

Nicky's Natter

Dear Members,

I hope you're all managing to make the most of the summer, in between the showers and are enjoying your summer holidays wherever you are. It's quite scary that we're up to August Bank Holiday and then September and the run up to Christmas - help!

But there is good news on the horizon – Watford Operatic Society has obtained the license to perform 'Chess' at the Palace Theatre in early May 2008 which is a great opportunity for us all. The show has never been performed at the Palace before, either amateur or professional, and we are delighted that we have secured the services of the winning Annie production team of Alan Cox as Director and Bill Pamplin as Musical Director. They are already buzzing with enthusiasm and ideas.

Given the challenging music (there is no 'book' to speak of) we will be auditioning in early November and starting rehearsals after that. Our first get together will be directly after the AGM at 8pm on Tuesday 9th October 2007 at Watford Fields School so put that date in your diaries NOW and make sure you're there to find out all about it.

The AGM will be very important this year. We need to elect the four main officers of the Society – Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Business Manager. Everyone on the committee is moving round this year and with two committee members retiring, we need 4 new people to join the committee to get up to full strength. Unless we can fill those posts, we will not be able to put on the show, as without the support from members, there are simply not enough people to organise everything. I urge you all to consider how you could support your society as the old saying is the truest – 'many hands make light work' and it's a great deal of fun as well. Plenty of wine with the odd few nibbles to soak it up at committee meetings!

Please read on for detail of events and other items. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on the 9th.

Best wishes
Nicky

SOCIAL

DINNER DANCE – FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2009

It seems a long way off but please put this date in your diary. We've got a venue on hold and are currently working towards getting four local societies together for a bit of a social. It should be a lot of fun. Please keep your eye out for more information in the next newsletter.

NODA AWARD

You'll be delighted to know that Annie won the Marlene Knight and Viv Nicholson Award for Best Musical in NODA area 10, which was awarded to the society on 21st June by Josie Shingles at the Annie reunion.

CHARITY

One of our commitments as a society is that we donate a portion of our profits to charity. We need to choose a local charity to donate money to this year. If you have any nominations please let the committee know.

THE NEWSLETTER

Anyone who would like to make contributions to future editions of the newsletter should contact me on alexandra.hammond@cspk.com or by phone on 07767 367498. Moving House? Celebrating? In another show that needs a plug? You can let everyone at WOS know by getting your news in your newsletter.

Committee – What’s that all about then?

It really isn’t as much work as you might think – particularly if there are enough of you. The committee meetings themselves can be great fun. Do you think you may be able to be on committee? Here’s a few of the role descriptions to help you decide.

CHAIRMAN

Trustee and bank signatory. Provide the public ‘face’ for the Society. Provide forward vision and strategy for the Society. Chair Committee meetings. Ensure Society runs smoothly and provide a sounding board for committee and ordinary members. Support and advise committee or ordinary members while they are carrying out any job roles for the society. Trouble shoot/sort out any issues. Maintain and forge new links with other like minded societies / organisations. Network to further the interests of the Society. Attend NODA events, local community events etc and keep the profile of the society high. Welcome and entertain the President and Vice Presidents when they attend society events and shows. Be approachable and accessible to all members. Write and annual report for the RGM. Write a welcome column for each newsletter.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Works closely with the Treasurer and Production Manager. Trustee and bank signatory. Liaise with, coordinate and book all productions with the appropriate rights holders as agreed by committee. Book the appropriate theatre or other performance venue. Negotiate the contract with the theatre and ensure all relevant documentation is signed by the appropriate parties. Retain all contracts relating to the show. Approach, negotiate with and book the Director/MD/Choreographer on behalf of the Committee. Send contract/letter of confirmation to Director/MD/Choreographer. Book libs and scores for productions, liaising with Treasurer for payments and organising delivery/collection with assigned person. Liaise with Rehearsal Co-Ordinator to distribute at rehearsals and collect after show. Ensure the correct money is taken from the cast and any deposits are duly returned. Attend production meetings and make sure production stays on track. Responsible for controlling production team costs. Hold all insurance documents and ensure they are up to date and appropriate. Hold all legal paperwork relating to the Society and its charitable status. Have an understanding of all contracts and legal paperwork.

TREASURER

Trustee and bank signatory. Maintain the balance of the two bank accounts (Current and Business). Prepare monthly balances to committee for recording on the meeting minutes (and when required by Chairman). Manage the issuing of cheques raised in respect of Debtors, and ensure sufficient covering documentation exists. Maintain the correct Bank Signatories and associated documentation for the bank records. Prepare (in conjunction with the relevant professional bodies) the end of year accounts. Report at AGM. Complete and submit the Charity Commission annual return. Work in conjunction with the Production Manager on the preparation of Production Budgets and retain a watching brief. Ensure that the cash flow is sufficient to meet all bills on the due dates. Arrange cash payments for the orchestra at the end of show week. Liaise with the other members of the Committee for the Society when they are undertaking financially related tasks (eg Publicity Manager). Manage and maximise returns of the Society’s investments.

SECRETARY

Trustee and bank signatory. Prepare Agenda for meetings in agreement with the Chairman. Take minutes at committee meetings. Send draft copy to Chairman for approval then distribute to the committee. (also copy to the President). Follow up people who have not completed their ‘to do’ list. General correspondence as required by Chairman/Committee. Keep files for minutes/correspondence. Act as society contact for NODA. Circulate NODA publications. Arrange AGM paperwork within the required timescale and organise to be sent. Write to Vice Presidents re. Re-election. Keep job descriptions updated. Keep updated list of forthcoming shows for other societies. Keep list of potential Directors/MD’s/Choreographers/Pianists. Distribute copies of NODA Magazine to Committee & membership. *For Shows* - Send letters offering complimentary tickets as agreed by Committee. Liaise with theatre to ensure complimentary tickets are available and held on the door for the appropriate people. Arrange for treasurer to pay for complimentary tickets. Send thank you notes to Production team and people that have helped as agreed by committee.

CONCERT GROUP NEWS

From Marion Sherry

Following another successful season we have managed to donate money to two more charities. This year we chose to give to the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and to the MacMillan Nurses and have received grateful thanks from both organisations. We have now a full compliment of 5 men and 5 women having been rejoined by Linda's son Ian and, with our pianist, Jane, are now rehearsing for the new programme which will be unveiled on September 21st. We have five concerts arranged so far, the first of which is a return to the Clitheroe Club after a gap of a few years and, they say, they will be glad to have us back!! The other venues so far booked are: Croxley House, Hanover Court, Heathe House and Hazelmeade Womens Club. Her's looking forward to another good year!

WHAT'S ON?

Tuesday 28 August

FRIZZY GIG at the Pump House. Lauren Merrifield has a gig at the Colne River Room at the Pump House. From 8-11pm Lauren has two sets, one of 45 and the other of 30 minutes. In between there is an open mic, so if anyone fancies a go feel free!



9 October

Watford Operatic Society AGM
8pm Watford Fields School

Followed immediately by...

Introduction to CHESS
Find out about more the show, meet the directorial team and learn what will be required for auditions and rehearsals.



15-20 October

19-24 November

Rickmansworth Players present Oklahoma!
at The Watersmeet, Rickmansworth.
£12.50 for adults and £10 for kids at all performances except the Monday which is 2 for 1 at £12.50 with no concessions. Group discount: Buy 10 get 11th ticket free.
Box Office 079 13 13 08 08

11 December

Watford Operatic Society's Carol Singing Evening. More details will follow in the next newsletter

8 February 2009

Am Dram Dinner Dance. More details will follow in the next newsletter.