**Oxted Operatic Society**

**The Music Man**

Tues 17th - Sat 21st November 2009

Evenings: 7.45pm (Hurst Green Community Centre)

Tickets from - Bihett Mosley 01883 712241

**REHEARSALS for our Autumn production The Music Man are in the final phase, under the direction of Neil & Fran Reynolds with David Grubb as MD. We welcome newcomers Kevin & Jane Hogg in the roles of Harold Hill and Marian Paroo, who join a huge cast, including members from our own 'Junior' section as well as several members of the Oxted (Junior) Band.**

Meredith Wilson’s classic show tells the story of travelling salesman, Harold Hill, and his visit to a small Iowa town in 1912. Here he meets and falls in love with the willful spinster librarian, Marian Paroo. With his fast-talking style, “Professor” Harold Hill convinces the town that unless they adopt his revolutionary music program, the youngsters of River City will be forever doomed. He gets the parents to buy instruments and expensive uniforms in order to form the River City Boys Band. Chaos ensues as Hill’s credentials are questioned and he is called upon to prove himself to the citizens of River City. The show includes musical numbers such as ‘Goodnight, My Someone’, ‘ Till There Was You’, ‘Seventy-Six Trombones’ and ‘Ya Got Trouble’. It is a great show for all the family, with some wonderful music, so please do come along with friends and support us.

**Mack & Mabel**

PLANS are already well advanced for our Spring production Mack & Mabel (20th - 24th April 2010). This is Jerry Herman’s story of silent movie producer Mack Sennett and the rise to stardom of Mabel Normand.

Production team – Peter Reed (director), Colin Warnock (MD), Andrea Green (chorographer). First get together & audition pieces - Tues 24th Nov 7.45pm (Hurst Green Community Centre, Pollards Oak Road, Hurst Green, Ox ted - BH8 0JP).

Contact Prod Sec Katherine Jones (01342 722287) for further info.

**Skittles Night**

OOS are holding a Skittles Night Friday 4th December 7.30pm at the Royal British Legion, Lingsfield. Cost, to include game and food will be £10, and the bar is cheap! Members and friends welcome. Please contact Trevor Constable (01883 719770) to let him know you’re coming.

**Nigel Harman**

Those of you who follow the career of local lad made good, Nigel Harman, may be interested to know that he will be taking to the stage again in the world premiere of Sam Peter Jackson’s Public Property at the Trafalgar Studios 2 from 10th November.

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**My Darling Clemmie**

There is still chance to grab one of the last tickets to see this very special one woman show, which is returning to the Barn Theatre on 26th November by popular demand. Box Office: 01883 715186.

**My Darling Clemmie** is the remarkable, moving and highly entertaining story of the woman who married one of the truly great figures of the 20th century, Sir Winston Churchill. “The Guardian Angel of our country’s guardian” said Lord Halifax. “My most brilliant achievement was my ability to persuade my wife to marry me”: Winston Churchill.

Rohan McCullough has performed in theatres throughout the country as well as Australia and America, and has won many awards. She has just returned from a triumphant season at this year’s Edinburgh Festival where she continued to delight audiences with a compelling and moving performance.

Hugh Whitemore, the well known playwright, has written many plays including The Gathering Storm about Winston Churchill in television for 2002, for which she won many awards including the Broadcasting Press Guild Award for the best television drama of the year.

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**Drama Out Of A Festival**

Plans are well underway for next year’s Southern Counties Drama Festival. This is the first round of the All-England Theatre Festival of One Act Plays.

The Festival will be held at the Barn from 22 - 27 February 2010 and is open to all amateur groups both adult and junior. The Barn Theatre has been responsible for organising this Festival for the past three years and they are delighted that the Festival has been enjoying a new lease of life. There has been some great drama, with regular competitors St Paul’s Drama Group going all the way and winning the final two years ago.

There is still time to enter so if there are any drama groups who would like to take part details can be obtained from the Festival Secretary: 53a High street, Westerham, Kent TN16 1RA.

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**Help For Heroes**

I am sure that many of you share my sadness and exasperation each day when hearing or reading news of our gallant troops in Iran and Afghanistan being killed or suffering horrible mutilating injuries. Putting aside views as to the rights and wrongs of our troops being there, we can do little to help from the safety of our armchairs or from behind a desk so it is proposed to stage a concert over two evenings at the Barn, to raise funds for the charity ‘Help For Heroes’. The concert is in the very early stages of planning but the dates are likely to be October 22nd and 23rd 2010. This is still almost a year away but please put these dates in your calendars and if you would like to help sponsor this event or to be involved in any capacity please register your interest with Bruce either by telephone 01939 561811 or by email at barntheatre@btinternet.com

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**On-line Bookings**

On behalf of the Trustees I have been testing a number of different on-line booking systems, trying to find one that would best suit the needs of the Barn Theatre. The one that I felt best suited our set up was trialled by Kenley Holiday Workshop for both of their productions in the summer. I know that some of you used the system to book your tickets. The system proved very successful and generally comments were favourable, particularly the ease of use and the ability to choose the seats from those available.

Following the trial we are now starting to roll out this on-line booking system to other Barn shows and eventually we hope to offer this extra booking facility to all Barn shows.

You can visit the online booking by logging onto www.barntheatrecoted.co.uk and then either use the ‘Book Tickets’ button on the front page which will take you to all the shows that have an online booking facility, or you can go via the ‘What’s On’ button which will take you to the calendar page. From here you can see a list of all the Barn Shows together with a link next to a show to the online booking system for that production.

Your comments and feedback would be most welcome. Please email me at martindpatrick@btinternet.com

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**And Finally - Did You Know**

The saying ‘break a leg’ is a reference to the front curtains, or tabs ‘all curtains are called tabs’. If you have a successful night, the curtains will of course be raised many times for encores, and in older theatres, they are hand-cranked. Repeated raising and lowering could cause the mechanism to break, thus ‘breaking a leg’.

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**BARN THEATRE NEWS**

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**Editorial**

Next year Barn Theatre News will enter its fourteenth year of publication. During that time it has played an important part in promoting the Barn Theatre, those societies that perform there and the personalities that are so vital to the success of the theatre.

Over the years we have always had our regular contributors from the two resident societies, The Friends of the Barn and Bruce Reed. They can always be relied upon when it comes to submitting copy, even if that copy sometimes arrives a little late!

It would be nice to widen the scope of material that we receive. I would very much welcome articles, comments and letters on a range of topics. They do not have to be Barn specific. For example it would be nice to have the occasional ‘People Profile’ or ‘News from other groups’ and what’s happening on ‘The London Theatre Scene’.

Also I would welcome your views on what you think of this publication. Do you think Barn Theatre News is getting stale? It has only had one Editor who is no longer a cub reporter. Is it now time for a change? Should we be a ‘red top’ or ‘bread sheet’?

Your comments and stories please to the editor,