

Woodley Players Theatre Company



<http://www.woodleyplayers.co.uk>

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Members of the Greater Manchester Drama Federation

Newsletter No.63 - June 2005

Editorial

Hello again

We are still buzzing with the success of the show! You can read some of the GMD F crit in the newsletter - we are very pleased with it.

There are exciting times ahead with projects in the pipeline that we can't tell you about yet, with social events to look forward to that we can! You can read more about these in the pages ahead.

I would like to draw your attention to the concert that we are putting on for Hatherlow Church to try to help to raise funds to repair the hall roof. We will be rehearsing for this every Thursday from the 9th of June until the concert on Saturday 16th of July. As you will see in the newsletter the programme is varied, hopefully there will be something for everyone. Do come and sing with us or come and support the event .It would be lovely to see you as always.

Our AGM is later than usual this year; we do hope this will be convenient for you to attend as we welcome your input on these occasions.

There's lots to read so I won't keep you from it any longer .Have a lovely summer and we will look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Lesley Parkinson
Chair

"The Yeomen of the Guard" - GMD F CRIT Highlights

"Yeoman of the Guard" - Woodley Players Theatre Company

11th - 16th April 2005

Production highlight... "the general company and particular, the ladies chorus. Extremely animated and dramatically competent in their delivery and character".

To think about for the future ..."very little to be honest. A few minor points have been mentioned in

what follows but nothing of any great note - a rare thing for me!"

The Production

"This was like the return of an old friend, travelling back in time to my own musical roots and I must say that it was a very pleasant one. G&S is sadly a rare commodity for me to adjudicate - and Yeoman in particular. I felt this was a very good production of it and all aspects of it from direction to staging, music to wardrobe, really did do it justice and more besides."

Direction

"I liked the idea of opening of the curtain to reveal the company three quarters of the way through the overture and then ending it with an empty stage. It flew in the face of convention and particularly that of the G&S purists but I liked it and it made for interesting theatre..."

"...Following on from earlier comments, I was taken with how expressive and dramatically animated the company were when performing their numbers; an important feature in G & S as in all operetta and opera. There was a genuine sincerity in their delivery so that the formal grouping of them (particularly the women) did not feel excessive or staid. Although I am not a purist, there are certain aspects of theatre repertoire that cannot be tinkered with and I was pleased that your following production/direction was true to the style and best traditions of the form. Consequently, playing it so straight heightened the humour and the poignancy and added greatly to the performance".

Music

"I am loathed to now get into listing all the numbers and comment on them, so I will make particular comment on issues and themes as appropriate.

Good tempi to the overture which was refreshing to hear, though I have to admit there was a certain loss of cohesion during it on the changes in theme, but minor points that were certainly not evident later. It was a bright and well balanced sound and they immediately came into their own in the opening number in which we had clear, positive conducting and some excellent work from the strings (particularly the pizzicato).

I thought the MD and the orchestra were extremely supportive of the soloists and the MD in particular was responsive to the needs of the vocalists so that the pit never overwhelmed them.

The company sound was quite impressive. We had good clear diction and enunciation and none of the interminable company mumbling that is usually inflicted - thank you for that".

"...What was also noticeable was how secure all the performers were vocally and in particular in the harmony lines with excellent vocal discipline.

I must comment on the men during finale act 1. The Yeoman gave us a super, full and rich sound and the harmonies within it were bright and resonant. Well done gents! And the orchestra/MD coped extremely well with that stereotypically mammoth finale and all those changes in tempi and theme.

We continued with a full and rich company sound for the opening of act 2 ..."

"...My highlight musically was 'Rapture, rapture' which I thought the orchestra played extremely well, full of colour and passion and the standard continued to the last note of the play out. Congratulations on a super sound (PS - any reason why you never sat down?)."

Technical

"I did think that you had maximised the available space extremely well by extending the playing area both SL and R and drawing into it 'ye *alde fire exit!* Seriously, a very practical solution.

Similarly, extending the prose' SR with the flat to create the window was an excellent idea and looked very effective. We also had some nice detail and subtle painting which looked equally effective and again was prominent on the two features referred to.

The staging itself was simple but very effective and well proportioned and most importantly, practical to use and fit for the dramatic purposes of the piece..."

"...All in all, the staging was a practical solution to the limitations of space balanced against the needs of the piece and I thought you had done a first-rate job of it."

Wardrobe

"You left me with little to comment on and nothing to take issue with ..."

"...Wardrobe can be a demanding and unsung aspect of a production, but without it all that work is for naught. I really did think you had done a very good job and it was all very well thought through and matched."

"...Yeomen didn't let the side down. Good collective sound as previously mentioned and our two named parts put their lines, both vocal and dramatic, over competently and confidently."

