

TOP NOTES AUTUMN 2016

Well here we are again with another issue of your Top Notes packed to the larynx with shows, events and fun times. It's been so easy editing this edition due to the many contributions from our members. If you're interested in contributing an article, comments, ideas, letters, jokes etcetera then pop an email to us at melaniemorrissey@hotmail.com. Alternatively, speak to Emily Noel-Todd at rehearsals. We hope you enjoy the autumn edition.



And now, a note from our Chair:

Greetings, lovely WAOS members and friends! Our wonderful world premiere of *Pride and Prejudice* will soon be here, and the production team and cast are all working their socks off as the excitement mounts. I have been a member since 2000, and this is the first time that I can recall an author/composer flying to Woking from the States to see our show! It is going to be glorious- with beautiful melodies; colourful costumes; a great cast; lots of whirling and twirling at the balls; witty dialogue and romance. All we need now is an audience! We need every single person to work at selling tickets so that this landmark production gets the reception that it deserves. Please do your bit to repay all the hard work that Tasha, Paul, Lorraine and the cast have put in, and let's play to full houses.

I also need to say thank you to Emily Noel-Tod, who has made a great impact on our society since joining the committee this summer. She has single-handedly organised stalls for WAOS at three car boot sales, amassing nearly £300 profit for the society whilst at the same time spreading awareness about *Pride and Prejudice*. How anyone can be so cheerful about getting up at 5.30am on a Sunday morning is a mystery to me – she is a special person!

Gillian Freeman



Chaperones needed

Whenever our shows include young people below school leaving age, there is a lot of additional work that we have to do to ensure that we meet the legislation designed to ensure that they are safe during rehearsals and show week. Increasingly our shows are involving youngsters, and there is no doubt that they enrich the productions and are particularly appreciated by the audience. Having children in the cast is also a great way of growing our own future stars for the society! We are hoping to be producing 'Annie!' next year, which, like 'Oliver!' a couple of years ago, involves a large number of children as key members of the cast. So we need more of our friends and members to consider training to be chaperones, responsible for looking after the children and keeping them safe. I have done the training, which involved two evening sessions learning about safeguarding procedures and understanding the rules that must be followed. You also need to complete a DBS application, which checks that you do not have any convictions that would make you an unsuitable person to work with children. Then you have to name two referees who will support your application. More details can be found on the Surrey County Council website. Here is a very long link that should take you to the right place!

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/support-for-young-people-and-their-families/guidance-on-children-and-young-people-in-employment-or-entertainment/chaperones-for-children-working-in-the-entertainment-industry>

Or, you could ring them on: 01483 517838.

There is a fee of £40 for the training, but if you are keen to do it and the cost would prevent you, please let me know as you could be sponsored by WAOS (since you would be undertaking it to help us out). One of the really good things about being a chaperone is that, even if it is a show that you cannot be in, you have the opportunity to be closely involved and at the

heart of the excitement during show week. The children are lovely too!

Gillian Freeman

New policy for grievances

The committee has produced a new policy to help when times are difficult and members may have a grievance and complaint that they wish the committee to deal with. It is based on a model policy from NODA and lays out clearly what the committee must do if a complaint is received. It also specifies sanctions that may be taken against a member of the society whose behaviour is causing upset to other members or harm to our reputation. We sincerely hope that this is a policy that we will never need to follow, but like taking out insurance on your property, it is good to have it just in case. If you would like to see a copy of the policy, please contact any of the committee members and we will send it to you. Incidentally, it also tells you what to do if you have a complaint about the committee, and specifically the chairman. Gulp.....

Gillian Freeman

Membership news

Huge congratulations to Hannah Dare and Hannah Kitchener, who have both celebrated special birthdays since our last issue of Top Notes.

Further congratulations to Paddy and Sophie Coad, who are celebrating lovely baby Harriet's blessing this month and congratulations to (former leading man and sound guru) Anthony Batchelor and his wife Katie on the birth of their baby boy Jack Michael born on 30th October.



And we mustn't forget excellence performances by our members in productions outside of WAOS: Brian in the HG Wells Festival; Wizz and Caroline Croucher

for their production of 'Little Box of Oblivion' at the Woking Drama Festival; Roger, Gillian, Sylvie, Cathy and Alex in Darling Buds of May at SADS; and Jess and Evan in The Secret Garden. Well done one and all!

Diary of events so far and coming up:

July 30th

Many people are owed well-deserved 'thank yous' in this issue of Top Notes. Firstly, a thousand thanks and oceans of gratitude must be given to Quentin and Jenny Jordan for hosting yet another lively and fun-filled WAOS Summer BBQ.

August 19th

Several 'thank yous' also go to Sam MH, Paul, Tasha, Martine and Lorraine who, in August, put on a great fundraising concert, masterminded by Sam MH and Lorraine, which raised an amazing amount of money to support our production of Pride and Prejudice ... something in the region of £3,000! Not only was it extremely successful as a fundraiser, but it was great fun to be part of, too, giving everyone a chance to stand in the spotlight and show what a talented bunch we are! It was particularly good to see friends and family members joining us on stage for the evening, in support of our cause. Huge thanks are due to everyone who worked hard to make it such an outstanding success, including the team responsible for the food, led by Martine Young, who worked for hours during the afternoon to prepare 100 ploughman's suppers! We are really keen to repeat this venture in the near future, and have prepared an information pack, based on what we have learnt, to help anyone who would like to take on the mantle of directing a future fundraiser. Do have a talk with me or any of the committee members if you fancy it. You can be sure of our enthusiastic support.



