

New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society



News and Views

February 2011

No. 63

CHAIRMANS REMARKS

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you had a good Christmas? You deserved it after all the hard work everybody put in to get *Scrooge* on stage. It proved to be a big challenge, but as always we succeeded in giving the Audience a first class show.

Terry, Keith and the Monday Nighters, with Scenery from Scenechange and help from Gary. Additional Scenery and props from Proscenium provided a first class set. Keith making so much furniture Nick named him Chippendale.

Lesley & her team provided a great set of costumes from the Costume House. Big thanks to Lesley for soldering on after sustaining whip lash in the motorway car accident she & Terry had.

The Props Team did a splendid job in making the numerous props that were required, and setting & striking them so discreetly in the numerous scene changes. Well done Judy & team.

Judy & Sue our make up girls were kept very busy and with having so many children as well as principles and chorus to attend to

The girls & boys presented the committee with quite a problem of housing them. We overcame this by arranging with Ken Page to use the old office behind the theatre to house the men. We installed heating, Ken arranged for the water to be turned on, we cleaned & provided seating & rails to hang the costumes, the technical team provided speakers so we could get the calls from the Stage Manager.

A big thank you to Margaret Beddows for organising the Chaperones each night.

To all Stage, Front of House, Technical Staff, and not forgetting Ernie Wood, who provided security for the temporary men's dressing room. A job well done.

We have now started on "*The Full Monty – the musical*" which is scheduled for June, but before then we have the Get-Together for "*Oliver*" [date to be announced] then Auditions and the show itself, so we have a very busy year ahead. All the very best to you all

John Foley

'ERIC AND ERNIE' at the ART

You may find this hard to believe but it's true, well sort of. The comedy double act of Morecambe and Wise became known to millions through their T.V. Christmas Specials but little was known about their early years. Victoria Wood decided that this should be rectified and wrote a script for a documentary which was accepted by the B.B.C. Various locations were required and one was the Art Theatre. Society members were invited to form part of the audience when the Art was used to represent the Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

On the afternoon of the filming we arrived dressed in clothes suitable for the late 50's and early 60's and took our seats not quite knowing what to expect. We had heard that Victoria Wood was playing 'Sadie' the mother of Eric and she came on to the stage, much to our delight, and started telling us how Eric and Ernie met at a talent competition (forerunner of the X factor) run by Jack Hylton in Manchester. At this point Ted Robbins, who played the role of Jack Hylton, was introduced to us and acted as compare. He is a 'stand-up' comedian and his jokes and anecdotes kept us laughing during the many lulls in the proceedings.

He then brought on Daniel Rigby (Eric) and Bryan Dick (Ernie) and their resemblances were amazing. They did a couple of rehearsals and then the scene, which showed how their early double act started, was filmed.

Morecambe and Wise had been in their own T.V. series called 'Running Wild' which had not been a success mainly because the scripts had not suited them. They then got a booking on a variety show at the Ardwick Empire, Manchester (the Art) and decided to just be themselves and if they weren't a success they would 'call it a day and no hard feelings'. The act included Eric holding a large vase (Art prop) on his shoulder and Ernie asking 'what's that', Eric's reply was 'a Greek urn'. Ernie asks 'what's a Greek urn' and Eric gave the punch line 'about 30 shillings a week'. Their act was a great success and their careers took off, vindicating Eric's mother's belief in them and justifying the many hours she spent furthering their careers.

To watch the filming was very interesting and enjoyable even though it did last for 6 hours! Seeing the amount of equipment and staff on duty, it is no wonder the B.B.C. have such a large budget at their disposal!

Alan Frater

'EXTRAS' AT THE ART

Great excitement, the B.B.C. need an audience, they are filming a Morecambe and Wise show in our theatre. What do you mean, Morecambe and Wise are dead. Yes but they are making a film about their early life and need some audience participation.

