

## **THE OXTED PLAYERS**

Following our very successful AGM social gathering, our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations continue with another social get together in the Green Room at the Theatre on Sunday 17 September 2006 at 12 noon when we very much hope that all our members and their families will come along. Our Young Players are also encouraged to bring their parents. For the younger children (and for the young at heart), special entertainment is being provided in the auditorium.

Our Spring production *Family Planning* directed by Mike Rourke entertained good audiences and attracted very positive reviews. Newcomer Wendy O'Mahoney received particular praise as the cantankerous Welsh grandmother who although bed bound was able to rule the roost. Wendy had to remain in bed at the front of the stage from before the audience were admitted to the auditorium until they left which called for additional skills! Our thanks also go to Frank Atterbury, Mandy Arbuckle, Alison Redford, Ben Atterbury, Justin Thomas-Verweij and another newcomer Jenna Beatty for their excellent highly entertaining performances and for mastering so well the Welsh accents.

On 26 August our Young Players will be presenting their Workshop Play written by David Rowan and based on the tales from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*. Judging by previous years, we expect to have an excellent production from which the children will gain valuable experience and great enjoyment. They will have spent the week hard at work at the Theatre rehearsing the play and receiving expert guidance from David. Most of the tickets are specifically allocated to those taking part but there may be some complimentary seats available. If you are interested in coming to see the show, please telephone 01342 893522 or 01883 714460 when advice on availability can be given.

Our Autumn Production will be *Party Piece*, a comedy by Richard Harris who also wrote *Stepping Out*. The play tells the story of two neighbouring families, the Hinsons and the Smethursts. The upwardly mobile couple Mike and Roma Smethurst plan to celebrate the completion of the renovations to their property with a barbecue and fancy dress party for their friends, but things do not go quite to plan. In fact disaster is on the horizon. This humorous look at human nature aptly mirrors daily life. Arguments about car parking, lumpy custard and neighbours spying through the hole in the fence are dangerously familiar. The production runs from 18 to 21 October 2006 at 7.45pm and tickets can be obtained from 01883 724852 until 30 September 2006 and after that from Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241.

Our Pantomime in January (12 to 20 January 2007) will be *Sleeping Beauty* directed by Martin Patrick, with Andrea Allen as choreographer. A read through/workshop and auditions will take place in September and anyone who is not already a member of the Society who wishes to take part should contact us on 01342 893522 to register their interest.

Finally we are very pleased to be able to congratulate some of our young members for particular achievements as follows: Jo Cox, who appeared as *Aunt Polly* in the Young Players production of *Huckleberry Finn*, successfully auditioned to achieve a much coveted place in the National Youth Theatre Summer Workshop and Jeremy Lloyd who at 14 has gained Grade 7 in Organ.

We would also send our best wishes to Reg Humby and his wife Jackie on their "retirement" to Kent. Reg has for many years been the NODA Area Representative and has reviewed numerous plays and shows presented by our Society and Oxted Operatic. He is replaced as Area Representative by Jo Silcox who is no stranger to the Barn Theatre. We wish Jo well in her new role and look forward to receiving constructive reviews of our future productions

## **SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL**

### **Kenley Holiday Workshop**

Now established as firm Summer favourites at the Barn, Kenley Holiday Workshop are back again this year from August 16 - 19. This year they are presenting something a little different. They will be staging a delightful musical fantasy based on the collected works of Dr Seuss. These classic, colourful tales are where Seuss deals with such serious life issues such as the meaning of friendship, loyalty, individuality, concern for the environment, discrimination, optimism, exploitation, and the importance of family. *Seussical the Musical* sees all these themes seamlessly brought together on stage by Jojo, a young boy and 'thinker of strange and wonderful things'! As each story unfolds you will marvel at how relevant and profound Seuss's subtle themes are, making this musical one that will appeal to all ages. Book your tickets now by ringing the Seussical Box Office on 020 8660 4400 now or from Monday 14 August Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241.

## **THIS SEASON'S MUST-SEE**

One will travel from Oxford, another will hop on the Eurostar from Paris, a third will fly in from Tokyo and the fourth will motor down from Durham: and the project that brings them together comes from the United States.

These four highly talented students: Sarah Gimblett, Alice Gimblett, Mark Stanford and Peter McCartney have regularly trodden the boards of the Barn Theatre stage in the past, but never in a production mounted completely by themselves. This is a new and exciting experience for them and Barn Theatre audiences alike.

All four of them will bring to their production not only a wealth of experience in musical theatre, of both amateur and professional standard, but also an infectious enthusiasm and captivating zeal for this project. The show, 'Closer Than Ever', has been hailed as "probably the best musical revue ever written", despite only having a few exclusive airings here in the UK. 'Closer Than Ever' combines wit, intelligence, humour and emotion in a steady stream of remarkable showstoppers, a perfect match for such a refreshingly talented cast. As Sarah commented, "Anyone who has ever seen this show has fallen in love with it. Every song leaves an impression on you in some way." The exceptional talent of this young cast will surely do justice to the songwriting genius of Maltby and Shire, particularly under the expert direction of Claire Gimblett and Stuart Thompson, Head of Music at Caterham School.

This promises to be a truly unmissable evening and is a must-see for anyone who loves musical theatre.

**Book your tickets now and be part of it! Tickets £9.00 from the Box Office on 01883 341948**

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## **THE BARNSTORMERS**

### **The Scarlet Pimpernel**

Plans are underway for this exciting production to be presented both at the Barn, and the Minack Theatre in Cornwall next year. If you are interested in auditioning for the cast, helping out backstage or front of house please contact Richard Allen on 01883 346093 or e-mail [richard@thebarnstormers.org](mailto:richard@thebarnstormers.org). It promises to be a rewarding experience! A Get-Together evening is planned for October when you will be able to find out more about the production and the tour to the Minack. More details are available on the Barnstormers website: [www.thebarnstormers.org](http://www.thebarnstormers.org)