



WTW NEWS

February
2009

Website: www.wargravetheatre.co.uk

As this is the first Newsletter of the year, best wishes are extended to all members of WTW and their families for a healthy, happy and successful 2009.

Although only a few months have passed since the last Newsletter there is much to report. We have presented two hugely successful major productions, held some varied and interesting workshops and other meetings, had a Christmas party and held readings, auditions and casting for the summer Village Festival outdoor production of Twelfth Night.

Many other events are planned so read on.

For those few of you that have still not renewed your membership, your copy of this Newsletter is marked with a red cross. This will be the last one you receive and you will no longer be able to be involved in our activities or have the benefit of members priority booking for future shows. That in itself must be worth the exceedingly modest fee of £15 (or £30 for families), a bargain even in these troubled financial times. A renewal form can be found on the Members page of our website where lots of other interesting information about the group is available. DO IT NOW!

Bugsy Malone

This was one of the slickest offerings yet from our highly talented youth section, WEDGE. Assured acting, stylish dancing and accomplished singing, supported for the first time by a live band of young musicians under the tutelage of Angela Pengelly, all came seamlessly together to present a vibrant and energetic show enjoyed by large and enthusiastic audiences over three nights. Glowing reviews in the December Wargrave News are testament to the enormous success and high standards achieved by all involved in this complex and challenging production. Congratulations to everyone.

Neutral Mask Workshop with Rikki Tarascas

On a Saturday back in November, Susannah Todd arranged this highly stimulating full day workshop for members. Nine members booked into the event with at least ten more expressing interest in the subject matter, but unfortunately unable to attend.

The interactive workshop encouraged us to internalise our acting; to think about how a character would feel in a situation rather than to externalise our movements (to overact). We found that wearing a neutral mask liberated movement and channelled the imagination to communicate on a simple level.

The feedback at the close of the workshop was very positive and there was a general desire for Rikki to return in the future, possibly to conduct a workshop focusing on voice or subtext. Watch this space.

A fuller report on this Workshop can be found on the WTW website. If you are interested in future workshops please register your interest with Susannah.todd@hotmail.com.

WTW Christmas Party

A light hearted affair in the Green Room early in December to kick off the festive season, those lucky members that attended enjoyed a traditional party with complimentary food and drink interspersed with party games, an impromptu mini panto featuring some hastily 'press ganged' members, a couple of festive readings and finally some Carols and 'Songs from the Shows' accompanied by 'Fingers' Rod Murray and his tickling ivories. Humbug to those who missed a great evening!

Contact information:

Chairman: Stephen Farrow; Treasurer: Linda Daman; Membership Secretary: Wendy Roberts (940 3092).
Committee: Sue Edwards, Joe Haynes, Jo Sinclair, Mike Watt, Michael Simpson, Emmajane Hills, Martin Lorenz, Judi Rowlands

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

Another massively successful pantomime, the only complaints coming from large numbers of village residents who could not get hold of a ticket! Another reason to become a member and get priority booking is what I say.

Guy Heiser handled his debut as a director with considerable aplomb, with Linda Daman and EJ offering strong support on the production side. Another panto debutant was Sylvia Fidler as cool as a frozen Polder as Stage Manager.

Many others, old and new and too numerous to mention here, did their bit to keep up the reputation of our Group in presenting innovative and highly entertaining panto's. You know who you are, many thanks.

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

17th to 20th June 2009

Following a well attended reading in December and auditions at the beginning of this month, our director Joe Haynes has now completed the difficult task of casting this years open air summer festival production. The cast is as follows:

ORSINO	Andrew McKay
VALENTINE	Lanny Joe
VIOLA	Sinead Costelloe
SEBASTIAN	Christie Hayes
SEA CAPTIAN	Martin Lorenz
ANTONIO	Pete Ashton
OLIVIA	Tanya Wilkie
MARIA	Emmajane Dean
TOBY BELCH	Tony Moul
ANDREW AGUECHEEK	Clive Dow
MALVOLIO	Mike Watt
FABIAN	Kanagendra
FESTE	Peter Charles
A PRIEST	John Ratings
A SERVANT	Sue Marchant

The script has been adapted by Joe who together with our producer Sue Edwards have some interesting new ideas for this highlight of the Village Festival. Tickets will be available to paid up WTW members from 1st March before going on sale at the Festival Ticket day on 28th March. Start getting yourselves organised now to ensure you have the best chance of getting the tickets you want as, like in previous productions, there is sure to be heavy demand. This is after all the most popular event of the Festival as voted by members of the public. A booking form is attached. Priority bookings by post only please, with a sae.

Canterbury Tales at Wargrave Village Festival

25th June 2009

Wedge will also be performing at the Wargrave Village Festival, presenting extracts from The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer as part of the evening of family entertainment on the Thursday after the Shakespeare production. Ann Roberts has chosen the lively and bawdy mediaeval comedies of **The Wife of Bath** and **The Reeve's Tale**. The first concerns a knight who to save his life, must provide the answer to the question '*What is the thing that women most desire*'. (Ed. Still not answered after another thousand years or so!). The second tells of a miller who was a master hand at stealing grain and the fate that befell him. Tickets for the evening will be on sale at Festival Ticket day, so please support the younger members. More details from Ann on 9402656.