OK, when is it and do we need to know anything special? Well we have to wear 1950's clothes or something similar and we will probably be in the theatre for quite a while. We sat in the circle but were soon moved to the back to accommodate the EXTRAS. We immediately realised our mistake. The EXTRAS wore 1940's gear, had, obviously gone to lots of trouble or been given help and were authentic in their furs, wigs moustaches and trilby's. AND they were smoking - well they did in those days didn't they? It took us back to the days when a visit to a theatre left you reeking of smoke, in your hair, in your clothes and in your smarting eyes. Those were the bad old days.

The makeup girls titivated the extras before they started on us, touching up makeup, combing hair etc. There was some filming, a young Morecambe and Wise did some business with a Grecian Urn, our very own Grecian Urn, and our prop team recognised it. How much money does a Grecian Urn – 30 shillings a week. Yes this was certainly the 1940's. They did a couple of sessions of the same thing just to get the filming right.

There seemed to be hundreds of B.B.C. staff, there was a lot of standing about. We couldn't understand what they were all needed for, it must have been something, even if it was only to clap a board and shout "Turn over". In between the filming a warm up man by the name of Ted Robbins came on stage and was surprisingly good. He worked really hard and had obviously had years of experience. Though it seemed a soul destroying way to earn a living. Then junior Morecambe and Wise came on. Ahhh they were really sweet and very professional, we were told one of them was only 14.

We were then moved downstairs to the stalls. On the way some of us were grabbed by hairstylists and hot brushed into shape. Once seated we were treated to a chat from Victoria Wood who was playing Morecambe's Mother. She wasn't there to make us laugh but it was a great surprise to see her. Later when someone kept pushing passed people down one of the rows, it took a few minutes to realise it was Victoria playing her part.

After a couple of hours plates of sandwiches were handed round. This was nice and unexpected, we were told the extras had also been given lunch. We thought this could be quite a good job if there was no travelling involved, but the idea of travelling costume wasn't so appealing.

There was some more business on stage and some filming of Victoria in the auditorium and that was it. We starred on BBC1 over the Christmas Period

Gill Crosland

THE FULL MONTY

The Society's Spring production for 2011 is `The Full Monty`, a musical with music and lyrics by DAVID YAZBEK, book by TERRENCE MCNALLY based on the motion picture released by Fox Searchlight Picture, written by Simon Beaufoy, produced by Uberto Pasolini and directed by Peter Cattaneo.

The performance dates are Wednesday 15th June to Saturday 18th June at 7.15 pm.

The production team: - Geoff Lunn and Judy McKay - Directing. David Chapman - Musical Director. Dawn Wilde - Choreographer and Tim Walker as rehearsal pianist.

Although the musical is adapted from the screenplay of the popular film, the locale has been moved to Buffalo, New York. It tells the same story however. Seeing how much their wives enjoy watching male strippers during their "Girls Night Out," six unemployed steelworkers come up with a bold way to make some quick cash-they decide to put on a strip show of their own, but will go the full monty.

In the process they find renewed self-esteem, the importance of friendship and the ability to have fun.

As the guys work through their fears, self-consciousness, feelings of worthlessness and anxieties (over everything from being overweight to child custody, bigotry to being gay), they come to discover that not only are they stronger as a group, but that the strength they find in each other gives them the individual courage to face their demons and overcome them.

There is a great heart to *THE FULL MONTY*, as well as a great drama, comedy and great musical numbers, the ultimate themes expressed in the show, about taking charge of one's life and following one's dreams are great lessons for all of us.

The show contains adult themes and is not suitable for children.

Tickets will be available nearer the show from the Box Office on 01663 742951

Tickets will be £8.00 with reductions for block bookings.

OLIVER

ART THEATRE 22/11/11 to 26/11/11

This will be the third time we have done this show at New Mills and it is easy to see how important the `Bit` Parts are.

