



Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society Newsletter – December 2009

Welcome

Hello all. The music hall is now over and Christmas is fast approaching so what better time for another newsletter.

Star-Spangled Music Hall

The stage has been cleared, the glitter curtain rolled up and stored, the stage blocks deconstructed and we've closed the curtain on another music hall – and what a successful show it was!



The audience feedback has been very positive and we have had a review from the new NODA Rep. This is appended to the end of our newsletter.

The committee would like to thank everyone involved in the show in whatever capacity.

We know that, with this being Val's last directorial outing with FPDS, some people have been wondering what we will produce in 2 years' time. The committee would just like to assure members that we have every intention of continuing to produce music halls. So, if any members have and suggestions for inclusion in a music hall, or even a theme, then please let us know.

Costume Store – Help Wanted

Val has told us that she has to move the costumes temporarily and would like to know if anybody would be able to help. With the quantity of costumes that are at Pennybridge Farm



now, it is too large a job for Ann and Val to manage on their own.

We don't know when this will be, at the moment, but, if you are willing to help, could you let me know (that's Maggi for newer members who don't know where this newsletter has come from!) and I will liaise with Val to organise the troops.

Spring Play

Pippa Attwood will be directing our play in the Spring. She has chosen 'Off the Hook', a farce, by Derek Benfield.



The play will be on 13, 14 and 15 May 2010, a little later than usual to avoid conflicts with some other local societies.

We will be having a readthrough at The Stables on Thursday 21 January 2010 at 8:00pm. Please come along whether you are interested in being on stage or helping out in any other way with the production.

Contact Details

If you would like to suggest an idea for a music hall, help Val and Ann move their costumes or would like more information about Off The Hook, please contact me in the first instance. Maggi Baxter, 01892 890645 or maggi.baxter@homecall.co.uk

It only remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2010.

Merry 
Christmas 



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Theatre

I have been sent some vouchers allowing 2 tickets for the price of 1 for Hairspray at the Shaftesbury Theatre valid until 1 April 2010. Just let me know if you would like a voucher and I'll send some out to you.

A Thank You Note from Valerie Dormady

Firstly I should like to say a big thank you to everyone connected with the Music Hall. I was so pleased with the final outcome. An audience would rarely be aware of the time and commitment it takes to stage such a production. We are fortunate enough to always be able to find willing helpers covering the many aspects involved. I won't mention anyone by name as there are so many of you, but I should like to thank everyone, once again, for all your effort on and off the stage. At first I was a little worried by the lack of attendance at rehearsals but soon everyone realised that they did need to attend as often as possible. It was encouraging to have so many younger performers alongside our more regular performers.

F.P.D.S. has been part of my life for such a long time now and it will be strange to leave it behind. I know, however, that it will continue to thrive and progress. It is so important to develop and bring in new ideas. It is a happy, welcoming Society with few pretensions and the policy of including all newcomers is an excellent one. I wish you all every success in the future and will continue to support the productions. Thank you, once again, for all the wonderful support over the years and also for my lovely flowers.

Valerie



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Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society **A Star-Spangled Music Hall**

Frant Memorial Hall

2-5 December 2009

Director: Val Dormady

Val Dormady certainly wrote and directed a star-spangled evening, full of ‘razzledazzle’ glitter, song, dance and laughter, with something for everyone. She will be sorely missed by all at Frant having relocated to Eastbourne.

***Front of House:** The Front of House team were most welcoming. After meeting Maggi Baxter and members in ‘make up’ Roger Bassett’s hospitality and chat with Mary Barnes we were directed to the Hall. This was dressed in American style swathe - most atmospheric with stars and stripes themed supper tables setting the scene.*

Programme: A nicely presented A5 booklet with local supporters’ advertisements, society messages, cast and crew info together with sing-along words, plus the NODA logo.

Music: Mary Barnes ably scored, rehearsed, led the singers, accompanied on piano and was assisted by David Fenner on drums. Numbers from both ensemble and individuals came over well and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. A good team spirit was plainly evident.

Choreography: Kirsty McLauchlan leading her three young dancers introduced some good tap work.

Scenery/Set: Just a simple colourful USA backcloth with blacks. The stage extension was well used particularly for full cast numbers with movement. Minor curtain hitches didn’t detract.

Stage Crew: Scenes flowed well and despite restrictive entrances props were moved in and out quickly and quietly.

Properties: These were brilliant particularly for the black/white silent movie section ‘Go West Young Man’ – young girl, hero and the villain – cleverly dressed in black and whites, but the canoe, aeroplane together with winding prop, train track and loco must be mentioned.



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Costumes: Exceedingly good coming from Val Dormady's 'The Costume Place' assisted by her team of ladies. Notable were the elegant pinks for the Southern Belles. Finishing touches were good – hats for example were well chosen. Changes were slick. The rousing finale 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' with the all American red/white/blue, pompoms, glitz, the Statue of Liberty and the Stars and Stripes parading through the audience up onto the stage were most effective. A mention must go to the brave black be-tighted gentlemen and the three saucy ladies - one was illuminated, another with strategically placed butterflies!

Make Up & Hair: Both good and natural

Lighting & Sound: Not overdone and totally audible

The Production: **Valerie Dormady** did an excellent job. **Nick Jeal** taking on the role of compère proved a natural – got the audience in the right mood to join in and sing along to familiar USA tunes. A most convincing American accent throughout his performance. The silent movie sections were cleverly entwined between scenes with plenty of hissing and booing. The ensemble work and cameo parts most enjoyable. Other main scene interruptions were very funny – **Jackie Manktelow**, the cleaner with her stories, **Peter Payne's** Last but One of the Mohicans, 'Calamity June' brought a new meaning to chaps, 'A Couple of Swells' to name but a few.

A jolly, supportive audience joined in and enjoyed themselves. The fish and chip supper with apple tarts went down a treat.

Thank you again for your kind invitation, your hospitality and for taking the time to chat. Enjoy the rest of the run and well done to you all. A short review will appear in due course in NODA SE News.

ANNE LAWSON
Regional Representative
NODA South East
District 3