A very enjoyable show and I look forward to the opportunity to another helping of G&S next season. My best wishes to all of the society and my sincere congratulations.

Martin Roche
Adjudicator
Greater Manchester Drama Federation
Visit: www.gmdf.org

Following a successful show again, videos of the show will be available at a cost of £15. To reserve a copy please contact Kate Holt on (01625) 614505

A copy of the critique will be available for you to read/print on WPTC website shortly.

Auditions for “Grandma’s Party” - 23rd June 2005

Autumn Production 2005 - ‘Grandma’s Party’ - 19th - 22nd October

Grandma’s Party is a comedy in 2 acts written by Bob Vass. Auditions will be held at Hatherlow UR Church in the Yellow Room on 23rd June at 7.30pm.

Characters

All the characters are of a similar length with the exception of Mr Boyson who says very little.

Grandma - a very extrovert character. Whoever plays her needs to be over the top and be prepared to wear a leotard?

Jack - the father. He is the one who knows best but constantly gets exasperated with the members of the family - particularly his mother.

Jean - the mother. A very steady person who has spent all her married life calmly running the family home but who is now looking to do something different.

Philippa - the daughter. Aged in her early twenties. Works in a bank and is very ambitious for herself and her boyfriend. She also has a little bit of a twinkle in her eye.

William - the son. Aged in his early teens. He has plenty of ‘go’ about him and gets on very well with Grandma. He is a bit of a prankster especially when it comes to Philippa’s boyfriend.

Philippa’s boyfriend - same age as Philippa but acts as though he is 20 years older. He also works at the bank, is very ambitious and has a very high opinion of himself.

Mr Boyson - Grandma’s ‘friend’. A blank canvas.

Kimberley - the next door neighbour, non specific adult age. Lives with her father. Constantly opening her mouth before engaging brain. Totally clueless as to the effect her words have.

To register interest in a part and get a copy of the play, please contact David Parkinson on 0161 406 6132 (email to: pennine-parkies@ntlworld.com) or Bryony Somers on 0161 367 7442.

Calling all volunteers - We are now looking for people who would be interested in helping out with the following:

- Behind Stage
- Props

- Set Design/Building
- Front of House
- Refreshments

Please contact Bryony Somers on 0161 367 7442 if you are able to help

Chorus Singers (particularly tenors) wanted!

Woodley Players Theatre Company would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us at rehearsals for our forthcoming concerts. No experience is required, just a desire to have fun and get along with people. Many of our long established members started out protesting that they couldn't sing, but you'd be surprised how voices blend in and what a rewarding experience it can be. Details of our forthcoming concerts and rehearsal dates can be found below.

Dates for your Diary

WPTC Meal at The Bluebell Centre - 8th July 2005

This year we thought it would be nice to organize a meal together in the summer. Some of you may be familiar with The Blue Bell Centre, on Hyde Road at the border of Woodley and Gee Cross, and may have already visited this lovely family run restaurant and craft centre. If not we strongly advise that you give it a try. The food is delicious and the service friendly. Lesley Parkinson has a sample menu which people can be sent. For a three course meal, plus coffee/tea and mints, the cost will be in the region of £19. To book please contact Lesley on 0161 406 6132 or via Email pennine-parkies@ntlworld.com, along with a £5 deposit per person.

Fund-Raising Concert - 16th July 2005

We will be singing at Hatherlow Hall again on Saturday 16th July as part of a fund-raising effort by the church aimed at re-roofing the hall. This is a worthy cause and very important to us. The evening will consist of musical entertainment provided by us and a supper included in the price of the tickets. The music will be varied and will reflect the other interests of Woodley Players members. Yes, we can sing more than Gilbert and Sullivan! We will be under the direction of Roger Pearce who may even be persuaded to play an item on the program.

Rehearsals start on Thursday 9th June at 7:45pm at Hatherlow UR Church, in the "Yellow Room", and will run every Thursday night until the concert on 16th July. Please come along and join us for what promises to be a fun 6 weeks.

Family and friends can come on Saturday 16th July to hear the culmination of those 6 weeks work. Tickets available from Barbara Buchanan 0161 430 5726

Proposed Programme

Choral Items

Selection from "Les Miserables"

Selection from "Calamity Jane" (including "Black Hills of Dakota", "Secret Love", "Deadwood Stage")

Ave Verum Corpus

Panis Angelicus

Vivaldi's "Gloria"

For the Beauty of the Earth

Selection from Gilbert and Sullivan (including "Strange Adventure", "Brightly dawns our wedding day", "Leaves in autumn")

Soloist and Ensemble Items

Vocal Soloists: Katherine Brown & Graham Eagland

Instrumental Soloists: Melanie Oliver, Roger Pearce & Joyce Deighton

Barber Shop ensemble: Barry Sequiera, David Parkinson, Richard Goodall and Derek Swain

Annual visit to the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton - 18th August 2005

I have arranged a visit to see "The Sorcerer" by Derby G & S Society on Thursday 18th August at 7.30pm (Our next G&S production) at Buxton Opera House.

