

SOUNDLY CONSTRUCTED

Thanks to the efforts and carpentry skills of Graham Tombs assisted by Mike Sutton, we now have a completely refurbished sound box that houses all the amplifiers and mixer equipment in a very stylish and efficient manner. Through the years technology has moved apace and the equipment requirements have grown enormously. The end result was a sound box that unwittingly grew in height to the extent that it restricted the view of the stage from some of the gallery seats. This has now been rectified and the view is better than ever! Our grateful thanks to Graham and Mike for their sterling efforts and for completing the alterations in a very short time frame.

CCTV

Thanks to a further donation of £500 from The FOBs we are now able to complete the CCTV system throughout the theatre. Much work has already been completed by Pete Marr and Mike Sutton and the back-stage areas and dressing room screens are in full use. The additional cheque from the FOBs was presented to Bruce at their AGM and brings the total FOBs contribution for this project to £5000. A stunning amount received with grateful thanks. Pete and Mike are continuing the installation but continuous shows and a wedding seem to be slowing progress at the moment.

MORE VOLTS AND AMPS

The order for an additional power supply to the theatre has been placed and it is hoped that the new external cable will be run into the theatre during the summer school holiday period. In the interim the new internal installation has been designed by Frank Boonham and is in progress as we go to print. We can now plan with confidence for the future and any heavy power requirements that may come with our plans for improvements.

A YOUNG LIFE IN THE THEATRE

Welcome to the third and final article of 'A Young Life In The Theatre'. In this edition of Barn Theatre News I, Paul Stoneman, will be sharing with you my experiences and roles in crewing shows and stage management.

My first crew/assistant stage manager experience was 'Twelfth Night'. This is where I began to become interested in gaining knowledge on what happens behind the scenes, and at the theatre it was great fun and I got more and more confident every day. I then moved on and gained more experience and knowledge by crewing 'The Crucible', 'Solo School Of Singing', 'Aladdin', two ballets: 'Matchgirl' & 'Sylphs' and 'Crazy for You'.

The main reason I enjoy stage management is that it means being greatly involved with the performance; being with the great company and great people I work with; having responsibilities, and spending time up and around at the theatre.

Now 14 years of age I have been stage manager for, 'Pack of Lies' and 'Huckleberry Finn'. As assistant stage manager for 'Twelfth Night' I learnt what responsibilities you have as a stage manager. As stage manager you are responsible for all of the cast and crew; when and where they are meant to be; safety procedures; all set changes; starting the performance; cueing lights, sound, crew, cast and cloths. In the event of a fire, along with other theatre staff, I would be partly responsible for evacuating the building. There are lots of responsibilities but I enjoy it so much!

Before a performance there is set building to be done, which can take from weeks to months. Set building needs a great deal of time and effort put into it. Everything is made from scratch. Many members of society and trustees give up their weekends and time off to help put a show together. All of the theatre's volunteers are fantastic people and all put a lot of their time into the theatre.

In future at the theatre I hope to have a permanent role, like a trustee. This means I would like to be heavily involved in many more performances and in the theatre itself.

I would like to thank greatly all the trustees who have all helped me and still are; whether it's lighting, sound or about the theatre they're all great, helpful people. I would also like to thank anyone at all whom I have worked with, be it be a theatre company or a regular. I would mostly like to thank Bruce Reed who puts so much time and effort into the theatre and also into me. Bruce has taught me such a great deal about how the theatre works and how performances are run, and I couldn't do what I do today at the theatre if it wasn't for him. So I thank everyone greatly. I am putting more and more dates into my diary and each time I am learning more. I am also learning about sound and many other aspects of the theatre.

THE PEERS APPEAR TO BE PEERING AT THE PERI!!!

IN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S 'IOLANTHE' THURS 25TH, FRI 26TH AND SAT 27TH OF MAY AT 7.30pm

Come and enjoy Aquarian Opera's light-hearted, bright and colourful production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Iolanthe'. As usual they will be using a mixture of well-known Barn faces - such as Jo Silcox, Julia Dallosso and Peter Thomas - mixed in with other excellent professional and semi-professional singers from both the Oxted area and further afield. Suitable for all ages, with the wonderful words and music of Gilbert and Sullivan, it is a production full of fun, frolic and fairies. It also has quite a silly story involving a gentleman who is half a fairy (down to the waist!) and the members of the House of Lords and a young lady who is a shepherdess and a Ward in Chancery and...and...and... Oh, come and see for yourselves!

Tickets available now at Ibbett Mosely, Oxted Tel: 01883 712241
Adults £10 Concessions (children, students OAPs) £8

SUCCESSFUL SUNDAY CLUB

Three months in and we can confidently say that the Sunday Club has been well received and is working well. The three Sundays have all been well attended and have proved to be a most enjoyable and relaxed event. The nibbles on the bar disappear fairly rapidly and the drinks are dispensed with alacrity by the FOBs volunteer members. Do come along and bring your friends and family too; one such group was spotted last month enjoying a picnic prior to rehearsals starting. You will enjoy mixing with friends and it gives the opportunity to show off our wonderful theatre too. The next dates are June 4th and July 2nd.

'THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL' *Minack 2007*

We're very pleased to announce that The Barnstormers and the Barn will be returning to the Minack Theatre next year with a production of the Broadway hit musical 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' by Frank Wildhorn and Nan Knighton.

The Barnstormers are keen to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with this production either on stage, backstage or front of house. Please contact Richard Allen on richard@thebarnstormers.org or 01883 346093 to register your interest. Accommodation gets booked up at the Minack earlier and earlier each year so if you want to go, start thinking about it now!