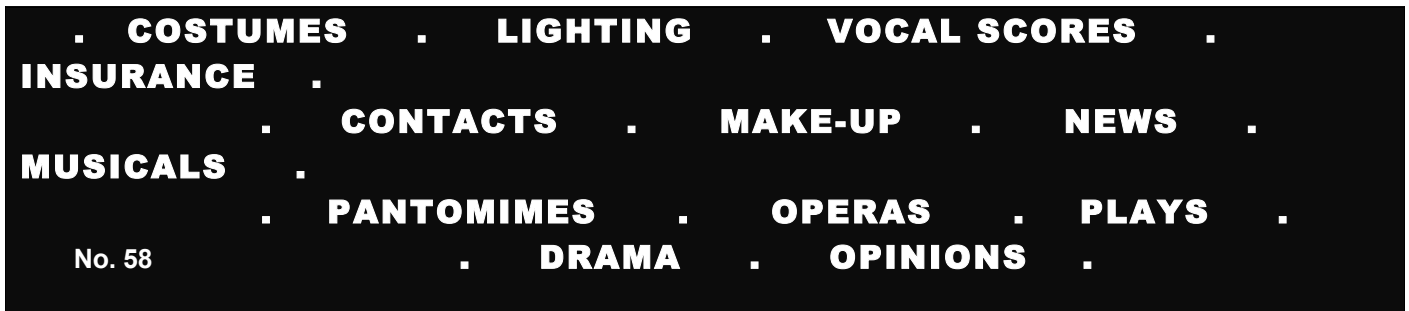


***National Operatic & Dramatic
Association
South West Amateur Theatre
Magazine***

“Lost in the Wilderness”

**district 12
AUTUMN 2008**

**. REVIEWS . STAGE MUSICALS . OPERETTAS .
SCENERY .**



BRIAN OLIVER reports on District 12

Snow White and the Seven Sins Red Hot & Cole 42nd Street Celebration	Zenith Theatre Company Poole & Parkstone Productions Wimborne Musical Society P & P Singers	One O'clock From the House Music, Myths & Legends The Whole Truth	KCA Players BOS Theatre Company KCA Players
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SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN SINS
Zenith Theatre Company St. Aldheim's Church Hall

Written & Directed by Ann Whitaker

7th March 2008

What a truly fabulous evening! This pantomime, very loosely (and I mean loosely) based on Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs, was written by company member Ann Whitaker and what a talented lady she is! Not only does she write, she also performs and is responsible for the amazing costumes! When poor Snow White's father dies, she is left in the charge of her wicked stepmother, a lady of ill repute who makes a habit of marrying and out living her husbands. In order to make sure she gets all of Snow White's inheritance she arranges for Snow White's demise, however, as she leaves this task up to her two less able "henchmen" needless to say Snow White doesn't end up drowned but rather in a "house" inhabited by.. not 7 funny little men...rather...7 beautiful but scantily clad young ladies....say no more! This is a highly amusing slant on the popular fairy story. All the principal line up was strong and the characterisations, especially the stepmother and two henchmen, superb. Congratulations to Zenith for a top rate, entertaining evening.

ONE O'CLOCK FROM THE HOUSE KCA Players Kinson Community Centre

Director: Anne Roberstson

March 2008

This was another excellent comedy from KCA. Personally I think this is where they excel. When their father dies sisters Miram, Maureen and Margaret have to decide who will take in and look after their sister Mavis who has been in an institution for many years. Who ever does inherits all their late father's money. This was a wonderful tale of family rivalry very funny and yet I think many families would recognise the wonderful characters some of whom should have been institutionalised themselves. There were excellent performances from the whole cast. but in my opinion it was Lonnie Watson as the dotty Mavis who stole the show and she hardly said a word.

RED HOT & COLE Poole & Parkstone Productions Lighthouse Theatre, Poole

Director: Pat Donovan

25th April 2008

After hearing on the grapevine that this show was not one of the best, it was with some trepidation that I went along to see it. Was I glad I did! On the whole the characterisations of the principal line up were superb, notably Claire Albanozzo, Andrew Rawston, Clare Gray and Crispin Goodall; the latter portraying Noel Coward brilliantly. If you shut your eyes you could truly believe the real Noel was there! Considering the show spans a period of 45 years, the clever staging meant the set never had to be changed. However, it was

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annoying that only some of the characters appeared to age during the show – please let me into your secret, I would love to think I will not age over the same period of time. Costumes and set were bright and lavish, enhancing the gaiety of the various parties taking place. The choral singing was superb, with the lovely harmonies coming through and everyone on stage appeared to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. This resulted in a fun, enjoyable evening.

