

# THE OXTED PLAYERS



**Tish Richings  
Julie Madigan  
Wendy O'Mahoney**



**The Cemetery Club  
Mike Rourke  
Director**



**Jacob McIntosh  
as the Pied Piper**



**Lottie Davis  
as Toffee Jenkins**

A fantastic result was achieved by the Society at the Southern Counties Drama Festival held at The Barn at the end of February. We walked away with six trophies, five of them for the Youth Production *The Edge* directed by Paul Bowles. This amazing number of trophies were – Best Youth Play, Best Young Actress **Jo Cox**, Best Young Actor **Adam Farrell**, and Best Stage Presentation as well as Runners Up for the Festival as a whole. Our adult Festival entry, *Last Tango in Titsey Hill*, directed by Catherine Webber won the Adjudicator's Award for the most entertaining play of the Festival. The Young Players then went on to the Quarter Finals held at Walton Playhouse and won the Technical Merit Trophy.

By the time you read this 35 of our Young Players will have performed their colourful musical play *The Pied Piper* directed by June Brown. Jacob McIntosh made an excellent *Pied Piper* and both he and Lottie Davis, who played *Toffee Jenkins*, gave strong performances of their solo numbers. Faith Anderson as the *Mayoress* and Alex Gordon as the *Baron* were also excellent as was Jack Chilcott as their spoilt son, *Egbert*. Bruce Reed designed the ingenious set and organised its construction at record speed as we were only able to move into the Theatre on the Sunday before the Friday performance. Our sincere thanks go to Bruce and to all those who helped him. Thanks also to Jeremy Lloyd as Musical Director and his talented band of musicians with himself on piano, Romilly and Megan Whitely on reeds, supported by Karl Bristow on drums. The lively choreography for the show was entirely due to the talents of Marissa Beatty, who at 13 is probably our youngest ever choreographer. This production also gave opportunities to other Young Players to help on the technical side under the guidance of Bruce, Carolyn Rowley and John Chinnock. All the children involved have enjoyed the experience and can't wait until the next Young Players' production in two years.

We are currently rehearsing our Spring Production, *The Cemetery Club*. If you do not know the play, please do not be put off by its title and do not confuse it with the film of the same name. This is much funnier! The story is based on the premise that you are never too old to fall in love. Three New York Jewish widows, Ida, Doris, and Lucille, visit the cemetery each month to talk to and remember their deceased husbands. But two of the women feel the need to move past their spouse's headstones to a new life. As Lucille puts it, "I want to resign. I don't like belonging to a club where half the members are dead." Ivan Menchell's play deals with the

heartache and pain of losing love, along with the change and fear of starting again. Lucille's less-than-ideal marriage shows her acute desire to begin anew and seek the love she missed through years of married life, while friends Doris and Ida mourn the end of their happy marriages. They meet widower Sam, who visits his wife's grave at the cemetery, and the comedy continues as each person's loneliness leads to rediscovering dating, romance and how they view life moving forward. *The Cemetery Club* is funny and wise. It shows that love does indeed last even after loss, and there remains no age or time limit to finding love again. Please do come along and support Tish Richings, Wendy O'Mahoney, Julie Madigan, Jackie Barrett and Mike Rourke. Tickets are on sale now at Ibbett Mosely 01883 712241.

Our Autumn production will be *The Anniversary* (15 -19 October 2008). First performed in 1966, and set in the same era, *The Anniversary* is a very dark comedy about an annual family gathering. The anniversary of the title is Mum's wedding anniversary, Dad having passed away some years before. Mum holds a ritual gathering every year, as one of her means of trying to keep control over her three sons and their wives/partners. Bette Davis and Sheila Hancock have both played the *Mum* in the film and West End productions respectively. Directed by David Fanthorpe, there will be a read through on **Sunday 1 June, at 2.30pm** in the Little Barn. Auditions will be on **Friday 6 June at 8pm** at the Hurst Green Community Centre, Pollards Oak Road, Hurst Green. David is looking to cast *Mum*, son *Henry*, henpecked middle son *Terry*, his assertive wife *Karen*, bolshie youngest son *Tom* and his young girlfriend *Shirley*. However, David will be flexible in relation to ages, especially of the men, and as long as the men are credibly brothers and Mum appears a plausible generation older, that will be fine. He might therefore cast three men whose playing age is in the 30-early 40s bracket placing Mum in her 60s. In auditioning for the role of *Mum*, therefore, he will be looking for the ability to play a flexible age range from late 50s to late 60s. If you would like more information, or would like to audition but will not be available on 6 June, please call David on 01883 652396, or 07799 661813, or e-mail [david.fanthorpe@btconnect.com](mailto:david.fanthorpe@btconnect.com).

Finally congratulations to Jo Saville on the birth of her daughter.