



Woodley Players Theatre Company



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

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Newsletter No.72 - September 2007

Editorial

Dear All,

Welcome back. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer, and thank you to all those who were able to support us at the Bluebell Centre recently when we appeared alongside Werneth Concert Band. I hope you agree that this was a great success, enjoyed by both participants and audience alike. Once again we have another exciting programme of events for the 07/08 season, starting with rehearsals for "HMS Pinafore" to be performed in May 2008, plus two evenings of "Youth Music and Drama" in November 2007 which should prove a great opportunity for our younger members to showcase their talents.

Bryony Somers

"HMS Pinafore" - 28th April to 3rd May 2008

Pinafore is one of the shortest of the G&S operas and is usually staged with a curtain raiser such as Trial by Jury, Cox & Box or The Zoo. We're not doing that. Instead we will be performing a self contained entr'acte which uses some of the characters from Pinafore in a little diversion from the main opera.

You'd have to be a real expert to notice any changes in the words of Pinafore itself - well any deliberate changes anyway - this extra scene is totally self contained and comes before the beginning of Act 2. There are several reasons for this extra scene: more music for the female chorus, more opportunity for female soloists, more opportunity for the younger members of the group to have a small principal role, and, of course, a chance to show that Sir Joseph is right when he says that "All sailors should dance hornpipes"!

I sincerely hope that many of the younger members of the company will audition for the extra small roles in this entr'acte, details of which follow.

The audition for principals will be held at Hatherlow on Sunday 4th November from 2:00pm. Audition pieces will be available very shortly; please contact Kate Holt on (01625) 614505 to book an audition appointment and receive further information.

The parts we will be auditioning for are:

The Rt.Hon Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. (baritone) (First Lord of the Admiralty)
Captain Corcoran (baritone) (Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore)
Tom Tucker (Midshipmite)
Ralph Rackstraw (tenor) (Able Seaman)
Dick Deadeye (bass-baritone) (Able Seaman)
Bill Bobstay (baritone) (Boatswain)
Bob Becket (bass) (Carpenter's Mate)
Josephine (soprano) (the Captain's Daughter)
Hebe (mezzo) (Sir Joseph Porter's First Cousin)
Mrs. Cripps (alto) (Little Buttercup) (A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)

Principals required for the Entr'Acte:

Lady Flora Porter (soprano) (Relation of Sir Joseph)
Lady Bella Porter (soprano) (Relation of Sir Joseph)
Jane Townshend (soprano) (either a maid of one of the Porter family or a dockyard trollop)
Tessa McKenzie (mezzo) (either a maid of one of the Porter family or a dockyard trollop)
Lieutenant Donald Alfonse (bass) (Officer on board Pinafore)
Able Seaman Richard Dauntless (tenor) (late of His Majesty's Revenue Service)
Mark [or possibly Margaret] Palmieri (ordinary seaman [or possibly a maid or trollop])
Joe [or possibly Josie] Palmieri (ordinary seaman [or possibly a maid or trollop])

Rehearsals will start on Thursday 18th October this year

Contact Kate on (01625) 614505 for more information

Philip Sweet

Two nights of "Youth Music and Drama" - 23rd to 24th November 2007

CALLING ALL BUDDING YOUNG THESPIANS!

Our Youth representative and in-house director, Laura Ellis, along with fellow member, Richard Hall, have been busy planning two evenings of "Youth Music and Drama" to showcase our younger members' talents.

The evenings will consist of two short plays: "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations" by Alan Ayckbourn and "Find Me" by Olwen Wymark, separated by a musical interlude (provided hopefully from other members of the society) and a "Hot Pot Supper"

We welcome all children and young adults between the ages of 8 and 16 who are enthusiastic and committed, even if they have not had any previous experience. Rehearsals will start on Sunday 7th October 2007 and then on each following Sunday and Monday (venue yet to be confirmed). Please contact Bryony Somers on 01613677442 for further information and a copy of the scripts.

Below is a little more information to familiarize you with the characters and plots.

Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

Time: The present

The action takes place in a doctor's waiting-room and surgery - and elsewhere

Young Ernie has been worrying his mum and dad by his "illucinations" - to use their own words. They take him to the doctor, as Ernie tells of his illucinations - soldiers invading his home, his auntie taking on a fairground boxer, Dad rescuing a famous mountaineer in trouble - these are enacted before us. However, at Mum and Dad's declaration that they are more than illusions, and actually occurred, the doctor is, to put it mildly, skeptical. Indignantly, Dad tells Ernie to show the doctor by imagining something there and then. Ernie does so - with astonishing results.

Characters:

Ernie (Girl or Boy), Mum, Dad, Receptionist, Doctor, Officer, Auntie May, First Barker, Second Barker, Third Barker, Fourth Barker, Referee, Timekeeper, Man, Woman, Kid Saracen, Second Man, Lady, Library Attendant, 2 x Librarians, Tramp, Patients, Soldiers, Crowds

Find Me

This play is about a young woman 'Verity' who is sent to Broadmoor prison for burning a chair. Throughout the play we look at different periods of Verity's life. We see Verity's emotional struggle and the difficulties Verity and her family have to cope with.

Characters:

4 x Verity, 4 x Doctors, 4 x Mums, 4 x Dads

Group auditions for both plays will take place on Saturday 15th September 2007 at Romiley Primary School, Sandy Lane, Romiley, between 2-4pm. If you're interested in auditioning for a part then please call Bryony on 01613677442.

Could any members (young and old) of the society wishing to participate in the musical interlude please also contact Bryony.

Summer Review

Annual visit to the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton

As has become tradition, a group of us visited the Buxton Opera House this August to see Savoynet's production of "HMS Pinafore" which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, especially as we were able to see one of our old members Mike Nash (who was responsible for introducing Savoynet to Buxton) again.

Thanks again go to Roy Davies for organizing this.

2006/2007 Charity - Money Raised

As always well done everyone! We raised £520 this year for our chosen charity, Leukemia Research.

The Stroke Society has been chosen as our 2007/2008 season charity.

"Pirates of Penzance" Critique

If you are interested in reading the adjudicator's review of our Pirates production then please visit our website at <http://www.woodleyplayers.co.uk/Files/review.pdf>

Review of Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on Thursday 12th July 2007 at Hatherlow UR Church Hall.

For your information, here is a list of the Current Directors and the posts they occupy:

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| Chair | Hazel Jones |
| Youth Representative | Laura Ellis |
| Treasurer | Brian Maguire |
| Secretary | Kate Holt |
| Newsletter Secretary | Bryony Somers |
| Membership Secretary | Mike Bailey |
| Ticket Secretary | Lesley Ellis |
| Members without Portfolio | Lesley Parkinson, David Parkinson, David Whitehead, Richard Hall, Derek Swain, Kathy Moorhouse, David Cooper, Roy Davies |

Membership Subscriptions due from 1st September 2007

Having taken onboard the opinions expressed at the AGM, the following subscriptions have been set for the coming year and will operate until further notice:

Adult £15
Children £5
Family £30
Over 60s £12.50

No further concessions will be offered other than at the Chair's discretion. Mike has volunteered to be membership secretary for the coming year.

Please may we request that wherever possible members consider paying by Standing Order as this is quicker, cheaper and easier to administer for all concerned. Please contact Bryony on the email address below if you require a paper/e-form.



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.