

The Oxted Players

We have continued the success of our January Pantomime, *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*, by building on past achievements at the Southern Counties Drama Festival. Our Young Players (Ben Atterbury, Marissa Beatty, Lotti Davies, Alex Gordon, Hugh Murdoch, Flo O'Mahony and Henry Tredinnick) won the Best Youth Play Award for the third year running for *School Belles* directed by June Brown. In addition, Ben Atterbury won the Best Young Actor award for his role as the *Headmaster* and the youngsters were also awarded the Runner Up Cup. This saw them through to the Quarter Finals of the All England Drama Festival held at Walton where they gave another creditable performance, although an adult group was chosen to go through to the Semi-Final round. Not to be outdone, our adult entry, the comedy *Late Entry*, directed by Peter Reed and performed by Frank Atterbury and Ann Lovell, saw Frank winning the Best Actor Award.



Much Ado About Nothing

Cathy Longhurst (Beatrice) and Peter Calver (Benedick)

We are now in the run up to our May production, *Much Ado About Nothing* (13-15 May), one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies. Paul Longhurst is directing an experienced and highly motivated cast. Paul's approach to this production has been to make the play fun

Oxted Operatic Society

Bugsy Malone

Wednesday 22 July - Saturday 25 July 2009

Two gangs, two girls, one sticky situation 1929; The Big Apple. War rages on the dangerous New York streets as rival gangsters Fat Sam and Dandy Dan battle for supremacy with a new and deadly weapon: the dreaded 'splurge gun'. As the custard pies fly, Bugsy Malone, an all-round nice guy, falls for Blousey Brown, a singer at Fat Sam's Speakeasy. His designs on her are disrupted by the seductive songstress Tallulah who wants Bugsy for herself. How is Bugsy to get the girl and help Fat Sam defend his business against the deadly Dan and his dastardly tricks? With a junior cast placed in a mobster era, armed with splurge instead of bullets and belting out some superb songs, this is great entertainment for all the family!

and as easily accessible as possible letting the brilliant characters and plot speak for themselves, rather than complicating them with gimmicks and needless updating thus allowing the play to shine. Whether or not you are a Shakespeare addict, with the set cleverly designed by Paul Bowles, colourful costumes sourced by Elizabeth Callow and even a real lutist, this surely must be an unmissable experience. Tickets are on sale now at Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241.

Our Young Players continue to thrive and will benefit from the opportunity to participate in our annual Summer Workshop with David Rowan this August. Our junior membership continues to be capped at the moment but will be reviewed again in August. Anyone interested in joining should give their names to our Membership Secretary, Elinor Nelson

Membership@OxtedPlayers.co.uk

For our October production (14 – 17 October) we are presenting *Communicating Doors* by Alan Ayckbourn directed by Catherine Webber. The play is a time-travelling comedy thriller inspired by the question of "where do hotel communicating doors lead?" In this case, back in time to the same room. It is also undoubtedly inspired by J.B. Priestley's time-travelling plays, which the playwright is known to be fond of. The characters are: Reece, a business man, (playing ages 30 and 70), Julian, his associate, (playing ages 45 and 65); Harold, a house detective (playing ages 35 and 55); Phoebe (Poopay) aged 33 who has to dress as dominatrix; Jessica, Reece's first wife (playing ages 25 and 45); Ruella, Reece's second wife (aged 45). In order to give people every chance to learn more about the play, there will be two opportunities to read through the play in the Barn Theatre on 5 and 7 May at 8.00pm with auditions at Hurst Green Community Centre on 22 May at 8.00pm. More information about the play can be obtained from Catherine on 01883 724896 or catherine.webber@btinternet.com.

On the social side, to round off the year we are holding a Barn Dance on Saturday 14 November at St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield, which Ann Lovell has kindly agreed to organise. It is intended that the profits will be donated to the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity. Further details will be available later but anyone who loves barn dances should put the date in their diary.

Finally for all panto enthusiasts our 2010 Pantomime (8 – 16 January) will be *Dick Whittington* directed by Janette White and the read through for this will take place at Hurst Green Community Centre on 13 September with auditions on 20 September, both at 2.30pm. You will need to be a member to audition.

Oxted Junior Operatic Society made its debut last summer with the fantastically retro *Back to the 80s*. This summer they're heading even further into the past, with the prohibition-era kids musical *Bugsy Malone*. The auditions were held in late March, and from an amazing turnout a fantastic new OJOS cast has been selected to perform this splurge-tastic show... Please come along and support the juniors in their second show. Tickets are available from the Ticket Secretary on 01883 714103 and from 30 June from Ibbett Moseley on 01883 712241.

Looking ahead to November, *The Music Man* blows into town from 17-21 November. Meredith Willson's award winning musical enjoyed a sell out success at the Chichester Festival Theatre last year, starring Brian Conley as Harold Hill and Scarlett Strallen as Marian. Now, in 2009, this hilarious show comes to the Barn Theatre with Oxted Operatic Society. Audition details will be announced shortly.