

WOS News



Season 2008/09, Issue 1

November 2008

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Rachel's Ramble

The last few weeks have felt more like Rachel's Scramble as Me and My Girl, Intervals, planning for Crazy for You and assisting my husband with the Watford Beer Festival all seemed to cram themselves into the same stretch of time! The two shows and the beer festival all were a tremendous success (see below for Intervals news) so now we can all concentrate on the next Watford show. After a VERY long delay, we have been given our dates by the theatre. These are a few weeks earlier in the year than previously, so rehearsals are starting very soon - see below for more detail.

I am glad to report we have a larger committee than last year and welcome new committee-ites Sue Reynolds, Hilary Causer, Ian Duggan and Toni Lovell, as well as the return of a very familiar and welcome face, Nicky Chrissyaphes, this time as secretary.

Many of you will have read a very gloomy report of the situation at the Palace in last week's Watford Observer. Speaking to people at the theatre over the weekend, I was please to learn that things are not as bad as the cover article implied - Anne Gallacher, Executive Director, hopes people read the more balanced article by Mel Dakin inside the paper, there is also a statement on WPT's website at <http://www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/p256.html>

Finally, a couple of upcoming social events - joint carol singing with Cassio on Wednesday 10th December in Watford town centre, and a Three (or possibly even Four) Societies' Dinner-Dance for early spring - more info below.

Rachel

Our next show - 'Crazy for You' 20th to 25th April 2009

We are all very excited about our next show, the fabulous Gershwin musical, "Crazy for You". The show tells the story of Bobby Child, a well-to-do 1930's playboy, whose dream in life is to dance. And despite the serious efforts of his mother and soon-to-be-ex-fiancée, Bobby achieves his dream! Memorable Gershwin tunes include Bidin' My Time, I Got Rhythm, They Can't Take That Away from Me, Nice Work if You Can Get It, and Someone to Watch Over Me. It's a high-energy and funny show, which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music. The production will be at the Watford Palace Theatre, with direction by Jeff Eales.

There will be three get-togethers/pre-audition rehearsals in advance of the audition day, which is **Sunday 7th December** (with possible recalls/dance auditions on Tuesday 9th Dec). This is your opportunity to sing through the music and get to know the production team. New members are, of course, very welcome to join us. These **pre-audition dates are Thursday 27th Nov, Tuesday 2nd Dec and Thursday 4th Dec** at Fields Junior School, Elfrida Road Watford, 7.45pm to 10.15pm approx.

Please remember that in order to audition, you need to be a fully paid up member, so do get your subscriptions to Vicky Farman as soon as possible.

Watford Operatic Society Committee for the 2008/09 season

At the AGM on October 3rd, the following members of the WOS Committee were elected and re-elected:

Chairman/Database	Rachel Curren	rachel.curren@gmail.com
Deputy-Chair	Sue Reynolds	
Treasurer	Michaela Adams	Michaela.Adams@hilton.com
Secretary	Nicky Chryssaphes	Nicky.Chryssaphes@Debenhams.com
Business Mgr /Social	Sean Lovell	randombadgerno5@hotmail.co.uk
Production Mgr		
Publicity Mgr		
Membership Sec	Vicky Farman	
Member /Newsletter	Hilary Causer	msg4hilary@hotmail.com
Member / Social	Toni Lovell	
Member	Ian Duggan	I.duggan43@hotmail.co.uk

There are still some vacancies on the committee and some unconfirmed appointments to posts, so please contact Rachel Curren if you are interested in becoming more involved in the running of the society. We always need more people to help spread the many jobs involved in running the Society and putting on a Palace show, so please get in touch if you are interested - even if you cannot make a regular commitment as a committee member, we can use help for mini-projects throughout the year.

Who's Who? - The Committee - Hilary Causer (nee Sutton)

As one of the newest faces on the committee, I've been asked for a quick pen portrait, so here goes. I've been a member of WOS since "Sweet Charity", which was definitely one of the best shows I've ever been a part of. I'm also a member of Cassio Operatic Society and have previously been in productions by ALGSS and the Pump House Theatre Co. I've been involved with theatre since opting to do Drama as a subsidiary subject at university (Warwick), thinking "that'll be easy". What a shock I got! I joined the university's drama society and was a Kit Kat girl in "Cabaret" (with Julian Rhind-Tutt, who has gone on to far greater things, and our own Rachel Curren, who played the gorilla!)

I enjoy theatre from all sides of the stage, my last show was "Chess" with Watford and I'm currently doing props for "Me and My Girl" with Cassio.

Now that I've taken over the compilation of the newsletter, I'd be grateful for any contributions that members would like to make. Please email me; my address is on the contacts list.

Hilary

Intervals



Watford Palace Theatre - Sunday 16th November

Our three local operatic companies (WOS, Cassio and ALGSS) collaborated to present INTERVALS - a musical extravaganza to raise funds for the Palace as part of our Centenary celebrations. I do hope you were able to join us - everyone I spoke to on the day thoroughly enjoyed it - and those of us involved were very happy with the results of a LOT of hard, fast work and rehearsal. There was a wonderful mix of soloists, small ensemble and large chorus pieces, with costumes, dancing and props, linked by Ian Scleater providing facts and anecdotes about the Palace's history. A late surge in ticket sales pushed takings to almost £10,000; after costs are deducted, that means we raised about £3,000 for Watford Palace Theatre and £1,000 for each of the three societies.

Photos of the event are available to view and buy online at www.XMO4.com

Carol singing

Come and join us for carol-singing in Watford on **Wednesday 10th December**. We are trying something new this year and are joining forces with Cassio Operatic Society. We will sing as one large group in the High Street (somewhere close to Harlequin centre subject to permission) and raise money for the Peace Hospice. We'll sing for about an hour and then progress to a pub somewhere. Please put 10th December in your diary. Meet at 6.30, just inside the Harlequin centre entrance on the corner of Queens Road (near Gap and McDonalds).



Dinner Dance



Looking ahead to early spring of 2009, plans are already in place for the Dinner Dance. We will join forces again with other local societies for another evening of dressing up, dining, gossiping and putting into practice everything we've learned from "Strictly Come Dancing". Dance partners welcome but not essential as you'll know lots of people there. Book your frock hire now! The social secretaries are getting together to organise this, but Sean and Toni (WOS) or Jill Gillam (Cassio) will be most happy for you to contribute ideas and/or time to help!

Our Facebook group

If you're a member of the online social group Facebook, please join the WOS group. Michaela has created the group as a forum for members of WOS and its Committee to exchange information. Just type "Watford Operatic Society" into the Search box on the top right hand corner of your Home page and then go into the group by clicking on the name. When you're into the group, click "Request to Join" under the group logo. Then wait for either Michaela or Rachel to approve you - and you're in!

News from our members

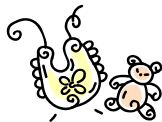


Most of you will have heard of Chris Swallow's engagement to Fran Mulcahy. They first met years ago at the Watersmeet Theatre and were re-introduced by Colin Chamberlain. Fran has two children, Rachel 14 and Ben 9 who are Pump House Children and Youth members.

Other engagement news, Rob Hall popped the question to Lynsey White in the dressing room at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, Buxton, in August.

Congratulations to Chris and Fran and Rob and Lynsey. We wish them every happiness.

Baby news!



Lorraine Atkins, (nee Dealey) had a baby boy, Leon, on Monday 29th September 2008. Congratulations to Lorraine and Gavin.