More Canterbury Tales

Pursuing the mediaeval theme of this years festival, Martin Lorenz is arranging to stage a series of performances of The Nun's Priests Tale (*or Thee Nonne Priestes Tale*) by a band of strolling minstrels. There will be two or three or possibly more performances of this short play at the fete and before the ball and maybe elsewhere throughout the two weeks of the Festival. The story is of a gentle, naïve priest who relates to pilgrims on their way to Canterbury the tale of Chauntecleer

the cockerel, his number one wife, Pertelote and his near fatal encounter with Russel the fox. In addition there are roles for a narrator, a non speaking dog (!), a poor widow and her two daughters and various other peasants and farm animals.

This is guaranteed to be enormous fun, so come along to the informal reading/audition on **Tuesday 3rd March at 8.15pm in The Green Room.**

House of Bernardo Alba by Frederick Garcia Lorca **7th - 10th October 2009**

This highly interesting play with an all female cast will be directed by Ann Roberts. Put the dates in your diary. Ann is looking for a Producer and Stage Manager and other volunteers.

Voice Coaching Workshop with Irene Bradshaw **28th March 2009**

Irene is an experienced professional voice coach to the performing arts and business sectors and this workshop is designed to bring out the best in the style, presentation and projection of your speaking voice. This workshop is likely to be extremely beneficial not only to actors but to everyone in their daily interaction with others.

Participants will be asked to bring a piece of text, either from a speech, book, play or poem to work on and there will also be vocal games and improvisation.

The workshop starts at 11am (after you have queued for your festival tickets) and refreshments will be provided. The cost is a modest £10 and numbers are limited to 20. This workshop has been organised by Jane Moore whose contact number is 01628 628546 or email n.hains@virgin.net. Please contact her by Friday 27th February to reserve your place. Cheques payable to Wargrave Theatre Workshop to be sent to Jane at 10 Lutman Lane, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7HH.

Annual General Meeting **Monday 20th April 2009**

It's that time of the year again. 8.00pm in The Green Room. Our Constitution requires that the Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary be elected every year and both Stephen Farrow and Linda Daman are prepared to offer themselves for re-election. Susannah Todd has decided to stand down as Secretary. Additionally three of the six committee members retire by rotation each year. It is important the membership takes an interest in the running of our highly successful group and supports the democratic process of selecting a committee to continue our success. Please consider if you can spare a small amount of your time to get involved in this process. Feel free to speak in confidence to Stephen, our hardworking Chairman or any of the current committee. We do need someone to offer their services as Secretary. More details are on the website including details of the existing committee, the AGM agenda and a nomination form. If you require a hardcopy please contact the Hon Sec, Susannah Todd on 07961 813352.

Other Interesting Bits

Panto Video evening - Monday 2nd March 8pm. Re-live all the fun of the panto. I think we could probably sell tickets for this to all those who missed out on the live show, but we'll resist that temptation. Come along 'to the hop' and 'whistle while we' 'climb every mountain' just as if it were 'Yesterday'. 'Mama Mia', it promises to be a fun evening back in Pimplevania!

Sewing Bee - Monday 9th March, 8pm. I thought bees were all about honey, but this hive seems to involve generous quantities of white wine! Join the team, spread the load and get involved in ensuring that the costuming of our Festival Shakespeare production and our other festival events live up to the high standards we have created. More details from Queen Bee Judi. Give her a buzz (did you see what I did there?) on 940 3872.

Make-up Workshop - Monday 13th April 8pm. Ann Roberts has agreed to run this workshop to teach the basic rules of stage make-up. Actors should understand the techniques of stage make up and be able to apply their own 'slap' so come along to what will I am sure be a very interesting (and probably amusing) session.

Daytime play reading/one act play project - A group of members available during the daytime have started to meet up on Tuesday morning in The Green Room, to select and rehearse a series of one act plays with an initial target of presenting one or more of these at a members evening three months or so hence. This is a very informal arrangement but if sufficient interest and enthusiasm is generated who knows where it could lead? Maybe public

performances in Wargrave and drama festival entries. If you are interested in getting involved, call Sylvia Webber on 01628 670225.

Lisa Sutlieff is interested in arranging a similar thing on Monday evenings in the future. Ring her on 07734 862475 or email on Lisa_sutlieff@hotmail.com if you are interested in getting involved.

All the above events are in The Green Room unless stated.

Book the dates in your diary now, complete the ticket order form for Twelfth Night and ring/email to reserve your place on the Voice Coaching Workshop. You'll regret it if you don't.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1st March

Monday 2nd March, 8pm

Tuesday 3rd March, 8.15pm

Monday 9th March, 8pm

Friday 27th March

Saturday 28th March

Monday 13th April, 8pm

Monday 20th April, 8pm

***Wednesday - Saturday 17th
-20th June***

Thursday 25th June

***Wednesday - Saturday 7th-
12th October***

Members Priority Booking for Twelfth Night opens.

Twelfth Night Rehearsals commence

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves - Video evening

Reading/Auditions - The Nuns Priest

Sewing bee

Members Priority Booking for Twelfth Night closes.

Festival Ticket Sales day

Voice Coaching Workshop 11am

Make up workshop

AGM

Twelfth Night

WEDGE entertainment - The Canterbury Tales

House of Bernardo Alba