

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010
District 13 – Bristol – Sharon Wood

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

“Open a New Window”

SPRING 2010

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SHARON WOOD reports on District 13

Les Misérables	Bristol Youth Musical Productions
The Yeomen of the Guard	Bristol Savoy Operatic Society
Oklahoma!	Bristol Light Opera Club
Aladdin	St. Anne's Players
Bah Humbug	Winterbourne Musical Theatre
Kaleidoscope	Cadbury Heath A. P. S.
Sleeping Beauty	Woodland Players

LES MISÉRABLES (School's Edition) Bristol Musical Youth Productions
Redgrave Theatre, Bristol

Director/Choreographer: Vicki Klein Musical Director: Kerrie James

October 2009

The most ambitious musical that BMYP has ever attempted, this was a triumph in every aspect. From the first notes of the familiar music, played by a superb orchestra, to the full house standing ovation at the end, these young people held their audience spellbound. The acting and singing was outstanding and the maturity, passion and understanding of the story and characters by this group of young actors, compelling. The wonderful barricade, in four pieces and designed by Dave Thompson, was manipulated with ease and used confidently by the cast. Costumes, lighting, sound effects and properties were all in total keeping and the action moved swiftly and seamlessly through the production with scene changes made by the actors and costumed stage hands. It would be unfair to single out individual actors, as the main strength of the show lay in its team work, which was evident throughout. There was no weak link in this team; they worked as one, principals and chorus together, telling the story in such a way, that I am sure many of the audience left the auditorium (as I did), with a lump in the throat and something in their eye! This was a powerful and highly accomplished production that will stay with me for a long time.

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.

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You are also invited to join in the weekend of special celebratory events
Official forms and notification to be included in the next edition of "Theatre Business"

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD Bristol Savoy Operatic Society Redgrave Theatre

Director/Choreographer: Steve Woolley Musical Director: David Clarke

October 2009

'*The Yeomen Of The Guard*', or '*The Merryman and His Maid*', the darkest of the G & S operas, opens with a lament and closes with reluctant betrothals and a heart breaking tragedy, instead of the usual 'happy ever after'. There is, however, plenty of scope for humour and satire as well as some of the most beautiful music in a G & S opera, which this production from Bristol Savoy took full advantage of. The magnificent set depicting the Tower of London, with all its stone work and foliage, backed by a stunning backcloth of 16th century London, along with excellent and subtle lighting, wonderful costumes and superb orchestrations, gave this production polish and distinction. Characterisations were superb, particularly Steve Woolley (Jack), John Francom (Wilfred), Sue Cessford (Phoebe) Mike Boulter (Colonel Fairfax) and Sheila Symes (Elsie), to name but a few. Vocals were strong and clear, chorus numbers were beautifully sung, and the Finale was stunning. As with all G & S productions, the plot was complicated and wordy, but the Players unfolded the story with impressive and confident ease. This was a highly commendable performance from an extremely accomplished group.

Is your society's web-site linked to Noda?

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL WEB SITE www.nodasw.com

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

plus all the reports from this and previous magazines – online.

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

OKLAHOMA!

Bristol Light Opera Club

Bristol Hippodrome

Director: John Cousins Choreographer: Lizzie Westney Musical Director: Ian Henderson

November 2009

This much loved musical, the first written by Rodgers and Hammerstein, has certainly stood the test of time. Old familiar songs, well played by the accomplished orchestra and sung with gusto by the cast,

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soon drew the audience in, along with substantial characters, superb scenery (supplied by *Scenic Projects Ltd*), artistic lighting and great energy from all those on stage. Production numbers seemed a little under-rehearsed and there were a few technical hiccups, but teamwork and enthusiasm prevailed. Some excellent performances, particularly Curly (Chris Burt with an animated and secure portrayal of our hero), Judd (Simon Gregory giving a well balanced performance of menace and melancholy, that brought the darker side of the story to life) and Aunt Eller (an energetic and engaging portrayal by Jaquie Bell), though all the principals worked well together and were given strong support by the chorus. This was a most enjoyable and commendable production.

18th July 2010

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL
AGM & AWARD CEREMONY

Holiday Inn, Taunton at 10:45 a.m.

Guest of Honour: Mrs. Margaret Coltman, National President of Noda

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

Lunch also available at £12 a head.

Send a cheque to Denis Branton made payable to Noda South-West.

