

CODSWALLOP

Newsletter of the Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society

December 2014

TRIAL ON PINAFORE FINAL VERDICT ANNOUNCED

What a great show! Many thanks to all of you who came along to see us tackle our anniversary edition of Pinafore. The show was well attended every night and clearly well received, as the following glowing review from NODA Rep, Graham Liverton, attests.

“What better way for CODS to celebrate their 50th Anniversary than picking up the tradition of the founding fathers of their society and performing G&S. One that traditionalists (and maybe their founders) would tear their hair out at, but CODS always like to do something a bit different and this production of “H.M.S. Pinafore” combined with “Trial by Jury” was the sort of entertaining and clever production that CODS do so well in their own unique style.

As you entered the foyer you were immediately involved with the show without even realising it! As if you were boarding the Pinafore; you had your picture taken; there were crew members milling around and sea shanty's being sung. This is what CODS are so good at doing; making the audience part of the whole experience and atmosphere BEFORE the show.

The cast were in identical tee-shirts, all marked Crew and the only way to tell who was chorus and who was a Principal (apart from when they began to sing) was in the wearing of a particular hat. So simple but very effective.

It is unusual for me not to mention each character separately but they all were so good, as were the chorus that they all shone in this production. All enthusiastic and obviously enjoying every minute.

The singing was first rate, the clever touches just made the whole thing flow, it was witty clever and inspired to have Sir Joseph in a wheel chair with a children's steering wheel and hooter, (a device to enable an experienced actor to perform despite recent hip surgery) to have the judge's wig made from a mop head and the bows of the Pinafore turned around to

become a court room were all such wonderfully good touches that made you realise what thought had gone into this whole show.

The two musicians were so versatile they sounded like an orchestra! Margaret Chave did a splendid job as did Ian Crew who played so many different and unusual musical instruments I thought

he may have come from the sea, having learnt his dexterity from a friendly octopus!

The Directors Mike Canning & Phil Ward have my heartiest congratulations for thinking outside the box. So much can be done with G&S these days that it can easily go over the top, but not in this production; it was pitched just right. To sum up “superb” (and very rare for me) faultless. An unforgettable evening of sheer pleasure. Again; well done CODS.”



Buttercup (Sarah-Jo Nuthall) woos Capt. Corcoran (Barry Stimson)

Cowboys (still!) Wanted
Subs rated 'Outstanding!'
Witches of Eastwick update

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Cowboys Wanted

Hats and guns supplied

As usual, the girls are outnumbering the boys at rehearsals for Oklahoma! by a factor of 3:1! Can you help us to round up some more chaps? The following announcement will be placed in the Courier soon.

“CODS are looking for local chaps to sing and dance in the chorus of their next show, Oklahoma! Rehearsals are just getting underway, but the girls are outnumbering the guys, so we’re looking for more cowboys for the chorus.



A first run through of one of the routines.

Don’t panic, you won’t be in the spotlight, unless you want to be. You can mumble in the chorus and dance with your two left feet if you fancy, but once you discover that you can actually sing, who knows?! With just two hours practice a week you’ll soon improve your technique, discover your full vocal range and find out if you’ve got what it takes to sing live on stage. That’ll give the family something to talk about back at the ranch!

To find out more, phone or email... or saddle up and head upstairs at the Town Hall, Wednesday’s from 7.30pm.”

If you can help us round up anybody, please do so. Friends, neighbours, etc!

Witches of Eastwick

We are pleased to announce that the Director for our 2016 show will be Heather Morgan, with Rachel Worsley joining the team as choreographer.

Heather has been with the society for 20 years and is delighted to be directing “Witches”. She is very excited by the prospect of directing the show, which promises to be fun and outrageous... and that’s just the rehearsals! Heather will be looking for larger than life characterisation and developing a real team ethos.

Rachel is excited to be back working with CODS and there are some great dance numbers in the show. Rachel last worked with CODS for “Viva Mexico”. Heather and Rachel have known each other for 25 years, and having worked together on stage, are relishing the chance to work together on the other side! In initial discussions, they were surprised at how similar their ideas were for the show.

