

Oxted Players

Following on from the success of *Snow White*, the New Year has brought with it further achievement in the form of three awards at the Southern Counties Drama Festival at the end of February. Our entry *Four Play* by Colin Smith directed by Chris Hepher was judged as Best Play with Peter Damesick and new member Chris Morgan were presented with cups for Best Actor and Best Actress. The awards were just reward for the determination and enthusiasm shown by our "resident" Festival director,



Winning Festival Team

Chris, who has doggedly sought to ensure that the Society continues to participate in the Festival and our thanks and appreciation go out to him. We must also give our grateful thanks to Cathy Longhurst who stepped in with one week to go to replace Alison Redford who had been injured when her car was struck by another on her way to rehearsal. Cathy was well into rehearsal for her leading role in *Jack the Ripper* for Oxted Operatic but she had her arm "twisted" by Chris and agreed to save the play and take on the part of Caroline. Cathy showed true professionalism in learning the part in less than 7 days and giving a performance which drew praise from the Adjudicator. The fourth member of the cast, newcomer Francis Atterbury, was also commended for his performance as David. Our warm thanks also go to Alison for her earlier involvement in the play and we are pleased that she has recovered well from her injuries. As a result of their success, the team now take part in the Regional Finals at Walton on Thames on 21st May 2005. Unfortunately, this is also the last night of our Spring production *Twelfth Night* and has proved to be somewhat of a dilemma for Peter Damesick who is also playing *Malvolio* and a nightmare for the director, Martin Patrick. *Four Play* will go on stage at 6.00 p.m. in Walton on Thames and Peter will then be whisked away back to Oxted in time for curtain up at 7.45 p.m. Everyone (particularly Peter and Martin) will be praying that the M25 is running smoothly that night!



**NOW IS IT TWELFTH NIGHT
OR FOUR PLAY**

Moving on to *Twelfth Night*, this not only promises to be a treat for lovers of Shakespeare but also for those who like a good farce. Directed by Martin Patrick, we have an excellent cast in place as follows: Peter Hogg (Sir Toby Belch), David Fanthorpe (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), Peter

Damesick (Malvolio), Julie Cumbo (Maria), Dave Watkins (Fabian), Don Pickett (Captain), Richard Allen (Orsino), Lucy Coward (Viola), Jo Emery (Olivia) Tony Goddard (Antonio), Guy Hudson (Curio) and Peter Shore (Valentine), Ray Howell (Feste) and Paul Bowles (Sebastian). Also supporting them are Adele Deakins, Hilary Moore, Laura Brand, Ben Atterbury and Adam Farrell. The play is set on the mythical island of Illyria and *Twelfth Night* or *What you Will* has all those comic elements that are essential in any good farce – mistaken identity, cross dressing, love triangles and sub-plots. Martin has set the play traditionally in Elizabethan times. There will be live musicians on stage just as there would have been in Shakespeare's time. The barn like structure and character of the Barn Theatre is bound to enhance the production. Please tell your family, friends and work colleagues about the play and come along and support us.

Our Autumn production to be directed by David Fanthorpe is *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitmore. Many of Whitmore's plays are based on real events; *Pack of Lies* tells the true story of a family (the Jacksons) who find out that their best friends are Soviet spies. However, the play is much more than a re-telling of history: it is a powerful drama of deception and betrayal, and ultimately of loss, as the Jackson family is broken by the downfall of the Krogers and their part in it. There is a read through in the Little Barn on 10th June at 8.00 p.m. and auditions on Sunday 12th June at 2.30 p.m. The parts to be cast are Bob and Barbara Jackson and Helen and Peter Kroger, Julie Jackson (rebellious teenager), Stewart the MI5 Officer (50s) and two female surveillance officers (age 20s and 30s). The ages stated are playing ages. If you would like more information about the play in advance of the read through, please contact David Fanthorpe on 01883 652396. Any of you who are not already members of the Society, are very welcome to join us.

Looking ahead to Pantomime in January 2006, Fran and Neil Reynolds are our directors/choreographers and although no final decision has been made, it is likely that *Aladdin* will be chosen. Further information will be available in the next Barn Theatre News.

From my Kitchen Window

I was there when the Duke called

Of course, I'd had an invitation to attend the Party Proper – thank you very much for that, by the way – but I watched it all from my kitchen window as usual.

All morning people had been arriving. A poor frozen soul dressed for a polar expedition was directing cars across brand new tarmac to the car park at the back in the freezing winter blizzard

Groups of school children arrived with their teachers and were handed flags by Bruce with instructions to wave. The excitement was tangible even from where I stood

The local Press was out in force, both of them with cameras at the ready. The anticipation was palpable.

A two-car cavalcade swept smoothly into the Theatre forecourt. The second car, a dark green Jaguar, stopped perfectly in front of the door and the Duke got out. He'd changed a lot since last year's Wimbledon.. ah, no, wrong man.. The Duke was emerging from the driver's seat. Easy mistake to make. He shook hands, nodded a lot and there were smiles aplenty.

I don't know what happened next because everybody went inside, but it all ended happily: The Duke left, the children cheered even louder, and all the specially invited guests were smiling as they braved the weather to return home. Well done and congratulations Barn Theatre.

Mette Bremner at no. 74

Were You Caught On Camera?

There are over 300 super photographs of the Royal Visit and we have arranged two Sunday mornings for them to be on show at the Barn. June Brown will be taking orders and will be at the theatre on Sunday 8th and 15th May from 11am until 1pm. There is a vast selection and they are available in different formats to order, all at reasonable prices. Don't miss this opportunity to get your memento of that very special day.

If you were there and didn't get the opportunity to sign the visitors book this will be available too.