

Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company NOTES November 2006

We're off to see the Wizard.....

This edition of NOTES arrives on the eve of our 107th production, The Wizard of Oz, at the Crescent Theatre. Seven months of hard work from the Production team, cast and chorus is about to come to fruition with what has a the makings of another very special show.

In September we had a unique opportunity to preview the show to an appreciative audience at the Centenary Celebration Concert for Sutton Coldfield Town Hall. The Wiz marks Sally Baxters's production debut and over the last few months she has very much enjoyed working with a talented and enthusiastic team of performers including of course...Buster the dog! One and all have once again been stretched by Jenny's energetic choreography that promises to produce an exciting spectacle and this production will also benefit from the skilled services of a make up lady, Faye Humphries. Now of course all we need is an audience and in the last few weeks our committed promotions team have done their very best to ensure that the show has the support it so richly deserves.

RTTFP.....

In April our cast and crew quite literally rocked the Garrick aboard the Intergalactic Starship Albatross with a sparkling production of the cult show Return to the Forbidden Planet. Packed full of rock and roll classics and energetic dance routines our audiences were treated to an out of this galaxy delight.

And heres cast member Meg Griffin's (Navigation Officer), special memories of the week.....

'Please pass on my thanks to everyone involved in the show in whatever capacity. I had a wonderful time and it was so great to be a member of such a fun show with a happy cast. It is probably one of the hardest things I have ever done, difficult lines to learn and remember, strong harmonies to learn and stick to rather than singing the same as the person next to me!!!!!! Sheila was always so re-assuring and nodding to bring me in at the right time even with the

blxxxx klystron generator and the dancing well I have never been pushed so far and I do thank Maggie for giving me so much confidence. My family were proud of me so I am happy. Once again many thanks to everyone, a great week and lots of memories to keep.'

Ray Harrison

It's with great sadness to report the recent passing of Ray Harrison, a former Chairman, life member and a founder member of what was then Sutton Coldfield Operatic Society. Ray who had been ill for some time served as Chair from the mid 70's to the mid 80's and was instrumental in the enterprising negotiations that took our shows to the Alex Theatre in 1976. He performed as Officer Krupke in 'West Side Story' the first of a run of ten shows we went on to perform at the theatre. Ray's late wife Anne also performed with the company in the 50's and 60's. His last show for us was as Doolittle in the My Fair Lady medley in 'Over My Shoulder' in 1999. Please forward any memories of Ray or notable stories that you have and they will be included in the next edition of NOTES.

Forthcoming Productions

2006 Christmas Concert Sunday 10th December 2006, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall.

Rehearsals will start on the Tuesday immediately after the Wizard of Oz at Four Oaks School and will continue on Tuesdays and Friday's leading up to the concert. Sheila is keen that everyone who commits to the concert attends every rehearsal as there is such a short timescale to prepare.

Kiss me Kate, 15-19 May 2007, Lichfield Garrick Theatre

Less than a year after enacting The Tempest through RTTFP we're about to 'brush up on our Shakespeare' once again for our May 2007 production, 'Kiss Me Kate'. Set in Baltimore, USA the characters are set around a musical version of "The Taming of the Shrew" According to NODA NW the show has 11 male parts and 4 female with speciality dancers and a singing and dancing ensemble.

With music and lyrics by the great Cole Porter the score scintillates with numbers like "Wunderbar", "Always True To

You In My Fashion", "Why Can't You Behave" and "Too Darned Hot"

Producer:Lynne Hill

Musical Director:Sheila Pearson

Choreographer: Maggie Jackson

Compilation Show 9-13 October 2007

In October 2007 we will stage a compilation show that will once again draw on the creative talents of Helen and Sheila. The show will be similar to our 2004 production, the critically acclaimed 'Thats Life!', so we can once again look forward to an unforgettable mix of musical theatre, rock, pop and comedy sketches.

Promises Promises.....!

The Auction of Promises took place in October and raised over £900 which provided a much needed boost to the society's funds. Over thirty people promised a skill or service ranging from French or German tuition, to dog walking, to home cooking of various types!

On the night just over thirty people supported the event and enjoyed wine and nibbles as they decided which promise they would bid for. As the auction got underway, ably led by Barry Small, bidders gradually gained confidence and dug deeper and deeper into their pockets. By the end of the first half, over £300 had already been raised, but it didn't stop there! Norm Waldron was so excited that he was bidding against himself at one point, and Dan Bardell (at his mother's disgust) won Deb and Paul's red van for £1! Sheila Pearson's promise of a singing lesson raised a grand total of £51.50, while Mike and Marilyn Castree's green-fingered talent raised £42, and the three babysitting promises raised a total of £78 (to mention just a few).

If you were involved in any way - thank you. If you weren't, don't miss out next time! It proved to be a great event for both members and their families and friends.

Congratulations!

Since the last edition of NOTES we've had some joyous baby news. Sarah and Richard became the proud parents of Ella and there was celebrations in the Cresswell family when Heidi and Andrew became first time parents to twin boys, Ben and Thomas. Very best wishes to you all!

Welcolme to new members

Since the last NOTES we have been joined by, Jane Millington, Julie Oldbury, James Gaukroger, Damien Phillips and Richard Ham.

All have been made to feel very welcome by the happy cast of the Wizard of Oz.

Patrons.....

Our patrons are the foundation of the Company helping to spread the reputation of our work across the region. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in becoming a patron please contact Margaret Mallett, 0121 357 6053

Bookings being taken for the Dinner Dance

Celeste is still taking bookings for the Annual Dinner Dance held this year at Marston Farm Hotel, Saturday 13th January 2007. The music will be provided by Richard Clarke and the evening will feature a 'new look' Red Robin awards ceremony - all nominations please to S_Baxter@tiscali.co.uk

Exploits of our Members....

Robbie Rainer at Fantasy Island...

Rob Thomas (Professional stage name Robbie Rainer) has spent this Summer at Fantasy Island employed as Entertainments Manager. Fantasy Island located in Ingoldmells near Skegness on the East Coast and is Britain's first themed indoor family resort and amusement park. Robs role has included booking all of the acts appearing at the venue as well as performing twice daily in their themed bar and theatre.

Blogger Dan.....

In October aspiring journalist Dan Bardell was given air space for one week by Aston Villa to write a weblog (or blog) to a world-wide audience via their official website. Dans blogs included his personal views and reflections on what its like to be a follower of the claret and blue.

All for charity.....

Saturday 16th December at 7.30, get it in your diary now! Annual Christmas Extravaganza, The Abbey Hall, Erdington.

This is a night to raise funds for BYV Adventure Camps. Steve Davis is organising and performing. Also appearing is 'Jack the Knife' (Paul Lumsden) and it should be great!

About NOTES

This has been very much a catch - up edition to bring everyone up to speed with the latest news from the company. It's intended that future editions will be produced more regularly and include more 'new' news. If you've got anything you'd like included please forward to **mg@scmtc.co.uk**