

Oxted Operatic Society

Return To The Forbidden Planet

Tues 22nd - Sat 26th November (Evenings - 7:45pm)

'GOODNESS Gracious Great Balls of Fire', Oxted Operatic Society present Bob Carlton's *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, based very loosely on the 1956 film Forbidden Planet which was a sci-fi version of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. 'To be or not ... Beware the Ides ... Is this a dagger ... Friends Romans ... Yet soft what light ...', all these and many, many more familiar Shakespeare quotes fabulously reworked into this monstrously amusing Sci-Fi musical.

'On a stormy night way back in the winter of 2009, mad scientist Doctor Prospero worked late in his laboratory, aided only by his wife, Gloria, as he developed the elusive formula with which he would change the world. The apparently faithful Gloria, however, duped him and sent him off into hyper-space in an old spacecraft. Unknown to Gloria, her infant daughter, Miranda, slumbered peacefully in the craft and was now catapulted light years into the future in her father's company. Fifteen years later, a routine survey flight under the command of the chisel-jawed Captain Tempest leaves earth's orbit with a new Science Officer aboard - a hard and bitter woman. As a shower of meteorites hits the ship, the Science Officer flees, and the craft is pulled inexorably towards the planet D'Illyria - the Forbidden Planet. Now the adventure begins

Captain Tempest	-	James Klech
Dr Prospero	-	Steve Butler
Ariel	-	Peter Calver
Cookie	-	Paul Longhurst
Science Officer	-	Dena Watts
Bosun Arras	-	Bob Wilson
Navigation Officer	-	Ann Lovell
Miranda	-	Laura Brand
Newsreader	-	Stella Thomas

Preparing to boldly go where we've never been before, *Peter Reed*, *Graham Wright* and *Beth Bryant* bring together a fun-filled show of great entertainment with musical rock 'n' roll hits such as :- *Wipeout*, *Good Vibrations*, *Why Must I be a Teenager in Love*, *Young Girl*, *She's Not There*, *All Shook Up*, *Who's Sorry Now*, *Only the Lonely*, *Tell her*, *Shake Rattle and Roll*, *The Young Ones*, *Hey Mr Spaceman* and *Monster Mash*.

AN OUT OF THIS WORLD EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED! So book *NOW* to avoid disappointment. Tickets £15 from Ticket Secretary 01883 723 084 or online at:

www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

Future Productions

Godspell (Tues 17 – Sat 21st April 2012)

FEATURING material and orchestrations by *Alex Lacamoire*, *Rob Stevens* heads up the production team with *Scott Alder* and *Beth Bryant* alongside. First get-together, sing-throughs and auditions are planned for early December, immediately after Planet, so keep your eyes open for further information.

Chess (Tues 20th – Sat 24th November 2012)

Director - *Paul Longhurst*, Musical Director - *Steve Geraghty*

Looking towards 2013, we have now secured licences for *The Sound of Music* (16-20 April 2013) and *Oliver!* (19-23 November 2013).

For further information regarding any of our productions please contact Dena Watts (01883 723084 email: denalynwatts@virginmedia.com)

PJR

FOBS

Our President, Terry Rolph, sends greetings to all Friends and many thanks for the messages of sympathy received following his recent fall and hospitalisation. He is currently convalescing in Tandridge Heights Memorial Home but is hopeful that by the time you read this he will have moved into his new home in Oakleigh Court which daughter Nicky has been busy preparing for him. Terry has been pleased to be reunited with his old friend – and dare we say 'drinking partner?!' – Dave Watkins, who is now permanently resident in Tandridge Heights. Dave also sends thanks to all Friends for the many cards of sympathy received following the recent death of his wife, Betty. It is good to know that Dave and Betty managed to celebrate their Diamond wedding earlier this year. Dave had thought of returning to Wales but, thanks in large part to the visits from many of his Barn Theatre friends, has been convinced that he should stay with us in Oxted.

