

Barn Theatre News



Winter Draws On

Volume 10 Issue 4 November 2006



'BARNCOOL'

Fund raising begins with Kenley Holiday Workshop

Such is the enthusiasm for our 'Barncool' project that no sooner had it been announced, Sally Dallosso from Kenley Holiday workshop was on the phone offering to hold a special raffle and to restart the infamous bucket collections that did so well for Barn 2000. As a result of Sally's enthusiasm over £518.20 was raised during KHW's production of *Seussical the Musical* which was a fantastic start to our fundraising programme.

Whilst the design and budget for the new installation is still being finalised, we are pleased to hear that the Oxted Players also dusted off the buckets for their production of *Party Piece* and hopefully the trend will continue with shows during the foreseeable future. We do hope you will feel able to support us again with contributions to the buckets which raised over £27,000 for Barn 2000.

SOLD OUT AND SOLD OUT AGAIN!

Our two Christmas shows, '*Abba UK*' and '*Christmas Cracker*' have already completely sold out with ticket demand for both shows being absolutely frantic. *Abba* sold out during the middle of October with a huge waiting list for returns and the *Christmas Cracker* handbills for members and public never had chance to be distributed and we have just thrown away the 2000 waiting to go out with this Barn Theatre News. Even more ironic is the fact that these handbills had to be reprinted twice due to a typesetting error so all in all 4000 have gone to the recycling bin.

Sir Harry Would Have Cried

Our September concert '*This is my Song*', a tribute to the life of Sir Harry Secombe had all the makings of a great evening - or so we thought!

However all was not to be and the old adage of professionals versus amateurs soon came to light - even before the curtain went up.

Any show by the amateur groups at the Barn brings accolades of excellence and slickness, with production teams taking great care to ensure that all goes well on the night for our loyal audiences. We are always proud of our achievements and the attention to detail and hence when a visiting company comes in

we expect the same if not higher standards of technical and artistic perfection.

Sadly I have learnt the hard way that this is not always the case and if they are 'professional', (this simply means they expect payment for what they do), then sometimes we may be disappointed. Often they do not come up to our own high standards and this was certainly the case with this company.

Contracted to provide their own sound technician and to give us prior notice of their lighting requirements they arrived in the afternoon without the sound technician and with no pre information as to what lighting they wanted. The excuse was the sound man had not turned up and that we should not worry as they could operate everything from their equipment in the wings. Mike Sutton our resident sound man offered his assistance which was firmly refused and the show went downhill from here! No sound checks to speak of and scant rehearsal had us quite worried as apart from the sound issue Carolyn Rowley operating lights was finally given a script from another theatre which stopped giving cues half way through and which the cast didn't follow anyway.

An uncomfortable first half ensued with unbalanced and very loud music, frequent feedback and a projector which was supposed to be synchronised with the music not working properly. The second half was a little better but the damage had been done and sadly many of the audience were just not happy.

All in all, an evening like this makes you realise how lucky we are at the Barn with the dedicated and reliable production team(s) who would just not allow a performance such as this to be considered good enough for our patrons. Thank goodness for amateurs!