

Milton Musical Society MAY Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 6

MAY 2010

EDITORIAL

This edition of the Newsletter marks the launch of Hitchhiker and the final resting of Titanic. All shows are a bit like boat trips - they have a launch, a journey and an arrival.

Closely following on from Hitchhiker will be Scarlet Pimpernel, directed by Michele and produced by yours truly. We have already started work on the building blocks mainly with the construction of the budget which basically lists on one side what it will cost to stage and on the other side what we can reasonably expect by way of income. Needless to say it is the latter that is the most difficult to predict. In the June Newsletter there will be more information about the show.

As to the 'resting' of Titanic, I have included the two crits that we have had to date. Both very different. Certainly the Scene One crit did not do us any favours - but the most important crits are from those who paid to see the show, and those were very encouraging. Final figures are still in preparation, but indicate a healthy profit—well done all of you!!!!

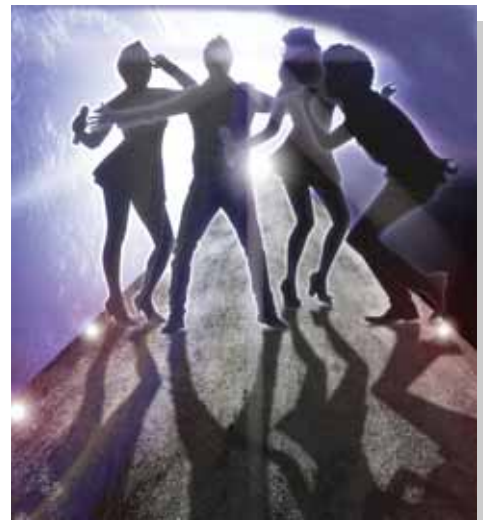
HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE MUSICAL GALAXY 17th-20th November

So, after our hugely successful show Titanic, we're now on the road to our next great production; The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Musical Galaxy. It would be fantastic to see all of you brilliant Titanic-ans at the auditions for this show.

The show is set around two Hitchhikers' about to embark on their sabbatical year, round the world trip, when they are persuaded by the Galactic Leader of a visiting space ship to take two Alien Beings along for the ride. There follows much hilarity as they commence their tour, starting in Europe (Act 1) and then continuing to the rest of the world (Act 2).

Michele has put together a fabulous list of music for our round the world tour, including such great numbers as Bambi, from Zorro, The Bells of Sans Sebastian, from Nine, Springtime for Hitler, from The Producers, The Fish Slapping song, from Spamalot, Transylvania Mania, from Young Frankenstein and Mamma Mia from Mamma Mia; and that's just a selection of music from Act One! We have a fantastic Bollywood section to open Act Two and songs from Wicked, Legally Blonde and Oklahoma amongst others.

There will be a full choir on stage throughout the show and the singing will be interspersed with funny sketches and fabulous dance routines, set by Ria Norris, choreographer for this production. (See back page)



The presentation evening will now be on the revised date of Monday 7th June, 7.30pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall.

You will be able to see the script, hear the music and have a sneak preview of the dance audition. Audition pieces will be available to collect on the night too. Please come along and find out what it's about, I really want you in my show!

Auditions will now be on the revised date of Sunday 13th June from 12 till 6pm at Brockenhurst. A schedule will be available nearer the time so you won't have to stay all day.

If you would like to be in the **choir only**
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View from the Chair

Well, what a journey! One of Milton Musical Society's finest hours in my humble opinion—and I am not just talking about the after show party—sorry if you missed the boat there! (he he!) After the

many months of rehearsing the overall feeling is of triumph, well deserved for all concerned. It is with a "puffed up with pride" chest that I write from the chair of the Chairman, to congratulate

you all on a great show. I am sure you will agree that from start to finish, whilst rumour had it, we might have sunk, the proof is in the pudding on all levels. Financially the show paid for itself (and left

over funds toward the next show are greatly received.) The reviews mentioned the enormity of the undertaking for our society and what a well acted and sung performance.
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ACT ONE - EUROPE

