

## NEWSLETTER

January 2009

### Foreword

*Happy New Year!*

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and is ready for the panto. Please support us in whatever way(s) you can: see below.

For the last time this year: Tilley Vanstone is in charge of subs, so please see her at school or rehearsals. We have raised the subscription rates to £10.00 for families, £6.00 adults and £4.00 children.

### Diary

**Tues, Thurs &**

**some Sundays: Rehearsals for "A Lad in Ottery:" cast see schedule**

**Jan 14th – 17th "A Lad in Ottery! Institute 7.30 pm/2.30 mat**

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup> OCT Meal Venue and time TBC.**

**Tues Feb 3rd Committee Meeting 8.00**

### Pantomime

First of all, please note that the panto is, as feared, a week early; dates can be seen above. Jill and the cast have been working extremely hard, and the show was already looking very good when I attended December rehearsals, despite a few reshuffles. We now have a short, sharp couple of weeks of non-stop work to get it all together. If you would like to help in any way with the panto, please contact me, Ali (stage manager) or Jill; if you want to help with costumes, come straight to me! If you can't help in any other way, make sure you get your tickets (now in the shop) and please, please get as many people to come as possible. Publicity is one area which has been badly affected by the early dates, so word-of-mouth publicity is even more important than ever.

### OCT Meal

In the past few years, we have celebrated by getting together for a post-panto/post-Christmas meal, usually in February. This year we have decided to take advantage of the early production dates by holding it on January 24<sup>th</sup> (which should have been the last night of the panto.) Ali is organising it, so let her know if you are interested to give her some idea of numbers: you will need to confirm that you are definitely attending by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the time of going to press the venue was not confirmed, but first choice was the Tumbling Weir (as last year.) We will get more details out during the production.

### Play reading

As there were only three of us on 21<sup>st</sup> November, we decided not to read *Pygmalion*, so it is still available for a later date. Let us know if there is a play you would like us to add to our list. Dates for these and for a *Poems and Pints* evening are on the agenda for future committee meetings.

## Institute AGM

Ali and I attended this, and I was duly accepted as OCT's rep. I was given the opportunity to put some of our concerns re: the booking "system" and was listened to politely but as in the past the upshot was that most (weekly) users are perfectly happy with the status quo and the onus is put back onto us to confirm all bookings in plenty of time (timescale unspecified.) However, this leaves us on good terms with the Institute management, and my attendance at committee meetings has already alerted us to some potential problems early, which will allow us some input.

## The Future

It has been pointed out that 2010 will be OCT's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, so the committee are looking into ways of celebrating this, perhaps with a major production as already suggested and some social events too. Andrew Coley has suggested writing an article with contributions from founder members, so get in touch with the committee in the first place if you would like to be involved.

Extracts from last month:

*We have been discussing the possibility of working towards a larger production in the future (2010 or beyond) and would welcome other members' ideas and suggestions. .... we would like to enter a one-act play (preferably an original one) in the Exmouth One-Act Play festival in April, .... Please let us know if you have a play, even if it is half-written or just an idea. .... If you have submitted a play before, and wish to have it re-considered, again let us know.*

So far, there have been no ideas/offers on any of these proposals. The committee will go ahead and make plans based on our own thoughts, but if there is something you feel strongly about, or just an idea you'd like to see us try, we can't if you don't tell us!

**Finally**, we'd just like to congratulate Rachael and Simon on the birth of Samuel Roy James, and Grace and Barry on the birth of Emerald Lily.

## Website

[www.otterycommunitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.otterycommunitytheatre.co.uk)

and Facebook groups: "A lad in Ottery" and "ottery community theatre."

Also look at [www.allsortsofpictures.co.uk](http://www.allsortsofpictures.co.uk) to see official pictures of the last pantomime.

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