

Stage Whispers

February 2017

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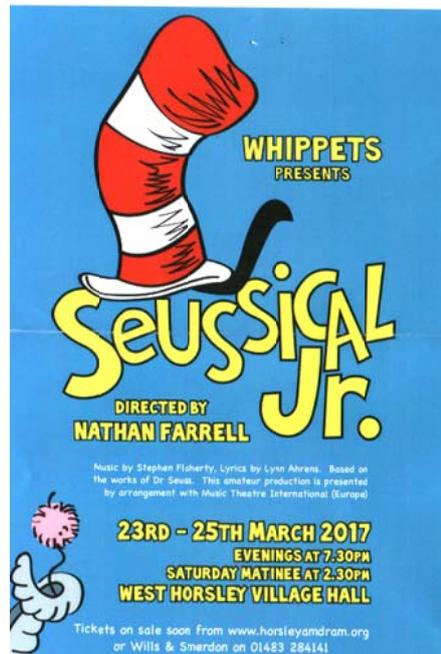
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Well, another panto ended with good revues but mostly half full audiences. We put these things on for eight public performances covering two weeks but with a full technical, two dress and one public rehearsal (where we had only eight in the audience!) that's twelve full performances and that is quite a commitment! If it hadn't been a lot of fun throughout the 11 week rehearsal period due mainly to our two directors light hearted attitude it would have been a real strain.

WHIPPETS PRODUCTION

Dont forget to book your tickets for this Whippet production. They are literally selling out fast!



SPRING PRODUCTION

We have almost cast the spring production with two new members taking part

Lord Arthur	Mathew Chapman (New)	Producer.....	June Bailey
Baines the Butler...	Phil Embury	Stage Manager...	Brian Aitcheson
Sybil Merton.....	Anna Price	Prompt.....	Aileen Aitcheson
Dean.....	Colin Bailey	Lighting & Sound.	Chris Cathles
Lady Windermere..	Fran King	Costumes.....	Margaret Pearce & ANO
Lady Clementina...	Jan Hudson	Props.....	& Barbara firth
Lady Julia Merton...	Carol McGlone (new)		
Herr Winkelkopf.....	Stuart Tomkins		
Mr Podgers.....	Stuart Smith		
Nellie the Maid.....	Katie Firth		

This is a really well written & funny period comedy. Rehearsals have already started in the Canterbury rooms and are going very well every Monday & thursdays

PLAYREADINGS

The next playreading will be on Wed 15th Feb at Pat Davis's house, Summerhill, Chalk Lane E H. KT246TJ tel 281990 where we will read 'Haywire' by Eric Chappel.

Do try and attend, these playreadings have had poor attendances of late and it's really unfair on the hosts and yours truly who has to come back from the coast a day early to organise these once very popular evenings.

We need volunteers to host future playreading evenings. Please contact Jack

THE WHIPS
www.horsleyamdram.org present

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
By Oscar Wilde - adapted by C. Cox



A Murderously Funny Comedy

At The West Horsley village Hall @ 8PM
26th - 29th April 2017

Box Office: online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram
Or: Wills & Smerdon, Estate Agents East Horsley, 01483 284141

PANTOMIME

Despite having only 4 in the audience on the public dress rehearsal, our pantomime directed by Soo & Stuart Tomkins went down pretty well with our subsequent nine public performances despite not having the usual 'thousands' of Whippets & young Whips in the cast (bar 2)

Treasure Island Review by The Humble Scribe



Christmas is over for another year, but the days are still short and the weather is freezing, so what better way to lighten the gloom than heading down to the West Horsley Village Hall for the biennial WHIPS pantomime. This year we boarded the good ship Hispaniola and sailed off into the wide blue yonder seeking hidden treasure in "Treasure Island" by Bob Heather and Cheryl Barrett.

