use their home for rehearsals and storage of the flats etc.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to Nina, our web master, for all her work on the website and mailings out to members.

We could not do what we do without all this help and support.

Our main productions

We opened 2018 with Peter Brooks directing "*Habeas Corpus*" in March that year. He had a large and very strong cast and they played to large audiences over three nights.

We followed this with two plays directed by Miles Rendle in November 2018, "*A Resounding Tinkle*" and "*The Hand of God*". Miles had a stunning cast and they did an amazing job. The team performed for four evenings, which was an achievement in itself. Although most people enjoyed it we did receive some negative criticism for our choice of absurd humour. But we are a theatre group and we do drama of all kinds and genres; that's our job! We aim to entertain our audiences and hope they enjoy it. And they generally do.

The Lark in the Park 2018

Our annual fundraiser was held in the Parque Torre Leonera in Benahavis, courtesy of the Benahavis Town hall. The chosen charity was “Fundacion Andres Olivares”, a charity for children with cancer and their families. We raised 5010 €; our highest ever total.

Again, the evening was a sell out with superb entertainment and dancing. We had the fabulous “Stella” for the third year in a row, along with singers Gemma Cabanas, Karen Danzig and the Del Sol Choir. They all performed without a fee for the charity.

Hayward Elliot made his directorial debut with ITS and his cast performed “*Strictly Sex Factor on Ice*” and had everyone laughing in their seats.

Each year we have the wonderful Carmel Rogers as our emcee for the night and her work often goes unmentioned so, I am recording our sincere thanks to her formally tonight in my report. Thank you Carmel, we love having you to front this event.

We are extremely grateful to our members and their guests for supporting this annual event. Our vice president, Sandra, informed us that since we moved this event to Benahavis in 2010 we have raised the following amounts:

2010 1500 € for Cudeca

2011 1600 € for Cudeca

2012 1985 € for Age Concern

2013 1852 € for Caritas

2014 2000 € for Cudeca

2015 2500 € for Piel de Mariposa (Children with Butterfly Skin)

2016 2650 € for Caritas

2017 4100 € for Age Concern

2018 5010 € for Fundacion Andres Olivares (Children with Cancer)

Rehearsed Play Readings held at El Paraiso Golf Club

We performed three superb rehearsed play readings this year and we say this with confidence, as the feedback was excellent from our audiences.

Veronica del Cerro directed “*Three Tall Women*” in July with June Rendle, Carmel Rogers and Veronica performing. The feedback was impressive.

June Rendle followed this with a double bill in September when she directed “*Champagne and Olives*” and “*The Window*” with a strong cast for both plays along with a large audience on the night.

Peter Brooks also directed a double bill in November with “*Darlings, You Were Wonderful*” and “*An English Man Abroad*”. Both plays involved many of our members, old and new, and both plays were well received and enjoyed by those attending.

We are very grateful to Veronica, June and Peter for their time and expertise in taking on this work and for delivering such high quality performances.

Play Readings We have done two play readings since the last AGM; one organised by Sandra Sprawson in April 2018 and one organised by Martin Curd in January 2019. Thank you to Sandra and Martin.

Our Christmas Celebration Ruth organised our annual party and Eileen Audas compered the evening and coordinated the various acts that had prepared a piece for our entertainment. Sadly the event wasn't as well attended as we had hoped but the meal at El Paraiso Golf Club was very good indeed and we all had a lovely evening.

Newsletters We have produced five newsletters this year to help to keep everyone informed of what is happening, all written by Ruth. She is a great secretary for ITS and we are always well organised with her on the Board. Thank you Ruth. PJ Lopez has kept our Face Book page updated. Thank you PJ.

Help is needed please! We are still looking for people who would like to help us with sound and technical work for our shows and with the set design and building work for the staging of these shows. We will give full training to anyone interested.

The new Data Protection Laws May 2018: GDPR

We implemented the new laws that direct how we can use personal data like email addresses and as a result we “lost” a lot of our contacts because they did not respond to our emails about this issue. We would like to ask you for your help to get some of

these people back in contact with us by asking them to make contact via our website. And it would be great if you will share our newsletters with your family, friends and work colleagues to advertise what we are doing.

The Board of ITS

We

have an incredible group of willing and talented volunteers who meet monthly to coordinate the work of ITS and I am grateful to them all for their hard work and support over the last twelve months. Thankfully most of them are willing to stand for re-election, as you will see on the agenda.

Sadly, we have one resignation this year and this is Andrew Gommersall. We are very sad to see him stand down from the Board as he has made a tremendous contribution to our work with his creative but logical approach, his willingness to take on new roles eg the sound and technical work; and of course his talent as an actor. We are delighted that he will still be a big part of what we do into the future but for the moment we wish him luck with his business. Thank you Andrew for all that you have done for us.

Carol Woolnoth, our current Membership Secretary, wishes to resign from this special responsibility but is willing to stand for re-election as a Board member. I am grateful to Carol for the work she has done to boost our membership numbers.

Finally, I have been the President of ITS since 2016 and I feel it is now time to let someone else take the helm but I am happy to stay on the Board and stand for re-election. I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time as President.