

Milton Musical Society

June Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Any of us who have been involved in the Musical Performing Arts knows what a very expensive hobby it is.

There are very few societies in this country who make a profit from staging musicals. They are always underwritten by subscriptions, fund-raising, sponsorship etc.

The difficult decision to cut one performance was not taken lightly - but it was also in the knowledge, that unless we minimised our potential losses, we risked all of the exciting plans we have for the future. Even more, we potentially risked losing the society!

I am sure you are sick of hearing the cry to 'SELL' but this is a great friendly group where everyone is truly valued, and that is a precious commodity we must fight to retain.

John Teather

Kiss Me Kate

Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th June

My last newsletter piece before the show! Well have a wild guess at what my first words are going to be? Yes **TICKETS.**

Sales are creeping up and I have no doubt that with help from the other societies and the groups that you say **are** coming we will play to some pretty good houses.

So many people are helping us and I must use this column to give a huge thanks to Linda Kirkman for "rehashing" this month's issue of Scene One to give *Kiss Me Kate* a full page spread. The influence

of this magazine amongst the local theatre-going community cannot be underestimated and I know that this will make a huge difference in raising awareness of the show.

Flyers and posters are still available so please beg borrow and steal any advertising space you can. Vicky can laminate the A4 posters so for any of you are on main roads and can put up poster boards.

It is now that we really need to double our efforts as most tickets are bought in the couple of weeks before the show and during show

week. Remember, as John said 70% of tickets are sold by the cast.

Also, you can help with the show programme, please see Vicky's article on the back-page.

Michele



View from the Chair

By now you will all know about the Committee meeting held last Monday night. Sometimes decisions have to be made, with the head and not the heart and it was with great regret that we voted unanimously to reduce the number of performances of *Kiss Me Kate* from 5 to 4. By doing this we are reducing our liability by saving a huge chunk of money on theatre and related costs – the equivalent of 170 seats. As we had

only sold 18 for the Wednesday night it really was the most sensible thing to do, especially as the Regent Centre was in a position to fill those two days.

So now we will run from Thursday 4th-Saturday 6th with a matinee on the Saturday afternoon (pray for rain!). Dress rehearsal will now be on the Wednesday and the tech on the Tuesday. Max and I are picking the set up on the Monday

and delivering it straight to the Regent so that it is there for a start first thing on the Tuesday. If we don't arrive we'll be lost in Suffolk somewhere!

All I want to do now is reiterate that we must view this as a necessary but positive move.

The hard facts are that the current economic climate will not feed five performances but the good news is

that we can now focus on selling four good performances and making sure we sell to good houses.

Our next Sunday rehearsal will be a complete run and I know that once this has taken place we will get a huge injection from being able to say "we have a show".

Michele

This Thing Called Love Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th October



The next (and final!) round of auditions is on Wednesday 20th May, 6.45pm at Barton-on-Sea., where we hope to complete the line up required for the show. Good luck if you're auditioning.

Kamya and I have been busy trying to add a more 'up beat' feel to the show and hope to include a fair amount of dancing, as we have been lucky enough to end up with a cast that includes some good dancers as well as great singers.

The feel of the show will be 50's/60's era and set in a diner. I'll try not to over Americanise it though as some of the humour is very English!

If you aren't involved in the show 'on stage' then don't think for one minute you're getting away with having a 'rest period'! As we are having fish & chip supper shows on the Friday & Saturday nights and afternoon tea shows on the Saturday & Sunday Matinees, then lots of front of house help will be required. As well as serving the food, there will be a bar to run and raffle tickets to sell. Sian, our front of house Committee Liaison Officer will be hoping for lots of volunteers.

We will be seating around 100 people per performance, at tables of 4, 6 or 8. It will be much easier if whole ta-

bles are booked at a time per party, but **all** reservations will be gratefully accepted!

Details of the cost of tickets and how to purchase them will be given in the next newsletter.

And if you're one of the more practical, DIY type, then please let me or John know, as there will be a small amount of set building required for the show that we'll need help with.

If you're a member of the cast, (or just want to be nosy!) don't forget our pre-rehearsal meeting on June 10th, 7.30pm @ Sopley Village Hall, where you'll be finding out who's doing what in the show. How exciting!!

Regards

Jo

A WORD ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still over 4 months to go until subscriptions fall due for the Financial Year 2009-10, which starts on October 1st 2009 but this may be the time to mention a few things about payment of Membership Fees.

The majority of our Members will pay the Acting Membership Fee, which is £25 (£10 for Junior Members). We have held this rate at £25 for several years now and we feel that it compares well with the much higher Membership Fees that some other local Societies charge. If you do have difficulty finding the money we will consider allowing you to pay in instalments. Please approach the Treasurer if you want to do this.

Remember that you are not covered by our insurance policy until you have paid your Membership Fee.

We also need to keep your address details up to date. It is imperative that you are insured not only during performances but also at rehearsals. Our NODA Insurance Policy currently costs us about £190 so you could consider that £4-£5 of your Membership Fee is going towards this alone. Please make sure that your Membership Fee is paid **promptly** at the start of the Financial Year. In the case of people joining us at other times during the Financial Year a full Membership Fee is payable at the time that they join.

While we are talking about insurance, the NODA definition of "Insured Person" is "any official, honorary official, principal, member of the chorus or cast or any other member or voluntary helper of the Insured". This means that the insurance does extend to the band of volunteers that help out at the Regent Centre or other venue with things such as selling raffle tickets, programmes, etc. We are currently enquiring of NODA Insurance whether it extends to those who may receive a gratuity from the Society such as the producer, choreographer, stage manager, etc.

