

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010
District 3 – Plymouth & West Devon – Michael Simpson

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

“Open a New Window”

SPRING 2010

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MICHAEL SIMPSON reports on District 3

Stand & Deliver
42nd Street
Sweet Charity
Dick Whittington
Scrooge the Panto

Torpoint Players
City of Plymouth Theatre Company
Tavistock Musical Theatre Company
Wranglers Theatre Company
Sparkwell Amateur Theatre Company

STAND AND DELIVER

Torpoint Players

Council Chambers, Torpoint

October 2009

This comedy set in a Maternity Ward was very well played out by an excellent cast. The totally different characters were well defined and caught all the comedy precisely. At the opening the ward nurse narrates what has happened recently and we were taken back to the actual characters she is telling us about. From the too posh to push to the frightened unmarried teenager, there was also the older woman caught in the stage of life where she thought she was past getting pregnant and the young woman who has a "Book". The three husbands also were poles apart; from the old hand who brings his socks in for the wife to mend as he says, to give her something to do; the browbeaten rich man who wouldn't pay for private care and the young man determined to video the whole procedure. Overseeing all this was the wonderful Ward Sister who knows everything that is happening, much to the consternation of the randy nurse and the young Doctor. The set was very inventive and well constructed. Lighting and sound was excellent and rounded off what was a very polished production.

42ND STREET City of Plymouth Theatre Company Devonport Playhouse

Director/Choreographer: Angela Collins Musical Director: Brian Gerry October 2009

This was a feast of song and dance that could not have been bettered. With a stellar cast who came out and hit us between the eyes and continued to do so until the final curtain. Using a minimal but cleverly constructed set that was beautifully lit and costumes that were a visual delight it was obvious from the opening number that we were going to be thoroughly entertained. The singing was high quality, with an orchestra that was so well controlled it was the perfect balance. As dancing is the greater part of this show the choreography performed by the whole company was superb. The company had sold out before opening night which must have been an added extra to their performances. Judging by the audience reaction and applause it would appear that shows with the feelgood factor are what is required in these difficult times.

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*

Brochures and booking forms will arrive with "Theatre Business" – Noda's National Magazine

SWEET CHARITY Tavistock Musical Theatre Company The Wharf, Tavistock

Directors: Tim & Trudy Farmer Choreographer: Patti Stott Musical Director: Jane Warick Oct 2009

Charity Hope Valentine, a rather nice name for a girl who is working as a dance hall "Hostess" who in turn is naive and optimistic. It requires an actress of more than good ability to portray her and this company had such a person. In contrast her fellow workers and, in particular, Helene and Nickie were resigned and cynical about their situation although they too would hope for as they sing "Something Better Than This". The dance hall owner Herman is not a very big role, but was played with believability and gave a superb rendition of "I Love To Cry At Weddings". Vittorio Vidal and Oscar Lindquist were played with conviction although totally different in character, the former being overtly confident and the latter very withdrawn and shy until he comes into contact with Charity. The less prominent principals performed very well and Daddy Brubeck led the church members in the rousing "Rhythm Of Life". The Ensemble numbers were very good and energetic which the audience really appreciated. Musically the band, I thought, were too heavily weighted on the brass, but this could have been due to where they were positioned, there being no alternative. The costumes, supplied by Patti Stott and the cast were bright, colourful and of the period. Scenery and Stage construction were carried out by members of the company and had the desired effect. Lighting and sound complimented the show, and like me the audience from the first night full house were obviously very happy as they left the Theatre.

18th July 2010

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY

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.

"Holly Woods", 89 Stone Lane, Winterbourne Down, South Gloucestershire BS36 1DH

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DICK WHITTINGTON Wranglers Theatre Company Lipson Community College

Director/Choreographer: Wendy Holmes Written by Geoff Coventry

December 2009

This was a fresh approach to this time honoured pantomime that worked very well. The cat being the primary character who guides Dick to his eventual success. The cast all seemed very comfortable with their characters and performed exceedingly well. The inclusion of "Dickies Chicks" was a novel idea and they linked the appropriate scenes with a relevant song. The dancers were very slick and performed the choreography with precision. Costumes supplied by (Molly Limpets Sheffield) were colourful and blended well with the excellent sets. The stage area in this venue is flat; however, good use was made of rostra to the back of the stage to create elevation which was particularly good as the ship's bridge. Children from the younger members who, on the night I attended were the red team were delightful. The well chosen songs to go with the plot and the audience participation songs were received with acclaim by the audience. I must say that my wife and myself enjoyed the evening very much and may I say thank you to front of house staff for assisting my wife during the evening as she was having a little difficulty due to gout. If any company is looking towards next years Pantomime they may wish to contact Wranglers to see if they will release the script for their perusal.

Don't Forget

You can *only* be nominated for one of the South-West Region's prestigious awards if *you* invite your Regional Representative and/or the Councillor to attend your show.

Contact your Representative as early as you can.

As volunteers to the Association they have other lives away from Noda.

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

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL WEB SITE

www.nodasw.com

SW Noda activities and "What's on" page. Plus all the reports from this magazine online.

SCROOGE THE PANTO Sparkwell Amateur Theatre Company Village Hall

Director: Freddy Denman Choreographer: Carole Wilson December 2009

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This adaptation of Dickens "*Christmas Carol*" by Trevor Wakefield supplied by N.O.D.A. Scripts had to be seen. I don't think it could have been cast any better than it was because everyone seemed to be right. If I had to pick out anyone particularly it would have to be the Dame. The young man who played the part was terrific and showed an expertise beyond his years. The singing this year was better than I have ever heard it, both Principals and Chorus. Putting an extra shine on the production were the lovely young dancers and the choreography was excellent. As one expects, the costumes were delightful adding glitz to the show. The scenery and cloths were lovely even though the regular scenic artist was not able to take the task on this year due to some surgery; Debbie Harris did a wonderful job as stand in. I thought the cast make up was very good indeed and Jacob Marley was outstanding. The lighting was very evocative of the mood in all scenes and the sound was superb. My admiration for this company grows year on year and I have watched them develop and improve not only in performance but in how they have changed the venue over the time I have been visiting them. Thank you everyone a Sparkwell. Christmas starts for me when I come to see you.

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