

Unsung Panto Heroes

It is always nice to read good reviews and this year's panto, *Sleeping Beauty*, was certainly well received by audiences, the local press and the local NODA rep. As with all shows at the Barn, many hours of hard work by many people go into creating the wonderful sets and we are so lucky to have such talented scenery builders, painters and technicians to produce the stunning effects for which we are well known.

2007 was my first panto as designer and builder for many years and I was fortunate to receive much support from all our regulars for which I am very grateful. However there is one group who cannot be allowed to escape particular mention, - **the youngsters** - whose creative skills and enthusiasm came to the fore in a way that made a tremendous contribution to all different settings. Much of what was seen on stage was created by this small team and it was a pleasure to work with them. Paul Stoneman, now a regular on my team, is becoming a stage carpenter and scenery builder of repute; Andrew Bruce helped Paul with carpentry, painted, and helped his dad Alastair and Caro with lights. Flo O'Mahoney, always fun with her infectious laughter and smile, painted grass and mushrooms with Marissa Beatty, decorated the garden trellis and palace gates with foliage and helped Peter Ramage paint the front show cloth. Both she and Marissa were always looking for the next job as soon as they finished the task in hand. All four never stopped. Apart from this Flo and Marissa both had parts in the show and Paul and Andrew worked backstage as part of the crew with another youngster David Sutton (yes he's just like his Dad!) and they generally kept the old un's on their toes throughout the run. I have always believed the future of the Barn rests with the young people and these kids certainly proved just that. I hope they enjoyed working with the team as much as we enjoyed their company and contribution

ABBA UK and other live bands at the Barn

December 2nd was ABBA UK night and what a night it proved to be. Completely sold out some 7 weeks before the event the anticipation could be felt in the auditorium as we came close to the start of the evening. The group's approach to sound checks and rehearsing had been reassuring earlier in the day and we were not to be disappointed - a wonderful evening that the audience didn't want to end. Even the group were asking when they could return before they left that evening.

For this year, Saturday 1st December, we have booked a "Queen" tribute band, **Rhapsody** and we have already received reservations for 89 seats with 11 months still to go. **Rhapsody** were the band chosen by the official "Queen" fan club to headline the evening at the annual "Queen Convention" in 2006. We are very lucky to get them and the box office on 01959 561811 is ready now to take your orders for this special evening.



However, before then you have two more opportunities to enjoy the music you all love best.

On **Sunday 18th March** an "Evening with Alan Price", the famous keyboard player from the legendary British rock band, The Animals, returns following the sell out concert in 2004. This famous Geordie boy has a wonderful repertoire including Jar-row Boy, Simon Smith and His Amazing Dancing Bear, The

House of the Rising Sun, Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood and many, many, more. The concert is in support of **Moor House School in Hurst Green** and tickets are available from the school during business hours on **01883 712271**.

Then on **Sunday June 2nd** making their first appearance at the Barn, are "**The Radiators**", a locally renowned 5 piece all male band specialising in bringing alive the sounds of the sixties. If you lived through or wish you had lived through that exciting time in pop music, you will love this band. All the hits are faithfully reproduced by a team of professionals whose musical experience playing these great songs spans four decades.

Tickets at £12 can be obtained from 15a High Street, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1RA Telephone **01959 561811**

THOSE LITTLE RED BUCKETS

Those little red buckets have continued their good work of fund-raising for **BarnCool** with a total achieved to date of almost £1700 since they came out of storage last summer. Please continue your generosity which seems unlimited.

Friends of the Barn

The highlight of our year has to have been our Silver Anniversary Celebration in December. It was a heart warming occasion attended by many Friends, past and present. Bruce made it extra special by his thoughtful gesture of producing and presenting us with "The Book of the Barn" which brings the history of our jewel of a theatre up to date. We will arrange for this to be available for you to enjoy at the Sunday Clubs on the first Sunday of each month. Terry, our President, was also able to complete his mammoth task of providing sponsored seats in the auditorium by auctioning the last available seat in the Gallery. We are most grateful to the Thakar family for their generosity and, of course, to those other two stalwarts who kept the bidding going!

However, we are not 'resting on our laurels' and the latest project to improve the theatre, by installing air conditioning, is well underway. Those of us who worked 'Front of House' through summer 2006 will know how some of our audiences suffered, with more than one patron needing the kindly and professional attention of our loyal St. John First Aiders - thank you John Kempton and your team. Once more all Barn Supporters will have an opportunity to make a financial contribution - Caro has dusted off her buckets and Bruce has produced a 'BarnCool' appeal leaflet. We, the FOBs, would urge you to join us too - in addition to any other link which you may have with the Theatre - so that you can increase your support through your subscription and, if you feel inclined, by helping us with our Front of House duties. If you would like to take a closer look at us first please feel welcome to come along to our **AGM on Tuesday 20th March** at 7.30pm in the Theatre!

We like Bruce's new motto - "WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER BARN" - emblazoned in silver on the splendid black souvenir aprons which he presented to your President and Chairman. Thank you, Bruce! We all look forward to more happy times of working together through 2007. **SB**

Makeup Kit

(1) Among experienced community theatre actors, a battered tackle box loaded with at least 10 shades of greasepaint in various stages of desiccation, tubes of lipstick and blush, assorted pencils, bobby pins, braids of crepe hair, liquid latex, old programs, jewellery, break-a-leg greeting cards from past shows, brushes and a handful of half-melted cough drops; (2) For the first-time male actors, a helpless look and anything they can borrow