PROMPT CORNER

The newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club Operatic Society

My Fair Lady.

We've done it again! Another smash hit! Fantastic feedback from our audiences, excellent press reports, amazing box office of over 95%. Well done to everybody who took part, both on-stage and backstage, and especially to our production team of Alec, John, Vicky and Tina.

The Bucket Collection and the Raffle

The magnificent sum of £830 was collected for Living With Cancer and you committee have agreed to round this up to £1000. The presentation will probably have been made by the time you receive this letter.

The raffle, which was run for us by the Lions Club of Sidmouth, made a profit of £923. This will be split equally between ourselves and the Lions.

When the Lights Go On Again

Next autumn's show will be something entirely different. As 2010 will be the 65th anniversary of the ending of WW2 and probably the last occasion when there will be a significant number of veterans still alive your committee have decided to do a show called "When the Lights Go On Again". Written by Roy Sault it is a nostalgic look at the war years through the eyes of a fictional family as they are involved and affected by events. The show includes over 30 songs from that era and there are lots of opportunities for cameo parts. There are no enormous roles in this show so there won't be reams and reams of script to learn and the biggest company number, the dance hall scene at the end of Act 1 will give several opportunities for people to sing solos.

The main characters are the Parker family, Mum (Alice), Dad (Fred), grown up son (David), grown up daughter (Jane). Then we have David's girlfriend (Sylvia) and Jane's boyfriend (Mark). There is also a schoolteacher called Jean and her boyfriend Simon. There are opportunities for younger members too as the Parker's have two smaller children, Susan and Jimmy who always seem to be in trouble! In fact we will need either two or four more children besides Susan and Jimmy.

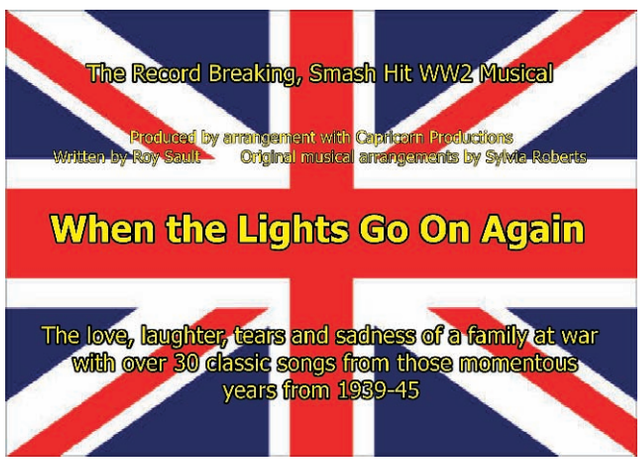
Much of the comedy comes from Gran who is always complaining and from two characters called Elsie and Vera. Those of you who remember a comedy duo called Elsie and Doris Waters (who were the sisters of Jack Warner of Dixon of Dock Green fame) who used to present a double act on the music halls and on the radio called "Gert and Daisy" will soon realise that they were the inspiration for Elsie and Vera. There are also two Air Raid Wardens who have a very funny scene all to themselves.

Some numbers will be choreographed and there is an opportunity for two young people to show their terpsichorean skills with an energetic jive.

Two of the numbers in the show are "Andrews Sisters" songs and we shall be looking for a female trio who can sing in close harmony.

This is very much a company show with all cast members having an equal amount of exposure on the stage. There are 26 speaking parts although one or two of the smaller ones can be doubled up. A cast of around 30 would be ideal.

The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday May 26th in St Peter's Hall. We will have a look at the show, rehearsal material will be handed out and details of auditions announced. Because of the problem we have every show chasing scores and libretti the committee have decided that every member who takes rehearsal material will have to make a £10 deposit which will be returned when the book is returned at the end of the rehearsal period. This can either be cash or a post dated cheque.



Doing it for a long time.....

At the end of show party the society presented NODA Long Service medals to two of our members. Lesley Morris received a 25 year medal and Brian Rees received a 50 year medal. Both members claim to have started as children!!!!! It's a great achievement to have served the amateur theatre for so many years. Well done both of you!

If any other members feel that they are entitled to Long Service awards they should get in touch with our Secretary, Sheila Pink.

noda Regional Meeting

Last year our NODA Regional Representative, Janet Elworthy, held a meeting for all the societies in the region to discuss their problems, their aspirations and to generally exchange ideas. The meeting was held in Axminster and hosted by Axminster AOS and Brian attended on behalf of SACOS He reported back that there had been a very useful exchange of ideas. SACOS has offered to host this year's meeting which will be held in St Peter's Hall on Wednesday May 18th. We will provide refreshments (nibbles, coffee and wine). It would be good to have members of the Society there to welcome our guests so please keep the date free.

And finally

Play Bill

When Mrs. Jordan, a mistress of William IV who was receiving a thousand pounds a year for her services, cut off relations with the king, he asked for some of his money back. Jordan sent her former lover a playbill from a recent play: "Positively no refund," it read, "after curtain has risen."