

OXTED OPERATIC

Crazy For You

OOS's latest offering was well received by good houses in the week after the Easter weekend. After an accident during the dress rehearsal when Claire Tibbalds broke her foot (we wish Claire a speedy recovery) the shows future hung in the balance. Luckily for us Cathy Longhurst agreed to take on the role of Polly and spent all day Monday and Tuesday learning the part in time for opening night. Fran Reynolds also agreed to leave the safety of her choreographer's chair to take the vacated part of Tess. Both Cathy and Fran did thoroughly superb jobs and several people commented that had it not been for the announcement regarding the change in the programme, they would not have known anything had gone wrong.

A fabulous set combined with excellent costumes, outstanding music, stunning choreography and a talented cast produced a musical which really raised the bar for the society's already strong standard of shows. Thanks must go to all involved and everyone can be proud to have been part of such a wonderful team and a fantastic show.

After a brief break, we are turning our attentions to our November offering which is *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*. There will be a read through/sing through for those wanting to audition at St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield from 7.45pm on 23rd & 25th May, followed by the auditions on 6th & 8th June. The 6th will be at the Barn Theatre using the Little Barn and the 8th will be back at St Peter's. Auditions are also from 7.45pm.

Socials

Following the success of our last Salsa evening, we are having another one at the Barn Theatre on 21st July. The format will be exactly the same. For £7.50 you will get a lesson for an hour, snack food and the chance to dance the night away. We will also have access to bar to quench your thirst. The evening will open at 7.30pm with the dance class beginning at 8.00pm. Tickets are available on the door but you can register your interest by emailing salsa@oxtedoperatic.co.uk or calling Sarah Gilder on 01732 870460.

Another date for your diary is 22nd June when we are holding a show forum. Any of you involved with Oxted Operatic and with an idea for future shows you would like to see done, then this is your chance to come down and sell your ideas to other people. You are encouraged to bring samples of your chosen musicals and provide a synopsis of the show and its characters. This evening will take place at St Peter's Hall from 8.00pm.

FOBS

Our AGM on 6th March was notable for the retirements of our Chair Heather Lloyd, Hon. Examiner, of Accounts Colin Thomas and Committee Member Stella White. Heather had served four years as Secretary before her six years as Chair and the latter had been very busy and onerous due to the Theatre extension resulting in an increased work load and changes to our working systems. She also had her personal problems in the ill health and eventual loss of her husband, Michael. The Friends of the Barn Society and the Theatre have cause to be grateful for her very hard work and spirited leadership. Our President warmly thanked her and presented her with a stone bird bath for her country residence. Colin Thomas retired after fifteen years of auditing our accounts with thoroughness but never a cross word. We also lost Stella White who has been a very regular Front of House worker during her time on Committee.

Our thanks to them all.

Of course they have had to be replaced. Since it was obvious that previous experience as Secretary had resulted in an excellent Chair it was natural that we would persuade Sheila Bennett, kicking and screaming, to take up the post and face the flak. Bridget Carey, often seen behind the bar, has stepped into Sheila's shoes as Secretary and we have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Anthony Goddard as Hon. Auditor.

Of course neither Heather nor Stella will have escaped entirely, the long arm of the Fobs will reach out for Front of House duties.

Speaking of which there has been a very welcome development and would you all please take note. Pippa Bridges, who as a consequence of an accident no longer feels able to be so physically involved, is very happy to co-ordinate the staffing of Front of House volunteers for Fobs

shows, a task which has been so time-consuming and expensive, particularly for Heather and Sheila. You do not have to be a Fobs member, kindly read the Newsletter and the leaflets and when you have decided which shows you can volunteer for contact Pippa on 01883 712459 or E-mail judith.bridges@btinternet.com. This also applies to those who have not been contacted for some time and would like to help again.

At the AGM Heather presented Bruce Reed with a cheque for £500 being the balance of £5000 which Fobs committed to pay for the CCTV system.

There are now only 2 seats available for sale in the Theatre.

Our Membership Secretary, Jean Groves reports that we now have 276 members, 31 joining in the past year, some attracted by our newly designed enrolment form. Keep them coming in, we have a lot of work ahead.

GOTTA DANCE GOTTA SING 2

Two years ago, together with the Barn Theatre, Melinda Cherrett launched Gotta Dance Gotta Sing which was a huge success. As before, the proceeds will be split between two chosen charities. This year Melinda has nominated her half of the funds raised to go towards InterAct – Stagecoach's very own charity for disadvantaged children, while the Barn's share will go to Marie Curie.

This year Gotta Dance Gotta Sing 2 promises to be just as good, if not better! It is a platform for local Stagecoach children from Oxted, Edenbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone to perform as well as children involved with Boomerang and April Rose School of Dance.

Melinda is pleased to be able to offer this great opportunity to all the children, together with all the technical help from the Barn Theatre as well as from her wonderful teaching staff who are so supportive.

Tickets for this exciting event will be available from our box office:

Tel: 01883 730336- Rachel Wilks Adults £12 and children £7

Oxted Stagecoach – 13th July

Maidstone Stagecoach – 14th July

Tunbridge Wells – 15th July

Edenbridge all three nights 13th,14th and 15th

Look forward to seeing you there!

A TRIBUTE TO SIR HARRY



We are pleased to be able to welcome Paul Kaye, Mike Jerome and The Songbirds in a wonderful night of variety. 'THIS IS MY SONG' is a celebration of the life, the laughter and the music of Sir Harry Secombe and is sure to be a sell out. Order your tickets now for **Saturday 30th September**, before the **SOLD OUT** notices appear. **Box Office: 01959 561811**

WHO'S WHO - THEATRE PEOPLE

Stage Manager - Individual responsible for overseeing the crew, supervising the set changes, baby-sitting the actors and putting the director in a hammerlock to keep him from killing the actor who just decided to turn his walk-on part into a major role by doing magic tricks while he serves the tea.

Lighting Director - Individual, who, from the only vantage point offering a full view of the stage, gives the stage manager a heart attack by announcing a play-by-play of everything that's going wrong