

Issue 100

November 2009



(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

As a devotee of sun and warmth, I always mourn the passing of summer; even though the autumn colours are beautiful, they are a promise of chilly weather ahead. To help take my mind off this faintly depressing thought, the society entered it's really busy phase with auditions for one-act plays and the spring musical, and the final rehearsals for the November play. I am delighted to report that following reasonably good turn-outs for presentations and auditions we have successfully cast both productions, albeit with a change to one of the One-Act plays. Finding a complete cast for *Office of Profit* proved to be insurmountable in the short term, so we have substituted *Day Trippers* by Jean McConnell, a two-hander to be directed by Angie Hilder. All but one of the parts were cast at the auditions for *Little Shop of Horrors* and this will hopefully be filled by the time this newsletter appears. We are delighted to welcome several new members to the cast, which looks extremely promising and gives additional confidence to our new directors. Rehearsal will be starting shortly.

We held our A.G.M. in early September, which disappointingly was sparsely attended, and our new committee was duly elected. I would like to thank June Hegarty, John Preskett and Lynne Mitchinson who have stood down after giving several years service each and, in particular, Mel Tyrrell, who has given 9 years tireless and conscientious service as Secretary of the Society. I am very pleased to welcome back to the committee Pauline Harries, Barbie Badger and Peter Budd, and I am delighted that Jennifer Charters has gallantly taken up the reins of Honorary Secretary. The full list of officers, committee members and sub-committee convenors are given at the end of this newsletter.

At the request of several members, one of the agenda items was the question of taking our Spring Musical to Haslemere, and this was discussed at some length. There is no doubt that in an ideal world this is something that we would all like to do as it gives the cast greater reward for all their efforts in additional performances, and the pleasure of performing on a larger stage in a different venue. However, it is apparent that the additional cost (hall hire, orchestra etc) has become harder to offset with smaller audience numbers. The committee are reluctant to risk the Society's finances on a decision that is likely to result in a substantial loss. Also, the logistics of taking a show to Haslemere, with fewer members available to physically move scenery and props and give the necessary extra time involved, have become increasingly difficult. Without more, and younger, members willing and able to take an active committed role in the Society, it is hard to see the current situation changing. We remain committed to staging high quality musical productions, and will continue to keep the situation under review. If it is felt that the circumstances are right then we will do our utmost to take the show "down the hill" again.

Congratulations to the Social Committee who held a very successful James Bond style Casino Night last month. Thousands of small plastic discs were recklessly and enthusiastically gambled on professionally run blackjack, poker and roulette tables, as well as a number of horse races. Cocktails, delicious sushi and a variety of other snacks were served in a transformed village hall. As well as being hugely enjoyable, the event turned in a rather unexpected profit of about £500!

Following the success of last year's stall at the Grayshott Christmas Fair, we are going to repeat the exercise this year. Further details can be found later in the newsletter.

June Hegarty is our chosen director for next year's Autumn play, details of which will be announced shortly.

Finally, I urge you to sell as many tickets as you can for *Improbable Fiction*. Brezetta and her cast have worked hard to produce an extremely funny play which contains unexpected twists and turns. Unmissable!!

John

From the Social Committee

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising "Casino Evening" on the 26th September. All those who attended seemed to enjoy the evening and it was judged to be a success. A total of £541.00 was raised and will be used in the activities of the Grayshott Stagers. We would also like to thank all those who worked so hard in the background to ensure a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

007

Grayshott Christmas Fair

Grayshott Village Hall, December 12th 2pm - 4pm



Following my recent e-mail, this is an urgent request for suitable items to sell on our stall at the Fair.

I am organising the stall and would like donations of good quality "Accessories" both personal and small household items. New or good second-hand only please. If you would like more details, or have anything you think might be suitable, please contact me on 01428 751898 or by e-mail: thehilders@hotmail.com.

Many thanks,
Angie Hilder

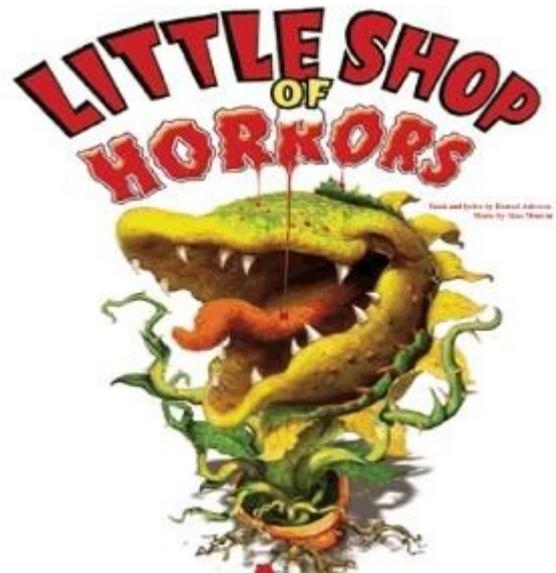


Little Shop of Horrors

22 - 24 April 2010

I was very pleased to see so much talent at the auditions and we were delighted with the standard. There is no doubt this is going to be an excellent show and I am pleased to announce the following cast list:

Seymour	Will Forde
Audrey	Claire Rivers
Orin	Paul Bailey
Mushnik	TBC
The Voice	David Chant
Urchins	Laura Musco
	Linnet Onslow
	Amy Turner



The first rehearsal is on 27th November 2009 where the entire cast are invited for a 'getting to know you' session. Anne will go through the main chorus numbers, then we will move onto a principals read through from beginning to end, without the musical numbers. Following that we will get stuck in every Friday and Wednesday evening - a full rehearsal schedule will be available shortly.

For those of you that don't know the show, *Little Shop of Horrors* is a rock musical by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman, about a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human blood. The musical is based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film *The Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by Roger Corman. The music, composed by Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, includes several show-stoppers including "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Somewhere That's Green", and "Suddenly, Seymour", as well as the title song.

Anne and I are greatly looking forward to starting rehearsals and pulling together our team to stage this fabulous show.

Simon Law

www.grayshottstagers.co.uk

Alan Ayckbourn
THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS
(Honorary Patron Vanessa Redgrave)

Improbable FICTION



Grayshott Village Hall
19th, 20th & 21st
NOVEMBER 2009
at 7.30pm

TICKETS £8
(Discounts available)
Box Office from
Monday 9th November
Grayshott Books
The Square, Grayshott
01428 604798

Dates for your Diary

2009

19-21 November, Grayshott Village Hall

Improbable Fiction

2010

7-9, 15, 16 January, Haslemere Hall

Haslemere Thespians' *Aladdin*

26-30 January, Farnham Maltings

FAOS' *Crazy For You*

19-20 February, Grayshott Village Hall

February One Act Play Evenings

23-27 March, Haslemere Hall

Haslemere Players' *Annie*

22-24 April, Grayshott Village Hall

Little Shop of Horrors



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