



WTW NEWS

Summer
2009

Website: www.wargravetheatre.co.uk

The summer is racing by isn't it? However, whilst you have all been relaxing and recuperating after the excesses of the Festival and waiting for the good weather to return, those few dedicated souls that make sure the group operates successfully have been looking forward to the months ahead and making plans!

However before revealing all that, I think we can indulge ourselves by spending a few moments reflecting on the results of our contribution to the Wargrave Village Festival.

Theatre Workshop is at the very heart of the success of the Festival, which I think this year was the best for many years.

Centrepiece as ever was the open air Shakespeare and compared with two years ago, we were blessed with reasonably clement weather. It only rained for ten minutes on the first night and the heavy rain on Saturday evening, abated fifteen minutes before the start, enabling the show to go on after frantic mopping up and drying of seats by the dedicated backstage and front of house teams.

The cast and production team were delighted to receive so many messages of congratulations and thanks; a small selection is included below.

"The older I get the more I am coming to the view that heaven is not a place for the departed, but rather consists of those times in life when all is well with the world.

One such occasion was last Saturday night watching a play by Shakespeare presented with great charm in a leafy corner of Berkshire.

Thank you for a wonderfully happy evening. Wargrave is again in your debt for providing high quality theatre on our doorstep."

Herman Scopes

"Thank you for a wonderful evening. I have not seen a Shakespeare production since my school days at St Bernard's Convent in Slough. They killed any passion I might have felt for drama or literature. I do, of course, read as much as I can these days, but your production on Saturday night has lit a fire in my soul to attend more Shakespeare plays, to read as much as I can of his work and given me a hunger to understand more of his work."

Member of Party of Rotarians

"Pete Charles, in the role of Feste brought all the comic subplots together under his skilful umbrella. He had all the actors singing and dancing with him and even had the audience participating. Throughout the play the five musicians strummed away adding greatly to the overall atmosphere. The setting was perfect against the delightful backdrop of the church and the most stunning costumes transformed the audience back to the 17th century.

Congratulations to WTW for yet another excellent production."

Selina Avent

If you wish to relive the memories, visit the following websites, where fantastic images of the production and the other events listed below can be seen.

www.timhodes.co.uk/wtw12thnight09/

www.sports-alive.com & follow the links.

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

On the Thursday following the Shakespeare production, it was the turn of WEDGE to showcase their talents at 'The Best of Wargrave Youth' event. Seventeen of the younger Wedge members presented a lively and very amusing interpretation of Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' and 'The Reeves' Tale, to a packed audience of over 300 in the marquee. This production provided a welcome contrast to some of the more serious sections of the evenings programme. The facial expressions of Kyle Stoney as the Knight, trying to pluck up courage to get into bed with the 'old hag' he has promised to marry caused great amusement and Katie Thorne delivered a great performance as 'the old hag', transforming into a beautiful young girl. A well padded Saskia Steele was excellent as 'the wife'.

As might be expected of a Chaucer play, probably the medieval equivalent of a 'Carry on' film, jumping into bed was a central theme of this production, when in 'The Reeves Tale', Bart Jennings and George Dickinson schemed to get into bed with the Millers daughter and wife. The obvious enjoyment of all the cast shone through in this enthusiastic production, warmly appreciated by the audience.

Glowing comments on the depth of talent within Wedge flowed forth. But we all knew that anyway, didn't we.

Not to be outdone, the Junior section strutted their stuff in the Festival Parade and put on a performance of The Pied Piper of Hamelin at the Fete, to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Well done and thank you, it was a very hot day and everyone coped magnificently especially Imogen Lord who in true trouper spirit paraded on crutches!

Last, but certainly not least, a motley group of performers, thinly disguised as farmyard animals and under the dubious control of Martin Lorenz, performed the 'The Nonne's Priests Tale' twice at the Festival Fete, having also been in the parade. Great costumes and inspired acting in the face of considerable competition from rain, wind, medieval sword fighters, fairground organs etc. Well done and very well received.

And so we move on.

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

Following a further reading on 19th July and auditions last week, Ann Roberts is assembling her cast for this highly interesting play. She is however still looking for a Producer and Stage Manager and other volunteers. More details shortly.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 and 3/4 ***18th - 21st November 2009***

With Ann Roberts directing the adult production in October this year, the Wedge production in November will be directed by Chez Payne-Annetts. Chez held a reading on Wed 22nd July. Anyone who was not able to attend but is interested, please contact her on 9401750 or chezzpayne@btinternet.com. Auditions dates will be notified later. With a "smaller than usual for Wedge" cast, Chez hopes to encourage Wedge members to also take roles and responsibilities in the backstage work of the production, inc sound, light, costume, set design and stage managing but will need "adult mentors" to help guide the crew in their ideas and implementing them on the performance nights. If you would be willing to share your expertise in various stage craft with some promising prodigies and/or help with the show, please contact Chez.

Junior Workshop - Future arrangements

It has been decided, with WTW Committee approval, that in future there will be a pre-bookable £20 per term fee for Juniors attending the weekly workshops, which will run for a minimum of 10 weeks.

The aim of the Workshops is to introduce basic drama techniques necessary for performance, with emphasis on working as a group and confidence building. Performances to demonstrate these skills will be scheduled during the year to take place in the Green Room or the Woodclyffe Hall.

The Autumn term will begin on Tuesday 8th September.

To accommodate the current spread of ages the following groups will apply.

Children in School Years 4, 5 and 6 will meet from 6pm - 7.15pm

Year 7s will meet from 7.15pm -8.30pm.

Please note that we are planning a Performance to take place in the Woodclyffe Hall during the day of Saturday 21st November and therefore children will need to be available on that date.

For further information or queries please call Joy on 9403962 or Jane on 9403973

Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership subscriptions will become due on September 1st. Renewal forms will be sent out mid August. Please return them promptly to our new Membership Secretary, Joy Haynes.

Wardrobe

The quality of the costuming for Twelfth Night and our other productions is always admired by our audiences and envied by other groups. Well done once again to Maureen & Judi and their team of 'volunteers'. Costume hire is now closed for the summer. Although several members have come forward offering to assist on Saturday morning costume hire rota, more would be most welcome, in order to lighten the load by spreading the burden more widely. Call Judi on 9403872 and earn our undying admiration.

Workshops

We are still planning a Make-up Workshop and a Set Design Workshop in the autumn, and a Theatre visit to Windsor. We also hope to run more Acting Workshops following the huge success of the Voice Coaching Workshop in March.

Understanding Shakespeare

We hope to run an evening course, possibly weekly over 4 to 6 weeks on 'Understanding Shakespeare', aimed at both actors and audience. The aim of the course is to help provide a better understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's plays and poems.

The course will be extended to the wider 'Wargrave News' reading public, but members should register their interest now as places will be limited. Contact Joe Haynes; Joe@joypep.co.uk.

Summer 2010 Production

We currently have a reserved Woodclyffe Hall Booking for 24th to 27th June 2010. Several members have recently voiced opinions as to the types of play WTW should be putting on, but of course the committee cannot dictate the choice of play to those limited number of people currently willing to take on the challenge of directing. This available slot offers an opportunity to any member wishing to stage a production at that time, subject to the approval of the committee. Please contact either Stephen Farrow (9404978) or Mike Watt (9406257) if you have any ideas that we can help you bring to fruition.

Dates for your Diary

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

House of Bernardo Alba

***Wednesday - Saturday, 18th
- 21st November***

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 and 3/4

***Wednesday - Sunday, 20th
- 24th January 2010***

Pantomime

***Wednesday - Saturday, 21st
- 24th April 2010***

Under Milk Wood