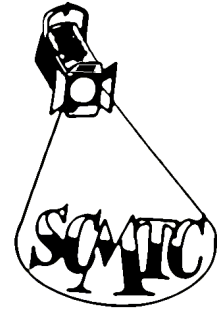


# NOTES



Sutton Coldfield  
Musical Theatre  
Company  
Limited

## Chairman's Notes...

HAPPY NEW M—————

Sorry, I'm not going to use the M word in this edition. I'm sure everyone must be sick of the sound of it by now.

Well given that we're in a new Mi., oops, (you know what I'm trying to say), then I thought I'd re-design NOTES too. Nothing major, and I'm sure it won't make a jot of difference to you, but it makes me feel fresher and ready to march into the new Mi.. (you try going a whole day without using the word then).

On a serious note, I'm sad to report the loss of two people in December who will be deeply missed by everyone who knew them. I've attempted a tribute to both inside.

Having managed to make my way to the New Member's evening on Friday, 14th January, I was thrilled to see such a turnout of both new faces and old faces. Thanks to everyone for your support, and in particular to Maggie, Paul, Julie and Deb for the organisation of the event. May I wish all our new members a very warm welcome to our Company, and I do hope that you will stay with us for a very long time. I'm entering my 20th year with the Company this year, and I can assure you that I have many happy memories to look back on and a lot of friendships with past and mostly current members. What I don't understand is why I

seem to be the only one with grey hair??? Well, at least I still have some hair!!

The programme for 2000 kicks off with our May production of *Barnum*. This should be a spectacular event, unlike anything else we've produced. Given the reaction to *Over My Shoulder* (our last production), we have established a regular audience who appreciate the depth of talent in the Company. Please make sure that everyone who bought a ticket to OMS comes back in May and we achieve the same 90%+ capacity milestone, whether you're in the show, or not.

We do not have confirmation yet, but it seems likely that the Lichfield Civic will be closing in the summer for 18 months of major re-building. If so, we will have to postpone the planned production of *Mack & Mabel* as we are unlikely to find a suitable alternative venue to do it justice. We are still discussing contingency plans, but given the success of *OMS* then we are considering a similar recipe. More details next issue when we hope to have made some firm decisions.

We'll have some Red Robin Awards to announce following the Millennium Ball (damn!), and expect to read about it next issue.

Dave Bardell, Chairman

Volume 4, Issue 1  
January 2000

### Inside this issue:

<i>Chairman's Notes</i>	1
<i>John Daniels</i>	2
<i>Nick Barnes</i>	2
<i>Dinnerladies</i>	3
<i>Parents to be</i>	3
<i>Barnum Gala Nights</i>	3
<i>Commander Richard</i>	4
<i>The New York story</i>	4
<i>Stop Press</i>	5
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	5

## John Daniels...



On the day we performed our annual Christmas cabaret at Whittington Golf Club, we discovered that our President, John Daniels, had passed away in the morning. John had been suffering from cancer.

I last spoke to John following *Over My Shoulder* as it was disappointing that he had not been able to make it to the show. He told me then how he had good weeks

and bad weeks, and that he'd had a bad week during *OMS*. But even then, talking to him made me feel how positive he remained about the future, despite what he was going through.

John succeeded Derek Salberg as President in 198x. During his working life, he was an influential figure in Midlands theatre using his position at the Birmingham Post & Mail.

Our thoughts are with Mary, his wife, & family.

## Nicholas Barnes...



Earlier in December, we received the sad news that Nicholas Barnes had passed away, also suffering from cancer.

Nick was approaching his 40th birthday, and his talent will be sorely missed throughout the Midlands area.

Nick played the lead in our production of *Crazy For You* in 1998 (see photo). As a member of the audience for that show, I found his performance stunning and I do not believe a professional could have surpassed it.

As well as his performing abilities, those of us who were able to attend Sarah & Richard Clarke's wedding will always remember the dresses which he designed and made for Sarah and her bridesmaids.