They will be drawing on the community element of The Witches of Eastwick and for once, there are several female roles up for grabs... always a plus for a musical! The show will be brought up to date, and a touch of Stepford Wives will be thrown in for some of the villagers. Heather is hoping the show will bring in some younger people to join the ranks, but feels it is really important that a wide range of ages is included. However, due to the content of some of the show, there will be a minimum age of 16. Heather is also keen to reassure people, that although the show is known for its adult themes, this will be played subtly and more comical. “There’s no need to be too in your face”.

Eastwick - Crew Wanted

In order to give everyone the chance to have a go, or have a rest, the Committee are inviting expressions of interest for the crewing of Eastwick. Roles available include:

Production Manager

Set Designer

Set Constructors

Scenic Artist (Painting)

Stage Manager and Stage Crew

Properties Coordinator

Lighting Designer and Lighting Operator

Sound Engineer

Wardrobe Manager

Make-up Artist

Photographer

Front of House Manager

Front of House Decor Designer

Box Office Manager

Bar Manager

To be considered for any of these positions, please notify the Committee in person or via email by 31st Dec 2014.

Play - October 2015

Following a positive response from people wishing to take part, the play committee is reviewing plays with medium sized casts (around 12-15 people). The plays being considered are:

Confusions - Alan Ayckbourn - 3m 2f

A Chorus of Disapproval - Alan Ayckbourn - 7m 6f

Nicholas Nickleby - 11m or f

Napoli Milionaria - Eduardo De Filippo/Peter Tiniswood -13m 11f

The Drunkard - Brian Burton - 7m 8f

If you have not registered an interest in any capacity, please do so. Also if you have a play you wish us to consider please let us know. We intend to have the play chosen prior to the production of Oklahoma. Readings and auditions will follow immediately that production is over.

Carols in the Club

At the time of going to press the only singing of carols is to take place on Monday 22nd December from 8pm in Club Crediton. This is always a fun evening as we join with non CODS residents of Crediton to sing through a well loved selection of carols while enjoying a glass or two of the festive spirit.

WATCH OUT! If an early evening slot becomes available to sing at Tesco, an e-mail will be sent out at very short notice!

50th Anniversary Gala Dinner

We are celebrating 50 years of CODS with a Gala Dinner at the Waie Inn on Saturday 16th May 2015.

Our favourite band "Changes" will be playing for dancing. Tickets will be £25 per person, and places are limited. For bookings, call or email Yvonne, 01363 773359, yvonne@youleshouse.plus.com This will be a chance to dress up and do things with style!

Oklahoma Audition Results

A very big thank you from Emily, Ian, Dave and Fenella to all of you who took part in the auditions on Sunday 7th Dec. Following much discussion, the panel are pleased to announce the cast are as follows:

Curly - Ben Edgecombe

Laurey - Nikki Wilkes

Ado Annie Carnes - Sarah Carter

Will Parker - John Nash

Aunt Eller - Cathy Lamb

Ali Hakim - Mike Felstead

Jud Fry - Phil Ward

Andrew Carnes - Jason Bomford

Ike Skidmore - Barry Stimson

Gertie Cummings - Tash Currie

Cord Elam - Jo Ward

Minor roles will be cast at later rehearsals.

Emily would like to remind everyone that we are still desperately short of men for the chorus. Members, please try to spare the time. Ask around amongst friends and supporters. Look down the back of the sofa.

The show won't be going on without more men!



The auditions in full swing - Curley and Laurie in one hit!

Dates for your diary

Changes play Club Crediton - 9pm Fri 19th Dec.

Carols at the Club - 8pm, Monday 22nd Dec.

Oklahoma principals - Mon 5th Jan.

Oklahoma chorus - Weds 7th Jan.

Oklahoma Get In Weekend - 29-30th March

Oklahoma show week - 6-11th April.

Choral Rehearsals Start - Weds 15th April.

Gala Dinner - 16th May.

Prize Crossword

By popular demand there is no prize crossword in this issue. Please don't write one!