Oxted Players

You may recall in the last BTN news we reported the success of our team of players with our Festival Entry, *Four Play*, directed by Chris Hepher. Having performed the play again in front of an appreciative audience at Woldingham, the team nervously faced the next round of the Southern Counties Festival at Walton in the knowledge that any delay in the proceedings would cause disruption to the last night of *Twelfth Night* where one of our actors, Peter Damesick, was due on stage at The Barn as Malvolio at 7.45 p.m. However, all went to plan, and Martin also said that he had no idea of the timing as there was never a delay in the proceedings that night, and returned home elated after one particularly good rehearsal (yes, there was one!). To see the characters grow, the relationships develop, the comedy business take shape, to see people turning up on time, to see scripts being put down at last was a joy. In closing he expressed his indebtedness to all the cast and to the technical team with special praise for Sandi Saville, who was responsible for costumes saying that it was always with eager anticipation that he waited for her to turn up at the beginning of rehearsals where she would approach him clutching some new piece of fabric to her bosom for him to admire (the fabric that is). Once he had approved the fabric Sandi would scurry off to her sweat shop in Bletchingley where she proceeded to transform the chosen material into a magnificent costume. Martin has expressed a willingness to direct some more Shakespeare for us in the future so watch this space.

Our Young Players Summer Workshop is taking place between 21st and 27th August 2005 at The Theatre. This is an opportunity for our youngsters to work with David Rowan and to produce by the end of the week a very credible performance. This year David has specially adapted *Animal Farm* and we are awaiting the result with excitement. The family and friends of the Players take priority for places in the audience for the free performance on Saturday 27th August 2005 at 7.00pm but there may well be some seats still available and if you would like to see the play and phone Michael Williams on 01883 717754 to register your interest and she will get back to you during the workshop week to confirm seat availability.

Our autumn production is *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitmore directed by David Fanthorpe. This powerful drama is based on true events in 1960 when an ordinary suburban family, the Jacksons, are drawn into a web of espionage and the resultant deception and betrayal. Dame Judi Dench and her late husband, Michael Williams, areôtaining the stage at the London Coliseum in the 1980s. We had a great deal of interest at the auditions and David was able to assemble a strong cast: Chris Morgan and Peter Damesick take the roles of Barbara and Bob Jackson with Laura Brand playing their daughter, Julie. Alfonso Redford and Guy Hudson play Helen and Peter Kruger with Chris Hepher as Stuart of M15 and Vicki Stanbury and Adele Deakin as the surveillance officers, Thelma and Susan. Bruce Reed has again been persuaded to design the set and he will be looking for assistance in early October when the build begins.

This is a much acclaimed and very moving play, so please spread the word and don’t miss the experience yourselves! Tickets are on sale now @ £8.00 from 01883 724852 until 26th September and then from Ibbet Mossely on 01883 712241.

We then move on from high drama to fun and frolics with our January 2006 Pantomime. Neil and Fran Reynolds, who have a wealth of experience in the professional theatre, are directing and choreographing *Aladdin*. They aim to present an exciting and entertaining production of this popular pantomime and their expertise is bound to have excellent results.

The characters are Aladdin, Widow Twankey, Abanazar, Princess, Nurse, Emperor, Empress, P.C. Ping and Pong (comic policemen), Genie of the Ring, Genie of the Lamp, Mee Strung Wun and Yoo Wee Wun (comic duos) and Puff, a small dragon. Fran and Neil are looking for a cast who can give lively and effective performances and commitment to the show. For anyone interested in auditioning, we are planning a read through on 4th September with auditions on 11th September 2005. For further information please contact June Brown on 01883 714460. You will need to be a member of the Society to audition.

*Aladdin* will be running from 13 – 15 and 18 – 21 January 2006 (10 performances). We have decided to try out a new timing schedule for the Panto so as to give an opportunity for more young children to see the show so that their bedtime is not disrupted. Please see the reverse of the handbill for full details and book early to avoid disappointment.

Quiz Night

**Question:** What's on Saturday 29th October? Correct. Another infamous Barn quiz night, another chance to outwit your friends in an evening of banter and brains. The usual mix of question and answers to see who the top team is. Your starter for ten will be at 7.45pm. Further details from Mike Sutton.