

The Oxted Players

We launched our 2012/13 season of events with our Young Players' Workshop running during the school summer holidays when 27 of our youngsters attended a week-long theatre workshop overseen by David Rowan. As well as rehearsing David's own play specially written for them, *Dr. Frankenstein's House of Horrors*, they received coaching in theatre skills. The resulting performance on the Saturday evening was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of family and friends who marvelled at how much had been achieved in just five days.

Life Changing

It was then the turn of our adults with our autumn offering, *Life x 3*, a modern day play written by Yasmina Reza and directed by David Fanthorpe. Although this was a relatively unknown play with a cast of only four we were delighted by the turnout which greatly exceeded our expectations. With David taking over the role of *Henri* only three weeks before the run, our grateful thanks go to him, his fellow actors, Rhian Lally, Steve Bedford and Julie Parry, and all the production team for their hard work and commitment in making this a first class production.



David Fanthorpe & Julie Parry

In his review, Lance Milton from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association said: "All four actors performed superbly in presenting the piece truthfully but with equal tenacity in their contrasting characters, as each represented a diverse emotional approach in each of the three acts. I particularly liked the physical highlight of having a red, green and white theme for each act which simply accented a well constructed and delightfully realistic modern living space set. Richard Grogan lit it equally realistically while still maintaining the colour highlighted theme. It would be unfair in such a strong four-handed play to highlight any singular performance. However, knowing that the director stepped into the lead with only three weeks to go must not go unmentioned. Neither his performance nor the direction suffered as a result and a huge debt of gratitude must be owed to Assistant Directors Pippa Bridges and Peter Shore for their help in enabling David to cover the role so commendably."

Nothing Wishee Washee about Aladdin

Already well into rehearsals, our traditional family pantomime, *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* (11 to 19 January 2013), is shaping up to be another sell out success. Directed by Janette White our cast includes Laura Brand (*Aladdin*), Peter Calver (*Widow Twankey*), Sophie MacTavish (*Wishee-Washee*), Faith Anderson (*Princess Jasmine*), Chris Bassett (*Abanazer*), Sasha Kennedy (*Genie of the Ring*) and Mark Mear (*Genie of the Lamp*) supported by a strong chorus of adults and youngsters. There is also lively choreography from Aimee-Marie Bow, whom we welcome to the production team, and popular music provided by Jamie Cordell so we can promise you a very entertaining show. Tickets are on sale through our Ticket Secretary (01883 724852) or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

(with a booking fee) and you are strongly advised to book now as tickets are selling fast and some performances have already sold out.

Rowan Returns

David Rowan returns to The Barn in February half term week (18 to 23 February 2013) for another Young Players' Workshop when two age groups of children will have the opportunity to rehearse and perform two short plays – the older group will come on the Monday, Tuesday and Friday and will tackle an adaptation from Friedrich Durrenmatt story called *The Tunnel* about a train that goes into a tunnel and never comes out. This is comic, dramatic and physical and there are lots of characters. For the younger group, they will attend on Wednesday Thursday and Friday and will prepare for a performance of one of Roald Dahl's popular stories, *James and the Giant Peach*. Workshop entry is restricted to current members. If you would like more information please contact us at secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk. Should you wish to apply for membership please contact membership@oxtedplayers.co.uk

The Herd is Moving On

Our Southern Counties Drama Festival entries are *Moving On* by Richard James and directed by Chris Hephner for our adults and for our youth we have *The Herd* written and directed by Flo O'Mahony who also directed *DNA* for us in the 2012 Festival and won the Adjudicator's Award. Flo has now cast her play and is looking forward to working with the 10 successful auditionees.

Next Year's Calendar Dates

Excitement is building for our spring play (15 – 18 May 2012), *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth. This heart-warming comedy is based on an inspiring true story and the smash hit 2003 film of the same name starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters. Our Director, Catherine Webber, has been very encouraged by the interest shown at the read through on 30 October.

On 7 October Catherine met the original W.I. "Calendar Girls" at a special concert at the Royal Albert Hall called *Seasons of Love*. This was being held as a thank you to them for raising nearly £4,000,000 for the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research Charity since their first calendar was produced in 2000. The concert featured popular classics and songs from favourite shows such as *Rent* and *Carousel*, ending in true WI and *Calendar Girls* style, with a rousing chorus of Jerusalem. It was hosted by Alan Titchmarsh (who else with a name like that!).



Catherine with six of the best

Truly inspired by the concert, Catherine now cannot wait for the auditions on 6 and 7 November.

You can book your tickets for our production now by phoning our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 (£9.00 adults and £7.00 students) and from 1 December 2012 they will also be available on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.