I'm afraid the group discounts booking for these two shows are now complete but we would be delighted if you could join us. Bookings can be made by ringing Buxton Opera House on 0845 127 2190. We are in stalls, rows N and O, at a cost of £14.50. In any event we can all meet up during the interval outside the front of the theatre on what is sure to be a warm and pleasant evening.

For further details, please contact me on 0161 430 3170

Roy Davies

Bank Holiday Walk - Sunday 28th August

Two more walks starting out from Werneth Low Visitor Centre, Sunday 28th August. I have got a little longer walk in mind, for those who fancy adventure! A walk that I imagine not many have done, passing by Godley reservoir, Matley and the Rising Moon, Walkerwood reservoir, and Apple Street. Finishing up with a welcome meal at the Hare and Hounds. Is anyone game?

Or for those who like a pleasant amble in the country, the start time will be a lot more civilised, again finishing at the Hare and Hounds on top of Werneth Low.

More details to follow.

David "*have-I-ever-lost-my-way-and-got-you-worried?*" Parkinson

Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Sorcerer" 3rd - 8th April 2006

Rehearsals are expected to start mid to late September

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM has been scheduled for Thursday 21st July at 7:45pm, at Hatherlow UR Church (Yellow Room). We'd like to make this as sociable an occasion as possible, so we'd like to invite you to join us for a meal or a drink in the Spread Eagle from 6:00pm onwards.

The main item on the agenda will be the re-election of the directors (that's the normal management committee). Four of the current directors have had to stand down under the rules of our constitution, but three of the four are willing to stand for re-election. The proposed list of directors for 2004-2005 is:

Margaret Bailey, Mike Bailey, David Cooper, Jenny Davies, Roy Davies, Kate Holt, Hazel Jones, Brian Maguire, Kathy Moorhouse, David Parkinson, Lesley Parkinson, Bryony Somers.

For your information, here is a list of the posts the current directors occupy;

Chair	Lesley Parkinson
Vice Chair	Mike Bailey
Treasurer	Brian Maguire
Secretary	Kate Holt

Assistant Secretary	Avril Wilson
Membership Secretary	Margaret Bailey
Newsletter Secretary	Bryony Somers
Ticket Secretary	Jenny Rippin
Members without Portfolio	Roy Davies, Kathy Moorhouse and Hazel Jones

We would love more people to join the management team and would ask that people are nominated by filling in the attached slip and forwarding this to Kate Holt before the AGM.

AGENDA

- 1 Open Meeting (Chair)
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approve Minutes (All)
- 4 Appointment of WPTC Directors
 - 4.1 RE-appointment of Kathy Moorhouse, Hazel Jones, Jenny Davies
- 5 Appointment of WPTC Auditor
- 6 WPTC Reports:-
 - Chair (Lesley Parkinson)
 - Treasurer (Brian Maguire)
 - Membership (Margaret Bailey)
 - Adoption of Reports (All)
- 7 Adoption of Reports (All)
- 8 Proposed Programme for 2005-2006 season (chair)
- 9 AOB (All)
 - Future Venues
- 10 Meeting Close (Chair)

Important News - New ways to purchase tickets

Tickets may be purchase either by contacting Jenny Rippin on 0161 430 4480 or via our new email address tickets@woodleyplayers.co.uk

WPTC Website <http://www.woodleyplayers.co.uk>

As you may all be aware Graham Eagland has worked tirelessly over the past year to bring our website up to date, and has done a fantastic job and would be delighted to hear from you (via the website) if you have copies of programmes/critiques and photographs of past productions. So on behalf of everyone at WPTC, **THANK YOU** Graham for all your hard work.



Are you online? If so, you can help us to save time and money by receiving these newsletters via e-mail. To be added to our electronic distribution list, please send an e-mail containing your name to bryony@somers-consulting.co.uk subject line "WPTC Newsletter".

Finally, to help us distribute this Newsletter, we store the names and addresses of members electronically. This information is held solely for this purpose and is not disclosed to any other parties. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this then please contact Bryony Somers on 0161 367 7442.

Nomination Form

Name of proposer:.....

I would like to nominate.....

To be available to assist the Management Committee

Please detach and return to Kate Holt by 7th July 2005 at 6 Portmarnock Close, Tytherington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 TUX.