Pippa is just finishing staffing the last few shows for FOBS for 2011 – and she also wishes to thank all volunteers who responded generously when she picked up the staffing of the Players' show which has just closed. The Players will soon have the mammoth task of staffing their Pantomime which will run in January and we ask you all to respond positively when the Players' representative, Catherine, sends out the request for help. No doubt, Dena and Muriel will already have approached you to help with the Operatic Society's fast approaching production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet".

Those of us who attended the October Sunday Club would like to thank Bruce for treating us all to drinks in celebration of a rather BIG birthday. It was a really enjoyable occasion and Caro turned up 'trumps' as usual with 'bangers in baps' for lunch. The December Sunday Club will also feature rather more substantial 'nibbles' than usual so we hope to see many Friends there. We hope that Caro has the stamina to do her now traditional baked potato lunch for the New Year.

In conclusion, we all wish Bruce a speedy recovery following his first knee operation and a return to his usual level of fitness by mid 2012!
Sheila Bennett

Spud n' Bubbles

For what is now becoming a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year, on 1st January we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option but as this year Sunday Club falls on New Year's Day it will also include a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £7.50 (all profits to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay upfront. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or make contact if you haven't seen me. I shall serve at 1.00pm and everyone who has ordered and paid for their meal by 12.45pm will be guaranteed a spud but after that they will be available to anyone who turns up on the day and pays. Please e-mail me (carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 30th Dec) as I intend to restrict numbers to 50 on a first come, first served basis. Also, if you need to cancel please do so by 30th December or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!

Carolyn Rowley



The Oxted Players

Unexpected Success



Cameron Arbuckle and Ghislaine Bowden

Our run of *The Unexpected Guest* proved to be a monumental success with the Friday and Saturday evening performances being sold out beforehand. Even the attendances for our mid-week performances well exceeded our expectations. The matinee also proved very popular and was a welcome addition to the usual four evening performances.

Following the loss of the leading man two weeks before rehearsals began, Steve Bedford stepped forward from a minor

role to become *Michael*

Starkwedder and very

soon proved himself ideal for the role. June Brown and her cast had

worked extremely hard in the two months before curtain up to

achieve a polished production and their efforts were enhanced by the

beautiful set provided by Bruce Reed and his team of builders, with

lighting by Carolyn Rowley, sound by John Chinnock, costumes by

Patti Thomas-Verweij, props by Ray and Angela Dunster and set

dressing by Muriel Lister. The reviews we have received have been

very complimentary and encouraging. Particular praise has been

given to Cameron Arbuckle whose performance as *Jan* was described

by Phillip Hall of NODA as "splendidly played showing the self-

assurance of youth and no little talent" and "a fine example of the

talent Oxted must have within their Junior Membership".

It's Panto Time - Oh yes it is!

As we proceed towards 2012 the Society moves into overdrive with Panto, Festival entries, Youth Play and Spring Production. Pantomime rehearsals are now well underway under the same very successful production team as for our 2011 panto, *Cinderella*. Chris Bassett directs with Jamie Cordell as Musical Director with Fran Newitt adding her lively choreography. *Jack and the Beanstalk* with a host of colourful characters including *Jack* (Sophie MacTavish), *Dottie the Dame* (Peter Calver), *Princess Anastasia* (Vicki Stanbury) and *Buttercup the Cow* (Debbie Brown). We also have a larger than life *Giant* played by Mark Mear. Panto runs from 13 to 21 January 2012 for ten performances and tickets are selling fast so please do not miss this opportunity to see this amazing show. Tickets are available at reasonable prices from our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 or go online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Southern Drama

Our Southern Counties Drama Festival entries have now been chosen. During the Festival week of 20 to 25 February 2012, Flo O'Mahony directs our Youth Entry, *DNA*. A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right? *DNA* is a poignant and, sometimes, hilarious tale with a very dark heart. This award winning play by Dennis Kelly is an exciting piece of theatre that explores a gang culture that has surfaced amongst young people in the 21st century and is therefore very

topical. Flo has her cast in place and we are looking forward to seeing the performance this powerful and gritty piece of theatre dealing with challenging present day issues.

