

## ***"They Seek Him Here... They Seek Him There"***

### **'The Scarlet Pimpernel' 25th to 30th June 2007**

The Barn will be reverberating to the sound of swishing swords at the end of June with The Barnstormers production of the spectacular Broadway musical, 'The Scarlet Pimpernel'. Rehearsals are progressing well with a talented production team putting the large company of French peasants, English aristocracy and dashing swordsmen through their paces!

Many of you will already know the famous tale of love, deception and intrigue set amongst the French Revolution, where Sir Percy Blakeney and his band of followers dramatically rescue would-be victims from the very scaffolding of the guillotine. The score of this lavish musical version only heightens the experience and enjoyment of this classic family adventure. The Barnstormers promise you an evening of excitement and intrigue with glittering costumes, dramatic settings and spectacular sword fights. Unforgettable entertainment for the whole family.

Tickets for 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' are available now from the Barn Theatre Box Office on 01959 561811 (office hours). From the 28th May the box office transfers to Ibbett Mosely Estate Agents, Station Road East, Oxted on 01883 712241. All proceeds from this production will go to the 'BarnCool' project to install air-conditioning in the theatre, so please book your tickets now and support The Barnstormers worthy fund raising efforts.

The Barnstormers are taking this production on tour down to the famous open-air Minack Theatre on the cliffs at Porthcurno in Cornwall for the August bank holiday week (27th to 31st August). Tickets for the Minack production have recently become available to purchase on 01736 810181 or via their website at [www.minack.com](http://www.minack.com).

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## ***FOBS***

We held our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in March. Many thanks to those stalwarts who turned out on a rather inclement evening. We'll excuse our usual band of loyal supporters from the Oxted Operatic Society who were busy rehearsing for "Honk" – we hear that our surplus sandwiches were much appreciated by the 'cast of thousands' in St. Peter's Hall!

We were much saddened by the resignation of Dave Watkins from our committee. Dave has given us so much of his time over many years and it has taken four people to do his job of stocktaking; stock ordering; clearing the 'empties'. (It has also left yours truly with the task of writing the FOBS item for the newsletter.) Rumour has it that Dave is not lost to the Theatre but plans to spend more time helping to build and paint sets and to 'tread the boards' more frequently. We thank him most warmly for all he has brought to our committee.

Front of House volunteers may be thinking that we don't need them anymore because their phones and E-mails will have been strangely silent. We certainly do need you, it's just that the Theatre is going through an unusually quiet time at the moment. As Bruce said at the AGM, most of us have mixed feelings about this. 2006 was so busy with many outside hirers needing our help and a quieter year is giving us all a breather – and, of course, the chance to do some extra cleaning and catching up with numerous jobs around the Theatre. It was good to see the re-launch of the Southern Counties Drama Festival and the

Directors are to be congratulated on a superbly well organised, enjoyable and successful venture.

Pippa has been busy updating our list of volunteers. She already has E-mail addresses for many of you but if you have an E-mail address which is not on her list please let her have it so that she can communicate with you - as Caro said at the AGM- in this easier and cheaper way. Incidentally, may we assume unless we hear from you to the contrary that you are happy for your E-mail address to be used for Barn Theatre business? Pippa can be reached on 01883 712459 (or on E-mail [Judith.bridges@btinternet.com](mailto:Judith.bridges@btinternet.com)).

Don't forget to come along to the Sunday Club on the first Sunday of each month from 12 to 2 – it's a great opportunity to have a chat with folk who are usually too busy when a show is running. If any volunteers would like to know more about the various jobs there are to do around the Theatre please let us know and we'd be happy to organise a 'talk and training session' during a Sunday Club.

**SMB**

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## ***OXTED OPERATIC SOCIETY***



### **20th - 24th November 2007**

Following their honking success Oxted Operatic Society's next production will be Neil Simon's "Sweet Charity", the story of a girl who wears her heart on her sleeve, and her arm in the form of a tattoo. Charity is innocent and naive verging on plain stupid. Surprising given her profession – a dance hall hostess at the Fan-Dango ballroom. She believes that if she gives herself completely to a man, he should feel that same dog-like devotion that she feels. Alas in this cynical, hard-hearted world, she is an easy prey to her emotions.

The story is set in the swinging sixties and has some excellent numbers by Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields including "If My Friends Could See Me Now", "Rhythm of Life", and that all-time show stopper "Big Spender". The first get-together to get acquainted with the show will be on Thursday 5th July at 7.45pm at St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield when the Production Team of Martin Patrick, Andrea Green and Michael Burbidge will be conducting a 'Charity Workshop'. Further audition workshops will be held on Tuesday 10th July and Thursday 12th July. Principals Auditions will be on Sunday 15th July at 2:30pm. Dancers auditions and re-calls will be held on Tuesday 17th July at 7.45pm, all at St Peters Hall, Limpsfield.

If you are interested in knowing more and would like to audition please register your interest with the Secretary by e-mailing [secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk)