



Players Patter No 175 - Sep 2016

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Treasurer's Report

I cannot believe that we are now in September and Showstoppers was three months ago but well done to Jonathan Foster for yet another fabulous production. It was a resounding success and made just over £1,300.

We are now just five weeks away from Singing In The Rain which promises to be a really spectacular show complete with real rain!! – please pass the word around that there are some tickets still available via the Box Office at the Haslemere Hall www.haslemerehall.co.uk or 01428 642161. Most people have now paid their show fee but for those that haven't there is a link on the Players website to enable you to do this or of course you can give a cheque or cash to Pamela at rehearsals or send a cheque to me at the address below.

As we approach Christmas (oh, Arry do be quiet I hear you all groan) please remember our large studio full of costumes to hire for those office parties, New Years parties, school productions etc. The studio is normally open on Saturday mornings but for large or complicated requests it is best to make an appointment via Mary Lou Knox (contact details on Haslemere Players website).

Arabella Burwood
arabellaburwood@gmail.com
07811 439694

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Rehearsals are going really well and this promises to be a wonderful and very fast moving show. So now is the time to book your tickets.

How to Book

- **Telephone** the Haslemere Hall on 01428 642161; Payment by credit/debit card.
- **By post** to Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS. Payment by cheque made payable to Haslemere Hall.
- **Online** at www.haslemerehall.co.uk .
- **In person** at the Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS, Mon – Fri 9 am to 1 pm; Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

Note that the Hall makes an admin charge of 50p per ticket - not charged to Members of the Hall (so why not become a Member?)

Chairman's Message

There are a myriad of things which need to be done before the opening night when the curtain goes up before an excited audience and there are so many people who put in a lot of time and effort to make sure that they all happen on time. It is with thanks to all these people that preparations for our autumn show, Singing in the Rain, are well under way. It promises to be a fabulous production and I urge you to come and watch it and support everyone involved.

If you are a paid up member, patron or life member you should have received an email from me recommending a proposal to change the status of The Haslemere Players from a Charitable Trust to a Company Limited by Guarantee. Please read the email, which fully explains the proposal and the implications. I hope that you will feel able to support this motion and please let me have your response within 14 days of the date of the email.

The committee is currently finalising plans for shows for the next two years, starting with our March production, The Wizard of Oz and Show Stoppers (Around the World) in June. I will hopefully be able to tell you more in my next letter. Watch out for read through and audition details.

I want to encourage people, who have not done so before, to consider directing or production managing shows. Please get in touch if this is something that you would like to try.

Chris Lloyd
Chairman, Haslemere Players
Mobile: +44 (0)7713 251 999
Email: chairman@haslemereplayers.com

CALLING ALL USHERS

We are in need of additional ushers and raffle sellers for all 6 performances of Singin' in the Rain. For each performance we need 3 ushers and 1 or 2 raffle sellers and remember you get to see the show free! If you could spare one or two evenings, please contact Linda on 01428 644473 or linda.haslemere@btinternet.com

THROUGH THE AGES WITH THE PLAYERS

[This account was written by Fay Foster following the 1998 March production of Singin' in the Rain]

This was probably the most difficult and challenging show ever attempted by the Players. 'Singin' in the Rain' had just been released for amateurs and the Players were delighted to be among the first companies to present it. As the chosen director, Hamish Donaldson had begun work on the show almost a year earlier.

Anticipating the need for an all-singing, all-dancing chorus, Angela Cantan started tap-dancing classes in April in the hall adjacent to the new Studio. Auditions were held four months earlier than usual, mainly because the show needed silent movie film sequences shot during the summer in attractive locations at the Grove and Royal Schools.

For wardrobe mistress Jennie Budden, the costume plot was far more demanding than usual, particularly for the enormous set-piece chorus numbers such as 'Broadway Melody'. In glorious outfits of gold and emerald, thirty-seven members of the chorus tapped away in impressive fashion to routines choreographed by Jill Lock. There was a similarly spectacular tap dancing number when the entire cast in yellow raincoats and sou'westers carrying open black umbrellas brought the show to an exciting finish. Backstage teams too had a mammoth task with 31 scene changes 82 lighting changes and eight very large props. But the major talking point around the town was the rain! Most amateur companies up and down the country had used lighting effects but Hamish was determined to have real rain and as Edward Roberts in the Gene Kelly role prepared to tap his way through the puddles, there were amazed gasps from the audience!

All the cast rose magnificently to the occasion. Just seventeen years old, Clare Jutsum made an excellent debut as Kathy Seldson, partnering the more experienced Edward who was in particularly good voice. Barry Day, as Cosmo Brown, amazed everyone with his acrobat feats and dancing ability, and the casting of Angela Cantan as Lina Lamont was equally inspired.

Fay Foster

Spring Show - The Wizard of Oz



This will be our next show and is to be directed by Kenn MacDonald (who directed Beauty and the Beast). The story of the Wizard of Oz will be known to most of you. When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical world of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road towards the Emerald City to meet the Wizard of Oz, and en-route they meet a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man, missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage. The Wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West to earn his help.

The story tells of their adventures along the way and of all those who help them.

The main character is, of course, Dorothy, who should be young, the Wizard of Oz, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Wicked Witch of the West.

There is a lot of chorus work for The Munchkins and quite a few small parts.

The read-through will be on Tuesday, 1st November in the Haslemere Hall Annexe followed on Thursday, 3rd November by a drama workshop for those wishing to audition. Principal auditions will be on Sunday, 13th November in the Haslemere Hall.

Dates for Your Diary

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| 7th, 8th Oct | And Then There Were None by the Haslemere Thespians |
| 25th - 29th Oct | Singin' in the Rain |
| 1st November | Read-through of The Wizard of Oz |
| 13th November | Principal auditions for Wizard of Oz |
| 17th - 19th Nov | Ghost Writer by the Grayshott Stagers |
| 17th December | Christmas Cracker |
| 24 - 28th Jan | The Beggars Opera by Farnham AOS |
| 21 - 25th March | The Wizard of Oz |





This is one of the most difficult shows that an amateur society can attempt - but also one of the best. To start with, the whole company has to learn to tap-dance - a not inconsiderable feat given that few of us have been trained in this black art. There are the four Black & White films to be shot in an authentic way with our own cast. And then there is the Rain. Not only do we have to have a downpour right across the stage that lasts 6 minutes - but we have to clear up all this water as well.

Given that we have these challenges all is going very well. All the dance routines have been set, all the principal moves have been blocked, Peter Sillick has edited and produced the films (which were shot last month up at the Royal School - see picture of our four villains) and the pouring rain has been tested (the second picture shows Duncan turning on the tap in Hamish's garden).

Wardrobe news

We are constantly working to keep our existing costumes in peak condition and to incorporate new items. This necessitates a regular cull most of which is given to Haslemere Care Charity shop. However, we have decided to offer our members some of the clothes which we can no longer use in exchange for a small donation to the society. This initiative will start in late November after everything from SITR has been cleaned and put away. You can email Mary-Lou (coopermarylou@aol.com) nearer the time if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

Costume hire - The cost of hiring a costume for the general public is now £20 and £15 to fully paid up members of the Players. We hope you and your friends will come to us when attending fancy dress parties or themed evenings as most requests can be met. We can also provide some costumes for children's book days or History themed days at school.

We are generally open on Saturdays from 10.00 - 12.00 but if you need something specific or a number of outfits it is better to email Mary-Lou and arrange a day or evening slot separately.

Mary-Lou Knox coopermarylou@aol.com



Social Report

A big thank you to Chris and Susanna Lloyd who were the hosts for this year's BBQ at the beginning of August. Luckily the weather was glorious and a wonderful time was had by all.

After Christmas, probably in February, we hope to have a Society Quiz - details in the next Newsletter.



Editor Linda Donaldson
linda.haslemere@btinternet.com