

*National Operatic & Dramatic
Association*

South West Amateur Theatre Magazine

"A First-rate Opportunity"

AUTUMN 2009

JO WILSON-HUNT reports on District 8A (Somerset)

Production	Society
Pinocchio	Chardstock A. D. S.
Peter Pan	CLOKS
My Fair Lady	Wellington Arts Association
An Evening with Shakespeare	Milverton Dramatic Society

PINOCCHIO, Chardstock Amateur Dramatic Society, Community Hall, Chardstock

Director: Sarah Williamson Musical Director: David Billing

Choreographers: Jackie Smith & Becky Simpson

A village production needs to have the community behind it to help it achieve its goal, this local audience was so full of enthusiasm and excitement they forgot to quieten for the overture played by a small but tuneful set of clowns. A magical explanation of what was to come was well balanced within the main action. Characterisation was good and comedy played to the full especially by Jimminy and Chardstock's answer to 'French and Saunders'- Macaroni and Spaghetti. The musical numbers on the whole were executed with tuneful gusto, there were no mics in sight – good training on projection is needed to get over this even in a small hall – young Pinocchio proved this by not losing one line of dialogue, he (she) was delightful. The choreographed numbers showed thought and were complimented by colourful and imaginative costumes, highlights being the under the sea sequence and the Dame's balletic moment! In fact 'she' had a number of glamorous ensembles especially those in Act 2. The circus scenes also need a special mention as they included a real trapeze and numerous well executed circus speciality acts. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening in a small village hall with a real family atmosphere. ... And it was great!

PETER PAN, CLOKS (Chard Local Kids Society for Music & Drama), The Guildhall, Chard, May

Director/Producer/Choreographer: Maria Farey Musical Director: Jonathan Farey

If you don't know the story, Peter Pan is a mischievous boy who can fly and magically refuses to grow up. Spending his never-ending childhood in Neverland with his gang of Lost Boys fighting the infamous Captain Hook, and along the way meeting up with the Darling children. J. M. Barrie wrote this story over one hundred years ago and it has remained popular since its first publication and has taken its place as an unquestioned piece of classic theatre and literature. Sadly on the last night of CLOKS production the auditorium was not full but the old magic transported us all to Neverland and the young talented cast portrayed this story with pride. All voices were strong even down to the youngest cast members, simple dance routines and well presented group pictures got over the rather full stage issues and some nicely portrayed characterisations brought the story to life. 'How will they fly?' was a question posed by many ... well they did thanks to a UV light and the strong arms of the backstage crew ... it was truly believable. Lovely colourful costumes and a simple effective set gave the finishing touches to the hard work and dedication of the cast and their support team. It is hard to single out performers in a youth company as every one works hard to achieve their best making them all stars in their own right, and on the final night of this production they did just that.

MY FAIR LADY, Wellington Amateur Operatic Society, The Wellesley Theatre, May

Director: Monica Spalding Choreographer: Susan Green Musical Director: Hilary Wickham

“*My Fair Lady*” is well known and often predictable in the opening due to the fact that Elisa is often obvious from the off: not in this case. Many attractive ‘Cabbage leaves’ filled the stage as the action began with the morning preparations of Covent Garden Market. Enter the Eynsford-Hill party with Mrs Eynsford-Hill looking and acting especially elegant against the drab costermongers, with class distinction being the centre of this tale the stage was set. Elisa in her first lead role made her presence felt from her opening line and played the role her own way, no Audrey Hepburn copy here. A petulant young woman with a fantastic sulk and a whining cockney accent sang like an angel with a clear crisp soprano and transformed into a real English rose. She was ‘*Loverly*’. Not to be out done, the born to be Higgins and supportive Pickering gave the production strength and experience; these two make a great double act and are pleasure to watch. The casting on the whole was extremely good. The whole company danced and sang with gusto, chorus numbers were full of energy and the servants sang in beautiful harmony. The production team had obviously worked very hard to support the talented cast with some great visual delights but beware of time scales, etiquette and historical accuracy with this type of piece; the audience can be quite a fussy lot! Wellington, this was one of your best.

**AN EVENING WITH SHAKESPEARE, Milverton Dramatic Society, The Victoria Rooms,
Milverton, May**

Co-ordinator: Richard Froggatt Lead Troubadour: Tom Morrell

A warm friendly welcome greeted the ‘guests’ on entering the Victoria Rooms in the very pretty village of Milverton. The worry of a tiny audience was quickly swept away as the hall filled up in anticipation of a goodly meal and wholesome entertainment. Once the Guests were settled the Lead Troubadour led the small group of minstrels in two songs which had a warm quality and good diction, but we were then told that the ‘Royal Shakespeare Company’ were stuck on the motorway and we would have to put up with The Mummings present to entertain us ... throughout the cast played along with this rouse and this caused some great hilarity and comment. What followed was a selection of sonnets, poems and snippets of Shakespeare’s most well known works, all presented with charm and character. There were a number of notable pieces, a highlight being Romeo and Juliet’s balcony scene. We quite forgot they were two grown-ups playing the star-crossed teens. The ‘Three Witches’ delivery with a variety of accents and good comic timing caused even more laughter. An impromptu poem in English followed by the ‘true’ French from a member of the ‘twin town’ audience proved the hospitality of this company, along with the fabulous meal that was interspersed between each section of performance this became an evening to remember.

Youth Academy 2010, 6th - 9th April

If you are aged between 12 and 17 and you love theatre, this is the Academy for you.

Join us at Oakham School, Rutland to build confidence, learn new techniques, develop skills, make friends and most importantly have fun whilst you learn! NODA Youth Academy 2010 will offer two Musical Theatre courses, covering a range of popular West End shows, and one Drama Skills course to equip young actors with all the skills they need for the stage.

For full details of NODA Youth Academy 2010 please visit www.noda.org.uk or [contact Membership Services](#) on 01733 865 790.

Book your place today!

July 2010

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY

venue & date to be announced shortly

Please note the unusual date – moved to accommodate the National Conference.

NODA Summer School, Loughborough

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SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL WEBSITE

www.nodasw.com

Information about SW Noda activities and our own "What's on" page.

*Contact our membership secretary: nicklawrence@hotmail.com
to register your web-site & email addresses*

YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2010 WILL BE DUE ON JANUARY 1st

Invoices will be sent in December.

Please pass to your Treasurer for immediate attention and save your volunteer Regional Representative a lot of extra work.