

# Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company NOTES June 2007

## **Kiss Me Kate - 'Porter Classic was Simply Wunderbar'..... (Sutton Coldfield Observer)**

Hearty congratulations to everyone involved in 'Kiss Me Kate', another SCMTC production of the highest quality. Producer Lynne Hill in her post show notes was quick to praise her production team colleagues and the cast and company on their excellent delivery of a difficult to stage show.

In particular Lynne thanked the people behind the scenes, Rachel Gibbon for costumes, Ray and Iris Cooksey for Props and Heather Adams for prompting. Lynne was also highly appreciative of the crew and the orchestra declaring them the best we have ever had. John Richards, of NODA who presented long service awards to members of the company on the evening of the Thursday performance warmly praised the show commenting on the impressive pace of the performance that had been achieved.

The relatively low audience turn out was a disappointment and the loss of revenue emphasises the importance other means of fund-raising as we endeavour to stage two shows at large venues each year. However this did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm or enjoyment of the small cast and those members of the paying public that did come along were thoroughly entertained.

## **NODA Review, Report by Margary Carmichael on behalf of Pat Hyams**

The usual fast moving sparkling show from this company. Plenty of talent on display especially the dancers. Paul Lumsden (Fred) and Sally Baxter (Lilli) were exceptionally strong and vibrant characters; Claire Stephens played a very appealing Lois. In fact there were lots of well played parts but the ones that stole the show were undoubtedly were the gangsters, Dave Hill and John Johnson. With minimal concerted moves they had the audience in the palms of their hands. Excellent choreography, superb MD, and first class production.

## **Thank you Marjary...**

The Board on behalf of the company were delighted to present Marjary Kramer with a gift of thanks for her diligent and cheerful presence on the stage door during the 'Kiss Me Kate' week. It was one of the requirements of the Garrick that we had someone on the door to monitor the ins and outs of the company and without her invaluable contribution we could not

have put on the show.

### **The Things we do for Love (TTWDFL)- Casting.....**

We now look forward with eager anticipation to another of our very special home grown shows - and all the indications are that the bitter-sweet TTWDFL will follow in the foot steps of the wonderful hit show 'That's Life'. Early auditions have installed the following Principals in place, PAUL LUMSDEN, MARK SKETT, SALLY BAXTER, ED HILL, SUSAN DONNELLY, SARAH CLARKE, PAULA WALDRON, JOHN JOHNSON, KEITH DOVEY and DEB MIDDLETON. Congratulations to everyone who auditioned for presenting innovative, well-rehearsed and, for the panel, very entertaining auditions.

Some minor roles have also been given to auditionees with more to be allocated during rehearsals.

### **Focus on our NODA award recipients...**

One of the highlights for the company during 'Kiss Me Kate' show week was the NODA recognition given to our long serving members. At the head of proceedings was Roger Dykes for his remarkable 50 year contribution to amateur theatre. Former SCMTC Chairman Dave Bardell pays tribute to Roger's fine accomplishment:

'Roger Dykes joined SCMTC in 1977, and became a Board Member in 1979 and has continued to serve the Company for the past 30 years. He was Chairman of the Company for six years during the 1980's, and has supported each subsequent Chairman and Production Team as Production and Business Manager with his immense knowledge and experience of theatre in general, and SCMTC in particular.

As a non-performing member of the Company, few members realise just how major Roger's contribution has been over the years in leading and maintaining the highest standards that the Company has a reputation for.

Achieving a 50-year NODA Award is a goal that few of us can and will achieve. There is no greater accolade that a Company member will be rewarded with for such devotion and dedication to their role'.

### **Life Membership for Mike.....**

On the evening that his 20 years of NODA service was recognised Mike Castree was honoured with a life membership of the Company. A former Chairman of the Society, Mike started out as a chorus member however over the last ten years he has played principal roles in such shows as Chess, Little Shop of Horrors, Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver and Me and My Girl. His last role was as

Captain Brackett in South Pacific.  
Mike is currently Chairman of our excellent Promotions Team where his energy and commitment is unsurpassed.

### **Our other Distinguished Award Recipients.....**

30 years service, JULIE CALLAGHAN, 25 Years service, SHEILA PEARSON and IRIS & RAY COOKSEY and 10 Years service, PAUL LUMSDEN.  
Congratulations to you all and long may your fun continue!

### **Are you eligible for a NODA award?.....**

If you think that your involvement with amateur theatre is of ten years or more contact Roger Dykes who holds the records on behalf of the company. Roger can be contacted on 01543490663 or by email at rd@scmtc.co.uk

### **Costume Sale, the look of love.....**

Clothes from the 1980's were all the rage at the recent costume - clear out event held during rehearsal for TTWDFL. Those ladies and gentlemen looking to achieve the 'new romantic' look for the show would have been delighted with the array of silk scarves, navel blazers and pixie boots on offer. Meg Griffin, Sam Green and Jenny Wadsworth gave generously of their time to organise and run the sale. This put around £100 into the coffers of the company with more sales of speciality clothes and fancy dress items being organised by Paula Waldron to go under the ebay hammer. Local Sutton charity shops benefited from the clothing that was not saleable on the evening.

### **Exploits of our members.....**

Plucky Louise Eatherington recently scaled the dizzy heights when she abseiled for charity at Good Hope Hospital. Louise raised £200 for a very good cause, the care of Stroke sufferers.

### **Welcome to a New Member....**

Aimee Whatson joined us on stage for five of our Kiss Me Kate performances and prepared for a GCSE exam on her evening off! Very best wishes for your future on stage Aimee and also with your studies!

### **SCMTC Board....**

Roger Dykes (Acting Chair and Secretary), Malcolm Harris (Treasurer), Jane Pryer - Smith (Production Manager), Margaret Mallett (Patrons), Mark Skett Member), Celeste Clark (Promotions)

Helen King (Membership and tickets) Matt Greenhill (Invited member until July 2007, Editor NOTES )

Minute Secretary, Julie Callaghan

### **Proud history, bright future.....**

The Company AGM will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00 at Four Oaks School. The Meeting provides a vital not to be missed opportunity to make a contribution to the business side of our society, have your say on the running of SCMTC and of its future development.

### **Forthcoming Productions....**

**The Things we do for Love (Compilation Show) 9-13 October 2007, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall**

Producer:Helen Gilfoyle  
Musical Director:Sheila Pearson  
Choreographer: Jenny Jesson

**Family Christmas Concert 16 December 2007, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall**

**Buddy - the Buddy Holly Story, May 2008, Lichfield Garrick Theatre**

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