

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010  
District 5 – Mid & East Devon – Lynne Caygill

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

**“Open a New Window”**

**SPRING 2010**

**LYNNE CAYGILL reports on District 5**

42 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Centre Stage
Sounds of the Sixties	Exmouth Musical Theatre Company
One More Song Till Christmas	Centre Stage
Dick Whittington	The Riverside Players
The Goose Girl	Colaton Raleigh Players

**42<sup>nd</sup> STREET**

**Centre Stage**

**Exmouth Pavilion**

*Director: Clare Philbrock Choreographer: Rachel Worsley Musical Director: Dorothy Worthington*

*October 2009*

“42<sup>nd</sup> Street” is one of my favourite shows. It has memorable music, lots of opportunities to dance and what’s more it has a great storyline. The cast threw themselves into the production and gave it energy and vitality. The part of Julian Marsh was expertly played by Shaun Mabin. He had a good understanding of the role enabling the audience to warm towards him as the production progressed. Hannah Dawe, in her first leading role as Maggie Jones was vibrant in her performance and made all she could of the part. All parts were played with confidence and all were believable characters who you were able to sympathize with. I should have liked to see Peggy Sawyer in a more glamorous costume at the end of the show. She would normally wear the same costume worn by Dorothy Brock in order to equal her performance. A Mention must be made about the Piano Player who made a very small part into an amusing role. The little boys finding the dime at the start of “We’re in the Money” was inspirational directing and the number was a highlight of the show. The dancing was intricate and well performed, particularly the tap sequences which the cast obviously relished and which were a joy to watch. The band was under the expert eye of Dorothy Worthington, who kept them well under control in order to support the young voices. The young people of this company must be congratulated on rising to the challenge and putting on a performance of this show as good as any adult societies.

**NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARD CEREMONY**

**Palace Hotel, Torquay**

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.***

***Brochures and booking forms***

***arrive with “Theatre Business” – Noda’s National Magazine***

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**SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES Exmouth Musical Theatre Company Exmouth Pavilion**

*Director: Anne Killoran Choreographers: Anne Killoran & Debra Butler*

*Musical Directors: Kate & Anthony Lees, Kirsty Sydenham November 2009*

One of the most difficult things the production team had to do for this show was choosing the programme. The sixties gave us such a wealth of popular music. Where does one start? Despite the lack of any Cliff Richard songs, (he was *my* favourite, so I can't forgive them!) the programme was very well balanced and was greatly enjoyed by the cast and the audience, many of whom expressed their enjoyment by joining in the singing, clapping and dancing. The concert had a mixture of solos, duets, group and chorus singing, with the chorus providing some excellent harmonic numbers. The Beach Boys medley was a highlight as were many of the solos particularly in the second act. The show moved along at a good pace and the music was balanced so we heard every word. The stage was attractively dressed with some appropriate and well chosen film projected at the back, (including a picture of Cliff, so partially forgiven!) The narration had been well thought out. It was amusing and interesting, filling the audience in with news of the time and delivered very professionally by the two DJs, Hugh Chudley and Craig Butler. The concert ended with the company singing "The Rhythm of Life" from "Sweet Charity". This had been superbly choreographed and was a fitting end to a most enjoyable evening.

**SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY**

**18<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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

*01 454 773 145*

**ONE MORE SONG TILL CHRISTMAS Centre Stage Exmouth Pavilion**

*Directors: Helen Rushton, Clare Philbrock & Rachel Worsley Musical Director: Nicky Perry 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009*

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The choice of Music from Disney shows was a good and popular idea for a concert just before Christmas. It was a balanced programme with a good selection of well and not so well-known musical numbers, performed by ensembles, solos and the full company. It had action from the start with songs from “*Mary Poppins*” capturing the audience attention from the minute the music began. “*The Jungle Book*” songs “I Wanna be Like You” and the very well sung barbershop number “We Are Your Friends” were highlights of the first act which finished on a high with 2 numbers performed by the whole company from ‘*High School Musical*’. The second act got off to a good start with music from “*Hercules*” and also included “A Change in Me” from “*Beauty and the Beast*” which was a very well performed solo. The songs from “*The Lion King*” were also very well performed, particularly the whole company singing “The Circle of Life”. The small musical ensemble of Bass, Flute, Percussion and piano played well and supported the cast without overpowering them. The show had good pace and moved effortlessly from one number to the next. The show ended with a selection from “*Muppet Christmas Carol*” which sent us all away in a Christmas mood.

**Noda Summer School, Loughborough University**

1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010

a week's concentrated study with expert tuition

Places still available: contact [antonia@noda.org.uk](mailto:antonia@noda.org.uk)

**DICK WHITTINGTON**

**The Riverside Players**

**Village Hall, Newton Poppleford**

*Director: Trisha Barclay Musical Director: John Griswold February 2010*

This Pantomime by Alan Frayn was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. It was an entertaining script with jokes coming fast and furious and many with a local flavour. The cast included people of all ages working well together. The young people and younger children were completely involved and the director obviously knew them well as she made the most of all their individual strengths and talents. King Rat, the character we loved to hate, was superbly played with a midland accent; and along with a strong Fairy Bowbells they were really able to get the audience involved in booing and cheering. Idle Jack and Dolly Dumpling both built a good rapport with the audience as did Captain Cuttlefish and Scupper. The Sultan of Morocco and Dick Whittington were both comfortable in their roles and Tom, the cat, moved well and was able to put over a most endearing character. A good effort had been made with the choreography with the Ratlings proving to be a highlight of the show. The Director used the village hall to its full potential, using every possible entrance and exit. The music was excellently accompanied by John Griswold with some most entertaining arrangements. The company all worked hard and came over as a happy cast who jelled well together to give us a really enjoyable evening.

**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.

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Contact your Representative as early as you can.  
As volunteers to the Association they have other lives away from Noda.

**THE GOOSE GIRL**

**Colaton Raleigh Players**

**Village Hall, Colaton Raleigh**

*Director/Choreographer: Doris Russell Musical Director: John Davis February 2010*

This was a truly home-grown production. The pantomime had been written by the director, Doris Russell who was also responsible with Tim Pink for the design and creation of the set. The set had been very well designed and looked most effective and certainly made the stage look as if it had some depth. Peter Monnery played the dame, Dame Dippy. He has had a lot of experience in this role and always knows how to use the audience so they enjoy his performance without getting embarrassed. Sid and Pops had a good rapport with each other and were highly entertaining. The Fairy was played with gentle confidence and Jack Frost the opposite character was an excellent contrast to her. The Goose was excellently played. The moves were full of character and she was loved by the audience. The chorus sang with energy and confidence and was superbly accompanied by John Davis. However I felt the production needed a few more songs, more modern songs, if possible, and some choreography that was a little more challenging. It is a well written script and it was interesting to see a pantomime with a storyline that is different to the usual pantomime plots. I am always amazed at what this group is able to achieve on such a small stage. Well done on all the hard work that you gave in order to bring this show to life.

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