ENGLAND	Relax (Frankie Goes to Hollywood) Soundtrack only Calling Occupants Of Interplanetary Craft (Carpenters) Summer Holiday (Summer Holiday) Be Back Soon (Oliver) P.O.S.H
SPAIN	Man of La Mancha (Man of La Mancha) Bambeleo (Zorro)
FRANCE	Story Book (Scarlett Pimpernel) Speaking French (Lucky Stiff) French Restaurant Sketch Can Can (Can Can) La Cage Aux Folles (La Cage Aux Folles) Vivez (Scarlett Pimpernel)
ITALY	Mississippi Sketch Be Italian (Nine) Grande Canal (Nine) Bells Of San Sebastian (Nine)
GERMANY	The Grand Hotel (Grand Hotel) Welcome (Cabaret) Springtime For Hitler (The Producers)
AUSTRIA	Do Ray Me (The Sound Of Music)
SWEDEN	Glamorous Life (A Little Night Music) Swedish Made Simple Sketch
FINLAND	Fish Slapping Song (Spamalot)
RUSSIA	Sunrise Sunset (Fiddler On The Roof) Far From The Home I Love (Fiddler on the Roof)
TRANSYLVANIA	Welcome To Transylvania (Young Frankenstein) Transylvania Mania (Young Frankenstein)
GREECE	Money Money Money (Mama Mia) Super Trooper (Mamma Mia) Mamma Mia (Mamma Mia) Dancing Queen (Mamma Mia)

ACT TWO – THE REST OF THE WORLD

INDIA	Bombay Dreams (Bombay Dreams) Indian Waiter Sketch Jai Ho (Slumdog Millionaire) Shakalaka Baby (Bombay Dreams)
EGYPT	Joseph & His Technicolor Dreamcoat Medley
ISRAEL	Fortune Favours The Brave (Aida)
TAILAND	One Night In Bankok (Chess) Asian Breakfast Sketch
JAPAN	We Are The Gentlemen of Japan (Hot Mikado) Three Little Maids (Hot Mikado)
VIETNAM	TBC
AUSTRALIA	I Still Call Australia Home (The Boy From Oz) Sketch - TBC
SOUTH PACIFIC	South Pacific Medley)
ARGENTINA	Don't Cry For Me Argentina (Evita) Buenos Aires (Evita) On This Night of a Thousand Stars (Evita)
USA	American Diner sketch Capped Teeth and Caesar Salad (Tell Me On A Sunday) Oklahoma (Oklahoma) We're A Travellin' Trio (Cowgirls) Don't Call Me Trailer Trash (Cowgirls) All I Owe Iowa (State Fair) Atlantic City (Ragtime) Good Morning Baltimore (Hairspray) Raise Your Voice (Sister Act) Spanish Harlem (Smokey Joe's Café) OMGYG (Legally Blond) Shuffle Off to Buffalo (42 nd Street) Manhattan (Galloping Gaities) Heaven By The Sea (Love Never Dies) Bon Voyage (Anything Goes)
IRELAND	One Short Day (Wicked) For Good
ENGLAND	Anything Can Happen (Mary Poppins)
FINALE	Colour My World (Priscilla Queen of the Desert)

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then you **DO NOT** have to audition. Just make sure you've given me your name by 6th June.

If you would like to be considered for solo singing then you will need to sing a solo for the audition, to piano. This can be a song of your own choice or a song from the show. You will need to provide your own music or ask well in advance if you need help to find it.

If you would like to be considered for the dance team then you will need to learn the audition dance and perform it in small groups. If you get in to the dance team you will be unable to sing in the choir or take part in the sketches. It will be a dedicated dance

team but you will sing the songs you're performing in.

If you would like to be considered for an acting role you will need to perform a sketch from the show or one of your own choices. If successful, you will be able to sing in the choir and act in the sketches too.

Set audition songs/acting pieces will be given for the roles of the four hitchhiker's; Miranda, Kevin, Crystal and Darren and also for the Galactic Leader.

The production team for the show is:

Director: Jo Mansfield,
Producer and Musical Assistant: Michele Moulin White,
Musical Director: Alastair Hume,

Choreographer: Ria Norris.

Written by: Jo Mansfield and Michele Moulin White

Rehearsals will start at the beginning of July, every Wednesday and Friday and some Sundays. Depending on where you're placed, most people will only need to attend once or twice a week for the first few weeks.

