

The Oxted Players

We have just finished an exhausting run of *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* which played to full houses throughout its run of ten performances. Jane Maisey, reviewing for Godstone News, was full of praise



Competition winner Naomi Webb meets the Twankey Family

for the show, calling it "Another triumph for The Oxted Players". Jane particularly liked the performances of Peter Calver as *Widow Twankey* and Mark Mear as *Genie of the Ring* but her favourite character was the *Genie of the Ring* played by Sasha Kennedy who stole the show with her superb comic timing. Costumes, make-up, the production, backstage teams and crew were also praised.

Down Mexico Way

Moving from China to Mexico; we are holding a Mexican Evening on Saturday 9 February at the British Legion, Limsfield from 7.00 pm. For the very reasonable price of £14 per head (£10 for 16 to 18 year olds) enjoy Spanish chicken, Mexican chillies and fajitas while being serenaded by a professional Mariachi band. A fully licensed bar will be available and, to add to the fun, there will also be a Mexican Quiz and feel free to wear something Mexican. Tickets are selling fast so please contact Nigel Brown on nigel@nbtakenote.co.uk to book your tickets.

Moving on to the Southern Counties

We are now set to compete with other groups in the Southern Counties Drama Festival. Our adult entry is *Moving On* by Richard James, directed by Chris Hepher, being performed on Tuesday 26 February. Our Youth Entry is an original play written and directed by Florence O'Mahony entitled *The Herd* with a cast of ten being performed on Friday 1 March. We have won various awards over the years and we wish both our teams success in the competition this year and we encourage you to support them on the night..

Youth Workshop

Our ever popular February Half-Term Workshop with David Rowan for our young members is now over-subscribed. The younger group will be rehearsing and performing David's adaptation of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* and the older group will be tackling David's own comedy play *Futurama*. An enjoyable week is ahead of them all and both groups will be performing to an audience of family and friends on Friday 22 February.

Calendar Dates

Our Spring Production (15 to 18 May 2013 at 7.45 pm and also a matinee on the Saturday) is *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth, directed by Catherine Webber. With a lot of familiar Barn faces both in front of the tabs and behind, we can promise audiences a very entertaining evening (or afternoon). For those unfamiliar with the play, it is adapted from the film of the same name which starred Helen Mirren

and Julie Walters. When Annie's husband John dies of leukaemia, she and best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee for the local hospital's visitors' lounge. Chris's idea is to produce a calendar but rather than showing scenic views of the Yorkshire Dales, they manage to persuade some of their fellow Women's Institute members in the village of Knapely, West Yorkshire, to pose nude with them for an alternative calendar. Our six "Calendar Girls" are Sharron Cox (Chris), Chris White (Annie), Amanda Stronge (Ruth), Catherine Wyncoll (Celia), Fiona Steel (Cora), Deidre Walker (Jesse), supported by Tricia Whyte (Lady Cravenshire), Jackie Barrett (Brenda), Dena Watts (Marie), Faith Anderson (Elaine), Peter Hogg (Lawrence), Alan Webber (John), Tony Goddard (Rod) and Jonathan Tull (Liam). Please encourage your friends and social groups to come along to this very funny yet poignant play.

We are also producing our own 2014 calendar featuring the cast, production team and backstage team with all proceeds being donated to Lymphoma and Leukaemia Research. There will also be a retiring collection in aid of St. Catherine's Hospice. Tickets are selling really well and can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 (cheque payments only) or for credit card and on line bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk (*booking fee applies). Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Dreaming of going to Manderley?

We shall shortly be circulating to our membership audition details for our autumn production, *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier, to be directed by Peter Reed. *Rebecca* is a classic tale of love and hate set behind the gates of Manderley, a country home in the west country. A large cast is required and anyone who is not currently a member who would be interested in coming to the read-through should contact the Secretary at secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk. Please note you will have to be current member to audition.

Sad Goodbyes

Towards the end of last year we said sad farewells to Sandi Saville and Charles Kattau, both of whom contributed greatly to the work of our Society. Sandi's sewing skills had costumed our pantos and plays over quite a few years and many of her costumes are still used in our productions. Charles, husband to Sylvia Kattau, who was a long serving Chairman of The Oxted Players, had himself been an active set builder when the couple lived locally before their move to Scotland. Our thoughts go out to their families.

Pat Brown

An American in Oxted

Firm favourites of the Barn, The New Foxtrot Serenaders return to the theatre on Friday 8th March at 7.45 pm with *Strictly Gershwin*, an evening of the best loved songs from George and Ira Gershwin including "I've Got Rhythm", "They Can't Take That Away From Me", "A Foggy Day", "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and many more. With special guest presenter, award winning broadcaster and journalist, Sheila Tracy. Tickets £14 from 01959 561811 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Elvis is back in the Building...

...Well, Paul Weaver certainly is in the guise of the King rock-n-roll as well as the Welsh King of 60's, Tom Jones.

For one night only Paul will join forces with Starmakerz elite dance school to bring an evening of sheer 1950's and 60's nostalgia to the Barn on Saturday 8 June. So come in your Blue Suede Shoes and be prepared to be All Shook Up. Tickets £14 from 01959 561811 or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

All proceeds will go towards the Barn Theatre improvement project.