

THE OXTED PLAYERS

We ended our 2006/7 Season in May with the Tom Stoppard play, *The Real Thing*, directed by Peter Reed, which proved to be a real challenge for everyone concerned. The end result was rewarded by encouraging reviews and also by the appreciation of our audiences, even those who did not quite get to grips with the plot! Jo Silcox, the NODA Area Representative commented "Although I attended this play with some trepidation (would my intellect meet the challenge?) it was an endorsement of the skills of Peter Reed and his colleagues (with help from Tom Stoppard of course) that I thoroughly enjoyed (and understood!) this high class piece of drama". Our production was enhanced by the acting talents of Steve Palmer, Jocelyn Mottley, Peter Hogg, Nicky Gill, Phil Clarke, Jo Cox and Ryan Parsons and by the dedicated technical team led by Tony Goddard with set design by Pippa and David Martin and Peter Reed.

In an effort to focus attention away from the wet summer we have enjoyed so far, we are looking forward to our 2007/8 Season which is very exciting. In August we are running our very popular week long Young Players Workshop with David Rowan at the helm and the play choice this year is the story of *Pinocchio* which David has adapted. We have 44 young people enrolled for this oversubscribed Workshop and they will benefit from David's excellent directorial and management skills. The workshop concludes on Saturday 25 August with a performance of the play to an audience of family and friends.

On Sunday 18 August some of our Young Players are also participating in a day long professionally run *Disney Workshop* organised by NODA at Grayshott, Surrey. This covers acting, dancing and singing and is free (subject to a refundable £15.00 deposit on booking) and at the time of going to press there are still a few spaces available for those aged 11 to 18 but you do need to be a member of TOPS or OOS.

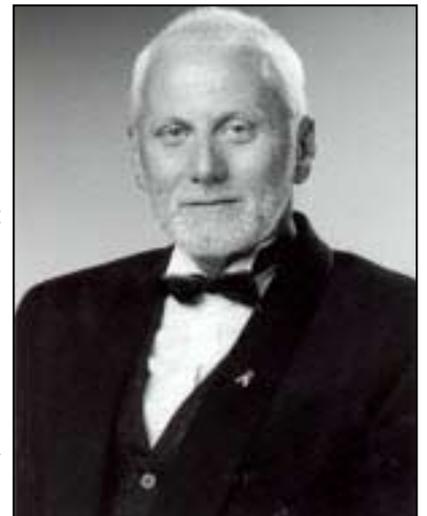
Our Autumn production is Noel Coward's intimate comedy *Private Lives* directed by Chris Hepher (**17 – 20 October 2007 at 7.45 pm**). Scintillatingly witty, scathingly vitriolic and set in the 1930s, *Private Lives* is a glorious portrait of the glamorous and spoiled upper class in love. Honeymooning in Deauville with their new partners, divorcees Elyot and Amanda are at first horrified to find themselves contemplating the sea view from adjacent hotel balconies. However, their passion promptly reignited, the capricious couple elope to Amanda's Paris flat where they resume the slanging match which drove them apart in the first place. Chris has assembled an excellent cast with Frank Atterbury, Jocelyn Mottley, David Fanthorpe, Julie Madigan and Alice Stockburn and Paul Bowles is in charge of set design. With the current revival of the works of Noel Coward, the play should appeal to everyone. Tickets are on sale now from the Ticket Secretary on **01883 724852** priced at £8.00 with concessions for students.

Even though it is still summer (oh yes it is!), preparations are beginning for our annual Pantomime (**11 to 19 January 2008**). We are very pleased to welcome the return of Fran and Neil Reynolds who are directing and choreographing *Treasure Island* or, "*Them that died was the luck ones...*". They are joined by Lawrie Houghton as Musical Director. Fran and Neil aim to bring to vivid life the characters of this famous RL Stevenson adventure which has been adapted for pantomime by Claire Wright, Richard Hales and Mike Hogan. With well known names such as *Jim Hawkins*, *Long John Silver*, *Blind Pew*, *Ben Gunn* and *Billy Bones* and not so well known such as *Mad Maria*, *Walker* "*the Plank*" and *Aaron C. Rescue* this pantomime is bound to be excellent family entertainment. As to the plot, Jim Hawkins and his mother Harriet find *Captain Flint's* treasure map and, aided by *Squire Trelawney* and his daughter *Polly*, they set sail in *Captain Smollett's* ship "*The Golden Behind*" to find the

treasure but are hotly pursued by the *Ghost of Captain Flint* and a band of cut throat pirates led by *Long John Silver*. This is a fast paced, and full of fun adventure. We are holding a get together for all those interested in being involved in the Pantomime (whether cast or production team) on Sunday 19 August 2007 at Hurst Green Community Centre (behind the shops in Pollards Oak Road), Hurst Green at 11.00 am until about 12.30 pm. There will then be a Children's Workshop incorporating auditions for junior chorus on **Sunday 2 September 2007** again at Hurst Green Community Centre between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm with further auditions for older children between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm followed by dancers from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm that day and then adults from 3.30 pm onwards. Auditions will be on a first come first served basis for all parts. Apart from the principals mentioned above there are two comedy duos *Sam* and *Ella* and *Rick* and *Mortis* along with assorted pirates with speaking parts so there are plenty of opportunities for everyone. If you are interested, do come along to the Get Together on 19 August 2007 and if you cannot make the meeting but would like to audition then it would be helpful if you could register your interest with us on 01342 893522 (Pat) or 01883 714460 (June). Everyone who auditions will need to be a paid up member of the Society. **Please note that as our Young Players Membership is presently full, we cannot accept any children for the Workshop or auditions who are not already members of the Society.**

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2008

Following the success of the new SCDF this year, we are delighted to announce that **Colin Dolley** has been appointed as adjudicator for the Festival next February. Entry forms have already been sent to all interested groups but if you know of a new group that would like to be involved, please do let us know and we will send them details. The Festival is in a strong position for next year with leadership again in the hands of Martin Patrick and his small but dedicated committee. Gatwick Community Trust have awarded the Festival a grant of £1500 to help defray expenses and all looks positive for another bumper week at The Barn.



Colin Dolley

Rhapsody Saturday 1st December

With only 20 tickets left for this event you do need to ring the office quickly if you are hoping to come along for an absolutely fantastic and entertaining evening of Queen music. **Rhapsody** are **THE** Queen tribute band and were chosen to headline the Queen convention last year. Ring 01959 561811 now.

At the same time, why not reserve tickets now for the return visit, by popular demand, of our old friends **The Rollin' Clones**, on Saturday 1st March 2008.