

Calling all you Guys and Dolls....

Well, it's almost here. Our long-awaited autumn show, "Guys and Dolls" is being staged at the Barn from Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th November. Have you bought your tickets yet?

"Guys and Dolls" is one of the classic American musicals telling the story of a gambler, Sky Masterson, who accepts a wager from Nathan Detroit that he cannot make the next female he meets fall in love with him. The next lady turns out to be Miss Sarah Brown of the Save-a-Soul Mission and, eventually and inevitably, she does of course fall for him.

Drew and Carrie Brooke-Mellor are our production team for this colourful and lively show and their very strong cast includes a number of familiar faces as well as some very welcome newcomers. The part of Sky is being played by Bob Wilson with Sam Beams as Sarah, Chris Bassett as Nathan and Claire Crowther in the role of Miss Adelaide.

Others in the cast include John Speller, Robert Stevens, Mark Wakeford, Darren Bryant, Deirdre Walker, Catherine Wyncol, Chrissy Webb, Carol Isham, Sharon Dawes, Sarah Gillender, Nicky Roberts, Lizzie Skinner not to mention the inimitable Ernie Finch. And how could I forget the role of Nicely Nicely Johnson which is being played by Richard Allen, the Society's answer to Stubby Kaye!

Watch out, too, for a welcome re-appearance on the Barn stage of Peter Hogg (following his triumphs at the Miller Centre, Chipstead Little Barn, Chequer Mead and the Hawth - what a week that was!) whilst the show also provides an opportunity to play that popular Barn game - spot Guy Hudson!

The performances of "Guys and Dolls" start at 7.45 each evening and tickets are now available from Ibbett Mosely (01883 712241).

Looking ahead, plans are now under way for our Spring 2005 show which will be "Jack the Ripper". This is being staged at the Barn from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd April 2005 and is to be directed by Janette White. Our Musical Director is a name unfamiliar to Oxted Operatic, Keith O'Gorman, whilst our Choreographer is the rather more familiar, Denise Gilman.

A pre-audition evening has been arranged for Thursday 9th December at St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield starting at 7.45 pm. The auditions are also at St Peter's and will take place on Saturday 18th December from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Rehearsals for "Jack the Ripper" will begin on Tuesday 18th January and you can obtain more information on this production from Janette (01883 744599).

We do anticipate strong interest in this show and, whilst the Society is always glad to welcome new faces, the Committee have asked me to clarify our auditioning policy. This is that, in order to ensure that our existing members have a better chance of being successful over possible newcomers, the only people eligible to audition for a part in this production will be those members of the Society who are fully paid up as at 1st December 2004.

The year 2005 promises to be a busy one for Janette because, in addition to directing our Spring show, she has also agreed to take on the November production. This is to be a musical compilation show which is being staged with the principal aim of improving the Society's financial position.

The staging of shows is becoming a very expensive activity these days and the expectation is that, by putting on a production of a Songs-from-the-Shows type, our funds will receive a much-needed boost. Further information on this show will of course be available nearer the time.

As many of you will know, the Barn Christmas Show is always one worth supporting and, once again this year, the Society will be assembling a choir to lead the Carols and other Christmas Songs. The show takes place on Saturday 11th December and, if you would like to be part of the choir please contact Janette (who's a busy girl then?).

Now a bit of a plea. It looks highly likely that we will be losing the use of our Costume/Props store in the next couple of months as there has been a change of ownership at our existing Tandridge Lane site. If you know of a suitable building that might be available for us to use for this purpose please contact our Secretary, Joan Constable or our Chairman, Simon Dawes.

Finally, back to Guys and Dolls. Although we have all our backroom team in place - and what a team I must say! - we still do need a few

volunteers for Front of House, selling programmes, raffle tickets etc. If you would like to join us for one or more of the evenings please contact me on glenn_gershkoff@hotmail.com or 07866 341893. GG

Oxted Operatic Committee:

Chairman - Simon Dawes (01959 564068)
Secretary - Joan Constable (01883 717970)
Treasurer - Janette White (01883 744599)
Other Members: Sharon Dawes, Chris Bassett, John Harris, Trevor Constable, Glenn Gershkoff

The Barnstormers

Since our previous issue of BTN, The Barnstormers have been busy finalising accounts from their production of 'Into the Woods' earlier this year, and were recently able to hand over a cheque to the theatre for £6,200 being the profits from their Barn and Minack shows. Once again, we thank the production team, cast and crew of 'Into the Woods' for all their considerable efforts in raising funds for the Barn.

The Barnstormers tell us that planning has already commenced for their next production and a slot has been booked at the Barn in September next year. They are planning to stage Arthur Miller's classic play 'The Crucible' which brings to life the Salem witch-hunts of 1692. This dramatic and powerful piece has been described as 'one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century' and tells the story of how the small community of Salem, Massachusetts is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice, culminating in a violent climax. Chilling parallels have been drawn between the events dramatised in 'The Crucible' and McCarthyism which gripped America in the 1950's.

The Barnstormers would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in being involved with this production either as cast or crew. The required cast ranges from the teenage girls who accuse the villagers of witchcraft, to the accused members of the community, to the senior judges who preside over the witchcraft trials. Anyone wanting more details should contact Richard Allen on 01883 346093 or richard@thebarnstormers.org



Cheque for £6,200 being handed over to Bruce Reed by Richard Allen

Festival Name Change

The Betchworth Festival has changed its name and will now be known as The Southern Counties Festival. Now that both Croydon and Tunbridge Wells Festivals have closed the name change offers groups in those areas a chance to compete here at the Barn. We will of course give them a warm welcome.

The Southern Counties Festival will be at the Barn Theatre in February next year.