



# WTW NEWS

November  
2008

Website: [www.wargravetheatre.co.uk](http://www.wargravetheatre.co.uk)

*Have you had a look at the WTW website lately? Wow!! Lots of hard work has gone into making this a stunning and very informative site that will increasingly be used in the future to communicate with members. Take a look now by clicking on the link in the header to this Newsletter.*

There probably has never been a time in the history of WTW when more has been happening within all areas of the group. No sooner have we completed the production of 'Of Mice and Men' to quite remarkable critical acclaim from both our regular audiences and the many new visitors to The Woodclyffe Hall, than we turn our attention to the hugely ambitious youth production of 'Bugsy Malone'.

For the first time in the history of any WTW production, this features a proper band (apologies to Rod and Andy, but a two piece does not quite qualify as a band, proper or otherwise!).

With winter suddenly upon us with a vengeance, thoughts are also turning to the panto, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves', or is it Dwarfs? No need to reach for the OED, it can apparently be either, so it is for the director to decide. Oh the power!

Planning further ahead, we have the launch in November of the programme for the Wargrave Village Festival 2009 featuring our next Shakespearian offering, 'Twelfth Night' followed by the autumn 2009 production, **House of Bernardo Alba** by Frederick Garcia Lorca.

Squeezed in between these major events are a host of other activities. So read on..... and for those considerable numbers that haven't yet paid their annual subs..... if you want to continue to receive this Newsletter, engage in WTW activities and have priority booking rights for the panto, .... PAY UP. A renewal form can be found on the Members page of the website.

## ***Of Mice and Men***

We can be extremely proud of the high standard and variety of our productions over the recent past. Remember The Visit, Romeo & Juliet, Bedroom Farce, Stepping Out and now Of Mice and Men? Judging from the comments received from all quarters and the tremendously positive and enthusiastic reviews (see the next Wargrave News and recent local Newspaper reviews), we have once again 'raised the bar' with this production. Congratulations to all involved. As always, one of the most gratifying things about our group is the great sense of team spirit generated through our productions, with the knowledge that the effort made by all involved ensures every detail is attended to. It is that which makes our productions so well received and which at the end of the day motivates our interest.

## ***Bugsy Malone***

*19th to 22nd November*

Talking of team spirit, a fantastic, highly talented and enthusiastic team is working hard on what promises to be a milestone production showcasing the considerable talents of our younger members. You will definitely enjoy this show which is an important and high profile production by WTW that demands the full support of every member. We have ways of knowing which members have not purchased tickets so fill in the attached form without delay and contact Len & Ann. Otherwise expect a knock on the door one dark night from Fat Sam or Dandy Dan! You have been warned.

Volunteers are still required to assist backstage, organising and running the bar and with some costume alterations. Please contact Joy Haynes without delay on 940 3962.

## ***Snow White***

*21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009*

As previously advised, Guy Heiser has been blackmailed into directing the Herculean task of this season's panto. He has found a wonderful, modern, original script with lots of fantastic characters and gathered around him a formidable team comprising Linda Daman & Emmajane Dean as co-producers (WTWs equivalent to French & Saunders?), Rod Murray as musical director, Sheila Williams as artistic director and Silvia Fidler as Stage Manager. Lisa Henderson has once again

### 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

designed a stunning logo. Our hard working wardrobe girls, Maureen and Judi will I am sure weave their usual magic, but require some help (see later) and of course many other volunteers will be required to assist with the multitude of other activities that all contribute to a successful show. Please think of what you can do to help and contact either Linda (940 6321) or EJ (07782 325661) to register your interest.

The open readings and auditions were enthusiastically attended and now we can exclusively reveal to you the cast for the 2009 panto:

Amy Horton	Snow White	Dwarves:	
Emmajane Dean	Prince Charming	Mike Watt	Doc
Martin Lorenz	King of Pimplevania	Tony Moul	Grumpy
Lauren Priestnell	Evil Queen	Roger Horton	Dopey
Andy McKay	Agent Sniff	Eden Murta	Happy
Sian Maloney	Agent Dribble	Stephen Farrow	Sleepy
Pete Charles	Nanny Gote	Kanagendra	Sneezy
Pete Ashton	Dangling Dan	Ellen Snell	Bashful
Lisa Henderson	Magic Mirror	<i>(Ed note: any resemblance of these individuals to their chosen character is entirely intentional)</i>	
Chez Payne-Annetts	Tour Guide		
Linda Daman			
Jenny Manning	The Cow (again?)		

Rehearsals are underway. Wednesday Charity night (21<sup>st</sup> January) is once again being run by Robin Edwards on behalf of The Rotary Club who have proven in the past to be consummate charity fund raisers providing an enthusiastic, not to say rowdy, audience from outside our normal ticket catchment.

