



Our Spring / Summer Show for 2008 will be

'The Beggar's Opera'

Directed by Gabrielle Esplin and assisted by Graham Tipple.

Now it's not an opera – it is more like a sort of 18th century pantomime with a mixture of comedy, melodrama and popular songs of the day – some with well known tunes such as “Over the Hills and Far Away” and “Greensleeves”.

It is the story of the dashing highwayman Captain MacHeath and his latest conquest, pretty Polly Peachum. Polly's father, who is the local fence and crime boss, disapproves of the match and he and Mrs Peachum plot to have him hanged and to claim the reward money. Polly warns MacHeath about her parents' plan and he flees. However, MacHeath stops for a farewell party with some of the loose women of the town, little knowing that two of their number has been bribed to distract him while Peachum and his men rush in and arrest him. MacHeath is imprisoned by the corrupt and weasly old jailer, Locket. Locket's daughter Lucy just happens to be a former lover of MacHeath whom he has abandoned, pregnant. Polly and Lucy squabble over MacHeath's affections – the jealous Lucy even tries to poison Polly. MacHeath escapes from prison but is soon recaptured and condemned to hang. The character of the Beggar, the author of the play, steps in at the last moment and offers the audience the chance to reprieve him – what will they decide?

As well as the main characters there are several minor/chorus parts as highwaymen, thieves, beggars and prostitutes. We hope to make this a fun, dynamic, interactive production with front of house joining in the choruses and helping to recreate the atmosphere of the 18th century theatre with the audience commenting on the action. We also hope to involve some folk musicians who can interact with the cast and give the music a lively period feel.

This will be an exiting show to *complement the Overton Regency Sheep Fair* while providing a nicely seedy contrast to the respectable “Jane Austen” element of the theme! If you want to be a part of it, on stage or off, please contact Gabrielle or Graham or come along to one of the *read-throughs, 7:30 Tuesday the 19th February at the ORC, Bridge Street.*

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December 2007 NEWSLETTER



For any comments or queries regarding the newsletters, please contact
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A Big Thanks to all that made the last production such a great success ~ **'Babes in the Wood'** ~ review follows ~ we will be updating the Web site soon so any pictures you have to me or Paul please

Overton Dramatic Society Babes in the Wood

This year ODS chose to perform "Babes in the Wood" written by Steve Clark, Damien Trasler and David Lovesy. This was not just the case of Babes in the Wood but also babes in the director's chairs. The director of the panto was Jenna Clark and her assistant Annette Williams. Aged 23 and 25 respectively they formed the youngest director partnership since the formation of ODS.

The story simply told in poetic form by the white suited male fairy (Tom Hanley) about the wicked, gold greedy Sheriff of

Nottingham's (John Ashlin) attempts to do away with babes in the woods Pip and Penny (Matthew Sims and Gabby Walker), thus inheriting the family fortune. The Sheriff aided by the dimwit duo Block and Tackle (Tom and Jean Wheatley) and hindered by Nurse Mollycoddle (Jim Wheatley) must be stopped. Enter Robin Hood (Johnny Blunden) and his merry men along with Maid Marion (Kayleigh Hale) to save the day and provide the happy ending that every panto deserves.

The unlikely hero Dangerous Dave (Harry Randall) encouraged much audience participation and gave them a soaking in the progress. Pip and Penny's rendition of Hush A Bye Mountain made the hairs on your neck stand to attention. All this together with stunning scenery and strong vocal chorus performances of many foot tapping, sing along songs left the audience happy and looking forward to Christmas. A final mention of Nicole Collins who I thought fizzed with energy throughout the performances.

Are you a lady ~ did you lose a watch show week ~ have a word with Freda

Well done to all

LAST CALL for the ODS New Years Party 31st December

Fun, games, music, **BIG** buffet (all contribute), bring your own drink ~ In St Mary's Hall ~ all welcome, members, family and friends for an enjoyable way to see in the New Year ~ a few tickets still available, call Maggs on 771457.

Twelfth Night Bash!

Well it's **12th January 2008** actually ~ held in St. Mary's Hall Doors open at 7:30, and you can look forward to a fantastic evening's entertainment from Sideways Down. There's a licensed bar and raffle to complete the evening, and all proceeds this year go to Macmillan, the cancer support charity. For more details call Becci on 770401 or email paul@webwhirled.com

ODS Goes Green in 2007

This year instead of the Society Xmas card mail box we had our '**ODS Big Christmas Card**' and a collection. Well the collection, plus some money collected in Bournemouth and the cake money from the Sunday rehearsals we managed to make a donation of £250 to Macmillan Nurses

Thanks to one and all

The Battle of the Sexes ~ and this time it's serious ~ well not too serious ~ 16th February 2008

Tickets @ £3.50 available from Social Committee members or call Maggs on 771457.

The Battle of the Sexes is an over 18 event so don't be disappointed book your baby sitter now!!

***The Beggars Opera ~ spread the word ~ read-throughs,
7:30 Tuesday the 19th February at the ORC, Bridge Street.***

www.ods-online.org.uk

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