

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010
District 7 – North Devon – Diane Gilchrist

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

“Open a New Window”

SPRING 2010

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DIANE GILCHRIST reports on District 7

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THE QUEEN OF HEARTS

Holsworthy Amateur Theatrical Society

Producers: Amy Clarke & Rob Painter Musical Director: Mike Wonnacott

This was a pantomime in the true tradition, with the ‘goodies’ setting the scene, and the ‘baddies’ giving the audience plenty to boo about. The opening chorus scene was well presented vocally, but it would have been good to see some more movement, or even more imaginative grouping. It was obvious that the chorus had been extremely well rehearsed, but it was a shame that there were so few young men in the line-up. The principals were very good, and the professionalism of some of the more mature players was very obvious, and being able to play to the audience and to be able to re-act to their comments and reactions was great, and was used to good advantage. The voices of Tilly Flop and Alice were very easy on the ear, but once again a little more movement during the solos and duets would have enhanced the performance even more. The characters from Wonderland were superb, and special mention must be made of the Walrus and the White Rabbit. The costumes were good, and the sets were excellent, especially the effect of the slide in Act II and the finale was spectacular from all aspects. Well done to this very talented Society.

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.

Brochures & Booking Forms arrive with “Theatre Business” – Noda’s National Magazine

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

BLITZ

Barnstaple Musical Comedy & Dramatic Society

Queen's Theatre

Director: Kev Behan Choreographer: Sarah King Musical Director: Malcolm Read

November 2009

This is a show that provides a society with great scope for all age groups. It is not as well known as Bart's "Oliver!", and maybe doesn't contain as many chart topping songs, but nevertheless is extremely entertaining. As the title suggests, the show is set during the Second World War, and relates the story of Mrs Blitzstein and her family and neighbours, as the bombs drop and their lives are changed forever. The excellent opening number "Our Hotel", set the high standard for the evening; a standard which was maintained throughout the whole performance. Each principal played their role with great belief, but the honours must go to Ann Clements (Mrs Blitzstein) who was outstanding, with both her singing and acting. Her rendition of "So Tell me Jack" was incredible and well deserved the applause it received. The choreography was excellent and was performed with much confidence by the cast, although one small criticism – the dance scene at the wedding looked slightly crowded. Just a minor problem. The set was good, and full marks go to the "stage crew" for the slick scene changes – especially after the bombing. Costumes, hairstyles and make up were on the whole authentic looking for the period, with just the occasional sight of something too modern. The orchestra was most impressive and it was good to hear music in the style of Glen Miller and other war-time band leaders played so well. Congratulations to each and every member of the cast, to the Director, Choreographer, Musical Director and everyone involved in this first class production.

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 01 454 773 145

IMPROBABLE FICTION

Torrington Players

The Plough

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Director: Liz Harris

20th November 2009

Alan Ayckbourn is a very prolific playwright with this being his 69th play, and as fans of Ayckbourn know, nothing is quite as it appears. The story in this case revolves around a group of would be writers and the problems they encounter en route to possible fame. Once again this very talented group provided an excellent evening's entertainment. All the players without exception were actors of great ability and each played their part with much style and panache. The change in characters as the play progressed was incredible and the costume quick changes, coupled with the change of accents was amazing and were sustained throughout. I thought the malapropisms of the space travellers were hilarious and must have provided a great deal of fun and frustration at rehearsals. The set was good, I loved the arm at the end of the telephone, and costumes were excellent as were the lighting and sound effects. A superb production and congratulations go to the Director and cast alike for a worthwhile visit to the Plough. And as the chairman of the writers group reminded us, 'it's always good to end on a song'. So long may Torrington Players keep singing!

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.

CINDERELLA

Actors of North Tawton

Town Hall, North Tawton

Director: Twiggy Lake Choreographer: Shirley Edwards

19th February 2010

This very talented Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary with this well-known pantomime, and once again provided a very entertaining show. The opening was slower than expected from a panto, no chorus number, but a well choreographed group of attractive dancers. But we soon knew we were in panto-land with the arrival of Buttons, very ably played by Simon Ward, who had the audience eating out of the palm of his hand within minutes. The Ugly Sisters were excellent, and really stole the show, with their costumes and make-up, and even at times their ad-libbing! The Fairy Godmother kept the story line going for us, but unusually for pantomime appeared from the 'baddie' side of the stage. Cinderella, Prince Charming and Dandini were easy on the eye, but a few more songs would have enhanced their performance even more. The Baron and Baroness helped the 'Hiss and Boo' situation along and were good characterisations. Once again, as is usual with this Society, the sets were of the highest standard, as were the costumes and special effects. Overall, a very enjoyable evening.

Noda Summer School, Loughborough University

1st - 7th August 2010

a week's concentrated study with expert tuition

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

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GANG SHOW 2010

North Devon Scouts & Guides

Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple

Producers: Martin Bray & Nichola Ford

20th February 2010

Wow! After a superb show in 2009, I wasn't sure if this year's show could equal that standard, but equal it; it did and at times surpassed it. The show got off to a very lively start, and the pace did not drop throughout the production. The chorus singing was excellent, with the added bonus of some very good soloists. The grouping for the chorus numbers was good, and movement did not detract from the quality of the singing. The sketches were well performed, and full marks go to all the young actors who never faltered over their lines. Just a minor point, the punch-line was not always as punchy as it ought to have been. Maybe this was a fault of the script-writer and not the performers. The choreography was innovative, particularly so in the 'Midnight Hour' number, and obviously had been very well rehearsed, with everyone knowing exactly where they were going at all times. The special effects were good, and the table tennis scene was wonderful, as was the space-ship. The costumes were, as is usual with this group, spectacular and very imaginative. The lighting was good, and I especially liked the effects in 'See How They Shine'. The ultimate chorus number 'Right To The Top' left the audience in no doubt that this is exactly where this group are headed. Well done to all concerned!

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

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*