Here's a reminder of what solo parts will be available:-

Fagin – An evil man who runs a training establishment for young pickpockets

Mr Bumble – The Beagle

Widow Corney – Workhouse Mistress

Mr Sowerberry – The Undertaker

Mrs Sowerberry – The Undertaker's Wife

Miss Charlotte – Sowerberry's Daughter

Noah Claypole – Undertaker's Apprentice

Artful Dodger – A young boy and Fagin's Brightest Pupil

Nancy – A Graduate of Fagin's School – Raunchy

Bet – Nancy's Hanger on

Mr Brownlow – A Wealthy Gentleman

Bill Sykes – A cruel villain in his prime. He has a menacing Dog - Bullseye

Mrs Bedwin – Mr Brownlow's Housekeeper

Dr Grimwig – A Doctor

Old Sally – A Pauper

Oliver – A Young Boy

The **Get-together** will be in the Theatre on **MONDAY 28th MARCH** from 7-30pm when Auditions pieces and Audition dates will be announced further details from Geoff Lunn 01298 25750

NODA MEDALS

Since we had no Annual Dinner this year, the Annual crop of NODA Medals was presented by the NODA Representative - Mrs Sheryl Haydock-Howorth on stage after the last night of `Scrooge`

They were as follows

Eileen Brown 55 Years Stud

Betty Gould 40 Years Silver Bar

Keith Clayton 15 Years Badge

Nicola Clayton 10 Years Badge

BETTY GOULD

Members will be sorry to hear that Betty Gould is having a long spell in the Cavendish Hospital, Buxton having broken her foot.

We send her our good wishes and hope that she will soon be well enough to come home soon. She's determined to see the Pantomime so maybe we will see that wheelchair bowling along any time soon.

OBITUARIES

Mary Bullough

Members and friends of New Mills A.O.D.S. and the Art Theatre, especially those involved in the theatre take over in 1959, were sad to learn in August of the death of Mary Bullough. Mary was a member of a family with a long association with the New Mills Society. Her father Harry was a founder member in 1922; he played in many of the society productions and was Chairman and President at various times. Her mother Agnes was also involved on stage, a committee member and Wardrobe Mistress for several of the post war productions. Mary was involved from a very young age taking part in plays, musicals and reviews, playing strong character parts on several occasions. In 1959 she played a prominent part in the society member's efforts to take over the theatre, both as a committee member and hands on with the work that was required to be done. In later years Mary pursued other interests, but those who were involved will remember with gratitude the important contribution made by Mary and the Bullough family to the purchase and on going success of the theatre.

Lynn Moon 1951 - 2010

Lynn joined the Society in 1977. Her first show was Kismet and for many years thereafter she appeared in the shows. Following the birth of her 3 daughters, she was a less active member but rarely missed coming to see a show.

She was a good supporter of the society and we send our sincere condolences to Mike, Katie, Jenny and Lucy.

Coming Soon to the Art Theatre

Friday 11th March

The Johnny Cash Road Show

A welcome return of Clive John with his tribute show to The Man In Black
Tickets £14 from 01663 742364

Saturday 19th March

The Kinder Choirs in Concert with Local Primary Schools

Enjoy an evening of popular music with local schools and the renowned
Kinder Choirs of the High Peak
Tickets available from 01663 744760

Friday 8th April

Merseymania

Enjoy the sounds of the Mersey with the Beat Club
Ticket details to follow - www.arttheatre.co.uk

Saturday 21st May

Buzz Hawkins does the Bradshaw's T.T.F.N. Tour

The return of Buzz Hawkins for an evening with the creator and voices behind
Billy Bradshaw, Audrey his long suffering mother and Albert his Dad!
Ticket £15 – Concessions £10 – 01663 742364

Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th June

New Mills & District Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society present

The Full Monty – The Musical

Tickets £8 from 01663 742951

Friday 1st July & Saturday 2nd July

New Mills Dance & Theatre Centre presents

Dance Time 2011

A presentation of the achievements of the pupils featuring all classes from
infants to senior dancers

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th July

P B Theatricals presents

The Mikado

Traditional Gilbert & Sullivan performed by young people
Tickets & Information – www.pbtheatricals.co.uk

Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th November

New Mills & District Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society present

Oliver

Details to follow

Keep in touch with forthcoming events via the web site
www.arttheatre.co.uk