



Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society

Newsletter – March 2009

Welcome

Hello everyone. It's really busy at the moment at rehearsals but I thought that it was time for another newsletter

The Pantomime – ‘Calamity Jane’

Now, you may have thought that the panto was long gone but we haven't, as yet, seen the review which Michael Freestone wrote and for publication in the Parish Plus. A transcript of this is included at the back of this newsletter for those who don't live in the Parish.

Spring Show 2009 – Murdered To Death **by Peter Gordon**

We have been rehearsing for about 2 months now and everybody has settled into their characters!

The play is set in a manor house in the 1930s. Mildred Bagshot is expecting guests for her weekend house party but, by the end of the evening one of the assembly will be dead which requires the detecting 'skills' of the incompetent Inspector Pratt.

If you can imagine Miss Marple meets Inspector Clouseau you should have an idea of what to expect.



The play will be on 23, 24 and 25 April and the tickets will be on sale to the general public from Frant Country Stores from Monday 23 March but Society members will have the opportunity to get their tickets early on Thursday 19 March at 8:00pm at the Stables.

It promises to be an excellent show so make sure you come along to get your tickets and avoid disappointment.

40th Anniversary Dinner

This is just a quick reminder that we really need your replies to tell us whether you will be coming to the 40th Anniversary dinner or not by Friday 20 March so that we can organise the caterers.



Calamity Jane, The Pantomime

The Wild West – in the shape of Calamity Jane closely pursued by Geronimo and his Indian braves and a bunch of pirouetting mad Mexicans – hit Frant in early December.

The Bar, in the Golden Nugget Saloon, Silver Creek, opened the show; a fine set, with a sad moose head looking down on the cowboys and their girls, in the company of card sharps and the ubiquitous, hard drinking Old Timer staggering around uttering many wise things, and a honky-tonk piano tinkling in the background. Every now and then a distant, delayed 'ping' was heard as the Old Timer used the spittoon, accurately.

Calamity Jane arrived on the scene and was dressed in a nice shade of pink with 'her' face obscured by a pile of parcels. This may have been just as well particularly when the Old Timer suggested that the last time she saw a face like that it was that of a 'constipated mule'! Although brought up on Warren Ridge, Frant, Calamity Jane's accent was of a strong Yorkshire origin; an interesting twist.

The crazy, twirling Mexicans El Gwapo, Manuela and Dolores arrived wanting chips and a barrel of Tequila and were ready to party! The fourth member of the troupe was Julio dressed as a pirate from the film 'Pirates



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of the Caribbean'; wrong costume, wrong panto. He even turned up later as a limp-wristed, fey cowboy dressed in a lovely shade of pink!

Meanwhile, back at the Indian camp, the squaws were strutting their stuff in front of the totem pole chanting 'I'm an Indian too, a Sioux, a Sioux'. But the best part was the introduction of the Indian puppets – an ingenious and effective idea; they were also very good doing their war-dance, each Indian with a puppet, in front of the totem pole later in the show.

Whilst rapidly changing the scene behind the curtain, the Oh So Cool Clint Westwood and his trusty steed, Lightning, having crossed the burning desert and singing 'Wand'ring Star', arrived in Silver Creek to sort out 'The Hole in the Wall' gang.

Bearing in mind the timid nature of the Sheriff, Clint Westwood, supported by his band of goodies, gave a good rendition of 'Oh, they're tough, mighty tough in the West, and the Sheriff goes to jail to take a rest'.

There were many other good, well-known songs which gave pace to the show, for example, 'Whip crack away, whip crack away', 'I like pickled onions, I like piccalilli', 'You can't get a man with a gun' which had Calamity Jane in tears and 'Greased Lightning' with Clint Westwood and his trusty steed. We had the fanatical bandidos in their lair, singing 'Three Rotten Villains' with their kidnapped prize who turned out not to be Candy Barr but the Yorkshire-accented, face like a constipated mule, Calamity Jane. It was a very good production.

With twenty eight cast members and almost that number of crew behind the curtain, Jackie Manktelow, the Director, did well to create and maintain the motivation, enthusiasm and

commitment that is so important for our local dramatic productions in Frant.

We are lucky to have such a good band of players in our local Society here in Frant. The reputation which the Society has built up over the last forty years is clearly recognised by the full houses that support the Society at each and every performance.

Michael Freestone