

Oxted Operatic Society

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

18 - 22 November - 7.45pm

Oxted Operatic is transporting us to Ancient Rome for the farcical musical romp, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Originally released on Broadway in 1962, the show tells a bawdy story of the slave, Pseudolus, who attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master woo Philia, the lovely girl next door. Only, she lives in the house of Marcus Lycus, a buyer and seller of beautiful women, and has already been sold to a Captain in the Roman army who is on his way to claim her. Pseudolus, an accomplished liar, needs to use all his skills of subterfuge and cunning to bring about a happy ending for all.

The plot is essentially farce, with cases of mistaken identity (frequently involving characters disguised as each other), and a myriad of puns and hilarious one-liners.

With music by Stephen Sondheim, including the well-known opening number, Comedy Tonight, this light-hearted show has "something for everyone", and promises to give audiences a really good laugh.

Tickets are available from The Ticket Secretary on 01883 714103 until 27 October, and thereafter from Ibbett Mosely, Station Road East, Oxted on 01883 712241.

Barn Theatre Christmas Cracker

This year's Christmas Cracker is on Saturday 13th December and as always, we have been tasked with leading the traditional carol singing. It always proves to be a fun and light-hearted evening with everyone decked out in black tie and ball gowns.

We are looking to have a strong turn out this year. If you would like to take part then please make a note of the rehearsal evening which will be on Tuesday 9th December at the Barn.

The rehearsal is not compulsory so if you can't make the sing through but still want to come along on the Saturday to join us on stage to sing a few carols then please do feel free to do so.

David Clubb

David Clubb, past Chairman of Oxted Operatic Society, died in August after a courageous battle against ill health. David will be remembered as a gentleman, a strong supporter of the theatre and the society, a fun-lover often with a knowing look or a cheeky glint in his eye. If not in a show David would always be around to lend a hand front of house and in the audience to support his fellow members. If ever there was a tough character part to cast, David could be relied upon to step up and deliver as only he could. He also played a major role with helping to organise our Jubilee celebrations last year.

David was always at ease with whoever he was talking to and there were never any airs and graces. It is because of this he had so many friends at the theatre across all ages. He was well liked and well respected by both his peers and the younger members alike.

David joined the society in 1996 and took the role of Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. This was followed by a multitude of notable parts including the Major General in *Pirates*, Pellinor in *Camelot* (which was one of his favourite roles involving the suit of armour with the visor which kept falling down), the Governor of Texas in *Best Little Whorehouse* and most recently as Sam in *Copacabana* to name but a few.

David was an outstanding character actor and embraced any role he undertook to make it his own and on many an occasion did it to such great effect that he would often steal the scene if not the entire show. One performance that sticks in my mind as a scene stealer was as the Governor of Texas in *Best Little Whorehouse*. It was roles like this that David relished and excelled at.

David was always laid back and relaxed during rehearsals and never seemed to be affected by nerves during performance week, or if he was he never let it show. Having been on stage with him, he was always reliable and a joy to act with. His natural talent for putting people at ease often came to the fore whilst in the heat of the moment performing on stage.

Although having said that, as with all of us, David did have his share of blunders on stage. There have been occasions I remember when upon returning to the dressing room he has turned round to me with a grin and a chuckle and exclaimed "got away with that one!!". But that was part of David's charm and talent though. Despite any little mistakes an audience would never be able to tell. During *Mr Cinders* David was holding court in the dressing room over a coffee with Bob Wilson and Peter Thomas when they suddenly realised the scene on the screen looked familiar and their cue line had just been delivered. Bob and Peter raced on followed by David, who strolled on as though nothing had happened. More recently in *Copacabana*, David lost the thread of the words in a particularly tricky song, but instead of panicking, he continued the movements, the actions and moving his mouth to such great effect that even those of us on stage with him just thought his microphone had failed. A true master of selling a character to the audience and keeping a show going.

David will be hugely missed but remembered with very fond memories by all of us who knew him, none more so than in November when we will be dedicating our show to his memory.

Chris Bassett
Chairman OOS