



## ALYTH ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS PLAYS TO PACKED HOUSES

For one weekend in April the building normally known as the synagogue was transformed into FAT SAM'S GRAND SLAM when the Alyth Academy gave three outstanding performances of BUGSY MALONE. The Alyth Academy now in its fifth year is a workshop-based theatre group for 13 to 18 year-olds. They meet on Sunday evenings from 6p.m. to 9p.m. and are introduced to different aspects of theatre both technical and performing. The children gain invaluable experience working with professional directors, designers, choreographers, musicians, technicians. The end of year show displays their talents and gives them a chance to use what they have

learnt during the year.

Twenty-three youngsters threw themselves into the production of *Bugsy*, heart and soul, and delighted audiences with their acting, singing and dancing. The set, designed by Lisa Douek, was worthy of an Oscar and overall the standard maintained the high level of performance now expected from the Alyth Academy.

If you are, or know of someone who is aged between 13 and 18 years old and who wishes to sing, dance, act, and/or stage manage, then please telephone me, Viv Bellos, Principal, at the Synagogue on 0181 455 6763 to get more details about starting in September. There are limited spaces—so get phoning!!

## Billy Liar

"Billy Liar", adapted by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall from the former's novel by the same name, had a successful run in 1960-61 mainly due to the direction of Lindsay Anderson and the amusingly inventive portrayal of Billy by the young Albert Finney, who scored a personal success.

It is a slight play which relies heavily on the acting and miming ability of the actor playing the day-dreaming hero who has to act out his fantasies to the audience in a series of mime sequences.

Sadly young Matt Hastings's acting ability failed him here. This was partly due to his inexperience and to the lack of direction and inspiration of Tom Solomons. Indeed the direction was pretty slack throughout - perhaps again a lack of experience?

There were moments, however; Billy trying to administer a

"love potion" to Barbara, 'dead from the neck down' and the arrival of the vulgar Rita claiming to be Billy's fiancée and demanding the ring he has just given to Barbara. The two women were well contrasted by Caroline Phillips and Anna Martin. Billy's other girlfriend, Liz, an adventurous spirit, who almost succeeds in getting him to take action instead of fantasising was given a sensitive portrayal by Emma Solomons.

The uncomprehending parents were played by Lynn Radnedge and Declan Leary, whose shouting made him at times inaudible. Actors must learn that too much volume in this dreadful hall is disastrous. On the other hand Helen Rance, as Gran, used too little voice and was mostly unheard. Lyndon Radnedge as the conformist friend, Arthur, was suitably smug.

Léonie Stephen

## SUBURB CELEBRATION AT THE GALLERY

The Garden Suburb Gallery, at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way, is celebrating the Suburb this Summer with an exhibition principally devoted to pictures of the Suburb. Included are several artists whose work has not been shown before.

**Delicate watercolours from Christine Barrow of Suburb doors and windows; Malcolm Sowerby's line and wash pictures that capture the essence of our architectural heritage; the very popular paintings of Annie Walker who manages to catch the very feel of the Suburb; superb watercolours from Freda Bolton; Clare Curtis prints; sketches by an artist new to the Suburb Tamara Sternberg and another not new to the Suburb but not seen in the Gallery before, David Pope and others.**



### Autumn Show

In the Autumn a one man show devoted to the work of celebrated Suburb artist Judy Bermant. Judy trained at St Martins and the Camden Institute and works in all the drawing media, watercolour guache and print making. Her work centres on her personal experiences—family friends and community as well as still life and landscape.

Judy says: "I often draw myself, and feel my self portraits can reflect something of the strains involved in being both an artist and an observant Jewish housewife, mother and grandmother, constantly juggling with conflicting demands"



### Not only pictures

The Gallery has a constantly changing stock of cards, prints, pottery and beautiful silk scarves by different Suburb artists at prices Liberty's can't beat.

Books about the Suburb, maps and anything else you need to know.



### Join here

If you've lost your RA membership application why not pop in to the Gallery and pay your sub there? At the same time pick up a couple of Suburb mugs. Newly produced for the 90th Anniversary in porcelain with the WI Aston 1915 watercolour these mugs are a must for every Suburb household, as is belonging to the Residents Association!



## INSTITUTE the background

From soon after the founding of the Suburb, The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute (a leading adult education institute) and the Henrietta Barnett School (a leading secondary school for girls and young women) have shared the site and buildings on Central Square. Until the late 1940's, the School was run by the trustees of the Institute as a private school.

A history of working together has come under increasing pressure due to the limited space on the site, and the increased demands on raised standards (such as for health and safety). In addition, the London Borough of Barnet's contribution to the costs of the Institute has been declining in real value.

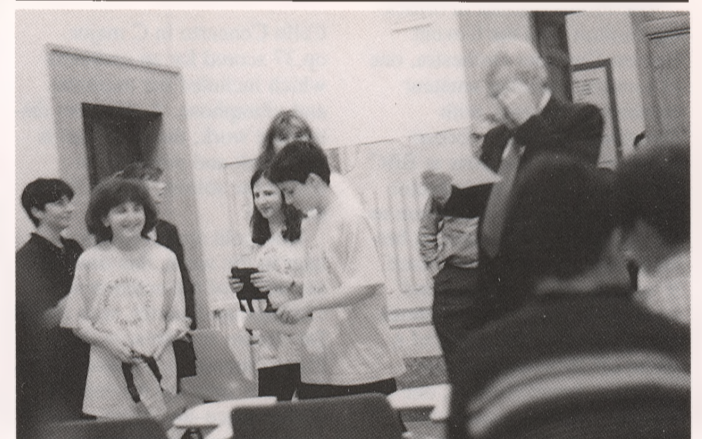
The Institute was facing an increasingly difficult financial situation with limited options for raising more funds. As legal owner, it received legal advice that it should seek some remuneration from the School for use of the site and buildings. In turn the School, which is funded entirely by Barnet and is a fully maintained state school, had no means of paying the rent without

the help of the authorities.

The Institute, to produce action and a rent, issued a notice to quit to the School. The education authorities' response, from Barnet and the Department for Employment and Education, was not to pay a rental but to offer a sum as a "capitalised rent" for a 99 year lease which the Institute regarded as continuing subsidy by the Institute of the School. Following an action in the High Court, the Institute issued a new notice to the School to quit. In response, Barnet issued a compulsory purchase order and offered a sum to purchase part of the site to secure the continuation of the School. The sum identified was regarded by the Institute as inadequate and not a reasonable substitute for an annual rental. Following a public enquiry, the Inspector recommended that the compulsory purchase order be denied.

Throughout, the policy and approach of the Residents Association has been to support both organisations so that they may continue to thrive and remain on Central Square.

Simon Abbott



## Medals for young musicians

Don't some readers, pictures look as though they have been secretly obtained? Perhaps with cameras hidden in shopping bags! This one was smuggled in from Italy where, at a music competition in Castiglione del Lago, the gentleman hiding his face has just presented gold medals to the three young musicians disguised in Youth Music

Centre T-shirts. They are Lisa, Judy Barnett 11, 12, and Nathaniel Boyd, 13. Nathaniel was also awarded a special prize for outstanding cello playing. They were all coached by Kay Hurwitz at the Youth Music Centre, the Saturday morning music school which meets during term time in Bigwood House. Phone 343 1940 for details.

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