Our thoughts are with his parents, Davina, Chris, & family.

## Memorial Concert...

We shall be performing a couple of numbers from *Crazy For You* at a Memorial Concert for Nick at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on 2nd April 2000. The concert is being organised by Sutton Arts Theatre for whom Nick was Chairman.

Details are not yet available, and we will let everyone know when they are.

## Condolences...

Finally, on what has been the saddest NOTES page I've ever had to produce, I'd like to pass on our condolences to Lynne Hill and Wendy Hawkins. Lynne lost her mother and aunt within weeks of each other over the holiday. Wendy also lost her mother this month.

Our thoughts are with them both at this difficult time.

## Thanks to the Dinnerladies...



Someone suggested that we pay a Tribute to the Terrible Twosome who provide the Teabags on a Friday!!

So here goes:

To Ray & Roy

Thanks for each cup of tea you provide on a Friday.

It must be good to know you're giving pyramids of pleasure to everyone.

Please keep up the hot work.

Best Wishes

THE SOCIETY

## Parents to be...

Congratulations to the Symonds' and Dovey's who have simultaneously announced the expected pater of tiny feet in July this year.

Both fathers claim they had something to do with it. The November Board Meeting was quite stimulating as I remember...

## Lost coat...

In October, a coat in a black binbag was returned to Britwell Hall following *OMS* which nobody claimed on the night. It turns out to belong to Mark Tuckwell's grandfather, and is of sentimental value. Did anyone pick it up? Please contact Mark if you know what happened to it.

## Barnum Gala Nights...

I am pleased to announce that there will be two special performances during our run of *Barnum* in May.

On Monday, 22nd May, the opening performance will be dedicated to the memory of Nicholas Barnes. Davina & Chris, his parents, will be our guests of honour for the evening.

On Saturday, 27th May, the performance will be

dedicated to the memory of our late President, John Daniels. His wife, Mary, will be our guest of honour for the evening.

I would like to pass on my thanks to both families for their support and agreement to these special performances. I'm sure they will be memorable events for us all, and I look forward to them very much.

# Stick to your day job, Richard...

Sutton News, 14 January 2000

**Family GP outwits deadly bug**

A FAMILY doctor has been praised for saving the life of a ten-year-old Kingstanding girl who was struck down with the most deadly strain of meningitis.

GP Dr Richard Commander gave Amy Kerr an injection of antibiotics before she was taken to Good Hope Hospital. The Warren Farm School pupil, who came close to death, was recovering there this week.

Her relieved mother Mrs Marie Kerr, aged 38, of Dulwich Road, realised Amy had meningitis when she developed a rash which did not fade after she did the simple test of pressing a glass against it.

Mrs Kerr said she could not thank her GP enough. "The doctors at the hospital told us that if it hadn't been for that first injection she wouldn't have been with us and they praised us for the quick reaction which saved her life."

# Did you hear the Chairman's New York story?...

**Celebrities in major clash on film set**

**M**OVIE stars Richard Gere and Winona Ryder clashed so badly on the set of their latest movie that they resorted to name calling, say sources.

Winona called him King Richard and he called her Nervous Nellie. When the couple were making the movie, Autumn in New York, they came into conflict once after time.

An insider said: "Richard and Winona's personalities grated from the start. Richard may be the sexiest man alive but Winona would rather kiss a frog."

Another explained: "When Richard got on his high horse Winona retorted to her brother. She told her assistant to let her know when King Richard got off his throne. That infuriated Richard. He gave her the cold shoulder and they barely spoke."

