

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010
District 8 – South & East Somerset – Trudy Dyke

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

“Open a New Window”

SPRING 2010

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TRUDY DYKE reports on District 8

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HELLO, DOLLY!

CUDOS

Victoria Hall, Crewkerne

Director: Diana English Choreographer: Lisa Gage Musical Director: Jean Rudd
2009

11th September

“*Hello, Dolly!*” is essentially Dolly, the matchmaker and meddler, and it is this charismatic woman who weaves her magic into the lives she touches. CUDOS enthusiastic company opened in tableau n preparation for Dolly's (Charmaine Brays) entrance. It was rather tentative and did not quite make the impact expected. After the wobbly start and change of scene the show livened up as we met cantankerous Horace Vandergelder (Greg Groves) with his acerbic tongue and chocolate covered peanuts – unshelled! Cornelius Hackl (Richard Walters) his long suffering employee who works for a pittance and longs for an adventure before he's too old to enjoy it! Along with his sidekick, Barnaby Tucker (Keith Allington) whose only want is to see the whale at Barnum's and the male chorus delivered an energetic “It Takes a Woman”. Sarah Elliott played widow Irene Molloy with an air of elegance and a twinkle in her eye. Minnie Fay (Vikki Rolley) her dizzy assistant whose bubbly personality and use of facial expressions spoke louder than words. One of the highlights of this production was “The Waiter's Gallop” with its well timed choreography. Bodgit and Scarper's set was first rate as was the slick scene changing by the crew which kept the show moving.

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 & Booking Forms will arrive
with “Theatre Business” Noda’s National Magazine**

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THE GONDOLIERS	Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society	The Octogan Theatre
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Director/Choreographer: Alan Spencer Musical Director: Lynne Merrifield 10th October 2009

Y.A.O.S's production of "The Gondoliers" set in the "roaring 1920's" burst into live as soon as the overture started. Hot on its heels followed 'List and Learn' chorus of Contadine (1920's Flappers) swooning! This production was blessed with a very talented cast and it was a pleasure to see how the new and more seasoned performers working together complementing one another's performance. There were many musical highlights throughout this production, in particular 'Then One of Us Will Be a Queen' and 'Of Happiness the Very Pith' - each of which displayed great delivery and comic timing. Choreography was stylised and tailored to suit all abilities, which the show stopping 'Dance a Cachucha' demonstrated this to the maximum. Musicality overall was strong. Costumes and set complemented one another. Congratulations to all who put this production together.

SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY

18th 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 01454 773145

FOOTLOOSE	Yeovil Youth Theatre	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
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Director: Alan Forster Choreographers: Judy Lye Forster & Katy Lye Musical Director: Helen Geen.

November 2009 Past President Mary Hobbs reports:-

I was not familiar with this Musical, but the programme told me that it had started life as a film. The story was of a place in America which had decreed that dancing was against the law. The young people of the town rebelled against this law, and managed to obtain permission to have a dance. The young people were unfamiliar (in the story) with dancing, but soon overcame their shortcomings, learning to dance very quickly. This was the theme of the first act, and it was performed with great vigour and enthusiasm by the large cast. The choreography was energetic and lively, and the dancers showed they were capable of performing gymnastics within the dancing. It had been well rehearsed and brilliantly executed. All the dance numbers were superbly performed, and the role of Ren, a newcomer to the town in America was outstanding in its interpretation. The vigour with which he performed the dances was outstanding. Other male principals were well played, and ably supported by the girls. The music was well known to the audience, who clapped in time to the music rather too often for my liking. This did nothing to improve the enunciation which I would have liked to have been better. I missed the lyrics of many of the numbers, and this detracted from understanding the relationships amongst the cast. The singing of the preacher and his wife were the exception to this, and she in particular gave great depth of meaning to her solo number. There were several delightful cameo roles, splendidly performed. The

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excellent stage management ensured that scenes were changed quickly and efficiently. Lighting was of a high standard and wardrobe appropriate to the period. The show was tremendous entertainment, and I congratulate Yeovil Youth Theatre for the way they presented this lively show.

