

## OXTED PLAYERS

The Southern Counties Drama Festival held at the Theatre in February produced mixed fortunes for our two teams. Our Young Players were one of six Youth Teams performing in the Festival. Ben Atterbury, Catherine Biles, Jo Cox, Richard Eves and Patrick Haywood performed *Flatmates* directed by our Chairman, June Brown, and were awarded Best Youth Play. In addition, Jo won Best Youth Actress and Ben was one of three mentioned in the Best Young Actor category by Adjudicator, Mike Tilbury. Furthermore, out of the fourteen adult and youth teams combined taking part, our Young Players achieved a very creditable fifth place overall.

Unfortunately due to casting problems, *The Lesson*, which was to have been our adult entry had to be withdrawn just over a week before the Festival, but the director, Chris Hepher, with the help and encouragement of his remaining cast of Frank Atterbury and Wendy O'Mahoney, found a replacement play called *Out of Tune* in which the comedy skills of Frank and Wendy were ideally suited and Chris and Julie Madigan completed the four-hander. All credit to them and the production team for the resulting production which was rehearsed and prepared to Festival standard within a week. Congratulations also go to Frank and Wendy for the special mentions received from the Adjudicator for their comedy performances in the Festival's Best Actor and Actress categories. The team have been given the opportunity to perform the production again at the forthcoming Leatherhead Festival on Monday 14 May 2007 at the Leatherhead Theatre and we wish them every success.



**JOCELYN MOTTEY, STEVE PALMER, NICKY GILL**

We are now finalising the preparations for our Spring production, Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* which runs from 16 - 19 May 2007 at 7.45 pm. Headlined as "*a slick sharp look at love marriage and infidelity*", the play looks into the lives of playwright Henry, his wife Charlotte, and actors Max and Annie whose lives become interwoven with the characters in Henry's latest play about adultery. Directed by Peter Reed, the main characters are played by Steve Palmer (*Henry*) last seen in the Barnstomers' powerful production *The Crucible*, Jocelyn Mottley (*Charlotte*), Peter Hogg (*Max*) and Nicky Gill (*Annie*). In addition we have Jo Cox as *Julie*, Phil Clarke as *Billy* and Ryan Parsons as *Brodie*. With such a strong play and experienced cast, we are on course for a successful production - all we need now is good audiences and with ticket prices starting at only £6.00 for students now available from Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241 this is a very affordable evening's entertainment to see this memorable Stoppard play.



**THE YOP WINNING FESTIVAL TEAM**

Our children's Workshop week in August run by David Rowan and which is available for members only will be David's innovative version of the classic tale of *Pinocchio*.

Our Autumn Play running from 17 to 20 October 2007 will be Noel Coward's *Private Lives* to be directed by Chris Hepher. This is an intimate comedy set in the 1930s. We shall be looking for 3 ladies (playing ages 20/30s) and 2 men (playing ages 30s). **A read through has been arranged for SUNDAY 1 JULY at 2.30 pm in The Little Barn followed by auditions on FRIDAY 6 JULY at 7.30 pm in The Barn Theatre.** In order to audition, you must be a paid-up member of the Society. Anyone interested in auditioning or wanting more information about the play should contact June Brown on 01883 714460 email [juneyasmin@aol.com](mailto:juneyasmin@aol.com) or Chris Hepher on 0208 656 5554 or email [Chepher@steelslaw.co.uk](mailto:Chepher@steelslaw.co.uk)

Finally, looking ahead to Pantomime, we welcome the return of Fran and Neil Reynolds as our directors who have chosen the swashbuckling tale of *Treasure Island* as our 2008 Pantomime. There are the usual *Treasure Island* characters but it is presented in the traditional pantomime style and with Fran and Neil on board we are certain to see some excellent ideas. There will be auditions in September for our members. Unfortunately, at the moment our Young Players' list is closed but we welcome new adult members to the Society. We also hope to hold a Pantomime Workshop for those of our Young Players who are interested in auditioning to give them the opportunity to learn in advance what is involved.

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## CARNIVAL CAPERS ARE HERE AGAIN

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July is the day of the Oxted Carnival and the Barn will be there in force again this year to supply the masses with refreshments. As usual, Carolyn will be manning the phone during the next month or so to persuade you to bake a cake and if you able to help on the day this would be appreciated too. Caro starts in the Little Barn at 9am, sorting and pricing cakes with some of the ladies while the rest of us assemble in the car park to load chairs, tables, marquees and all the paraphernalia needed to make the day a success. The event is a good opportunity for the Barn to show that it supports the community whilst fundraising for the latest project 'BarnCool' and generally the day produces between £600 and £800 for the funds, depending on the weather. Do come and join the fun, there is always plenty to do. Enquiries to Caro or Bruce on 01883 741820