ALADDIN

St. Anne's Players

St. Peter's Church Hall, Bristol

Directors: Judi Smith & Emma Parslow Musical Director; Robbie Starling

December 2009

A good old fashioned 'village hall' pantomime with goodies to cheer, baddies to boo, topical and regional references, a good mix of songs, beautifully painted scenery, a traditional song sheet and plenty of enthusiasm from the entire cast, gave us a wonderful, 'feel good' production! Written by Judi Smith and accompanied admirably by the piano, the pace was good and the jokes came thick and fast in the capable hands of the animated cast. Especially good performances by Daniel Hooper (an energetic and animated Aladdin), Chris Wiltshire (a charming and accomplished Widow Twankey), Jim Thatcher (a wonderfully morose Abanazer) Ali Parr (Wishy) and a formidable Genie with a lovely Welsh accent! (Nick Bailey). Full acting honours must also be bestowed on Cyril the Camel ('trained' by Juliet Hagan & Toni Hutchison), a huge and lovable beast that was adored by all and managed to negotiate the tiny

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stage without mishap! A lot of fun had obviously been had in rehearsals with good teamwork and commitment shining through in the performance. A thoroughly enjoyable show.

BAH HUMBUG

Winterbourne Musical Theatre

Winterbourne C. C.

Director: Maggie Williams Musical Director: Heather Wren

December 2009

An original 'Pantical' based on 'A Christmas Carol', written by Maggie Williams, this was a new slant on an old favourite. With 72 characters plus the enchanting 'Camden Clangers,' a group of wonderful campanologists that accompanied some carols at the end of the show, this was a big production that demanded much commitment and dedication to bring it to the stage. The familiar story of Scrooge (Peter Gibson) was introduced by Dickens himself (an admirable portrayal by Mike Cousins) and seemed quite traditional until the arrival of his housekeeper, Mrs Dilber and maid Lillian, (hilarious performances with great comic timing by Annie Weatherhead & Jill Cope). These characters set the mood and though the original story was told, we had countless hysterical 'additions' throughout! Act 2 opened in 'BAR HUMBUG', a drinking and Karaoke establishment frequented by all manner of deceased characters including Al Capone (Tony Worgan with a great rendition of Jailhouse Rock!). The majority of the musical numbers (and there were many!), were accompanied by a very talented and sympathetic pianist, Katie Robson, with a huge range of musical styles, from G&S to Rock and Roll. Wonderful costumes, imaginative use of stage and auditorium, superb energy and pace all made for an imaginative production that was really different. Great fun!

Thank you to all of you who promptly paid your 2010 subscriptions

If you haven't got around to settling your membership with Peterborough.

Please remind your Treasurer for prompt payment.

Unpaid subscriptions by 31st March will lead to your membership lapsing.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Cadbury Heath Amateur Players Society

Director: Madeleine Bills Music: Matt Woodward

December 2009

This was a new venture for the Players in the form of a revue, which had great variety and interest throughout. Beautifully accompanied by Matt Woodward on the keyboard, we were whisked through some outstanding solos and duets, hilarious sketches (that I had certainly never seen before and will certainly stay in the memory for some time), several excellent monologues and even a melodrama, finished off in both acts with some fine ensemble singing. With excellent costumes and wigs, a good pace maintained at all times and the whole show vaguely reminiscent of good old Music Hall. This was a real 'feel good' show with something for everyone. Great entertainment!

SLEEPING BEAUTY Woodland Players Lady of Lourdes School, Kingswood

Director: Kathy Matthews Choreographers: Laura Sibley & Sharon Wood Musical Director: Sharon Wood

28th January 2010

Stuart Lyddon reports:-

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With a limited performing area, direction ensured that the cast unseeingly never had any awkward positioning which kept the relationships between the characters true and honest to the story. Overall, the production had an even flow with endearing highs and lows. Included in the script was a time-travel element so bringing the Tardis into the reckoning was a clever thought as well as those important local references throughout, bolstering that personalised touch to the community. Choreography utilised the abilities of the cast, but kept a challenge within the movement sufficiently keeping all members on their toes and attentive to the routines. Make-up was evident throughout enhancing the look of each performer to an appropriate fashion. Costumes were a revelation, well thought out and critically supportive of the spirit of pantomime. General lighting enhanced the mood in all scenes and interaction between the cast was lively and fun. Everyone created a character which the audience believed in, laughed at, loved, empathised with or booed. The power battle between the two fairies was engaging, singing clear and enjoyable. Certainly a lively presentation full of panto magic, gags, knockabout figures, colour and an endearing love aspect, after all, everyone likes to be entertained.

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