Our adult entry is *Say Something Happened* by Alan Bennett. It is a three handed play based around an interview with a married couple of pensioners and a keen, but inexperienced trainee social worker. This is a comedy in Bennett's inimitable style with dry humour and well drawn characters. Tricia Whyte directs what promises to be an enjoyable opportunity for three motivated actors to develop their repertoire. *Mam* and *Dad* appear to be an insular and private couple, yet they are able to hold their own with the bureaucracy of the Council. *June*, the social worker, tries to conduct the interview by the book, which presents some interesting comedic exchanges. Tricia is holding a read through and auditions for members on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Little Barn behind the main Theatre. Anyone wanting to know more about the play or its characters can contact Tricia on 01883 370204 or e-mail her at: triciawhyte43@gmail.com.

Where will it all end?

Our biennial Youth Production is *Where the Rainbow Ends*, a play with music by Clifford Mills and John Ramsey, which will be performed on 16 and 17 March 2012. Two children whose parents have mysteriously disappeared find a book in their grandfather's home which tells them that they will find their loved ones 'where the rainbow ends'. They also find a magic carpet and, joined by two friends, they begin the search for their missing parents. They encounter many dangers on the way but they have protection from *St. George*. June Brown is directing this charming play with the assistance of Danniell Horton. With set design by Bruce Reed this promises to be another *magical* experience to equal if not surpass the sell-out success of our 2010 production of *The Adventures of the Faraway Tree*.

Midsummer in May

Although still some months away, we would also like to give advance information of our Spring production which is *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Martin Patrick (16 to 19 May 2012). No Shakespearean comedy offers such a feast of magic, humour, music and spectacle as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Four Athenian lovers find themselves entangled in a bewildering game of lust and longing deep in a magical forest where they are teased and tormented by the spell-binding mischievous magical spirits of the wood. The play will appeal to young and old alike. At the time of going to press we have just had the first round of auditions. However, as a large cast is required there may still be opportunities for actors to audition and therefore please register your interest with us at martindpatrick@btinternet.com or secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or phone 01342 893217 and we can let you know where we are with the casting.

E-Mail Communication

If there is anyone who does not receive occasional e-mail communications from the theatre and who would like to do so please e-mail publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk and your name will be added to the list. Recently, we have been reported for sending out spam e-mails or asked to remove a number of e-mails from the distribution list with the tone of the message being 'annoyance that they have received an e-mail'. Please remember that if you have given your e-mail to us, we assume that you are happy that we use it! If you don't wish to receive the occasional e-mail with news, reminders of shows etc. please send an e-mail to: publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk and we will take your name off the list.

No Smoking

The No Smoking signs in the Barn Theatre are a constant reminder to me of how I gave up smoking in frightening circumstances.

Sutton High School is a posh school in Cheam road, Sutton. We were expected to wear our distinctive school uniform at all times. It was navy and mauve. I liked the hat, navy velour with a deep brim for winter and a cream straw in the summer. I still like hats.

I was standing in the bus shelter one afternoon, waiting to catch the bus home to Banstead. I had stayed late to do extra work. Right little swot.

It was time to relax. I lit up my du Maurier cork-tipped cigarette and leaned back against the shelter, puffing happily.

“Smart uniform you got on, miss. Recognise it anywhere, especially the hat.”

I froze. The voice was deep and authoritative. The speaker was bristling with silver buttons and stripes and a solid domed helmet that I was convinced held a radio. He was tapping his single-handed baton thoughtfully against his side.

It was an unexpected member of HM Surrey Constabulary. He was looking at me with undisguised disapproval.

“How old are you, miss?” he asked sternly.

My voice had gone down my thick black stockings and into my serviceable black lace-ups.

