



WTW NEWS

January
2010

Website: www.wargravetheatre.co.uk

The Committee of WTW extends warm wishes to all members for a Happy, Healthy and successful 2010.

Happiness is certainly present in abundance for those actively participating in current WTW activities. Prior to Christmas, a great time was enjoyed by those members attending the full day Circus Skills Workshop on 28th November. This was superb event, run by a professional circus artist mainly for the benefit of those involved in the panto and was funded by the committee. Members involved in the chorus of Pinocchio are now proudly demonstrating their newly acquired juggling, plate spinning and other skills as rehearsals progress.

An early dose of Christmas cheer was dispensed at the WTW Christmas party on the 4th December. Many thanks to Jane Moore, who organised the event and to Chez for providing a karaoke machine giving the more extrovert members (and a few of the supposedly quieter ones) an opportunity to run through the complete repertoire of traditional Christmas carols. Party games, and festive nibbles and drinks completed a most enjoyable evening.

Support for the Make-up workshop was however a great disappointment and this had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. The Committee does work hard to try to offer members a varied programme of 'events' and would welcome more feedback and suggestions from members as to future events.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Sir Bob Phillis over the Christmas period. A tribute to him will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 and ¾

19th - 21st November 2009

For her directorial debut Chez Payne-Annetts could not have chosen a better crafted piece than Sue Townsends witty and perceptive story of teenage angst. The actors obviously enjoyed their roles and played them with convincing authority. The result was a hugely entertaining and amusing evening with many 'laugh out loud' moments.

All of the 16 strong cast, with an average age of 14 performed well together with loads of pace and enthusiasm but special mention must go to Bart Jennings and Rhianna Inman whose portrayals of the elderly Bert and Grandma were extremely well observed characterisations.

The actors were well supported by a competent backstage, sound and lighting crew all drawn from Wedge members.

Well done everyone.

Chaga and the Chocolate Factory

21st November 2009

This was an entertaining and thought provoking production by Junior members under the enthusiastic direction of Joy Haynes and Jane Jordan. The production originated from the charity 'Stop the Traffik', for whom a collection was made at the performance, resulting in a donation of over £200. This production certainly deserved a bigger 'stage' and a larger audience and it is hoped that perhaps the opportunity will arise to reprise the production in the future.

Contact information:

Chairman: Stephen Farrow; Secretary: Julia Tabrah; Treasurer: Linda Daman; Membership Secretary: Joy Haynes (940 3962).
Committee: Mike Watt, Lauren Priestnall, Emmajane Dean, Martin Lorenz, Judi Rowlands

Pinocchio The Pantomime

20th - 24th January 2010

Tickets for our major fund raising production of the year were much in demand and those for Friday and Saturday evenings sold out through Members priority booking, prior to being made available to the general public at the Junior School Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December. This does cause some resentment and disappointment, but our general view is that if people wish to be in the best possible position to purchase the tickets they want, they should become members!

The Committee are considering a range of possibilities to assist with satisfying the very strong demand, but we should be extremely thankful that we are in such an enviable position.

However, currently there are still about 12 tickets available across the three matinee performances and Thursday evening, so we should not be putting out the message that it is a complete sell out yet! The **Box Office** number is **0118 9403962**.

Rehearsals are progressing extremely well under the enthusiastic direction of EJ and lots of hard work will be put in over the next couple of weeks by very many people to ensure a highly polished finished article, in keeping with the extremely high standards we have set ourselves.

Many hands are required to assist with set building and decoration over the coming two weekends, starting at 10.00am and continuing till late afternoon. Please make an effort to give a few hours of your time on the *9th/10th and 16th/17th January*. It is always good fun and your contribution will be much appreciated.

Further help will still be more than welcome on, costumes, make-up, FoH, and Bar, so please cast off that post festive lethargy and put your name forward to EJ on 07782 325661, Joy on 9403962 or Mike on 940 6257 who will gladly pass your name on to the appropriate person.

Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas

21st - 24th April 2010

Thoughts will shortly be turning to the spring production, to be directed by Mike Watt and the following dates have been fixed for readings and auditions (all to be held in The Green Room):

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|--|-----------------|
| <i>Thursday 28th January 8.00pm</i> | <i>Reading</i> |
| <i>Thursday 4th February 8.00pm</i> | <i>Audition</i> |
| <i>Sunday 7th February 8.00pm</i> | <i>Audition</i> |

This is a difficult play to stage and potentially has a very large cast and many of the characters have only a few lines. Although many of the parts can be 'doubled' or even 'tripled' up, Mike would welcome interest from those who have limited acting experience who might like to try their hand at a small part.

A higher than usual emphasis will be placed on lighting and sound effects to represent the swiftly changing settings within the play, so Mike is keen to hear from anyone with an interest in these areas.

He would also very much like to hear from any Member with a Welsh background who might be able to offer assistance as a Welsh dialect coach.

He awaits your call on 940 6257.

Wedge and Junior Workshop

The Junior and Wedge weekly meetings will resume next week. JUNIORS on *Tuesday 12th January* 7.15 - 8.30pm and WEDGE on *Wednesday 13th January* 7.30 - 9pm. Both groups will be working on studio productions to be performed in the Green Room in the Spring.

Future Productions

We have received several offers from members wishing to direct plays during the next year. The committee will be meeting within the next two months to discuss and decide on the programme for 2010/2011. If you wish to be considered please contact any member of the committee, with a copy of the proposed play before February 24th.

Sir Bob Phillis 1945 -2009

Bob was a member of the Theatre Workshop for over 30 years and is best remembered for his unforgettable performance as the Emperor in our 1981 pantomime of 'The Emperor's New Clothes'. His success in the Media world came at the expense of further forays on to the Woodclyffe Hall stage, but he remained an ardent supporter of the Workshop. Bob and Jean never missed a Panto or 'Shakespeare on the Green' and they attended most productions, always with great enthusiasm. As MD of Central Television in the 1980's, Bob was responsible for bringing the hilarious 'Spitting Image' to our screens. In 1991 he became Chief of Executive of ITN and in 1993 he joined the BBC as Deputy Director General. More recently he was chief Executive of the Guardian Media Group and he was knighted in 2004. Bob often spoke of his desire to appear again on the Woodclyffe Hall stage, but, sadly, we have been denied the chance of seeing his 'larger than life' character entertaining the Wargrave audiences.

We extend our condolences and sympathy to Jean, Martin, Tim and Ben and their families.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 12th January

Wednesday 13th January

Saturday 9th January

Sunday 10th January

Saturday 16th January

Sunday 17th January

Wednesday - Sunday, 20th

- 24th January

Thursday 28th January

Thursday 4th February 2010

Sunday 7th February 2010

Wednesday - Saturday, 21st

- 24th April 2010

7.15pm JUNIOR Workshop resumes, Green Room

7.30pm WEDGE Workshop resumes, Green Room

10.00am Set Building, Woodclyffe Hall

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Pinocchio the Pantomime

8.00pm Play Reading - Under Milk Wood

8.00pm Audition - Under Milk Wood

7.00pm Audition - Under Milk Wood

Under Milk Wood