

Milton Musical Society

January Newsletter



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JANUARY 2010

EDITORIAL

Any musical society is only as good as the shows it does.

But finding the right show and the creative team to make it happen - is always a difficult task. But not for MMS!

In this Newsletter there is the first announcement for the November 2010 show. It's a real chance for all of you to 'strut your stuff'

At the moment we can't announce the May 2011 show as we are awaiting news that the license has been granted. But be assured it is another exciting and challenging show which I am sure will delight you and our audiences.

So, we go into 2010 in great form.....

Seasonal Greetings to you all.....

John Teather



April 13th - 17th

Things really seem to be taking shape now after a recent meeting that JT and myself had at the Regent Centre with Eliot and Martin.

The staging of Titanic had been causing some concern, due to the size of the Regent Centre stage. JT's vision for the show has always been to create different levels so that the audience gets a real feeling for being on board a ship. Well, now we know that we can do it. The Bridge will be up high, with the unfortunate Fleet going to be even higher. The tilting part of the stage, which is going to throw you all around so convincingly in the second half, will provide another level and then the apron will be the third acting area. A gangway up to the stage on (audience) stage left and there will be no doubt that the White Star Line is in Christchurch.

The time slot for the "get-in" on the Sunday is really tight, so we have a plea here for able bodied, strong men to volunteer to be at the Regent on the Sunday. If you could possibly rope in your other halves, Fathers etc... it would be a huge help as Lee is also hoping to start running his band call from 2pm. A fun

packed day! Please let me know nearer the time, but Martin will need 6-8 bods.

Volunteers are also coming in to help with hair and makeup. So thank you to Roni's daughter, and to the new Mrs. Louise (hope I got that right!) Teather. With a cast of nearly 70 there is going to be a bit of a production line going so please if anyone knows of any one else then please let me know. Emails on either of the above would be appreciated. If you catch me at rehearsal, then the chances are I have forgotten by the time I get to the car!!

Have a great Christmas everyone and see you all in the New Year.

A Big Thank You.....From me to MMS for the lovely glass (Swarovski no less) trophy that I was presented with at the AGM. What I didn't say in the last newsletter was that it is a musical trophy and when you twist the treble clef it plays. It has pride of place and I am constantly very touch by all your kind comments.

Michele

The Box Office for the show is now open at the Regent Centre. You can either go online at www.regentcentre.co.uk or ring 01202 499199

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

It's been another busy and enjoyable month for us all.

There has been plenty of activity in and out of rehearsals to help our society go forwards. A huge thanks to the committee for our first meeting this month, and whilst we strived to close the meeting at a sensible hour, it was all too exciting to finish before 11pm!! There are a lot of items to organise for the next year and further ahead too, least of all planning for our current and potential future shows.

We have had a number of social engagements and fundraising activities too. On

behalf of the committee I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time to go carol singing to raise funds. It is important both financially and in terms of public relations to do such things - I know everyone has enjoyed the opportunity. If you missed out, there are plenty of other opportunities coming up. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the charity concert for NAPRA, a local charity which raises money for its community. Doug Holder is the Chairman, and Jo Mansfield has been organising the Christmas concert to help raise funds. This was another great PR exercise and everyone who was there did a

fantastic job - (sorry if you caught my cold!).

In rehearsals, and especially when I have been listening because I lost my voice and could not sing, the sound made has been breath taking. Of course the music we are singing is to die for-excuse the pun, but it is Milton who is making it sound so great. Next time you are in rehearsal, just watch the faces at the front-they tell a great story! (I don't think I have seen JT smile so much) It is won-

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derful to have all the latest joiners starting rehearsals with us and a huge welcome to them all.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work so far during 2009 and look forward to even more brilliant work in 2010. The first three and a half months are going to be hard work, but I am sure enjoyable. So please come prepared to rehearsals. Look at your songs and read the score before you get to rehearsal, it really helps. We are all working wonderfully together and this is down to dedication and a focused rehearsal schedule. Please maintain the focus as we sail nearer

the Regent Centre in April. Well done to John and Lee for keeping the rehearsals together - it's not easy with the number of people we have in the room. I am sure you will agree that the simple, practical techniques we are all learning have made the difficult music so much easier-my favourite is the "sniff" technique. Please help keep rehearsals easy by tidying up at the end of the night to make sure the key holders haven't got a long hard slog at the end of the evening. Please accept our thanks Jilly for your continued support with opening up, and to Margot for the refreshments.

Enjoy your break over the festivities and happy New Year to you all. Vicky xx

"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"

SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH - St Mark's Hall Highcliffe

Not just a date for your diary; A "must be there", unforgettable, once in a lifetime EXPERIENCE.

This should be essential background detail for ALL cast members.