“Eleven, sir,” I croaked.

“And you are smoking in a public place, in your school uniform. What is your headmistress, Miss Charlsworth, going to think about this?”

Miss Lilian E. Charlsworth was a formidable headmistress, a big woman with a big character. She was something important in UNESCO and was always flying off to international meetings. We were terrified of her. She taught Latin. If you were good at Latin, she tolerated your misdemeanours. I was lousy at Latin, despite having a name you could conjugate.

He took the du Maurier from my fingers and stubbed it out. I was shaking with fear.

“What are you going to do?” I asked, still croaking.

“Never you mind. You’ll find out soon enough.”

I hardly remember the journey home. Banstead Downs was a no-mans land still riddled with trenches from the war. I would have to run away. I could not face school assembly next morning when I would be denounced and shamed in front of the whole school.

Supper was sawdust in my mouth. I tossed and turned all night in a cold sweat of fear. The journey to Sutton the next morning was a last trembling walk to the scaffold. I was finished. My school career was over.

I stood in the assembly hall with six hundred other pupils, not singing a word of the hymn, waiting for the axe to fall. But nothing happened. Miss Charlsworth had flown off somewhere to something important. She was miles away, talking in Latin probably.

So whenever a nosy form-filler asks me: “Do you smoke?” I say, with a certain pride: “No, I gave it up at eleven.”

Stella Thomas

Good Company in the New Year

The Good Theatre Company, last seen at the Barn with their acclaimed production of *A Man of No Importance*, return with a sparkling new production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* from 8th - 11th February 2012.

An adoring but agoraphobic lover of musical theatre, simply called ‘Man in Chair’, sits in his dingy flat in current day New York, feeling a little blue. Chatting with the audience he explains that he often picks up his spirits by listening to his record collection. As he places his favourite show *The Drowsy Chaperone* onto his turntable the show bursts to life in his room! *The Drowsy Chaperone* is an effervescent spoof of old musicals and a winner of two Tony Awards on Broadway and five Olivier Award Nominations.

Full of larger than life characters it will entertain you with its catchy tunes and madcap dance routines whilst the dry and humorous asides from ‘Man in Chair’ allow you to laugh knowingly at the paper thin plot. It’s the perfect antidote to cold February evenings and is suitable for the whole family.

Tickets available from goodcompanyboxoffice@gmail.com

It’s all Changed

When I started 36 years ago there was no working time directive, the lighting desk needed three people to operate it, actors were called by their surnames, gaffer tape was used sparingly, ASMs made the tea, the only ringing telephone you ever heard was in the foyer, sets were made of timber and canvas then held together by cleat and line, we were lucky if we got a few hours to tech, one never spoke to the director unless they spoke to you first, lighting was done off a wooden ladder or from a plank suspended from the top of two pairs of step ladders, sound came from records or if you were well off a reel to reel tape recorder, the closest we came to a power drill was a Yankee screwdriver, cock ups came from human error not technology, a truss was to wear, not to hang off, actors could project, we made things in house never bought them, heating was never turned on for set building, you never went into the dressing rooms unless invited, lights only moved if you moved them, stage managers wore DJs or white lab coats, if something needed moving you pushed it, hot water for tea came from a kettle and tea was the only drink offered, if it broke you fixed it not binned it, health and safety was never heard of, computers were out of an H G Wells novel, a nine o’clock start meant a nine o’clock start and technicians were treated with respect. So don’t give me that hard done face when I ask you to sweep the stage!

With thanks to Mark A Richards and Bruce Reed

Beach Boys Selling Fast

Saturday 10th December is nearly upon us and tickets for this show are selling very well.

The Beach Boys have often been called ‘America’s Band’ and the band’s unerring ability made them America’s first and best rock band with 36 US top 40 hits and 56 hot 100 hits including four number one singles.

Book now, don’t leave it too late! Get your tickets now by phoning 01959 561811 or by going online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.