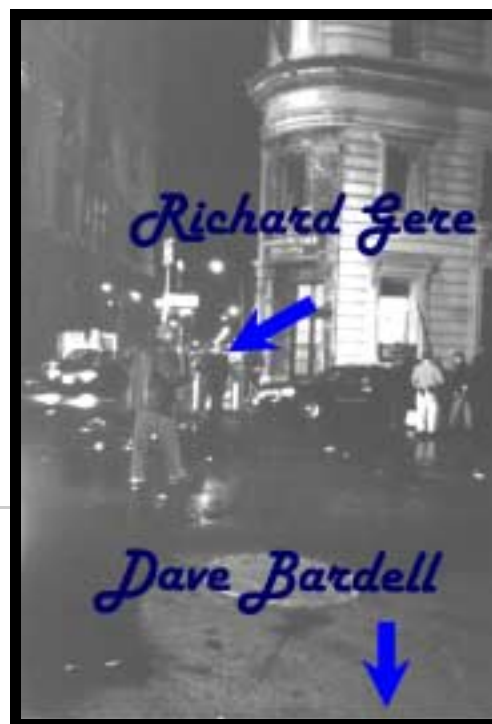
Winona hated the way she believed Richard held up shooting until he was provided with special needs, held Buddhist prayers, massages or demanded script changes.

The insider explained: "He refused to say lines because he thought they were cutesy or downright stupid."

**HEAVENLY**, Richard Gere

But what Winona hated most was Richard's attitude and the way he talked about her behind her back. The source said: "Richard felt Winona was incredibly neurotic and called her Nervous Nellie when she wasn't around."

"To be truthful, Winona is the kind of ultra-sensitive actress who gets flustered if someone looks at her the wrong way. She was visibly unbalanced throughout."



In November, I went to New York to visit my company's new offices. We took our new staff to a restaurant called Dolmenico's, the oldest restaurant in Manhattan which has recently re-opened. We ate our meal, while outside there were lights going on and off. We finished and walked outside to find ourselves in the middle of

a set for a new film, 'Autumn in New York'. Across the street were Richard Gere and Winona Ryder rehearsing the scene. I did offer to be a double, given the grey hair, but Richard said I was too tall (the last bit's all in my imagination).

## Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company Limited

Dave Bardell, Chairman  
4, Herringshaw Croft  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands  
B76 1HT

Phone: 0121 378 5744  
Fax: 0121 378 5745 (Call first)  
Email: dbardell@severngroup.com



### The Board of Directors

Chairman:	Dave Bardell
Vice-Chairman:	Mark Symonds
Treasurer:	Keith Dovey
Secretary:	Ray Harrison
Member:	Meg Griffin
Member:	Diane Worland
Member:	Maggie Jackson
Member:	Paul Lumsden
Minutes Secretary:	Julie Callaghan
Business Manager:	Roger Dykes



### STOP PRESS

Many thanks to Heather's boss who has donated a photocopier to Heather for our use. A pair of tickets for *Barnum* are being photocopied for his enjoyment at this very moment...

### Calendar of Events

**MILLENNIUM PARTY (members)**  
*Little Barrow Hotel*  
*Sat, 22nd January 2000*

**MEMORIAL CONCERT (public)**  
*Sutton Coldfield Town Hall*  
*Sun, 2nd April 2000*

**BARNUM (public)**  
*Lichfield Civic*  
*22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000*

**SPONSORED SING (public)**  
*Gracechurch Centre*  
*?? August 2000*  
*(To be confirmed)*

**MACK AND MABEL (public)**  
*Lichfield Civic*  
*17th to 21st October 2000*  
*(Subject to change)*

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT (public)**  
*Sutton Coldfield Town Hall*  
*Tba*

**CHRISTMAS CABARET (private)**  
*Whittington Golf Club*  
*Tba*

### STOP PRESS

Red Robin's were awarded to:

Mighty Erection—Richard Commander  
Services To Bondage—Helen Gilfoyle  
Silly Baskets—Marion Whitbread, Jean Taylor, Iris  
Cooksey  
What's My Line— Steve Davis  
Rear of the Year— Simon Turner

Congratulations to them all, more in next issue.