Roger

Social Occasions

The dinner dance is fast approaching and I need your help. I am hoping to organise two lots of prizes for the dinner dance:

1. Calamity style prizes - remember our fab send off from Calamity Jane and all the silly prizes, can you nominate any of our cast for anything in this category. Perhaps they have gaffed-up in some way that is worth sharing with the rest of us? A un-repeatable quote or "lines "cock" up" (acting technical term!!) Perhaps they have made you smile with alternative lib or song words? You don't need to be on stage to receive an award-so nominate back stage members too!

2. On a more serious note. NODA long service awards.

Do you qualify for a long service award? Or a badge for 10,15,20 or 25 yrs in amateur theatre?

Some of you may already have a badge that needs upgrading.

Normally presented to members as an indication of thanks for long service to amateur theatre, you will need to be nominated and signed off by an official of the society to qualify.

Service does not need to be continuous nor with just our society. If you are interested, we are happy to order the badges and present these at the dinner dance in recognition of your service. There will be a minimal charge for the badges (as you will appreciate we need to get the official ones from NODA approx £10),

Please let me know if you are interested in this opportunity and also to register what badge you already have, or are due.

Entertainment-if you have a talent or

would like to be involved in the entertainment element of the show, please let me know. I do have a plan and some may not be utilised, this will mean some commitment outside of KMK and so anyone heavily involved in that need not apply due to the priorities of KMK-although I may nab you after the show!!

Many of you have already given me deposits and payments ahead of the night, please continue to do so.

It is essential for the society to have as many people at our socials as possible-so bring your friends and family too-all are welcome. Its a fab chance to dress up and hob knob with the areas best talent-get on the A list for red carpet treatment now!!

Vicky Clark

<p align="center">Saturday June 20th Dinner Dance and Annual Awards Awards Ceremony with Entertainment at Shorefields £25 a head including 3-course meal</p>	<p>Interest in this event has been very high, and table reservations have already begun. Don't miss out! Join in the fun, bring your family, or if they don't like you, bring your friends. Book a table now! Telephone or text 07510 274113</p>
<p align="center">Saturday 18th JULY at 7.30pm American Supper</p>	<p>32 Barton Court Road, New Milton Bring a dish, bring some wine, Bring some friends and have some fun! Long established hugely popular event.</p>
<p align="center">Sunday 9th August at 1200 Noon CROQUET</p>	<p>Anyone for croquet!! By popular demand, The Vicarage at Sopley will be hosting this years croquet competition £5 per person, bar-be-cue and games. Bring a bottle.</p>
<p align="center">Friday 21st August AIR SHOW SOCIAL at Beach Hut 2329 Bournemouth</p>	<p>Still in the planning stage - but designed around the Air Show and Fireworks on Bournemouth beach using Hut No 2329 which is just down from the pier. Current thoughts are a daytime get-together for the Air Show followed by a BBQ at 7.00pm ready for the fireworks. More details to follow</p>
<p align="center">Saturday 5th September MURDER ON THE MED</p>	<p align="center">Saturday 31st October Halloween</p>

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* New since last Newsletter

June	Thu 4th at 7.30pm	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>
	Friday 5th at 7.30pm	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>
	Sat 6th at 2.30 and 7.30pm	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>
	Monday 8th	Committee Meeting
	*Wednesday 10th	<i>Love</i> Pre-rehearsal
	Saturday 20th	Dinner Dance
July	Monday 13th	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 18th	American Supper
August	Sunday 9th	Croquet at Sopley
	Monday 10th	Committee Meeting
	Friday 21st	*Air Show Social
September	*Saturday 5th	Murder on the Med
	*Wednesday 9th	<i>Titanic</i> Introduction
	Sunday 13th	Casting for <i>Titanic</i>
	Monday 14th	Committee Meeting
	*Wednesday 16th	More <i>Titanic</i> Casting
	*Saturday 19th	Barton Harvest Festival
October	Monday 12th	Committee Meeting
	Friday 23rd	<i>This Thing Called Love</i>
	Saturday 24th	<i>This Thing Called Love</i>
	Sunday 25th	<i>This Thing Called Love</i>
	*Saturday 31st	Halloween After Show
November	Wednesday 3rd	<i>Titanic</i> Rehearsals start
	Monday 9th	Committee Meeting
	Monday 23rd	Annual General Meeting
December		
January		
February		
March		
April	13th - 17th	<i>Titanic</i>

Following the news re ticket sales, you will appreciate the need to raise funds in everyway possible to secure the future of our much loved society. Whilst ticket sales are the most important things in your mind right now, another way of contributing is by the inclusion of ads in our program, and by sponsoring a page.

In light of this-please note having agreed with the committee, I am running a competition for raising the profile of the program and supply of adverts.

The competition starts now. The person who secures the most advertisement space (and therefore much needed Wonga!!) will win a bottle of champagne. The winner will be announced at the forthcoming dinner dance. I know you will want to do this out of respect for each other and the society-your help will make a difference no matter what your contribution is.

Just to clarify the cost of the ads are:

1/4 page £15
1/2 page £30
1 page £50 (back page £60)

I am negotiating with any sponsor who wishes to agree to publish their ad in the next programs too and so if you think you can secure that and need further help with prices-let me know.

I would also like to offer the opportunity for all of you to sponsor a page for £5. If we all can contribute to sponsor a page, I will consider a message board page and make your wishes or messages even more good value for money. Go on - you know it makes sense.

Please contact me to miss the print deadline!! (07510274113 or vixsy-clark@yahoo.co.uk)