

The International Harold Pinter Society Newsletter

January 17, 2013

Greetings from the International Harold Pinter Society. At long last the newsletter arrives. Members should have received a copy of the Memorial volume by now, and if you did not, please email Treasurer Lynn Hall to make arrangements for delivery, hallij@muohio.edu.

On a more serious note, *The Pinter Review* will no longer be sponsored by the University of Tampa, so we are looking for other options. There may be one or two leads on the horizon, but a print journal does not appear to be financially feasible at this time. If you or your institution are interested in sponsoring *The Pinter Review*, please contact me.

On behalf of the society, I would like to thank Frank Gillen for his tireless, superb, and many years of service. His letter to the Society is printed below.

For the moment, then, the society will continue to sponsor panels at the Midwest Modern Language Association and the Modern Language Association meetings, with the business meeting held at the MMLA. Also see below.

As a result of the need to obtain non-profit status here in the United States, the society postponed **elections**. They are long overdue. If you wish to run for any office, President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, please submit your name and a brief statement of your qualifications to me by 1 March 2013. We will then hold elections in the Spring. Due to some increased responsibilities at my institution, I will no longer be able to serve as President of the Society.

On a brighter note, the MLA panel on Pinter and Booze offered three strong papers, and as a result, I have been contacted by a publisher who is interested in a collection of essays on this topic. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in this volume by 1 March 2013. Deadlines to be determined.

It has been a great honor to serve as President of the Society. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Best,
Ann C. Hall, halla@ohiodominican.edu

Letter From Frank Gillen, Editor, *The Pinter Review*

Dear friends, colleagues, and contributors to *The Pinter Review*,

At the conclusion of this academic year, I will begin phased retirement for the next year. During the 24 years of the existence of *The Pinter Review*, the University of Tampa has been most generous in assuming almost all the costs of publishing that journal. Since I am retiring, however, the university will no longer continue that support. I'm sure that you join me in expressing gratitude to my university for underwriting the journal.

This is not the time for me to look backward over the 24 years that I have edited *The Pinter Review*, first with my friend and colleague Steve Gale, and then primarily on my own. What is important is that we find a way to continue in some form a journal devoted to the work of Harold Pinter. As many of you know, both printing and mailing costs have spiraled greatly over the past few years, necessitating bi-yearly publication. Hopefully another university might step forward to sponsor *The Pinter Review*. Lacking that, or perhaps in conjunction with the occasional printed volume, online publication seems a genuine possibility.

If I were closer to the beginning of my career, I should be very excited about the form of publication that seems particularly appropriate for a genre that lives in production as well as on the printed page. Might it be possible, for example, with the proper permissions, to include scenes from a production of one of Harold Pinter's plays, along with discussion of that play from a critic and members of the cast and production teams? Would it be possible in such a format to have open discussion of new ways of considering Harold Pinter's works, not a closed journal as a printed one so often is, but one open to immediate response, thus creating a broad community of Pinter scholars?

It remains for me to thank all who have contributed so much to *The Pinter Review* over the past 24 years. Its successes were due to you, its limitations often to me. I hesitate to name names lest I leave out some. So simply, thank you. Needless to say, I will do whatever I can to see *The Pinter Review* continue.

With all good wishes,
Frank Gillen

Treasurer's Report

The IHPS coffers currently hold \$506.01. Expenses paid in 2012 include \$138.45 in website maintenance and \$100.00 in legal fees, in addition to small bank fees. The most costly expense for IHPS was, of course, associated with mailing *The Pinter Review*. Total cost, including supplies and postage, was \$323.11.

From the British Library

West End stars consult the Harold Pinter Archive

Actors Kristin Scott Thomas, Rufus Sewell and Lia Williams visited the British Library in November to prepare for the West End production of Pinter's *Old Times* which opened this month. The cast and director Ian Rickson were here to look at drafts of the play and correspondence from the Pinter Archive.

The Archive at the British Library holds a number of drafts of the script, which Pinter wrote in 1970 following a depressing spell of writer's block. Having turned the Library's Writers & Scholars room into a rehearsal space for the morning, Ian and the cast read through the two earliest drafts of the play and unearthed plenty of useful character detail for further discussion. In these early working drafts Pinter was playing with the precise nature of the characters' relationships but in later drafts he chose to reveal less about their previous lives, the added mystery having the effect of tightening the dramatic structure.

The actors were just as struck by the physical manifestation of Pinter's words on the page as they were by their content. They were interested in the emphatic crossings out, under-linings and marginal notes that reveal Pinter's thought processes and noted the differences between the looser style in which he jotted down new ideas and the more deliberate hand that he usually employed.

The cast also looked at a letter Pinter wrote to the television producer Peter Willes reflecting on the nature of friendship, which reminded them of Kate's outburst at the end of *Old Times* provoked by Anna and Deeley who are constantly projecting onto her their own ideas of the sort of person she is. Lia Williams, who will alternate playing the parts of Kate and Anna with Kristin Scott Thomas, described the session with the archive as 'the most fascinating thing I've ever done'.

Old Times will run at the Harold Pinter Theatre until 6 April. It is the first of Pinter's plays to be performed at the theatre formerly known as the Comedy since it was renamed in his honour last year.

Zoe Wilcox, Curator of Modern Literary and Theatrical Manuscripts
English and Drama Department
British Library

Call For Papers

Midwest Modern Language Association Meeting, November 2013

Pinter Etc.

Essays on Harold Pinter, his influences, his style, his films, politics, and his role in contemporary drama are welcome. Submit a 250-word abstract to Ann C. Hall by March 15, 2013. Please include your name, address, email, and phone. Halla@ohiodominican.edu

More Call For Papers

Drama Session.

Send in the clowns. Essays on the comedy, the comedic, the clownish, the buffoon, are all welcome. Submit a 250-word abstract to Lynn Hall by March 15, 2013. Please include your name, address, email, and phone. halllj@muohio.edu.

Modern Language Association, 9-12 January 2014

Pinter and the Arts

Papers on Pinter and his relation to other art forms such as music, the visual arts, film, and television are welcome. Submit a 250-word abstract to Ann C. Hall by March 15 2013. Please include your name, address, email, and phone. Halla@ohiodominican.edu.

Collection of Essays on Pinter and Booze.

Send 250-word abstracts to Ann C. Hall, Halla@ohiodominican.edu by 1 March 2013.

Book Manuscripts Sought

As series editor for the Palgrave series on Theatre, I am always looking for book manuscripts on theatre, particularly those that offer a new or alternative perspective. Most of the recently published manuscripts address topics in modern and contemporary drama, but unusual perspectives on all theatrical periods are welcome. Please contact me, Ann C. Hall, halla@ohiodominican.edu

Kristin Scott Thomas, Lia Williams, and Rufus Sewell at the British Library Archives preparing for *Old Times*.

