

Sodbury Players' Newsletter

14 Jan. 2006



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Victorian Evening

Chipping Sodbury Victorian Evening was very well supported, especially by the SPYS. Hundreds of publicity leaflets were handed out. Many thanks to everyone who helped! Thanks especially to Mark for organising the sweets, Norma for selling tickets and for Phil, Will & Gerry + helpers for building the stall and last but not least to Rob Owen for loan of generator.

Pantomime

We're right in the middle of the pantomime now, the first performances went very well, keep it up!



The after show party is at James Murden's (142 Somerset Avenue), for more information see the posters back stage.

Box Office

Just a reminder that Sodbury Players have their own 0845 number for the box office, which does not change and is transferred from member to member as they volunteer to do the box office. It is 0845 1260859.

Play Reading Evenings

Due to the pantomime and One Act rehearsals we don't have enough spare rooms or people for play readings at the moment. These will resume after the One Act.

SPYS

We are putting on All the World's a Stage at the Avon & Wiltshire One Act festivals. This means that a number of SPYS have to play more than one part - plus they are all involved in the final number!

Calliope - Amy Smith
Wayne - Charlie Graupner
Tracy - Heather Nicholls
Dionysus/Tony Lumpkin - Ross Brown
Xanthias/Puck - James Bennett
Charon/Mr Hardcastle - Grant McCotter
Narrator/Snout - Lauren Moran
Bottom/Hastings/Jack - Brent Morgan
Quince/Narrator - Hannah Simmonds
Starveling/Lady Bracknell - Katie Mullins
Snug/Gwendolyn - Kayleigh Rose
Flute/Narrator - Rhian Arnold
Titania/Narrator - Bryony Ward
Narrator/Mrs Hardcastle - Nina Beck

First Aiders

If any of our members are registered First Aiders would they let a member of committee know.

One Act Entry

"Wilfred and Len" by Steve Mercer has been cast.

- Arthur Sanders—Mark Graves
- Len Williams—Duncan Collins
- Alice Williams—Mel Fox
- Wilfred Owen—George Elphick.

If you are able to help out Steve can be contacted on 07815 476111.

The Curious Savage

How time flies! With a New Year and the panto in full swing, it's time to start planning our next full-length endeavor. Here is some brief information, which will hopefully wet your appetite!

The play is a gentle comedy set in 1950 Massachusetts in a private "sanatorium" for social misfits. There are some moments of high comedy mixed with pathos and so, to achieve the right atmosphere, the 11-strong cast will need to play their characters with sincerity. This is particularly the case for the inmates of the sanatorium, or guests as they are referred to in the script. They are in the final stage of their treatment and on the surface seem normal but each has a significant psychological condition to portray.

The cast covers a wide range of ages. Also, everyone will need to speak with an American accent but don't panic if you have never done an accent before. Perfection will not be expected at auditions! - just an indication that you have the potential to carry an accent. To help us all with this, we are planning a voice workshop led by Sally Noble. Sally has led workshops for us before and it has proved to be both fun and informative so I hope lots of people will come-along, whether you are auditioning for the play or not.

Brief details of the cast as follows (the descriptions are more detailed in the script but I ran out of room!):

The Guests:

Florence: Female about 28. Gentle, eager to please.

Fairy May: Female, early 20's. Has a vivid imagination and is desperate to be loved by everyone.

Jeffrey: Male about 25. Mature, dignified. Was the only survivor of his plane crew when shot down in the war.

Hannibal: Male about 30. "Plump and cherubic". Very bright.

Miss Paddy: Female, middle-aged. On the outside has a ferocious, hostile nature and hates everything.

The Family:

Titus Savage: Male, middle-aged: Senator and businessman. Humorless and direct. The more dominant of the two brothers.

Samuel Savage: Male, middle-aged. The younger brother - a judge but nervous with a somewhat insignificant character.

Lily Belle Savage: Female, about 40. Attractive and self-assured but very brittle in nature. . A "man-eater" with 6 divorces to her name!

Ethel Savage: Female, old - maybe in her 70's. Stepmother to the Savage children and a widow.

The Staff:

Miss Wilhelmina: Female, about 24. Efficient and kind member of staff.

Dr Emmett: Male (but could be female) 30 - 50. Efficient but shows sympathy to the patients.

As well as the actors, lots of help will be needed in other key areas, particularly costumes, prompt, props, box office and front of house - offers of help will be very welcome.

Please talk to Diane if you want any more information.

Voice Workshop

A voice workshop with Sally Noble has been organised for Tuesday 31st January. Arrive 7.30 for a 7.45 start, finishing about 9.30 with a break for coffee. This is for all members & SPYS and is mainly concentrating on American accents for the Spring production.

Recent Purchases

We have recently bought some new power tools for set building. We have also bought a couple of mini foggers which are being used in the pantomime and will see some use in this year's One Act play.

One Act Hosting

For our 60th anniversary we are hosting the Avon One Act festival in the Town Hall. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with this event.

Forthcoming Productions

Roy Whitlow is producing Hound of the Baskervilles for our Autumn production, more details to follow.

We are now looking for producers for the Pantomime 2007 & Spring 2007. Please contact a member of Committee if you are interested.

Dates for Diary

13-21 Jan ~ Babes in the Wood

24 Jan ~ Spring: Initial read-through

25 Jan ~ Next Committee meeting

31 Jan ~ American voice workshop

2 Feb ~ Spring: Auditions

7 Feb ~ Spring: Auditions & casting

9 Feb ~ Spring: Full-cast read through

19 Feb ~ Avon technical @ Town Hall

19 Feb ~ Wiltshire technical @ Swindon

20-25 Feb ~ One Act hosting

23-25 Feb ~ Swindon One Act

28 Feb ~ Spring: Full main rehearsal

5 Mar ~ Cheltenham technical

6-11 Mar ~ Cheltenham One Act

10-13 May ~ The Curious Savage