

PROMPT CORNER

The newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club operatic Society May 2008

Anything Goes

Wow! What a success! People are still talking about the show so a great big "Well Done" to everybody who was involved. Not only was the show a great artistic success but also a great financial success too! Provisional figures suggest that we have made a profit of nearly £6,000 which gives us a very comfortable cushion against future productions. Opening on Good Friday instead of having an Easter Monday matinee proved successful with far more tickets being sold for the Friday than we did for the Monday matinee the year before. Moreover, by putting the orchestra on the stage we had fourteen more seats to sell for each performance (actually forty-two more than for "Fiddler on the Roof") and this allowed far more tickets to be sold for those nights when the house was virtually full up. Of course you cannot always do that but it paid off this time.

Celebrations...

We were delighted that John & Gill Baker chose to celebrate their golden wedding with the society. The actual anniversary was Saturday March 22nd. The first Saturday of the show, and, because this was such a special occasion, John & Gill were asked to appear on stage at the end of the show where Selwyn made a special presentation.



After the show the company joined John & Gill in the bar of the theatre to party and a great time was had by all. This was undoubtedly a unique occasion and it was a privilege to share it with John and Gill.

John & Gill have asked us to express their gratitude for all the presents and messages of goodwill that they received from company members.



John & Gill cut the cake!

...more Celebrations....

Since the show finished we have learned that Lorna & Bill Ramsden have also celebrated their Golden Wedding and our heartiest congratulations go to them too. It is on occasions like these that one realises that we are a big operatic family!

...and sadness

We have recently learnt of the death of two of our members. Joan Cooper who had been with the society for many years and was a Life Member passed away in March and George Neaves, who had only joined us a few years ago to help with the stage crew but whose son, Danny, was an active member in the nineties, passed away this month. We send our condolences to both families.

The Bucket Collection

The general public were very generous with their donations to the RNLI no doubt because of the good mood they were in when they came out of the theatre and, of course, Eddie Simmins' very witty pre show announcement which got a laugh every night. (Ever thought of script writing Eddie?) The total amount collected was £876. The committee decided to round this up to £1,000 and a cheque for this amount was presented to John Govier on behalf of the RNLI. Overleaf you can see Selwyn and John Baker with John Govier and Kingsley Squire.

The Web site

Have you looked at our web site? You will find it at www.sacos.co.uk. You will be amazed at what you find! And if you think there is something of interest that should

be appearing on the web site talk to Eddie Simmins. He is our webmaster.



Gigi

Yes! The holiday is nearly over! **Rehearsals start on Wednesday June 4th** when Alec (our Director for this show) will explain his vision of the piece and how he intends to interpret the show. **Monday June 9th and Wednesday June 11th** will be evenings for those who wish to audition to practise their pieces and the **auditions will take place Monday June 16th**. These dates are different to those put of the notice board at the theatre during Anything Goes. There are plenty of parts. The title role is, of course, a young lady in her late teens. Gaston, the leading man is older and very sophisticated. The show is anchored by Honore, an older man and Gaston's uncle. We never see Gigi's mother although she is heard offstage but Mamita, her grandmother, is a delightful part as is her Aunt Alicia. There are about fifteen speaking parts in all. Lets have a good turnout on June 4th. If you are interested in auditioning for a part but will not be available on June 16th let Alec know ASAP. His number is 01297 625450

Pecorama – August

Now what are you doing on the afternoon of Sunday August 24th. The society has been asked to provide about 30 minutes of entertainment at Pecorama. Obviously it will be songs from the shows. Brian has been asked to co-ordinate this event so if you don't phone him shortly (01395 577433 or 07826 521003) to volunteer there is no doubt he will be phoning you. I can't be certain but I suspect there will be a cream tea at the end too! It would be good to put on a really good show as they give us a lot of support for our shows.

Hidden Talents

It is true that most of us join because we like singing and performing on the stage but some people have other talents as well that could be useful to the society. For some reason people tend to keep these talents hidden so now is the time to own up. They probably come under one of the following headings: -

- Making things - particularly props for our future productions
- Sewing
- Publicity
- Writing articles
- Elocution and speech training
- Dialogue coaching
- Singing coaching
- Selling programmes & Front of House
- Directing
- Make Up
- Hair dressing/wig care

If you think you have a hidden talent and would be willing to give it to the society then Selwyn will be pleased to hear from you. Phone him on 01395 515279

How Long Have You Been Doing It?

If you have been performing with an operatic society for a long time you may be eligible for a long service award. NODA (The National Operatic and Dramatic Association) to which our society is affiliated have a range of awards from 10, 15 and 20 year badges through to 25 year medals to which a bar can be added for every subsequent 5 years. If you serve the amateur theatre for 50 years you will be eligible for a special medal and 60 years gets an extra special medal. Your service to the theatre does not have to be continuous and it does not have to be with the same society. As long as you can prove service with a previous society you will qualify (a letter of confirmation from the secretary of the old society usually suffices). If you think you qualify for an award our secretary, Tami, would like hear from you. Her number is 01395 576623

Theatre Ghosts

The Superstition:

There is a superstition that if an emptied theatre is ever left completely dark, a ghost will take up residence. To prevent this, a single light is left burning at centre stage after the audience and all of the actors and musicians have gone.

The origin:

The origin of this superstition is rooted in both practicality and further superstition itself! The practicality, of course, is that people coming into a darkened theatre cannot see what delicate costumes, sharp and pointy props and dangerous set pieces have been left lying about, and a light is important to prevent injury, property damage or lawsuits. The other reason lends itself to further superstition. A "dark" theatre is a theatre without a play. There is nothing more sad to a drama artist than an empty house and a playless stage. Therefore, a light is left burning centre stage so that the theatre is never "dark". It is simply awaiting the next production.