

PROMPT CORNER

The newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club Operatic Society October 2011

IOLANTHE

Well, this was certainly a show to remember! Congratulations must go to everyone for staging such a fantastic performance against all the odds. The reaction from our audiences and initial reaction from NODA suggests that this production was up with the best. Heartfelt sympathies go to Jan Sutcliffe whose illness during show week meant that she was unable to perform after the first night but thanks also to Moira Izzard who stepped in at very short notice. We were also delighted to see Mo Cuthbert return to the cast on Thursday night after her car accident. The production and performances were stunning and for that congratulations must go to Alec Fellows-Bennett, Dorothy Worthington, Geraldine Barnett, Lesley Morris, Tina Paveley, John Griswold and Zoe Crockett. Thanks must also go to Ray Salter, Eddie & Becca Simmins and the backstage team, Gill Baker, and Geoffrey Ward; Mandy Lang and Pat Beesley for props; Tim Pink for construction of the Sentry Box and Sandria Stewart, Selwyn Kussman and Brian Rees for publicity, posters and programmes. Finally, thanks to the front of house team led by John Baker; Beryl Ruddle for refreshments and our chaperones Dawn Crockett and Lucy Neal. We were delighted to see so many new members. We hope they enjoyed their first SACOS show and that they will return very soon!

OKLAHOMA

There's no time to pause for breath as music rehearsals for those wishing to audition for Oklahoma take place on Monday 24th and Wednesday 26th October (7.30 at St Peter's Hall). All audition parts will be available on the 24th. We welcome Lyn Burgoyne as Director for the first time with SACOS and welcome back Roger Howell and Vicky Evans as MD and choreographer respectively. Lyn and Vicky will be around on the above dates to discuss audition pieces while Roger is rehearsing the music. Combined Libretti/Scores will be available at the first rehearsal **and members will be required to leave a £10 deposit before they take them away. This can be a post dated cheque if you wish.** Auditions will then take place on Sunday 30th October in St Peter's Hall from 2pm until 5pm.

Dates for the show are from Good Friday 6th April 2012 until Saturday 14th April (with the exception of Easter Sunday). More details are on the SACOS *Facebook* page.



FUTURE SHOWS

The committee will shortly make a decision about a production in October 2012. At Easter 2013 we will be staging *The Sound of Music*. Nigel Broome will direct and John Griswold will MD. A choreographer will be announced in due course.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM, held on 23 September:

- John Baker, Selwyn Kussman and Brian Rees were re-elected as President, Chairman and Treasurer respectively. Sheila Pink wished to step down as Secretary but wished to remain on the committee, replacing Sandra Coles who had resigned. Sheila was thanked for her hard work as Secretary. Debbie Broome will take over. Other committee members are Gill Baker, Lesley Morris, Pat Salter, Becca Simmins, Eddie Simmins, Sandria Stewart and Geoffrey Ward. Nigel Broome was also co-opted to the committee after the AGM.
- Brian Rees reported that in the year to 31st July 2011 (which covered *When the Lights go on Again* and *Half a Sixpence*) the society had made an overall surplus of £1800 and that, as a result, the total funds now held by the society stood at £55621.
- Beryl Ruddle was made a life member of the society.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Selwyn and Geoffrey have very kindly offered to host the Christmas party this year at Littlecourt Cottages on Saturday 10th December so PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY. The society will be covering some of the cost but, as in previous years, a small charge will be made. More details will follow shortly.

AND FINALLY – FARWELL TO ALEC

Alec has now started his course at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and we wish him every success in the future. We also thank him for everything he has done for SACOS - since taking part in *The Boy Friend* in 2006 he has been involved in every production! As many of you will already know, the society was pleased to help with funding for certain course materials.