

Olde Tyme Music Halls

West Wickham Operatic Society

As you are probably aware, WWOS have, for the last 10 years, been touring an OTMH to boost our own funds and raise money for local charities and organisations. Past Touring Theatres have included The Churchill Theatre Bromley, The Regents Theatre in Christchurch, The Playhouse Theatre Whitstable (as part of the yearly Whitstable Oyster Festival), The Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon and The Barn in Oxted.

More diverse locations have included On the roof of The Churchill Theatre Bromley and a collapsible marquee in Normans Park in Bromley.



Kevin Gaunlet is Max Miller

WWOS appeared at The Barn earlier this year for a unbeatable sell-out Charity VE day Variety Music Hall they will return on Friday 28th October 2005 for a more traditional Olde Time Music Hall.

Tickets are on sale NOW with The Barn Box Office at the modest and unbeatable price of £10.00. Proceeds this year will be distributed by the Rotary Club of Bromley.

Book Now to avoid disappointment and to see the usual WWOS faces plus a one or two guests and a few surprises!

You are promised, wherever you see it, a comprehensive collection of consummate crime carefully contrived to captivate the connoisseur and confuse the critic!

Oxted Operatic

This has been a quiet few months for the Operatic.

Our April production, 'Jack the Ripper' was an amazing success and made us a handsome profit of over £3,000 into the bargain. The critics loved it, the cast loved it and most importantly, the audience loved it. Ticket sales were at 72%, much higher than we expected, and undoubtedly helped us on the road back to financial stability.

In the last month we have held auditions for our November production 'Forty Fabulous Years' and a handbill is enclosed with this Barn Theatre News for you to order your tickets. The show will feature songs from many of the great shows written and staged in the past forty years including Chicago, Les Miserables, Jesus Christ Superstar and many more. A chronological tribute to only some of the great productions and incredibly talented composers, actors and musicians of recent years, it's an evening not to be missed and already looks like proving extremely popular. You can order your tickets now from our box office on 01883 714103.

Our 57th Annual General Meeting was held on 26th July, and for the first time in many years we had a number of nominations for various posts and needed to have a vote. It is extremely encouraging to see fresh faces coming forward, and best wishes must go to the new committee for the coming year. They are:- Chairman - Chris Bassett

Hon Secretary - Katherine Wyncoll, Hon Treasurer - John Bennett, Executive Committee- Sarah Gillender, Teresa Skinner, John Harris, Marcus Ridley, Paul Bowles and Bob Wilson

Thanks must go to the retiring officers and committee Members (Simon Dawes, Janette White, Joan Constable, Sharon Dawes and Trevor Constable) for all their hard work and for getting the Society back on an even keel for the future after a couple of lean years.

The AGM ratified a Motion from the committee that as from 1st June 2006, the Society's membership fees would be increased as follows :- Full membership £17, Joint membership £30, Junior membership £10, Patrons' minimum donation £10 and Vice Presidents' minimum donation £30. If you pay by standing order, please could you contact the bank to make sure you pay the correct amount next year. In addition, the meeting agreed that the £5 joining fee currently charged to new or lapsed members would be abolished.

Most of our section secretaries are willing to stand for a further year and thanks must go to them for all their hidden efforts, and Joan Constable has agreed to step into the breach as Membership Secretary while Amanda Jakes concentrates on her growing family. However, as a matter of urgency we do need a Publicity Manager. Publicising our shows and getting 'bums on seats' is vital as is liaising with local newspapers and other media so if you could give the time to this and help out, please contact one of the new committee.

Our shows next year are in the pipeline and it looks like we will be doing 'Crazy for You' in April 2006 followed by 'Scrooge' in November 2006. Being considered for 2007 are 'Sweet Charity' and 'Honk', although no firm decision has yet been made.

So although we are all enjoying a brief respite over the summer, the autumn looks like it will be very busy and we would encourage you to come along, help out and support.

The Magic of The Musicals lives on

The Barn are better off by £200 thanks to Royalties from The Barnstormers show, **The Magic of the Musicals**, which was recently staged by East Grinstead Operatic.



Going For Gold

If you go down to the Barn today you're in for a big surprise. Look up and you will see that the Barn Theatre sign has turned to gold, an early find from Aladdin's cave no doubt. Not exactly a transformation scene, but an update of the old sign by a man with a heart of gold. Paul Bowles took time out from rehearsals for Twelfth Night to climb to the top of the Barn to remove the sign for restoration, Looking on was a nervous Stage Manager, Bruce Reed and an even more nervous Director. One slip and it would mean the Director would have to don a pair of tights and take to the stage (nothing new there then). As it happened there was a happy ending: no injuries and a rejuvenated sign that now glitters in the summer sun, sparkling across the rooftops of Oxted.