Friends and Family will also be VERY welcome as this is bound to fascinate all age groups.

The Evening starts with a dramatic and factual lecture by Captain Mark Thomson, a Real Merchant Navy Master Mariner, who is also a great

amateur Historian. He has prepared an intriguing talk about the TITANIC, from building to sinking. Facts that will astound!!!

A Fish and Chip/Sausage and Chips Supper will follow; Orders in advance please; There will also be a BAR!!

The evening then becomes a trip down cinema memory lane, with a screening of the most factual, but dramatic film of the Titanic's fateful Maiden Voyage. "A NIGHT TO REMEMBER". Starring the Late, Great

Kenneth More, This will certainly put all of us in the right frame of mind for the production we have embarked upon.

All seats are First class, Gangway up at 1930hrs. (7.30pm for landlubbers)

Tickets are £7.50 (7 Guineas to those who have them).

Available at all rehearsals from now on.

Jonathan Shiner

A Hitchhikers Guide to the 'Musical' Galaxy

The name of our autumn show is **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the (Musical) Galaxy**. It will be directed by me, Jo Mansfield, with Martin Mansfield as Assistant Director and Michele Moulin White as Writer/Producer. John Teather will continue to oversee the technical side for us. The Musical Director has yet to be confirmed. I am considering doing the choreography myself, but if there is anyone out there who would like to be considered for the role of Choreographer then please come and talk to me.

The show will be performed at the Brockenhurst Village Hall, (soon to be renamed the Highview Theatre), from 7th-13th November 2010, dates and times of performances to be finalised.

The show will be based around 4 people hitchhiking their way around the world, with songs and sketches highlighting the various countries visited. We would like to have a 'Choir' of people set on the stage throughout the show, with a cat-walk out into the audience to act as the 'runway' to the next country. We are thinking along the lines of having a border patrol/passport desk set on stage for the hitchhikers to pass through on their way to the next country, where sketches appertaining to the next country can be set. The runway will act as the stage for dancers to perform.

Most of the singing will be ensemble, with solo verses/lines

allocated throughout the 'Choir'. Some of the musicals we hope to represent with our singing are The Scarlet Pimpernel, Victor Victoria, Man of La Mancha, Mamma Mia, Chess, Seven Brides, Chicago and 42nd Street, amongst many others. It should be lots of fun!

Unlike 'This Thing Called Love', which was restricted by numbers, we want to have everyone on stage who wants to be involved. You will only need to audition for solo singing or to be part of the dance team. The auditions will be open to everyone, not just current members, so if you know anyone who would like to become a member of Milton this would be an ideal opportunity for them to come along and see what we're about.

The auditions are likely to be held during May, with rehearsals starting in July. Rehearsal evenings will be our traditional Wednesday and Friday evenings, with some Sundays as necessary. All dates and times will be confirmed via newsletter and email.

I can't wait! But first..... on with Titanic!

Jo Mansfield

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING ON THE WAVES

Over the last three weekends brave and intrepid members of our Society have taken their lives in their hands and ventured onto the high seas, on a mission to boldly go where Milton Musical has never gone before, as well as gaining invaluable experience of life on the Ocean Wave.

Our Mission, which we accepted without protest, was to sign up for 6 hours a day as supernumerary crew on Giant Raptor Class Ferries that keep Mighty Blighty in touch with its extremities; namely the Roman outpost of Vectis; better known today as the Isle of Wight!!

Once aboard these monsters of the Ocean, we performed an arduous medley of Christmas songs and Carols in front of literally hundreds of Travellers making their way to and from this outpost of empire!!

With basic rations, no weevils in the biscuits here, we sustained ourselves as we crossed and recrossed the surging Briny, singing lustily and in so doing raising **nearly £400** for our am-



bitious Transatlantic Musical for 2010.

During the course of our ordeal we were subjected to many indecent proposals, Offers of money for inexplicable services, hardened seamen, intent on dubious maritime duty, to say nothing of the crowds curious passengers, who strangely wanted to sing with us, and Children, taken by their mothers to experience this Once in a lifetime exhibition!!

At one point we were subjected to a very realistic emergency Drill, where the Crew were required to abandon the vessel, evacuating all souls on board to the safety of lifeboats. Lifejackets were donned, Passengers mustered and forced to assemble on the freezing upper decks, whilst brave sailors fought raging, if imaginary fires, on our behalf, before considering taking to the lifeboats to save our lives. We can report that we all survived to tell the tale!!!

By sunset on the 19th December, we were finally disembarked.
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A Note from your Social Secretary

Having spent most of the spare time doing fundraising carol concerts and charity concerts, there was little time left for a formal social event. However a contingent of the society headed into the forest for an evening at the Eurobeat Concert performed by Theatre 2000. A great evening where my cheek muscles took a pounding, I haven't laughed so much since seeing Max manipulate a peanut into his performance, or when Martin lost his hair-in our Love concert.