September

Our energetic social secretary Emily Noel-Tod organised a night of hilarious karaoke fun in Guildford this month! It would be great if Emily had some support with her future projects, so we are looking for volunteers to join a social committee, dedicated to organising similar fun activities and perhaps raising some funds for the society too. Please let any of the committee members know if you would like to get involved in this way.



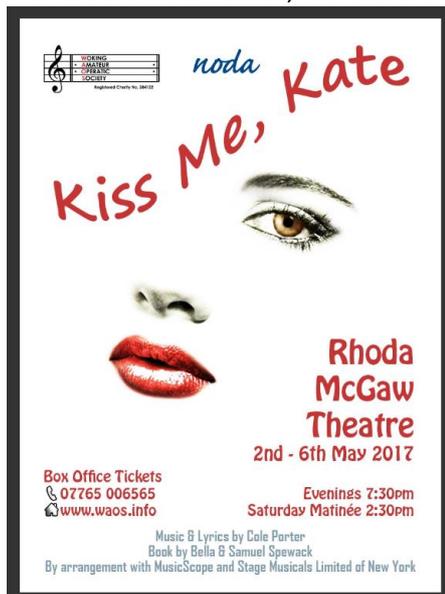
8th to 12th November

You know what to do! Come on gang, let's get out there and sell! Sell! Sell!



November 21st

Martine Young would love to see you for the 'Kiss Me Kate' introduction night on Monday 21st November at our usual rehearsal hall, the Old Woking Community

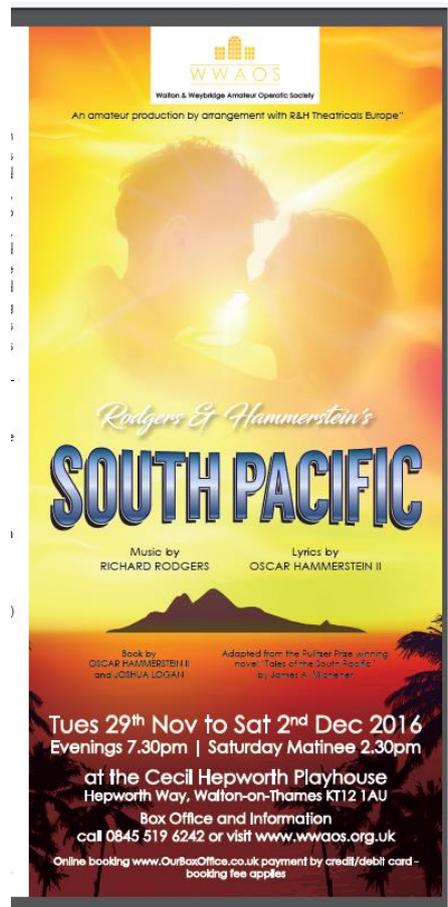


Centre.

Auditions will then be held on Sunday 4th December.

29th November to 3rd December

We are looking forward to supporting our friends at WWAOS in their production of South Pacific from 29th November to 3rd December with our talented in-house director, Martine, at the helm. Please let one of us know on the WAOS Facebook page if you would like to be part of a group to see the show. Tickets can be booked at www.wwaos.org.uk



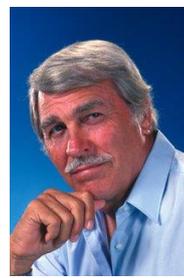
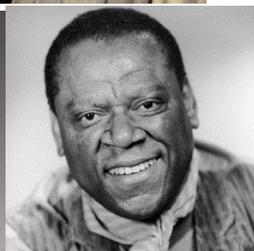
December 16th

Our WAOS Christmas meal is booked and will be at Pyrford Golf Club again this year, following the fun we had there last time. The date is Friday 16th December and the cost is £32.50, for the meal and disco but drinks will be extra. There are still a couple of places left, and if you would like to join in the merriment, Please let me know very soon, as the club are keen to know final numbers as soon as possible. If you would like to see the menu, you can find it on the club webpage: <http://www.pyrfordgolf.co.uk/christmas> At present I only need a deposit of £10 from you to secure your place

It is great that we will be joined by one of our past leading ladies, Jenny Lawrence (now Mrs Minall) at our Christmas dinner, as she will be back from the States to visit her mum, Lynda, for Christmas. We all look forward to celebrating the festive period with you. Ho ho ho!

Gillian 'Kiss me under the mistletoe' Freeman

**This Issue's Quiz. Who are these musical stars?
And...which musical have they starred in?**



Answers in the next issue.

And finally, Musical Theatre Quiz answers from the last issue. Complete the lyric and name the musical:

1. " I have often walked down this **street** before" My Fair Lady
2. "The minute you walked in the **joint**" Sweet Charity
3. "Come and meet those **dancing** feet" 42nd Street
4. "101 pounds of fun, that's my little **honey-bun**" South Pacific
5. "Is this the real **life**? Is this just fantasy?" We Will Rock You
6. "Just because I find myself in this **story**, it doesn't mean that everything is written for me." Matilda, the Musical
7. "Me here at last on the **ground** you in mid-air" A Little Night Music
8. "Can you feel the **love** tonight?" The Lion King
9. "Kick your **heels** up, step in time" Mary Poppins
10. "Come with me and you'll be in a world of **pure** imagination" Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Toodle pip for now dwahlins'. Don't forget, if you have any news that you would like included in Top Notes, concerning present or past WAOS members and friends, do let us know. We would love to read your reviews and information about new skills learnt. See you again after Christmas.