Paid up members can now place their *priority ticket orders* on the form attached in advance of tickets going on general sale at the Junior School Christmas Fair on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

These *must be with Linda Daman by 7pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.*

Remember, we do not have the benefit of Parkers/Simmons & Lawrence as our Box Office this year. Len & Ann Roberts will manage the Box Office which will have a sales desk adjacent to Wardrobe Hire on the Saturday mornings of 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December and possibly also in January. Any volunteers to help man this for a couple of hours each, please ring them on 940 2656.

### ***Wargrave Village Festival Launch***

*19<sup>th</sup> November 2008*

Arranged by the Festival Committee and as featured on the front page of the last Wargrave News, this will be held in The Bull from 6.30pm onwards and WTW will be previewing their planned production of Twelfth Night and generally promoting our activities.

Come along and say hello before going on to the first night of Bugsy Malone.

### ***Monday Members Evenings***

Despite the hard work of the committee and others, interest in the highly varied programme of Monday evening events in The Green Room has unfortunately been disappointing. Whilst the mini drama festival was well supported and will be repeated, support for Tanya Wilkie's Voice Projection and verse speaking workshop and the one act play readings was poor, although those few that attended enjoyed very interesting and enjoyable evenings.

The committee has therefore reluctantly decided not to hold meetings every Monday for the time being but will continue to organise occasional activities on Mondays and at other times that it is hoped will appeal to members.

The first is a '*Sewing Bee*' 10<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm run by Maureen and Judi, at which volunteers are invited to attend to discuss the ideas for costuming the pantomime and to allocate small sewing and other costume making tasks in a convivial atmosphere, over a glass or three of wine (M & J without wine? - unthinkable).

Joe Haynes will introduce our summer 2009 production of *Twelfth Night on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 8pm.* This will be a chance to familiarise yourself with the play by discussing the plot and characters and reading some of the well known passages. Joe will also discuss his ideas for the production and will welcome the opinions of others.

The following week will be the *WTW Christmas Party, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 8pm*. A chance to catch up with the latest panto news, indulge in a few silly games to get you into the seasonal spirit and maybe sing a few carols and songs from previous shows.

### ***Neutral Mask Workshop***

*Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008*

Organised by Susannah Todd and run by a professional director and qualified tutor, Rikki Tarascas, (with a name like that you've got to be interested). Rikki has over 25 years experience in this field, and this Workshop will explore the techniques of 'neutral mask' acting during a fully participative day. The cost of the workshop will be heavily subsidised by WTW and cost only £10 for a full day from 10.30 to 5.30 (with a one hour break for lunch - not included). Further details on the Members page of our website.

#### **Format:**

- Introduction to mask techniques: the laws behind mask acting
- Basic mask training: preparatory exercises
- Body and movement: stage presence, chorus, improvisation
- Gesture: practical exercises
- The neutral mask as a basic mask or "tabula rasa" or theatrical and performance work

For further information and to book your place, please contact Susannah Todd by Friday, 07 November. Hurry, places strictly limited. [susannah\\_todd@hotmail.com](mailto:susannah_todd@hotmail.com) / 079 6181 3352

Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes that allow free movement.

### ***House of Bernardo Alba by Frederick Garcia Lorca***

*7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009*

Ann Roberts proposal to direct this all female production has been endorsed by the committee. Further details to follow.

### ***Other Important Bits***

A few continue to do most of the hard work 'behind the scenes' for the benefit of all members. Wendy Roberts diligently controls membership activities. Please don't delay any longer in submitting your renewal subs. It is not a pleasant task for her to chase up defaulters. Remember, if you ain't paid you don't get priority booking for the panto!

A small group of Stephen Farrow, Martin Lorenz, Joe Haynes and David Williams gave up their valuable Saturday time recently to once again have a major clearout at the barn where we keep our scenery through the continuing generosity of Paul Bennett. This was necessitated due to potential insurance difficulties.

Maureen and Judi are ever enthusiastic cornerstones of WTWs success and it is down to them that we are the envy of all other groups in the area for our fantastic costuming of plays, production after production. They would however appreciate some assistance in 'manning' the Saturday morning Wardrobe hire service. Surely there are some of you who would be prepared to give up two hours once every few months? Call Judi on 940 3872.

### ***Dates for your Diary***

<i>10<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>Sewing 'Bee', 8pm. Green Room</i>
<i>15<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>Neutral Mask Workshop 10.30am, Green Room</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>WVF launch, from 6.30pm, Bull, Wargrave</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November</i>	<i>BUGSY MALONE, 8pm, Woodclyffe Hall</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> December</i>	<i>Twelfth Night preview, 8pm, Green Room</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>7pm - Closure of members priority panto bookings</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Panto Tickets generally on sale</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>WTW Christmas Party, 8pm, Green Room</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009</i>	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Woodclyffe Hall</i>