

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

“Open a New Window”

SPRING 2010

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Gerry's Gossip

Warmest greetings to you all, during the coldest winter for many years. I ask myself, constantly, if it will ever end! The bright spots, which keep us going, are surely the wonderful productions, including seasonal pantomimes which add much-needed light relief to the gloomy days.

However, we have the brighter days to look forward to and none could be brighter than a few days spent in Torquay at the end of September, when I shall be honoured with the presidency of the Association. I do hope as many of you, whom I am pleased to now call friends, will join me at the AGM or even extend your stay and join in the fun at *The Palace Hotel*.

Brochures and booking forms will be in the next edition of "Theatre Business".

Due to the National being held in our region, our own South-West A.G.M. and Annual Awards Presentation will be held earlier this year, on **Sunday, 18th July at The Holiday Inn, Taunton (just off the M5) at 10.45a.m.**

Lunch is optional, but may be ordered in advance with **Denis Branton (01454 773 145) at £ 12.00 per person**. Cheques made payable to NODA SW.

I am pleased to inform you that, (apart from Phil Barnett – District 1) all our **Regional Representatives** are willing to stand again at the AGM. We are all sorry Phil does not feel able to carry on, but certainly appreciate his immense contribution to our committee during his time as a Rep., and wish him well. Happily Phil will not completely sever his attachments with the Region as he continues to be involved with our youth groups.

In my place as your next councillor, we have received nominations for Nick Lawrence, which the committee is pleased to endorse. However, this does not preclude any further nominations from societies (25 votes required).

Nomination forms for Councillor and Regional Representatives are to be found in the centre of this magazine.

NODA Youth Academy and Summer School continue to be well supported from this Region and we have four National and three Regional bursaries awarded this year, for Summer School at Loughborough, covering a wide area of subjects. The Youth Academy will run at Easter time from 6th-9th April at Oakham School, Rutland; and we are sponsoring some of our keen youngsters. Contact your Regional Rep or me for further details. I am pleased to see that some societies are carrying out their own Workshops and Training Days and this can only enhance the standard of performance we have come to expect from our Region.

All nominations for our **Annual Awards and Programme & Poster competitions** should be with me by the end of April, and the successful contestants are encouraged to attend our Awards Ceremony on 18th July at the Holiday Inn, Taunton. The standard of performance continues to rise I am pleased to note, none more so than from our talented youth groups, who constantly amaze me with their adult portrayals of complex characters. I urge adult societies to take time out to visit a group near you – you might find you are equally amazed at the presentations!

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This will be the last Councillor's Column I shall write for you, as I become President of the Association at the end of September and I should like to thank you all for putting up with me over the last eight years and to say a huge "Thank you" for the invitations to see your productions and for the extremely kind way you have all welcomed Denis and me to your societies, your continued kind hospitality and warm friendship. Carry on the good work and NEVER be satisfied with second best. Aim high, even higher!

*Kind regards to you all
and best wishes for your forthcoming productions,
Gerry.*

NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARD CEREMONY

Palace Hotel, Torquay

Saturday 25th September 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

*Your attendance is expected
on the occasion of the inauguration of
our very own Gerry Branton as National President*

Please put this date in your diary and encourage your members to come along too.

You are also invited to join in the weekend of special celebratory events

Noda Summer School, Loughborough University

1st - 7th August 2010 a week's concentrated study with expert tuition

Places still available: contact antonia@noda.org.uk

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY

18th July 2010

Holiday Inn, Taunton 10:45 a.m.

Special Guest: Mrs. Margaret Coltman, President of Noda.

Lunch also available at £12 a head.

Order in advance: send a cheque to Denis Branton made payable to Noda South-West.