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FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Strode Productions

Strode Theatre, Street

Director: Mike Linham Choreographer: Kirstie-Jane Dobson Musical Director: Sheila Ross

10th October 2010

Strode Productions portrayal of this timeless classic was captivating. The Director's attention to detail of the traditional Jewish customs was key to this production. Tevye is probably one of the most challenging roles to play and finding and conveying the right balance of emotions his character has to go through are not easy, but this proved no problem for Denis Barwell, who gave a natural and believable portrayal and where appropriate found and delivered the subtle humour. 'The Dream' is where Cherry Lewis excelled playing Golde the epitome of the good Jewish wife who believes and obeys her husband. Cherry's portrayal was spot on. There were many other strong performances throughout this production played out by the other principals taking key roles. One of the visual highlights was 'Sunrise Sunset' when the ensemble prayerfully singing walked through the auditorium each holding a real lighted candle. Breathtaking. Choreography complemented production and was well executed making good use of the stage. Musicality was strong and the whole company coped well with the harmonies which featured throughout the show. Costumes were authentic and the simple set worked well. Congratulations to all.

THE LIKES OF US

Polden Productions

Eddington Village Hall

Director: Brian Buttle Choreographer: Carol Applegate Musical Director: Ros Dolding

26th November 2009

Polden Productions presentation of 'The Likes of Us' was no mean feat; this community production grabbed your attention the moment it began! Images of 1866 London were projected showing the dirt squalor and disease. Tarts, tofts and ragged children gather in the Edinburgh Gin Palace selling their wares and picking pockets, amongst this eclectic bunch is Thomas Barnardo attempting to sell Bibles. He is ejected and outside bumps into Syrie Elmslie from this chance meeting an instant connection is made. Barnardo after seeing the children on the rooftops goes on to buy the Gin Palace and with Syrie converts it into a home for the children. Principals, Dave Bonser (Barnardo) and Julie Groves (Syrie) complemented one another, both showed great sensitivity towards each other and in complete contrast Rose (Jo Turley) the colourful gin swilling 'lady of the night' played her role with gusto as did Auctioneer (Garth Muton). Polden Productions Company has a wealth of new young talent being nurtured and several of them played cameo roles. Singing and dialogue by both principles and company was strong and well projected. Choreography was simple and tailored to suit all abilities. Costumes,

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Scenery and Staging had all been well thought out and enhanced the production. Well done.

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

Strode Productions

Strode Theatre, Street

Director: Bill Wych Choreographer: Gemma Benham Musical Directors: Amie Pendarvis & John Turner

29th December 2009

Strode Productions pull out all the stops! Strode Productions used all the tools in their magical armoury to create a family friendly pantomime delighting children from 2 to 92. The first character to appear was the Fairy Godmother (Jo Gray) she swept onto the stage and quickly engaged the audience; next followed the first company number 'Winter Wonderland' which was stunning, complete with snow which showered down onto the audience. Cinderella's (Poppy Lopez) cheeky smile and beautiful singing voice lit up the stage and set the bar for the rest of the company. The Baroness (Wendy Linham) with her daughters Grizella (Steve Lukins) and Mona (Len Sweales) playing the 'Ugly Sisters' created some of the cruellest and funniest moments, prompting the audience to hiss and boo. Principals overall were good, though some might do well to slow down their delivery of dialogue, the audience only gets one chance to hear it. Both the Junior and Senior Chorus were a strong asset to the production and worked well together. Choreography was kept simple and was well executed. Music was a clever mix of old favourites and new songs. Both Costumes and Set complemented production with careful attention given to colour. Well done.

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

CUDOS

Victoria Hall, Crewkerne

Director: John Perry Choreographer: Lucy Bond Musical Director: Chris Edmunds

22nd January 2010

CUDOS's Pantomime, "Goldilocks and The Three Bears" was a story well known to children of all ages, but in this panto there was an added twist: the Killer Bees led by the Queen Bee intent on world domination. Amanda Perry playing Queen Bee was a magnificent villain, lusciously evil and menacing. Greg Groves (Auntie Septic), a seasoned dame, entertained us with his clever wit and masterly comic timing, together with Leonie Dash (Ray, her bumbling son) and Kerry Peters (Choppit, the woodsman) and Miles Browning (Splinter). They created the perfect village idiots to a tee. Alex McCallum (Goldilocks) singing was a joy to listen to and together with Diana English (Tomtom) added the love interest. The Three Bears and Chorus in their 'zombie' like state after eating the Hypno Honey were brilliant and their rendition of Bear Necessities was one of the highlights of the production. This panto gave many new people a chance to grow and shine. Choreography was kept simple and was well executed; staging and costumes were bright, cheerful and added to the dynamic of the show.