

Oxted Players

Our Autumn Production of the farce, *Caught on the Hop* by Derek Benfield, although playing to somewhat diminished audiences, provided a great evening's entertainment to those who did turn out to support us. We congratulate again the cast of David Rose, David Fanthorpe, Julie Cumbo, Vicki Stanbury, Jackie Barrett, Tony Goddard, Croia Reilly and Biff Harrison who worked really well together under the direction of Chris Hepher. Reviews were favourable, with newcomer to The Barn, Julie Cumbo, receiving special praise for her portrayal of Maggie, the long suffering wife of serial philanderer Phil.

Preparations are already underway for our exciting January 2005 Pantomime, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, directed by Janette White with Lawrie Horton as Musical Director and Fran Roberts (nee Newitt) as Choreographer. Carly Thompson is our Snow White with Chrissie Webb as her wicked Stepmother. Vicki Stanbury who was Jack in our 2004 Panto plays the Prince and we are very pleased to welcome back to The Barn, after several years' absence at University, Lucy Coward as Sir Dashing. Our Dame this year is Mike Rourke as Nursey who teams up with new member Jonathan Wilson as Muddles to provide much of the comedy. Janette has chosen a mixture of adults and teenagers to portray the seven "little people" who are Kay Davies, Sophie McTavish, Sam Davies, Ben Atterbury, Laura Brand, Abigail Thomas-Verweij and Jo Cox. Fran has created lively dance routines for the dancing team of Tonia Porter, Neila Dawes, Nicola Wilson and Natalie Bristow and also for the Adult and the Junior Chorus members with some great popular songs.

Pantomime dates are 7 to 9 and 12 to 15 January 2005. There are evening performances at 7.45 p.m. on 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and matinees at the weekends at 2.30 p.m. on 8, 9 and 15. Pantomime tickets make excellent Christmas presents and a visit to the Theatre to see Panto is a great idea for a birthday party treat, perhaps preceded or followed by a meal at a local restaurant. Call our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 to buy your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Our entry for the 2005 Southern Counties Drama Festival (formerly known as the Betchworth Festival of One Act Plays) is *Four Play* by Colin Smith directed by Chris Hepher. Two couples are involved and if you are interested and want to know more, please contact Chris direct on 0208 656 5554. We are also still searching for an appropriate one act play which our Junior Membership may be able to enter in the Festival.

Finally, although quite a way ahead, we would like to draw attention to our exciting Spring production which is to be Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* or *What You Will* directed by Martin Patrick. Martin is setting the play in Elizabethan times with appropriate costumes and intends to have live musicians on stage. The play is set on the mythical island of Illyria and has all those comic elements that are essential in any good farce: mistaken identity, cross dressing, love triangles and sub-plots. The more obvious, broader comedy comes from the sub-plot involving Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Agucheek and Maria, aided and abetted by Fabian and Feste. There is great scope in their scenes to explore all comic possibilities and require actors with good comic awareness and timing. The Midnight Drunken Singing Orgy, Malvolio's letter reading scene in the garden and the duel between Cesario (Viola) and Sir Andrew all have tremendous possibilities. The play runs from 18 to 21 May 2005. Martin does not intend to have a read through but has arranged two workshops in the Theatre in January, the first of which is on 16 January 2005 at 2.30 p.m. to explore and discuss the text and the audition pieces. It will be an opportunity to discuss his vision of the play in more detail. There is some dancing involved and Andrea Allen is assisting as Mistress of Dance, and will be present at the first workshop to demonstrate the style of dancing for the period. The second workshop will be on Sunday 23 January 2005 at 2.30 p.m. and will be set aside for auditions. If you have not already received an information pack and would like to know more about the play, please contact Martin on 01883 625651 (Mobile 07867 820617). Rehearsals will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays commencing 28 February 2005 at 7.45 p.m. with Sundays near the end. In accordance with our Society's Rules, you will need to be a member of our Society to audition but we have no joining fee and our annual membership is very reasonable at £10 for adults and £5.00 for students.

Not a ticket at any Price

One of British Rock Music's original greats makes his exclusive Oxted appearance at the Barn Theatre in Bluehouse Lane on Sunday 28th November at 7.30pm in a sell-out charity concert in aid of Moor House School.

Alan Price began his professional music career way back in 1958 when he took his version of the blues to coal-face workers, dock workers and shipbuilders of the North-east of England. Like some significant others from that area (Hank Marvin, Sting, Mark Knopfler) his influence was to be felt way beyond these shores.

In 1964 it was his distinctive, organ-based arrangement of the traditional blues song "House of The Rising Sun" which gave his band, The Animals, one of the most iconic hits of the fabled sixties. Alan Price moved on having hits under his own name with "I Put A Spell On You", "Don't Stop The Carnival" and, showing his prescient talent for recognising the song-writing talents of others, recording a Randy Newman song "Simon Smith & His Amazing Dancing Bear", well before he was to receive Academy Award nominations.

In the seventies Alan Price moved into composing a notable score for Lindsay Anderson's "O Lucky Man" – an award winning movie; then Alan revealed great promise as an actor with his lead role in "Alfie Darling."

Throughout the eighties Alan Price wrote music for stage plays, formed

his own record label, and dabbled once again with his former band colleagues in a reformed Animals playing two sold out concerts in the Royal Albert Hall.

Throughout the 90s Alan has been touring constantly and was pleased to receive recognition of a full life in rock and roll with his induction to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Now Alan Price brings his keyboards, full band and song book to envy, to the Barn for a charity concert in aid of Moor House School, Oxted on Sunday evening 28th November at 7.30pm.

FOBS

The July break sped away and August soon recalled us to our duties Front of House, and stocking for it, starting with the Robert Bouffler Operas, with 'local boy' Jonathan Butcher conducting. Our eager volunteers were soon back in their 'Black and Whites' for a very busy *Anything Goes* by Kenley Holiday Workshop and the month ended with another regular, Top Banana.

The September harvest for us was Aquarian Opera's *La Boheme* followed by Phoenix Theatre's *Curtain Up*. Some FOBS members helped during Oxted Player's *Caught on the Hop* – we are very interchangeable you understand – then it was a return visit from the garrulous Gauntlett, who kindly wandered in from Wickham with his Old Tyme Stagers in aid of the Oxted Community Hall. The Barn Sinfonietta ended our October services with the first concert of their third season here, a balanced offering commencing with Rossini's *La Scala di Seta*.

We have only one FOBS function in November although no doubt some of us will be helping out during the Operatic's *Guys and Dolls*, but December, well it's an obligatory WOW as we shall be frantically fronting for several events advertised in this newsletter.

We are pleased to report an increase in membership to 239 but will welcome more members and more volunteers for duties. The larger bar and more space in the extension has led to increased consumption which requires more staff, so please, step forward: it is fun, honest!

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