

The Oxted Players

Unexpected Success



Cameron Arbuckle and Ghislaine Bowden

Our run of *The Unexpected Guest* proved to be a monumental success with the Friday and Saturday evening performances being sold out beforehand. Even the attendances for our mid-week performances well exceeded our expectations. The matinee also proved very popular and was a welcome addition to the usual four evening performances.

Following the loss of the leading man two weeks before rehearsals began, Steve Bedford stepped forward from a minor

role to become *Michael*

Starkwedder and very

soon proved himself ideal for the role. June Brown and her cast had

worked extremely hard in the two months before curtain up to

achieve a polished production and their efforts were enhanced by the

beautiful set provided by Bruce Reed and his team of builders, with

lighting by Carolyn Rowley, sound by John Chinnock, costumes by

Patti Thomas-Verweij, props by Ray and Angela Dunster and set

dressing by Muriel Lister. The reviews we have received have been

very complimentary and encouraging. Particular praise has been

given to Cameron Arbuckle whose performance as *Jan* was described

by Phillip Hall of NODA as "splendidly played showing the self-

assurance of youth and no little talent" and "a fine example of the

talent Oxted must have within their Junior Membership".

It's Panto Time - Oh yes it is!

As we proceed towards 2012 the Society moves into overdrive with Panto, Festival entries, Youth Play and Spring Production. Pantomime rehearsals are now well underway under the same very successful production team as for our 2011 panto, *Cinderella*. Chris Bassett directs with Jamie Cordell as Musical Director with Fran Newitt adding her lively choreography. *Jack and the Beanstalk* with a host of colourful characters including *Jack* (Sophie MacTavish), *Dottie the Dame* (Peter Calver), *Princess Anastasia* (Vicki Stanbury) and *Buttercup the Cow* (Debbie Brown). We also have a larger than life *Giant* played by Mark Mear. Panto runs from 13 to 21 January 2012 for ten performances and tickets are selling fast so please do not miss this opportunity to see this amazing show. Tickets are available at reasonable prices from our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 or go online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Southern Drama

Our Southern Counties Drama Festival entries have now been chosen. During the Festival week of 20 to 25 February 2012, Flo O'Mahony directs our Youth Entry, *DNA*. A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right? *DNA* is a poignant and, sometimes, hilarious tale with a very dark heart. This award winning play by Dennis Kelly is an exciting piece of theatre that explores a gang culture that has surfaced amongst young people in the 21st century and is therefore very

topical. Flo has her cast in place and we are looking forward to seeing the performance this powerful and gritty piece of theatre dealing with challenging present day issues.

Our adult entry is *Say Something Happened* by Alan Bennett. It is a three handed play based around an interview with a married couple of pensioners and a keen, but inexperienced trainee social worker. This is a comedy in Bennett's inimitable style with dry humour and well drawn characters. Tricia Whyte directs what promises to be an enjoyable opportunity for three motivated actors to develop their repertoire. *Mam* and *Dad* appear to be an insular and private couple, yet they are able to hold their own with the bureaucracy of the Council. *June*, the social worker, tries to conduct the interview by the book, which presents some interesting comedic exchanges. Tricia is holding a read through and auditions for members on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Little Barn behind the main Theatre. Anyone wanting to know more about the play or its characters can contact Tricia on 01883 370204 or e-mail her at: triciawhyte43@gmail.com.

Where will it all end?

Our biennial Youth Production is *Where the Rainbow Ends*, a play with music by Clifford Mills and John Ramsey, which will be performed on 16 and 17 March 2012. Two children whose parents have mysteriously disappeared find a book in their grandfather's home which tells them that they will find their loved ones 'where the rainbow ends'. They also find a magic carpet and, joined by two friends, they begin the search for their missing parents. They encounter many dangers on the way but they have protection from *St. George*. June Brown is directing this charming play with the assistance of Danniell Horton. With set design by Bruce Reed this promises to be another *magical* experience to equal if not surpass the sell-out success of our 2010 production of *The Adventures of the Faraway Tree*.

Midsummer in May

Although still some months away, we would also like to give advance information of our Spring production which is *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Martin Patrick (16 to 19 May 2012). No Shakespearean comedy offers such a feast of magic, humour, music and spectacle as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Four Athenian lovers find themselves entangled in a bewildering game of lust and longing deep in a magical forest where they are teased and tormented by the spell-binding mischievous magical spirits of the wood. The play will appeal to young and old alike. At the time of going to press we have just had the first round of auditions. However, as a large cast is required there may still be opportunities for actors to audition and therefore please register your interest with us at martindpatrick@btinternet.com or secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or phone 01342 893217 and we can let you know where we are with the casting.

E-Mail Communication

If there is anyone who does not receive occasional e-mail communications from the theatre and who would like to do so please e-mail publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk and your name will be added to the list. Recently, we have been reported for sending out spam e-mails or asked to remove a number of e-mails from the distribution list with the tone of the message being 'annoyance that they have received an e-mail'. Please remember that if you have given your e-mail to us, we assume that you are happy that we use it! If you don't wish to receive the occasional e-mail with news, reminders of shows etc. please send an e-mail to: publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk and we will take your name off the list.