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all at the presentation evening on the **7th June**. If you need any more information please don't hesitate to contact me. My details are on the back of this newsletter.

Regards

Jo Mansfield

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ance it was, the cast are without fail, buzzing with excitement. Finally our audience were thrilled and moved by our performances, several people came more than once to see the show - a resounding success and no sinking feeling! We were told at the beginning that the show would have the potential to be life changing and I am sure that with our Director's passion and directing skills, we have all felt the emotions promised with this piece of history, (whilst Cameron Mckintosh hasn't been banging down the door for me to play Alice in the West End,) I feel absolutely moved by the experience thanks to the way in which rehearsals were organised, rehearsed and delivered with respect and admiration for the people who we played.

I actually was measuring the performance each night on how much our Director had cried, which I am reliably informed was most performances and a pedigree like JT's, that's a good yardstick! Several other eminent people have fed back how wonderful the show was and I am very proud to be part of the cast and committee who brought the show to life. We owe a huge amount of thanks to

very many people, both on stage and off and I was very honoured to present a gesture from the cast to our Director, Choreographer and Producer for their parts in the show. John was presented with a print of an original photograph of the ship Titanic on its trip from Southampton on the Maiden voyage. Thanks to Jonathan we were able to source one of the only genuine photos of the ship in Southampton water. This was mounted and framed with the following inscription "Presented to John Teather, Director -Titanic the Musical, Milton Musical Society 2010." Our Producer, Michele, is very much a literary lovey as much a musical one, so when a pair of book ends in the form of Titanic's bow and stern were found, this seemed the obvious gift of thanks for her. (A book was also ordered and will be passed to Michele as soon as Amazon can get it delivered!!!) A plaque was added reading "Presented to Michele Moulin White, Producer, Titanic the Musical, Milton MS 2010" Finally a gift of appreciation was given to our choreographer Jo. Jo spent many hours behind the scenes working on dance routines and much more besides, adding in extra rehearsals where required to get the scenes developed. So as with our Director and

Producer, it was more than just turning up to rehearsals-months of planning, collaboration and sweat went into our show. Jo received a brass bell with Titanic painted on it, to go by her front door as there isn't a bell at the Mansfield's. This was mounted on a wooden plaque with the words similar to Michele's and John's. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped sort out the gifts.

Your labels were crafted into autograph books as I couldn't find cards big enough - and felt the books might stay on a coffee table for a little longer! At the after show party I was given feedback that the Society should have extended the gifts of appreciation and I am grateful for all feedback. As a committee, we have discussed this at length. It is at the annual dinner dance that awards will be made to members who have made contributions above and beyond as well as the normal cheeky ones we would like to award too. The presentations made at the party were funded by the cast for the hard work of the production committee not cast and crew. (Otherwise I would have expected to have swept the board when it comes to be gifted free counselling for 1st class hoity toityness and a free facial for all the trauma to my skin!! he

he!) By the way I think I have stopped the shuffling along and people actually spoke to me at the "1st class social salon" last Saturday night!! There are many people we need to thank for their hard work, I know Margaret's house had been taken over with props, Marlene's taken over with raffle prizes and many of our families had to absorb the show with rehearsal schedules and preparing lines etc. Just because you may not have been mentioned doesn't mean you weren't appreciated, success is in this case, a team effort. Talking of team, I believe we have a most dynamic committee working for the society. Many of the team were working many hours every week to increase revenue through sponsorship, advertising and getting donations. This was extended to members of the society who I know want to remain anonymous, but used their extensive networks to pull off things we never have managed before-thank you on behalf of Milton MS.

We have acquired many new members and more seem to be flocking to us as we rest ready for Hitchhikers and Scarlet further ahead. Having seen the song list and details of the next show, make sure you keep the pres-

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entation evening free - it's another must! The show will be explained further in the newsletter and on the presentation evening, but will include great music and sketches with comedy. The Director (Jo Mansfield) is hoping for a huge cast for this, there are principal roles, but loads

of great music for an ensemble-one of our Society best selling points!! SO if you're not sure, don't miss out-come along for another journey-this time around the universe!