Looking forward after Christmas,

January's event will be "A Night to Remember". Tickets are now on sale and cost only £7.50 for the evening and hot supper. Everyone is welcome including family and friends. Please email, or call if you would like to reserve tickets. The event is at St Marks Highcliffe, there will be a bar and a raffle.

During February we will be hosting "Milton Entertains Milton". (incorporating our Patrons night) The format for this will be a cabaret supper, with entertainment provided by members of your society.

There are a number of slots available with regards to the entertainment, if you would like to participate, please call or email me so I can consider our final line up. The date for this event is February 20th, tickets will be available in the new year. It is likely to be held at St Marks Highcliffe and there will be a bar as always. Everyone is welcome and we encourage all friends and family as always, this night is for all members, past, present and future, our patrons and friends of the society.

We have lots of exciting events

planned for 2010, please put the dates in your diary. If you have any other ideas, please let me know so we can add them to our agenda.

Remember, we are keen to welcome your family, friends and colleagues to any social event and remind your fellow members to attend, old or new. Please talk about these events in case anyone hasn't read the newsletter, get everyone interested. And remember the more the merrier.

Social Secretary (Vicky)

January	Saturday 23 rd - Purple Pantomime with Dinner at Shorefields, £14.50 for carvery and show, or £5 for the show. Dinner option starts at 5.30pm. RSVP social@miltonms.org All profit goes to Milton Round Table.
	Saturday 30th - A Night To Remember
February	Saturday 20 th from 7.00pm - Milton Entertains Milton An evening of entertainment laid on by you! Supper with a variety of performances by members of the society. If you are a newer member, don't be reserved - get on the playlist. Song, poems, acting or comedy welcome. More details to follow. Call/txt or email to reserve your table (07525 389204, social@miltonms.org) Now booking Acts.... Let me know what you want to do!!!
March	Saturday 27 th at Shorefield's Skittles Evening, with other games and food in a basket. Get your team together, more details to
April	Karaoke BBQ TBC
May	Annual Dinner Dance - details to follow
June	Murder on The Med. Date tbc. Supper and "Sleuthing"!! An evening of intrigue and suspense. Volunteers needed to play the character parts - call Maggie or Vicky for more info.
July	American Supper TBC
August	Annual Croquet TBC

Milton Musical Society

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barked from the Giant Raptor Ferry and allowed to return to the safety of our homes and loved ones.

We hope you all have admiration for this superhuman feat, to say nothing of the financial gain, brought about through our sacrifice and invaluable experience on the relentless oceans that we crossed, and recrossed, and recrossed.....

Jonathan Shiner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* New since last Newsletter

January	*Monday 11th Saturday 30th	Committee Meeting A Night to Remember
February	*Monday 8th Saturday 20th	Committee Meeting Milton Entertains Milton
March	*Monday 8th Saturday 27th	Committee Meeting Skittles Evening
April	*Tuesday 6th 13th - 17th TBC	Committee Meeting Titanic Karaoke BBQ
May	*Monday 10th *TBC	Committee Meeting Annual Dinner Dance
June	*Monday 14th TBC	Committee Meeting Murder on the Med
July	*Monday 12th TBC	Committee Meeting American Supper
August	*Monday 9th TBC	Committee Meeting Annual Croquet Match
September	*Monday 13th	Committee Meeting
October	*Monday 11th	Committee Meeting
November	*Monday 1st *7th - 13th Brockenhurst Village Hall *Monday 22nd	Committee Meeting Hitchhikers Guide to the 'Musical' Galaxy AGM
May 2011	16th - 21st Regent Centre	Main production to be announced

BECOME A 'FRIEND' OF MILTON MUSICAL

This scheme is designed to give recognition to our most ardent and loyal supporters.

For all you members that have a partner, family member or friend who always comes and supports you in the shows that you're in, why not suggest that they benefit from showing that support by becoming a **'Friend'** of the Society. Friends of the Society benefit from:-

- Recognition in all our show programmes
- A free programme for every MMS show throughout the year
- A membership card
- An annual 'Friends of Milton' social event in recognition of the support given to the society
- A regular monthly newsletter

to keep you up to date on all the Society's news and social events

- A 'last night back stage pass' to meet the cast and join in with the after show celebrations at the end of each show run

10% discount off all MMS merchandise, when available

All this for the membership fee of £20 per annum!

If you would like an application form please email Jo Mansfield, Membership Secretary, at: - joanne.mansfield@hotmail.co.uk or phone **07917 061904** or pick up a form at rehearsals.