



Faringdon Dramatic Society



Spring 2004 Newsletter

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

There can be no sweeter serial killers than Abby and Martha Brewster, and this play, first performed in New York in 1941, is still wildly funny. The large cast (over a dozen actors) are well into rehearsal under Jo Webster's direction, and the hope is that with a perennial favourite (remember Cary Grant in the film?) we shall be able to fill the Junior School on all three nights.

Please try to sell as many tickets as possible.

The dates are: Thursday 20 May
Friday 21 May
Saturday 22 May
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £7 (concessions £5)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm

Just after *Arsenic and Old Lace* comes the Society's annual get together at Faringdon United Church. Lots to discuss including the future of the Pump House and the transfer of the wardrobe, plus the annual elections.

John Taylor is retiring after his two-year stint as Chairman, Cleve Forty is standing down as Secretary and Sally Edgington is leaving the committee for the best of possible reasons (to have a baby!). So come and choose the new officers and committee, perhaps offer yourself for election, hear a report on the last twelve months, and discuss plans for the future.

It's an exciting time so try to be there to make your contribution.

CLARENCE

What fun it was! Nick Coard is to be congratulated on achieving such a success with the first pantomime he has written (not to mention co-directed with Claire Forty), and for breaking new ground by transferring the pantomime conventions to the Wild Wild West.

His success was recognised in a glowing NODA report and the award of second prize in the ODN Pantomime competition.

Everyone involved – players, crew, and orchestra – can bask in reflected glory. Well done!

QUIZ NIGHT

The ODN Pantomime awards were made at the annual quiz night (held this year in Hanney) so it was appropriate that Nick and Claire were on hand to receive second prize.

FDS entered two teams for the quiz: Team A (Cleve, Claire, Lesley and Glen) came equal third out of twenty of so teams, with Team B (John, Ann, Joan and Nick) a few places behind them.

SHAKERS

Four cute ladies (Debbie Lock, Mary Mountford-Lister, Sarah Varnom and Natasha Pryce) go into rehearsal on 19 April, under the direction of Rachel Coward, assisted by Gary Thompson. This challenging one act play will form one of the highlights of the Faringdon Arts Festival and will be performed on the evening of Sunday 4 July (venue to be announced, possibly the Corn Exchange, possibly the Junior School).

Watch this space for more news!

FARINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL

Shakers will be preceded by a rehearsed play reading, led by a professional director, and on Saturday 3 July, John Williams will run adult and children's drama workshops.

All three events – *Shakers*, play reading and workshops – will need back up support from the membership.

More news about opportunities as events unfold.



SHRIVENHAM COLLABORATION

As *The Folly* does not boast a regular drama critic, and Mortimer Brewster is otherwise engaged, FDS and the College Dramatic Society have reached agreement to review each other's productions.

CDS reviewed *Clarence* and FDS have just reviewed *Mark of a Gentleman*.

MAY CARNIVAL

On Monday 3 May, a Carnival procession and fête will commence at 1.00 pm. FDS will participate, principally as a means of publicising *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Shakers*.

Call John Taylor for more details.

PUMP HOUSE VISIT

17 April 2004

We have organised a visit to the Pump House (Saturday 17 April, 10.00 am) so that members, old and new, can consider whether it makes sense to pursue some kind of return to our old base.

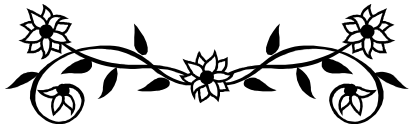
A full discussion will follow at the AGM, so the more who have inspected the site the better.

Please gather outside the Pump House (next to the Coffee House in the Market Place) at 10.00 am. The visit will last about one hour. Suggest you come equipped with torches!

MY FAIR LADY

Come and see some of our favourite FDS colleagues in this performance by Wantage Stage Musical Company at King Alfred's School – East Site, Wantage. Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 April, 7.30pm.

For tickets call: 01235 770641 or Sandwich Phillers, Faringdon.



BARNSTORM

A dramatic celebration of the history of the barn at Great Coxwell, written and organised by Liz Rothschild, will be staged in the village from 8 to 10 July. Liz is looking for a dozen or so members of FDS to participate in non-speaking and small speaking roles.

Call Dave Headey for more details.

