

Oxted Players

Our Pantomime, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, written and directed by Janette White, was a great start to the New Year. We were also delighted to welcome new faces among the cast and the production team including Lawrie Houghton as Musical Director who, with his team of musicians, provided us with such lively music which pleased children and adults alike. We were also very pleased to welcome back to the Theatre Fran Reynolds, as choreographer. Fran spent much of her youth here and went on to make dancing her profession. This year we had a new Dame in the shape of Mike Rourke who coped admirably with the transition. Newcomer Jonathan Wilson was great fun as *Muddles* and Chrissy Webb as Queen Evilena ensured that the audiences booted incessantly. Cady Thompson and Vicki Stanbury were ideal partners as *Snow White* and *Prince Charming* was ably supported by Lucy Coward as *Sir Dashing*. More comedy came from Clive McTavish as the *Huntsman* and also doubling up as *The Mirror*. The dancers and chorus also helped keep the audiences' interest and we mustn't forget the dwarfs who provided more comedy routines. We must also congratulate Sandi Saville on her beautiful and colourful costumes and Malcolm Le Croisette on his set. Everyone pulled out the stops to present a very enjoyable and profitable show. The show also received a very favourable review from Peter Steptoe of the Caterham Advertiser achieving four stars!

The tragic events as a result of the devastating Asian Tsunami persuaded us to bring the red buckets at the Theatre out of retirement so that the audiences could, if they so wished, donate to an initiative by St. Nicholas Church in Godstone to raise sufficient funds to re-build and re-equip a school destroyed by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. The Church have a contact in Sri Lanka who will be able to ensure that the funds collected are used for this purpose. A staggering total of £965.80 was collected and profits from the sale of photo disks of the production will bring the final total to over £1,000. Our thanks for the generosity of all those who contributed. We have asked the Church to keep us advised of progress with the initiative and will keep you posted.

We are now in full rehearsal for our entry in the Southern Counties Drama Festival, *Four Play* by Colin Smith directed by Chris Hepher. The players are Alison Redford, Peter Damesick, Francis Atterbury and Chris Morgan. Due to a reduction in the number of entries this year, the Festival will only run over two evenings, on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th February, and our entry will be on the Friday. Please come and support us.

Licensed to serve

You will have read in the national press that as of February this year the licensing regulations relating to the sale of alcohol are changing. In future, in simplistic terms, licensed premises will only be able to sell alcohol if a licensee is on the premises. Previously the licensee could delegate responsibility and did not need to actually be present on the premises at all times.

After detailed and thorough investigation it was apparent that the effect on the bar at the theatre could be catastrophic in that we could not expect our present licensee, Chris Hepher, to be present each time the bar was open. We are all volunteers, giving our free time to the theatre and this requirement had ominous overtones. It soon became obvious that without radical



The directors have just been told the results

action there was a risk that at some shows there would be no bar available - it only needed Chris to become ill or be elsewhere and the bar could not open.

This conundrum was solved by your enthusiastic band of trustees

A workshop and auditions have been held for our Spring Production, *Twelfth Night*, directed by Martin Patrick. The play runs from 18 to 21 May 2006. The turnout for the auditions was very encouraging and we have been able to cast all but two of the principal roles, *Feste* and *Sebastian*. If anyone reading this is interested in either of these two parts and wants to know more, please give Martin Patrick a ring on 01883 626661. Rehearsals start on 28th February 2006 and are generally on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with some Sunday rehearsals nearer the run.

In the summer we will once again be holding our week long Youth Workshop for our Young Players with David Rowan at the helm. The subject for the play is still being decided upon but it is likely to be an adaptation by David with some music. David's previous productions have been innovative and have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children taking part.

Also look out for our Autumn Play to be directed by David Farnthorpe called *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitmore. This is a play based on the 1960's spy drama of Krugers. When it was in the West End in the 1960's, Dame Judi Dench and her late husband Michael Williams took the lead roles.



Snow White and Muddles presenting red buckets to John Chincock on behalf of St. Nicholas Church, Godstone.

who now number 8 fully certified licensees amongst them! One sunny day last November these wonderful people gathered in Westerham to undergo training and then take an exam. Even amongst these friends there were nerves and jitters, some had not sat an exam for 40 years and the air was taut with tension as the papers and pencils were handed out and the exam began. Fortunately the worries were unfounded and all passed with flying colours and have been awarded a National Certificate for Licensees BIIAB Level 2. The bar can continue!

RIP 'EM OFF

A New Theatrical Experience!
11 June 2005

What is it? "Rip'Em Off" is a parody and spoof of all aspects of the entertainment industry from the big West End musicals to television reality programmes, not forgetting the film industry or the world of pop.

The show is presented by Blag Theatre Company. This innovative company blends a mix of comedy, music, satire and good old-fashioned theatre to create its unique tongue-in-cheek parody style. The original show was a success at the Edinburgh Festival and has followed on through the many theatres in the Home Counties.

All profits will go to the East Surrey Scouting.
Tickets £10 from 01883 714611/01342 843489