MUSIC, MYTHS & LEGENDS	BOS Theatre Company	Regent Centre, Christchurch
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<i>Director: Anne Ponting</i>	<i>Choreographer: J. Abraham</i>	<i>Musical Director: Stuart Darling</i>	<i>23rd May 2008</i>
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When a concert is entitled “*A Theatrical Extravaganza of Song and Dance*” one expects variety. Unfortunately this show did not do that. There was plenty of song but on the scale of things very little dance which is really not surprising considering the choreographer was brought in only 3 weeks prior to going on stage. The programme, I feel, was a little ambitious. Maybe the concept was there, but unfortunately it didn’t really work. The standard varied greatly throughout the evening, and perhaps the company should have put greater thought into which numbers were of a standard to keep in and which should truthfully been dropped as there were quite a few that missed the note – literally. The entire evening was ruined by the 5 stand microphones lining the front of the stage like a five bar gate and the cast were obscured – maybe the mics were a safety net. Saying that there were some terrific performances and praise must go to Phil Redgrave for his show-stopping tribute to Mario Lanza, Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra: definitely a highlight of the evening. Peter Burdon’s rendition of “Stars” from *Les Misérables* was a joy, as was the harmony singing in “Bohemian Rhapsody”. Although the sound balance of the small band was not quite right a lot of the time, drowning the chorus in virtually all choral numbers, they did excel themselves in the instrumental section of “Bohemian Rhapsody”, obviously enjoying every minute!

42ND STREET	Wimborne Musical Society	Tivoli Theatre
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<i>Director: Roy Joseph</i>	<i>Choreographer: Suzi DeVillers</i>	<i>29th June 2008</i>
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This was the first time that I have seen a production of “*42nd Street*” and that is probably why this production must rate as one of the best shows that I have had the pleasure of attending since I became a Noda Rep in 2000. From the moment the curtain started to rise and we could see all those tap dancing feet, the show created the magic and the illusion of Musical Theatre that I love. Suzi DeVillers - the show's Choreographer, a member of the cast also put together the excellent dance routines that looked super and they also included cast members that were not dancing school trained. The leading roles were all excellent but I must mention 16 year old Jackie-Ross Lavender (Billy Lawlor). He may have been a little too young for the role, but this talented young man was superb considering that he has only been performing 18 months. For the first time at this venue I could not fault the sound, the balance was excellent and the band never once overpowered the singing. The costumes looked magnificent; full of colour and sparkle.

THE WHOLE TRUTH	KCA Players	Kinson Community Centre
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<i>Director: Steve Watton</i>	<i>29th June 2008</i>
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Once again KCA players were on top form with this very enjoyable thriller. As always the set was excellent and the audience showed their appreciation when it was revealed at curtain up. Although this play was categorised as a thriller, towards the end, the script became a good farce. It is made very to clear, early in the play, whom the guilty person is. As a result when the police inspector arrested the wrong man you could sense that the audience getting frustrated with him and I fully expected to hear someone shouting out in pantomime fashion. Once again everyone in the cast gave a first class performance and credit to director Steve Watton who had to take over a leading role after the original member of his cast had to pull out.

CELEBRATION	P & P Singers	Barrington Theatre
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<i>Director: Jean Chambers</i>	<i>12th July 2008</i>
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This was an excellent concert to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of this award-winning choir. Once again I was mesmerised by the high standard that this choir achieves. Although it so appears that their group was lower in numbers in some areas, it certainly did not effect the sound that they produced. In the first half, to show their versatility we were treated to a selection of five songs with a spiritual theme: all sung in different languages – in short it was magnificent. Their presentation was excellent throughout and it was very clear that everyone in the choir was enjoying themselves. I can't help wondering why we have not seen P&P singers on the BBC programme "Last Choir Standing" because I believe they rate as one of the best.

John Cummings

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of recently retired Regional Representative and Honorary Life Member of the Association, John Cummings.

A few words from National Vice President & Councillor for Noda South-East

John Cummings what can I say? John was a stalwart of the old NODA Southern Area Committee having been a representative for 33 years. At the re-organisation he retired. He received his Hon Life Membership of the Association after 25 years as a representative and carried on to serve his region for a further 8 years. He was a lovely man and will be sadly missed by all his friends and anyone who knew him on or off stage. I had known him since I joined the Southern area committee in 1980 and always found him pleasant, helpful and willing to do what was required for his region. He was always welcome on his visits to societies and the area days, and I shall miss him a great deal.

Thank you John for the time we had together on the Noda Southern Area Committee.

*Margaret Coltman
and all the members of the old Southern Area.*