

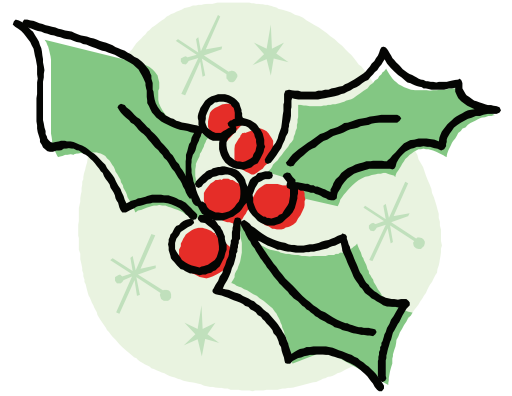
Woodley Players Theatre Company

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

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Members of the Greater Manchester Drama Federation

Newsletter No.65 - December 2005



Editorial

Dear Friends,

May I wish you a happy Christmas on behalf of the management committee.

It is that time of year when we start the day in the dark and come home in the dark too - it can be a bit depressing but if it wasn't dark for so long we wouldn't have so much time to appreciate the Christmas lights. There's always a bright side!!

We are busy preparing for "The Sorcerer". We have pretty much learned the music and after Christmas we will begin floor rehearsals (when we practise when and how we move on the stage). This is when the fun begins as we try to remember the words and music whilst moving about. We shall miss John's friendly banter but Katherine, I know, will be a worthy successor to the Directors role.

Exciting times ahead! The latest news is that we will be joining with Werneth Concert Band to perform two concerts at The Bluebell Centre on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2006. This will be a midsummer concert which will be held outside on the lawns at the back of the house with bookable seating and the chance to take along and enjoy a picnic beforehand. It is still all in the planning stage but we hope to perform a varied programme of music to cater for a wide taste in music - more news soon.

"Grandma's Party" was a great success. We have included some of the crit in this letter, and you can see more about it on our website, where photos of the production can be seen including the one - off spectacle of poor Derek (Martin) who split his trousers during the dress rehearsal while searching for the infamous "mouse". Our invited audience at the dress rehearsal thought we should have kept it in!

Well, there's lots to do, and so little time, so I will finish by wishing you a good Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Lesley Parkinson
Chair

"Grandma's Party" - GMDF CRIT excerpts

GRANDMA'S PARTY- By BOB VASS

Direction

I feel that the difficulties surrounding Jack and Jean's relationship provide the strong story line in the play.

Of considerable merit was the scene at the close of the play between Jack and Jean. This was I feel writing of a high quality and was most moving and thought provoking.

Technical

Set

This was a very pleasing and well-constructed set. I had the advantage of viewing from the audience the front door cleverly set in front of the house tabs stage right. The door had been well painted with surrounding brickwork and a most realistic balustrade and steps leading to the front door. The full set was sturdy with no wobbles or shaky flats in evidence.

Props

The set had been very carefully dressed with furniture, pictures and foliage. The settee looked very expensive and suited the home of the family. The pictures were fine and had been carefully selected and placed on the walls. I liked the vase and twisty twigs in the corner. The set decoration was again of a high standard and I appreciated the natural brown effect for the architrave. There was also a good thick skirting board. Best of all I loved the radiator that I could almost have believed was plumbed in. The props also extended into the auditorium with helium filled balloons. Well done to all concerned.

Costumes

Jack was just right in his casual jeans and shirt, and later changed for the party in a most attractive striped shirt. Mr Boyson was costumed well and suited his character. Grandma's costumes suited the character. I did like William's outfits. So often when a young child goes on stage they are dressed "to kill" with their hair slicked down. William was just perfect in jeans, combat top and hair which looked as if it could do with a jolly good brushing (that's a compliment).

Philippa's and her boyfriend's costumes both suited their respective characters. Of particular merit were the clothes worn by Kimberley. The red fishnet stockings were a delight.

Makeup and hair

Make up was fine and wisely the actors had used their normal every day make up which is quite suitable for this venue and William of course required no make up at all.

Sound and Effects

Opening music was a clever choice. The smoking sausage rolls were most effective and the smell permeating the audience made me believe this was a "theatre of smell" production as well.

Although I may have seemed critical in my adjudication this play was undoubtedly a success with the audience. They certainly had no difficulties with the conflicting styles and enjoyed all the visual and spoken humour. Their applause at the end was long and sincere.

I had a very warm welcome from this society that I appreciated. I admire the difficulties they have to overcome with their venue, and I admire their determined approach. I do wish them well for their future productions and I hope that this adjudication will be of help to them. It was a pleasure to meet you all backstage.

Meg Bray

Adjudicator

Greater Manchester Drama Federation

The Sorcerer - 3rd-8th April 2006 - Audition results

Well done and congratulations to those who were successful

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre
Alexis
Dr. Daly, Vicar of Ploverleigh
John Wellington Wells
Lady Sangazure
Aline
Mrs. Partlet
Constance

Graham Eagland
Richard Goodall
David Cooper
Richard Hall
Cherry Smith
Miranda Nichols
Blanche Brown
Kate Holt

Rehearsals resume after Christmas on Thursday 5th January (chorus) and Monday 9th January (principals)

**Tickets for "The Sorcerer" will be on sale from the end of February 2006.
New ticket hotline - 0161 430 8678 or e-mail tickets@woodleyplayers.co.uk**

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

Membership Reminder

Gentle reminder folks as Subscriptions for the 2005-2006 Season should all now have been paid. They remain unchanged from last year and stand at £10 per person; great value for a whole season's entertainment!

Please contact Margaret Bailey at 54 Fernwood, Marple Bridge, Stockport, SK6 5BE

If you didn't complete a Gift Aid form last year then we would encourage you to do so. It won't cost you any more, but the society can claim back the tax paid on your subscription from the tax man. Margaret will be happy to supply a Gift Aid form on request.

Dates for your Diary

The Players "Nearly New Year" Walk & Tea - Friday 30th December 2005

Bring something towards the buffet, and something to drink!

Meet at 1pm at 51 Pennine Road, Woodley for a three to five mile walk (depending on who comes, and how we feel on the day). It is likely to take in a canal towpath, a riverside walk, maybe a disused rail track and a country park. If we are lucky, and there is enough time, perhaps we can call in at a pub for a quick half before tea back at our house!

Give the Parkies a ring on (0161) 406 6132, or email dad@pennine-parkies.freeserve.co.uk, to say you'll be coming, and what you will be bringing (so we don't get too much smoked salmon and champagne!).

David Parkinson

Summer Concert at the Bluebell Centre - 22nd - 23rd June 2006

Joint concert with Werneth Concert Band - More details soon.

Concert version of "The Gondoliers" by Gilbert & Sullivan Autumn 2006

We will be holding another day like our "extravaganza" of a couple of years ago, rehearsing "The Gondoliers" during the day and giving a Concert performance in the evening. Watch this space for date and time information.

2005 - 2006 Charity

This years Charity will be the 3rd Gee Cross Scouts who are working very hard to raise funds for a new scout hut.



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