



The New Foxtrot Serenaders

The New Foxtrot Serenaders return to the Barn Theatre on Friday 13 March 2009 at 7.45pm with a celebration of the Roarin' Twenties from the Jazz Age, when dances such as the



The Bees Knees

Charleston and Lindy Hop came to the fore. Our special guests are the The Bees Knees, two young flappers, who recreate the dances of the 1920s with sequins a-glint and fringed hems vigorously swing-

ing. Their infectious Charleston steps will make every foot feel tip-tappetty-happy.

Tickets are £12.00 and are available now from 01959 561811 until 24 February 2009 and thereafter from Ibbett Mosely 01883 712241.

Southern Counties Drama Festival

We are very proud to announce that last year's winners of the Southern Counties Drama Festival, St Paul's Drama Group, went on to win the final of the All-England Theatre Festival of One-Act Plays. They will be back at the barn this year to defend their title but face stiff competition from The Oxted Players who won the Adjudicator's award in 2008 and from the Young Oxted Players who had a fantastic festival last year, picking up a number of awards. We also welcome Woldingham Players and Merstham Amateur Dramatic Society both past winners of the SCDF. Amongst the other groups taking part are Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club, Stag Theatre Company, and Lighted Fools, so the competition will be very strong this year. We are also delighted that a number of youth groups are also participating. The adjudicator this year is Jill O'Hare, member of GODA

We can promise you a full week of festive fun and drama. The Festival runs from 24 February to 28 February evenings at 7.30pm plus 2.00pm on the Saturday. Come early to support your local societies, and meet old and new friends in the bar while listening to a programme of pre-show foyer musical entertainment.

Minack Magic

We are thrilled to confirm that the Barn Theatre have been invited to return to the Minack with a show during the May bank holiday week, May 31 to June 4 2010. The trustees have asked Richard Allen if Barnstormers will again work in partnership with the theatre in producing another spectacular Minack Musical. We are delighted that Richard has accepted the invitation so watch this space.

By the way did you know that the UK, despite the climate, has a flourishing outdoor theatre season, with many National Trust Properties now staging Open Air theatre during the summer months. Arguably the two best known Open Air spaces are Regents Park Open Air Theatre in the heart of London, and the Minack Theatre, built on the cliff next to Porthcurno beach in Cornwall. Both have similar histories, both opened in 1932 and each have a 16 week season.

The Minack Theatre was the brainchild of the devoted and determined Rowena Cade; the theatre was planned, built and financed by her from 1931 until she died in 1983. The first production was *The Tempest* in 1932. Since then it has seen every genre of theatre, including comedy, tragedy, farce, opera, and musicals. There are devoted fans who come every week like an old-style repertory audience.

Today given the credit crunch fewer Britons will be travelling abroad and more Americans and other foreign tourists will be visiting the UK so the next couple of years should see even greater numbers braving the English climate and enjoying outdoor theatre.

Can You Hear Me at the Back Mother?

Some 15 years ago a hearing aid loop system for the hard of hearing was generously donated to the theatre by the Oxted Players. During recent times however, there have been problems with the equipment and recent improvements and renewals will, we hope, ensure that the system is now working properly. If you are a user of the system and do not find it is working satisfactorily please let us know as this is the only way we will be able to rectify any further problems.

The costs of the new equipment have been shared with the Oxted Players to whom we are extremely grateful.

Theatrical terms

Blocking Rehearsal - A rehearsal taking place early in the production schedule where actors frantically write down movements which will be nowhere in evidence by opening night