

Oxted Operatic Society

AGM

It was sad to have to commence this year's AGM with the news that our President and great friend Terry Rolph had recently passed away, but I was glad to be able to lead the members in a few moments of silent reflection and thanks for his being part of our lives.

The following members were elected for the forthcoming year:

Chairman – Peter Reed (01883 625731)

Secretary – Samantha Grant (0208 668 6386)

Treasurer – (vacant)

Executive Committee – Louise Fahey, Stephanie Hornett, Laki Lee, Geoff Martin, Teresa Reed, Nicky Roberts

The AGM was a chance to reflect on another very demanding year and an opportunity to praise the hard work of the Committee. Whilst financially things could have been better, our productions had been well received and have been very happy events for the members, and the balance sheet was just about ok when all said and done. Membership of the Society continues to grow at 224, whilst in addition to our three main productions there was of course the bonus of some social life which time willing we plan to expand on next year.

Good progress had been made on the promised Society website, though 'go-live' is still some way off. Meanwhile the introduction of eTicketing this year has proved very successful. Our thanks to Dena Watts for continuing as Ticket Secretary, and remember that tickets are always available by phone/post if required.

The Society was also successful in its application to Surrey County Council to be Exempt as A Body of Persons in respect of the Licensing requirements for Children. As part of the application process we have also established our own Child Protection policy all of which is important for our ongoing status.

In terms of Productions, we enjoyed some very different productions this year, all of which have been hailed as great shows – even if there have been no further NODA Awards to add to the Wall of Fame! *Disco Inferno* – OJOS production last July was a fantastically, glitzy-galm spin back to the 80's Disco era with some great routines; *Return to the Forbidden Planet* in November saw the Society taking the Barn stage beyond the Final Frontier and back again; *Godspell* proved another first for the Society, and another great show for the audiences. We trust our 2012/13 programme will be equally well received.

The Society was pleased to bestow the honour of Life Membership on Simon Dawes for dedicated services rendered over the years.

Bye Bye Birdie (OJOS)

This year's OJOS show *Bye Bye Birdie* is still ringing in our ears as I write – and what a great show it was. A musical comedy of the highest calibre, which really struck the right chord with the audience, whilst the feedback from those involved was just fantastic. My thanks to everyone who made it such a great experience.

Chess - Tues 20th – Sat 24th November 2012 (7:45pm)

The production team was truly impressed at the high standard of the auditions for this monumental production. A superb cast includes: Helen Burgess-Bartlett (*Florence*), Chris Whitebread (*Anatoly*), Carly Thompson (*Svetlana*), Bob Wilson (*Molakov*), Fiona Steel (*Arbiter*), Paul Robinson (*Walter*).

Auditions for the uncast role of Freddie (the American) will be held on 14th August. Please contact Production Secretary (Nicky Roberts - 07946 162107) if you are interested in auditioning. Rehearsals commence 4th September at St Peters, Limpsfield for what will surely be a fantastic show.

Set in the high tension world of chess grand masters, it is essentially a love story with some wonderful music and drama. The principal pawns form a love triangle: the loutish American Grandmaster, the earnest Russian champion, and the Hungarian-American female chess second, who arrives at the international championships with the American but falls for the Russian. From Tyrol to Thailand the players, lovers, politicians, CIA and KGB make their moves to the pulse of this monumental rock score. Several numbers, including 'One Night in Bangkok' and 'I Know Him So Well', are international hits.

Tickets (£15) are available NOW! – 07530 528094 and on-line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

PJR

The Alter Eagles Have Landed

Saturday 8th December is music night at the Barn. Book early to be sure of a ticket for this very special evening featuring the Alter Eagles.

The Alter Eagles are an experienced, authentic Eagles tribute band. Formed in 2003, they perform the whole repertoire of Eagles tracks, from tasteful country rock - complete with full harmonies - through to hard rocking numbers, showcasing the Eagles' trademark duelling electric guitars. The current set comprises material from 35 years of Eagles' performances, up to and including 2007's Long Road Out Of Eden.

Book your tickets now. www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or by telephone 01959 561811.

Harlequin Arts Week

Hosted by the Borough of Reigate and Banstead Arts Council Starmakerz Theatre School, Reigate School and Charisma Singers will be collaborating to bring *Born To Perform* to the Harlequin Theatre on Friday 19th October at 7.30pm.

Both Starmakerz and Charisma Singers comprise of many of our young people from our resident societies and all profits made by Starmakerz will be donated to the Barn Theatre DRIP fund.

Tickets are now on sale from the Harlequin Theatre Box Office on: 01737 276500. Adults £7.Children/OAP £5. Please ask for tickets for "Born To Perform".

Spurious emails

Like all community groups today the local Oxted and Barn community is open to email abuse by almost anyone with a grudge. Our personal email addresses can be located quite easily and the most awful post can arrive without warning. Please take care when opening messages from addresses you do not recognise and if concerned by what you do receive then do not hesitate to report such issues to the local police. Presently there is an email doing the rounds from a supposed ex St Marys School pupil now aged 61 (he was at St Marys from 1959 for two years over 50 years ago) and the content is disgraceful and without proven foundation. If any of you were at St Marys at this time please speak with Bruce as a matter of urgency 07802 302025.