Ladies and gentlemen, congratulations on being a member of one of the most exciting musical societies, we continue to welcome a friendly atmosphere and

hope you will be at the next social event, see the dates later in this publication. I look forward to the second half of my Chairmanship with you all with the excellent line up of shows and socials for you all, knowing it has been a hugely successful first half-well done EVERYONE!!

Regards
Vicky xx

TITANIC THE MUSICAL

.....the society rises to it
with nothing short of
professionalism.

Overall, an impressive attempt at a difficult and
challenging piece, which was well sung and acted, with a
stunning orchestra!

Watch every single member of
the cast and you see they are
totally immersed in their
portrayals, whether they have
a non-speaking or starring
role.

After a show like the one we have all just pulled off there isn't much to say on the publicity and marketing front. You all did a fantastic job and we are the envy of all the societies around who could not believe that we could or would pull it off. Not that they, or we, would have wished us to fail, but it is still nice to reflect on our success and the admiration that it has engendered!! We have set a very high standard not only for the region, but for ourselves to keep up to, we must continue to deliver in the future.

A month or so from now we shall be gearing up for our next produc-

tion and no doubt there will be opportunities to create selling and marketing plans for the Brockenhurst Hall Show. Please think on that and let me have your ideas. We need to identify local businesses who can be targeted for support and if anyone has a particular contact or idea for me to follow up, then let me know as soon as possible.

Finally, I know that most of us had family in the audience during the run of Titanic, but I would like to share with you something that my Father wrote to me today. By the way he's 89 and made the trip down to Christchurch from

Worcester especially to see this show as he had never seen me on stage before!!!

He says..... "I never thought I would live to see the day that I saw my son on stage singing and acting - but I have, and it was a really wonderful performance!! Thank you for showing us what you can do. The whole cast deserve huge congratulations."

Jonathan Shiner

P.S. don't forget the Director and Producer!!!! Without them this could never have happened

Titanic :The Musical, The Regent Centre, Christchurch Milton Musical Society

'Titanic: The Musical' opened on Broadway in 1997, winning 5 Tony awards including one for Best Score.

This production of the show is a brave departure for this society, by performing a lesser known show - and this in itself deserves praise. As the swelling orchestra started it was clear we were in good hands musically. Lee Marchant's orchestra and musical direction were fabulous, and in many respects the star of the show, with great attention to detail in the precise and complex score.

The general ensemble lacked energy, but there were some great performances. Alex Cook stood out with his dynamic vocals and strong acting, also Brian Oliver and Suzanne

Teather as Isador and Ida Straus, both of whom turned in emotional and credible performances.

Whilst the show was well costumed, the lighting seemed lacking, making it hard to see what was happening in 'The Bridge', particularly. The sound was also a problem, with the beautiful score often drowning most of the actors. There were also some rather intrusive scene changes, but I am sure that this will be ironed out as the run continues. Overall, an impressive attempt at a difficult and challenging piece, which was well sung and acted, with a stunning orchestra !

Adam Myers for SceneOne

Titanic the Musical – Milton Musical Society, Regent Centre

The story of the Titanic which sunk on 15th April 1912 with the loss of two-thirds of its passengers, isn't a tale that readily springs to mind as the subject for a stage musical.

It has been produced on Broadway, but the challenge for an amateur group portraying what at the time was the largest, strongest ship in the world is huge. However, the society rises to it with nothing short of professionalism.

Let's look at numbers. A total of 1,517 people died on that fateful

day, and just 711 survived.

This was portrayed by a cast of 61, aided by an orchestra of 19 musicians and a 36-strong production team.

When the wreck of the Titanic was discovered in 1985, I was working for a weekly newspaper in Bournemouth and my editor set me the task of finding out if there were any survivors in the area – and remember there was no internet in those days. I eventually interviewed a man who had lost his father and discovered the privations suffered by families left without a breadwinner.

The conditions on board were quite different for the first, second and third classes, and this is

skilfully illustrated in this musical which from the word go makes you feel as if you are watching the White Star liner sail off from Southampton. As the passengers stream on to the ship, you are introduced to the characters you soon come to either empathise with or deride.

