

The Oxted Players



Jack's a Has-bean

We have seen in the New Year in style with sell-out performances of our pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Lance Milton, the NODA Regional Representative, came to see the show which, judging by his review, he thoroughly enjoyed. He said that the whole company simply brimmed with energy and smiles and were utterly engaging to watch and listen to. He praised all the principals for their delivery and character performances and added that both Sophie MacTavish as Jack and Vicki Stanbury as Princess Anastasia delivered great vocal performances and worked especially well during harmonies. Moreover he felt that Peter Calver as *Aunt Dottie* gave one of the most naturally hilarious dame performances that he had had the pleasure to watch. He described the lighting, sound, set and costumes as "top drawer" and praised the highly polished production directed by Chris Bassett with entertaining choreography by Fran Newitt and slick musical accompaniment by Musical Director, Jamie Cordell, and his band.

This was a great team effort but very hard work and our thanks go out to everyone involved whether on stage, back stage, crewing, set building or working Front of House who made it all possible. Although pantomime will not return to the Barn stage until January 2013, we are eagerly awaiting the final decision on the choice of panto for 2013 which is to be directed by Janette White and planning will no doubt commence in the next few months with auditions in September.

Festival Frenzie

We now move onto our participation in the Southern Counties Drama Festival. Our adult entry, is the delightful Alan Bennett short play, 'Say Something Happened', directed by Tricia Whyte, and this will be performed on Tuesday, 21 February 2012. An elderly couple (Jackie Barrett and Duncan Browne) receive a visit from a naïve and inexperienced social worker (Teresa Chinnock) but is it they who need help or her?

Our Youth Entry is 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly directed by Flo O'Mahony which will be performed on Thursday 23 February 2012. This is a compelling and powerful contemporary play about a group of teenagers who do something very wrong and then try to cover it up. Please note that this play contains strong language. We hope that our members and supporters will come along to support both our entries.

It ends Somewhere over the Rainbow

We then move swiftly onto our Young Players biennial play 'Where the Rainbow Ends' (16 and 17 March 2012 at 7.30pm with matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday). *Rosamund* and *Crispian Carey* are presumed to be orphans after their parents are lost at sea on their way home from India. They are initially cared for by their Uncle Matthew who also then dies. When evil *Uncle Joseph* and *Aunt Matilda* move in, the children resolve to find their parents after discovering the *Rainbow Book* in Uncle Matthew's library which directs them to *the land where all lost ones are found*. They also find a magic carpet and with their friends *Betty* and *Jim Blunders* and with the help of a *Genie* and also the protection of *St. George*, they begin the search for their lost parents and overcome dangers along the way. This adventure story should appeal to young and old alike. June Brown is directing a cast of over 30 children and is looking forward to bringing this favourite play from her own childhood to the Barn Stage. Tickets are £8.00 and can be obtained on 01883 724852 or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

Love, Lust and Laughs

Although being performed a little earlier than the play's title suggests, we are pleased to present William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' directed by Martin Patrick which will be performed from 16 to 19 May 2012 at 7.45 pm with a matinee at 2.30 pm on the Saturday. The play is now fully cast and alongside the Barn regulars, namely Tony Goddard (*Egeus*), Julie Parry (*Hippolata*), Duncan Browne (*Philostrate*), Sophie MacTavish (*Hermia*), Laura Brand (*Helena*), Steve Bedford (*Demetrius*), Janette White (*Titania*), Richard Allen (*Oberon*), Abigail Thomas-Verweij (*Fairy*), Clive MacTavish (*Bottom*), Guy Hudson (*Tom Snout*), Peter Hogg (*Flute*), George Kourea (*Robin Starveling*), Nigel Brown (*Snug*) and young Tom Violet (*Puck*), we are pleased to welcome new members David Morgan (*Quince*), Paul Farrell (*Lysander*) and Alex Campbell (*Theseus*) bringing added strength to the cast. We also have a team of fairies chosen from our younger members. With Martin's experienced direction and a set designed by Bruce Reed, we are looking forward to a magical experience. Tickets are very reasonably priced at £9.00 adults and £7.00 for students and are available now from 01883 724852 and will go on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk from 1 March 2012. We would welcome enquiries from schools as this play is often on the school curriculum and is a delightful introduction for youngsters to the works of Shakespeare.

Autumn Life

Our Autumn production (17 – 20 October 2012) is the comedy 'Life x 3' by contemporary playwright Yasmin de Reza. We hope to hold auditions for our members in April and will be circulating our membership very shortly. Anyone interested in being involved in the play and not already a member should contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk for further information.

Pat Brown