



Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society Newsletter – December 2008

Welcome

We hope that you all had an excellent Christmas and the 2009 will bring everything that you wish for.



The Pantomime – ‘Calamity Jane’

Everyone we have spoken to has said that the pantomime was a roaring success. People in the village have, apparently, been saying how much they enjoyed Calamity Jane.

The audience on Thursday evening (when this writer was in the hall) certainly seemed to be very heavily involved!

Early indications are that the show was very profitable. Congratulations to everybody involved.



The NODA rep's report is included at the back of this newsletter.

Spring Show 2009 – Murdered To Death by Peter Gordon

The readthrough/auditions for the play will be at the Stables on Tuesday 13 January 2009 at 8:00pm. Maggi is directing the play and would love to see anybody who is interested in taking part on that day. Even if you don't want to be in the play but would like to help out in some other way, you'll be very welcome.



The play is a comedy whodunit, the first in a trilogy, and is set in a manor house in the 1930s. It is a spoof of the Agatha Christie

style of thriller – they even have a well-meaning local sleuth who seems to attract murder wherever she goes! When a murder is

discovered the inept ‘Inspector’ Pratt is sent to investigate.

The show will be on Thursday 23 April to Saturday 25 April 2009.

Annual Dinner

Thanks to Andy Miller for suggesting The Abergavenny Arms for our annual dinner. We have now arranged for the meal to be on Friday 23 January 2009 (7:30 for 8:00pm).

The cost will be £10.95 per head and Maggi would like your meal choices by Friday 16 January so that she can give the Abergavenny plenty of warning.

Abergavenny Arms *23 January 2009*

Starters

*Chicken & Pork Terrine with a Raisin
Marmalade*
Salmon Fish Cake with salad 🍴
Cream of Broccoli & Stilton Soup
Baby Leaf & Avocado Salad 🍴

Main Course

*Seafood Pasta in Cream & White
Wine Sauce*
*Chicken & Ham Pie with Buttered
Cabbage and Creamed Potatoes*
*Moroccan Vegetable Cassoulet with
Rice* 🍴
*Roast Sussex Sausages, Creamed
Potatoes and Red Onion & Lemon
Thyme Gravy*
*Thai Green Coconut Chicken Curry
(mild) with Rice* 🍴



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Desserts

Hot Bramley Apple Crumble with Ice Cream

Coffee Ice Cream & Sticky Toffee Sauce ☞

Chunky Monkey (Bananas & Ice Cream with a Hot Chocolate Sauce) Brie & Biscuits

☞ - Denotes Gluten free

A selection of teas and coffee are available for £2.

Don't forget – Maggi needs your selections by Friday 16 January – either by e-mail (maggi.baxter@homecall.co.uk) or by phone (01892 890645).

40th Anniversary Dinner

We have now booked the hall for Saturday 20 June 2009 so please keep this date free in your diaries.

We are looking into caterers and intend to put on some entertainment.

NODA Review

**FRANT PANTOMIME AND
DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

**CALAMITY JANE, THE
PANTOMIME (Limelight
Scripts)**

**Frant Memorial Hall
4 – 6 December 2008**

**Director: Jackie Manktelow
Music: Mary Barnes**



This pantomime had similarities to the well known musical of the same name with songs from the musical with additional ones from other musicals.

Front of House: A warm welcome from the front of house team.

Music: Mary Barnes at the piano provided the music and had our toes tapping to some well known tunes.

The Programme: Nicely presented A5 12 page programme with details of cast and crew, and correct use of NODA logo and wording. Photographs of the cast during rehearsals, together with advertising. Regrettably, no list of the musical numbers or scenes.

Scenery: Stage design and construction by Kirsten Butler and members of the society, conveyed the different locations.

Make Up: All looked good under the stage lighting.

Costume: Supplied by The Costume Place assisted by Linda Moores were excellent overall, particularly for Geronimo and the Braves, Calamity Jane, Old Timer and who would forget Julio's!

Wigs: Christine Hodges had done an excellent job with the wigs worn by some characters.

Properties: All were good; the Indian Puppets by Jane Deavin and Jackie Manktelow worked well.

The Production: Regrettably I felt this production was not up to the previous standard of pantomimes by the Society and at times seemed to drag. It was somewhat like the "curate's egg" – good in parts. The Can-Can at the end of Act 1 was executed well.

Polly Berwick (Candy Barr) was a good character but needed to project more. **Josh Lowe** (The Milky Bar Kid) worked hard to get the audience to respond. **Calamity Jane** (Peter Payne) as the equivalent of the pantomime Dame provided a great character. **David Barham** (Geronimo) with **Ryan Brickle** and **Andrew Fletcher** (the Braves) fulfilled their roles superbly. **Dot Smytherman** (Old Timer) looked the part with good diction and action and was believable. **Nick Jeal** (Clint Westwood) gave a good characterisation, nice accent but at times too softly spoken. **Roger Bassett** (Chief



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Talking Bull) worked hard as did **Clive Moores** (Sheriff), but failed to enthuse me. **Pippa Attwod** (Angelina) and **Christine Hodges** (Jolie) gave us some laughs; **Richard Pierce** (El Gwapo) with **Ann Darby** (Manuela), **Vicki Connoley** (Dolores) and **Ray Hodges** (Julio) provided great amusement with their characters and absurd Mexican dancing. **Jess Streets** and **Rosie Steadman** (Lightening the horse) worked well inside the costume. Good support from **Heather Woodward** (Belle Hiccup), **Harriet Berwick** (Pocahontas) and the entire Chorus.

A shorter review will appear in due course in NODA SE News.

Thank you for inviting me to your production.

JOHN W BARNES

Regional Representative
NODA South East
District 3



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