Watch every single member of the cast and you see they are totally immersed in their portrayals, whether they have a non-speaking or starring role.

As impossible as it is to single out characters from this production that will have you smiling despite the lump in your throat that you know will come, mention must be made of Lee Neal as Thomas Andrews, the architect

of the great ship. Lee is a familiar figure on the local stage as he has appeared with Ferndown Phoenix, Ferndown Drama and Wimborne Musical Society. We share his initial pride and feel the final despair as Lee gives the part his all.

With the minimum of disruption, the production portrays every part of the ship from the bridge to the boiler room, the first class saloon to the third class corridors. You are there when the iceberg strikes, and when the inadequate lifeboats are filled. And then there is that final scene.

It runs until Saturday. Try to get a ticket.

MB

TITANIC FRONT OF HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who helped front of house for Titanic. To greet an audience correctly is a very important part of any show; first impressions help to make an enjoyable evening. Please pass on

grateful thanks to friends, relatives etc., who helped MMS in this way during the run of the show.

A good profit was made on the raffle, so a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'hampers' and to the members of

cast who purchased tickets. Every pound counts! Enjoy the short break from raffle tickets/prizes and the never ending pleas to sell show tickets!!

Marlene

Social Report

First of all I would like to say thank you to all of you who came to the after show party. Karaoke was a big hit with many of you treating us to some star performances. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and are looking forward to the next social event.

The next date for your diary is **Saturday the 15th of May**. This will be a games night held at St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe. Due to popular demand this will be a **fancy dress** evening. The theme for your costumes is 'Games'. So get your thinking caps on and dig out some of your old board games, computer games and anything else games related you can think of. There will be a prize for the best costume decided on the evening by everyone there! Please can you e-mail me as

soon as possible to confirm if you will be coming to the Games evening, I want to arrange for fish and chips for everyone so need to know numbers. The cost of the evening will be £5.00 per person.

The next big date for your diary is the Annual Dinner Dance. This will also be held at St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe and will be on **Saturday the 12th of June**. We are still finalising plans for this but will have more information with you very soon. One thing to look forward to is a special performance being organised by two of our members...some of you may know a little bit about this already but the rest of you will have to be there on the 12th of June to see it!!

I have asked John to update the social section of the Milton Musical website. This will contain photos from the social events that have taken place and information on those coming up so make sure you have a look if you can.

Last but by no means least, if there is anything that you want to see on the social calendar then please let me know, just give me a call or send me an e-mail or text and I will see what I can do. My contact details are at the back next to the social calendar!

I will see you all (in fancy dress) on the 15th of May!!

Emily

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* New since last Newsletter

May	Monday 10th	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 15th	Games Night
June	*Monday 7th at 7.30pm	Hitchhiker Presentation
	*Sunday 13th (12.00-6.00)	Hitchhiker Auditions at Brockenhurst
	Saturday 12th	Annual Dinner Dance
	Monday 14th	Committee Meeting
July	Monday 12th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	American Supper
August	Monday 9th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	Annual Croquet Match
September	Monday 6th	Introduction to Scarlet Pimpernel
	Monday 13th	Committee Meeting
	Sunday 19th	Scarlet Pimpernel Auditions
October	Monday 11th	Committee Meeting
November	Monday 1st	Committee Meeting
	*17th - 20th Brockenhurst Village Hall	Hitchhikers Guide to the Musical Galaxy
	Saturday 20th St Marks	Quiz Night
	Monday 22nd	AGM
December	Sunday 5th	Scarlet Pimpernel 1st Rehearsal
May 2011	16th - 21st Regent Centre	Scarlet Pimpernel the Musical

NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK

Ria Norris, Choreographer for Hitchhiker's

Dancing has been Ria's passion since she started ballet training at the age of five. Specialising in hip hop, street, jazz and urban ballet, Ria has performed in shows all over Europe, and has been teaching for the last five years. Her choreography skills combined with her ability to inspire has resulted

in a successful career, though she is now teaching less in order to concentrate on her choreography which recently produced a very successful dance show at Ballard School. She is very much looking forward to working with Milton Musical Society in their next new and exciting project.

