

Mikado In The Doghouse

No, NOT The Mikado IN the Doghouse but two shows for the price of one! The Mikado AND In the Doghouse will be presented at the Barn Theatre on Saturday 15th February by that talented group A2, under the direction of Barbara O'Neill. In The Doghouse is a four-hander by Offenbach and tells the tale of newly wedded upset, men falling down the chimney, husbands deliberately locked out of their homes and humorous wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The most exciting part of this production is that you, the audience, are invited to come and sing along in the choruses of The Mikado, adding volume and energy to this, probably the best known and widely performed of all Gilbert & Sullivan's works. This is a work that has been staged in many different ways, from the traditional Japanese of the original via the 1920s seaside to a Japanese car plant. This version takes the traditional style, fully costumed and staged with a potted version of the dialogue to keep you informed of the plot! When The Mikado was written in the mid-1880's all things Japanese were the rage in London. Liberty was selling Japanese fabrics and a Japanese village had been set up in Knightsbridge with geisha serving tea in the Japanese style. Gilbert uses this Japanese setting to show the English and their follies.

If you want to come along and sing there is a rehearsal in the afternoon at 3.00pm when you can brush up on those long-forgotten lines or read them for the very first time. All are welcome. If, however, you just want to sit in the back row and relax and enjoy the show, come along for the performances at 7.30pm. Do remember to bring your tickets with you, available from the Churchill Gallery, telephone 01959 561811, which are, very importantly, in aid of Barn 2000. So, if you want to sing, have a good laugh AND raise money towards furnishing the new extension, go and get your tickets now. What are you waiting for?

Fun Racing

This was a superbly organised and great fun evening held on Saturday 16th November at St Peters Hall. A long-standing friend of the Barn, Ash Thakar, was the man responsible for suggesting that this particular form of fund-raising be reinstated (it must be over 10 years since a Race Night was previously held on behalf of the theatre) and he and Pippa Bridges then set about putting together the team of willing volunteers who ran the tote, organised the bar and served the fish and chip supper. The result was a truly successful evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by more than 120 "punters". Paul Longhurst was an ideal master of ceremonies

and everyone involved had an excellent time. Apart from being so enjoyable, the evening also raised in excess of £1,500 for Barn 2000 and sincere thanks must go to Ash and especially Pippa for all their efforts.

Pizza Express Continue Their Support

Pizza Express continue their support for the Barn. Take your ticket to PE in Station Road East with you and enjoy a free glass of wine or beverage with your meal either before or after the show. If you are planning to go in a large group do try to let them know in advance.

From My Kitchen Window

About a quarter to seven a man in a blue jumper with red and white patterns drags out those yellow and black bollard things with chains and places them so they block car-access in front of the big double doors at the front of the Theatre. They are obviously heavy, judging from the colour of his face. He disappears back inside.

Two minutes later a white-haired woman in a yellow two-piece with orange flowers and a big bow at the neck emerges. She looks at the cone-things, sighs deeply and tut-tuts to herself before shifting the cones so that the chains are taut. She then re-enters the Theatre.

Approximately five minutes pass before a dapper gent, dressed for dinner with the Queen, appears. He walks along the length of the chains, stands for a bit and regards the line and position of the cones, considering the angle and the space being blocked etc. He then moves the cones 6 inches to the right at a slightly different angle. The man disappears back inside the Theatre.

The wind arrives in a sudden gust and topples the lot.

About seven o'clock the man in the jumper comes out, looks at the chaos on the forecourt and uprights the cones, showing just a hint of annoyance. Two minutes later the woman in the yellow two-piece peers outside, sees the cones, rolls her eyes and adjusts the chains. A little later the man in the dinner-suit, now complete with red carnation buttonhole, shifts the lot 6 inches to the right.

The wind blows a little puff... And so life goes on. And on. Just an ordinary night outside the theatre.

Mette Breminer at No 74

Barn Theatre Lottery

Thanks to everyone who has joined the Barn 2000 Lottery for 2003 - we have 224 entries. If anyone would like to know their entry number then please contact Phil Littleford (01883 717908)
Recent winners:

October 2002

First Mrs A Biles
Second Mr & Mrs T Woodham
Third Mrs L Hughes

November 2002

First Mrs M McNaughton
Second Mrs A Guthrie

Third Mr D Lambert

December 2002

First Mr & Mrs RJ Bennett
Second Mr PD Bourne
Third Mrs DM Brooke