

The Oxted Players

We are currently in the busiest time of our season having launched straight from panto into the preparations for our entries into the Southern Counties Drama Festival, our Youth production and our Spring play.

For SCDF our adult entry of Alan Bennett's *Say Something Happened* was simply staged and very warmly appreciated by the audience. The Adjudicator gave a special mention for Jackie Barrett for her portrayal of *Mum*. Our Youth entry was the powerful play, *DNA* by Dennis Kelly. Skilfully directed by 19 year old Flo O'Mahony, the teamwork of the cast was excellent. Although losing out by a few points for Best Youth Play, the Adjudicator felt that our youngsters deserved special recognition and awarded them the Adjudicator's Cup. He also awarded *Jay White* the Best Young Actress award for her excellent portrayal of *Leah*. Special mentions were also given to George Cooper and Archan Mohile for their supporting roles.

We then moved swiftly onto our Youth production in March of *Where the Rainbow Ends*, a delightful tale of children searching for lost their parents and encountering dragons, elves and fairies along the way. Our audiences were enchanted by the magical set designed by Bruce Reed, colourful costumes by Patti Thomas-Verweij and the enthusiasm and competence of the cast. The play had been a favourite of director, June Brown, as a child and she was thrilled to be able to bring the play back to life on The Barn stage. Everyone involved gave 100% commitment to make the show a great success and an unforgettable experience for all those involved.



"The course of true love never did run smooth"
(Photo by Kevin Black)

We now continue the magical theme with our exciting production of Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which runs from 16 to 19 May 2012. Evening performances begin at 7.45 pm and we also have a matinee on Saturday 19 May at 2.30 pm. For those not familiar with the story, *Hermia* flees Athens with her lover, *Lysander*, only to be pursued by her would-be husband *Demetrius* and her best friend, *Helena*. Unwittingly, all four find themselves in an enchanted forest where fairies and sprites soon take an inter-

est in human affairs, dispensing magical love potions and casting mischievous spells. In this dazzling comedy, confusion ends in harmony, as love is transformed, misplaced and ultimately restored.

Directed by Martin Patrick, we have an excellent cast who have been truly amazing in their abilities to learn such wordy Shakespeare text. Richard Allen and Janette White play *Oberon* and *Titania*, the King and Queen of the Fairies and we have young Tom Violet as the mischievous *Puck*. They are joined by Laura Brand and Sophie MacTavish as *Helena* and *Hermia*, and Steve Bedford and Paul Farrell as their suitors *Demetrius* and *Lysander*. Other cast members include Alex Campbell (*Theseus*), Julie Parry (*Hippolyta*), Tony Goddard (*Egeus*), Duncan Browne (*Philostrate*) and Abigail Thomas-Verweij (*Fairy*). There is also comedy team of "the Rude Mechanicals", the peasant band who try so hard to impress the Duke of Athens Court with their play *Pyramus* and *Thisbe*. This brings together David Morgan (*Quince*), Clive MacTavish (*Bottom*), Guy Hudson (*Snout*), Peter Hogg (*Flute*), Chris Muscio (*Snug*) and George Kourea (Robin Starveling). Their antics are hilarious. To round things off we have a delightful band of fairies (Louisa Arnell, Izzy Boorman, Abi Green, Lydia Thurlow, Eve Thurlow, Jess Muscio and Holly Slimming) who with their singing and dancing bring more magic to the play. The production is further enhanced by the set designed by Bruce Reed and costumes by Elizabeth Callow and Sally Dallosso. Please don't miss this exciting production. Tickets are obtainable on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or on 01883 724852.

Our Autumn production (17 to 20 October) is *Life x 3* by Yasmina de Reza, the award winning author of the West End hit *Art*. Directed by David Fanthorpe, this hilarious comedy begins when Henri and Sonia are putting their son to bed and there is a knock at the door. It is Hubert and Ines arriving for dinner but unfortunately, they have the wrong evening. What might have been a mild social embarrassment turns into something darker, as the veneer of polite society cracks in this hilarious and sophisticated Parisian comedy of manners.

Our January 2013 (11 to 19 January) pantomime will be *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* directed by Janette White. The provisional dates for the read through and auditions are 9 and 16 September. Our members will be receiving detailed information in the coming months but if there is anyone interested in being involved who is not already a member of the Society please contact the Secretary on 01342 893217 or secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk

WWOS present a New Mikado

The wit and sparkle of The Mikado's book and score rightly justify its position as the greatest of the Savoy operas. WWOS have been invited to produce a new production of this classic show at the Buxton Opera House in August as part of the World Famous Buxton Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. They will be appearing along side top class Professional and Amateur productions and will be previewing their original take on this Musical Masterpiece at The Barn Theatre, Oxted for four performances only.