

OXTED OPERATIC SOCIETY

Honk!

Oxted Operatic Society is staging the hilarious musical comedy, *Honk!*, at The Barn Theatre, Oxted at 7.45pm nightly from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 April 2007, plus Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

WINNER of the Lawrence Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 2000, beating both *Mama Mia* and *The Lion King!*

A classic family show for the young and the young at heart.

Honk! is a cracking farmyard yarn which adults and youngsters can enjoy in equal measure. It's a witty, chirpy take on the story of the ugly duckling, providing a fresh slant on Hans Christian Andersen's theory that it's what's on the inside that counts.

As 'Ugly' is hatched under the adoring gaze of his proud mum, his musical adventures begin. The show is full of charm, unexpected emotion, witty lyrics, catchy songs, *really* bad puns and a cast of ducks, geese, turkeys, bullfrogs and an indefatigable cat.

Here's a family with all the usual problems you would expect: kids growing up in an uncertain world, family relationships that cause tensions, and how being different is condemned rather than celebrated.

The production features a large cast of talented local performers, including Chris Bassett as Ugly, Christine White as his mother, Ida, and Bob Wilson as the devilish cat.

The production team includes Fiona Steel (Director), Sarah Gillender (Choreographer) and Musical Direction is given by Tony Castro, Head of Music at The Brit School, and a newcomer to the amateur scene.

You will be thoroughly entertained by the witty script, foot-tapping songs and lovely character parts. It's a heart-warming tale not just for children but for those of us who need an occasional reminder that there is more to life than just following the gaggle!

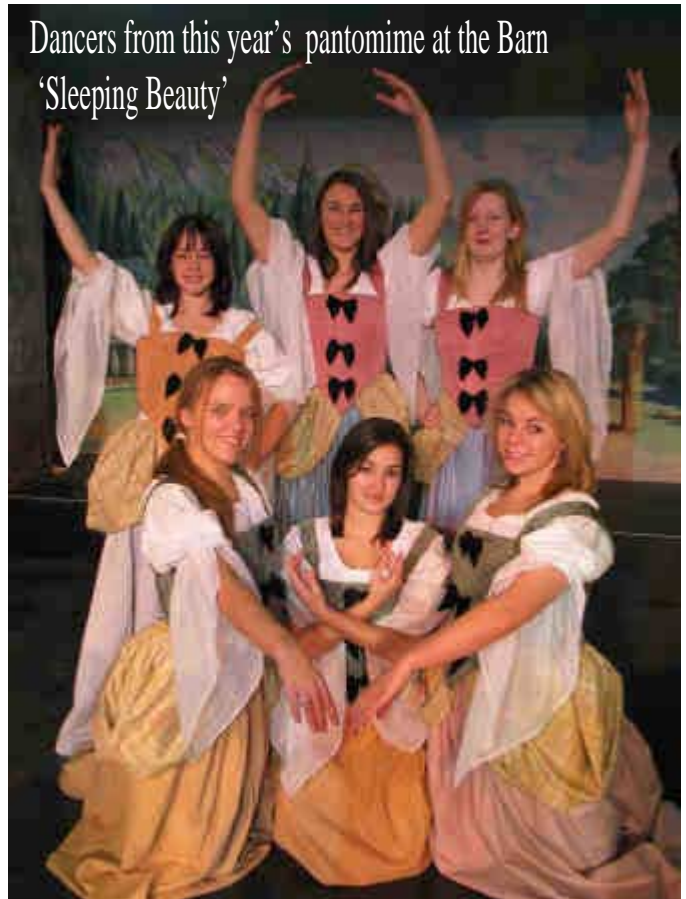
Make sure you get the dates in your diary and be sure to book your tickets early for this fabulous family show, as we're expecting tickets to go quickly.

Tickets, priced between £8 and £12, are available from The Ticket Secretary, Daffodil Cottage, Peter Avenue, Oxted RH8 9LG (by post only until 1st March). From 1st March until 31st March, Tel 01883 714103.

THE OXTED PLAYERS

What a brilliant start to 2007 we have had with *Sleeping Beauty* directed by Martin Patrick. The pantomime has received super reviews and has been said to be as good as if not better than some professional productions. Our thanks to Martin, Andrea Green as choreographer and Phil Cornwell, "the new boy on the block" who stepped in as Musical Director only a month or so before curtain up, for making this pantomime so memorable. Thanks also to Bruce Reed for designing such a beautiful set, and to the set builders, painters, technical crew, Sandi and Sally (costumes) and everyone else who helped make it happen – not forgetting of course the enthusiastic cast of adults and children who were all fantastic. An added bonus was having Martin as *Dame*. We played to full houses and the audiences, young and old, thoroughly enjoyed the show. The pantomime run was not without its problems. Very special thanks also go to young Jeremy Lloyd who held the fort for us on the Thursday evening performance when three of the four

Dancers from this year's pantomime at the Barn 'Sleeping Beauty'



piece band became stuck in a traffic jam trying to get to the M25 having had to go by road instead of rail as a result of the closure of London Bridge station caused by the storms the night before. It was every director's nightmare – an audience full of people and only one solitary band member. Jeremy, who had fortunately stood in as rehearsal pianist for some of the numbers, was called in with only fifteen minutes to curtain up and he bravely accompanied the cast along with the clarinettist, Michael Grant, for most of Act I until the rest of the band arrived. The audience were very sympathetic and very appreciative of the efforts made to get the show up and running and it truly was like the traditional saying "The show must go on!". Pantomime is always hard work at the best of times but a great source of fun and enjoyment to those involved and this show was no exception.

Our next venture is the Southern Counties Drama Festival at the Theatre where we have two teams entering, one an adult team performing *The Lesson* directed by Chris Hepher with Frank Atterbury, Catherine Osborne and Wendy O'Mahony on Tuesday 20 February, and the other a Young Players team with Ben Atterbury, Catherine Biles, Jo Cox, Richard Eves and Patrick Hayward performing *Flatmates* directed by June Brown on Friday, 23 February. Please come along and give support to our teams, as in doing so you will also be supporting the Management of the Barn Theatre itself which has bravely stepped in to help save the Festival with which it has been associated for so many years.

Following on from the Festival our Spring production runs from 16 – 19 May and is a Tom Stoppard play *The Real Thing*. Peter Reid who is no stranger to the Theatre is our director and he has assembled a strong cast. The play tells the story of Henry who is a successful playwright married to Charlotte who has the lead role in his latest play about adultery. Her co-star, Max, is married to another actress, Annie. Annie and Henry are madly in love - but is it any more real than the subjects in Henry's play? The play was a commercial and critical success in the London's West End with Roger Rees and Felicity Kendal in the lead roles and again on Broadway starring Glenn Close and Jeremy Irons. Tickets are £8.00 (£6.00 for students) obtainable from the Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 until 2 May and thereafter at Ibbetts on 01883 712241.