This reviewer believes that a panto is not proper panto unless; the principal boy is in fact played by a female; the dame is played by a man; there are jokes to groan at and others that mums and dads just hope their offspring really do not understand; colourful scenery; and gorgeous costumes. This production jointly directed by Soo Tomkins and Stuart Tomkins filled all these requirements and more. They elicited from their cast all that is required for the audience to be treated to a rollicking good evening.



As the curtains opened taking us aboard the pirate ship we were treated to a chorus in fine singing voice. We soon encountered the villain, not as tradition has it, Long John Silver but instead Long Joan Silver menacingly played by Jill Davis. Jill certainly elicited from the audience all the boos and hisses that should greet the panto villain on each entrance and exit and it must be said she also possess a fine singing voice.

Pantomime also requires a comedic character or comedy duo. Long Joan Silver's inept and daft henchmen Fore and Aft played by Kevin Tomkins and Jan Hudson respectively had the audience laughing throughout the performance. Their comedic pace never faltered throughout. The evening's comedy was further enhanced by Billy Bones, played by Aron Wilson.



The icing on top of the laughter cake was provided by Gavin Bligh in the guise of Dame Molly Malone, the landlady of the Admiral Bimbo Inn. Big and brassy as a ship's bell and with more sauce than Heinz can bottle up each day. Dame Molly's enticement of an unwitting male from the audience onto the stage, to then launch with full gusto and more into "Hey Big Spender", was just hilarious.

The romance was provided by principal boy Jim Hawkins played by Greta Butcher and Tess Trelawney played by Katy Firth. As Greta was the youngest member of the cast, it could have been daunting taking on the principal boy's role. She did not allow this to overawe her and performed the role well with clear diction and fulfilled another panto tradition of the obligatory thigh slaps. As Tess Trelawney, Katy was always accomplished in her performance and possesses a good singing voice.



The roles of Squire Trelawney (Colin Bailey), Fairy Coral (Alene Norkett) were all played with total confidence. The unexpectedly ever so camp and cheese loving Ben Gunn played by Jack Griffith, was another high point of the production.

Even with accomplished principal players, panto needs a strong chorus and this production was well supported by its chorus members. The musical numbers were always sung in tune and with clarity of voice under the consummate musical direction of Esme Upcott. In the various dance routines the choreography by all the cast was always in unison.



The set as designed by Peter Davis was superb and special mention must be given to Shelley Baxter, Lynda Ridge and Carol Wilson as well as Peter, for producing the beautifully painted backcloths.

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The various scene changes on what is a small stage with limited wing space were quickly executed by the Stage Manager Brian Aitcheson and the stage crew. Lighting was in the ever-capable hands of Chris Cathles.



The final accolade must go to Margaret Pearce for the costumes. Panto requires costumes with colour and bling and Margaret's numerous outfits ranging from ship's pirates to South Sea island exotic haute couture and to finish with a glittering finale were just sublime. They would have done a professional production proud.

All in all this was another success for the WHIPS and do we really have to wait until 2019 until their next pantomime.



SHOW BLACKOUT

On one of the public performance days, the whole village had a blackout from about 5.30PM including our village hall. Consternation ensued with emergency lighting our only source of light but no heating, however at about 7.15 the power thankfully came back on and after much scurrying the show went on. Chris Cathles, our sound & lighting man, always a bit of a wag came up with this ditty:-

*T'was Treasure Island Pantomine
And every show was going fine
When the final Friday don't you know
The power cut before the show!*

*The cast came in and sat about
And starting time was cast in doubt
When Tannoy said "Beginners Please"
But no, alas, it was a tease*

*Pete's mobile kept us up to date
But time was running somewhat late
T'was getting cold and things looked grim
With hopes of power growing dim*

*Then Fairy Coral waved her stick
The lights came on, it did the trick!
The audience then came in droves
While Jack the Griffon found the stoves*

*The day was saved, the show went on
Goodness triumphed, all was won!*



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman	Colin Bailey
Secretary	June Bailey
Hon. Treasurer	Fran King
Whippets Manager	Julia McClung
Whispers Editor	Jack Griffith
The Whips Website	

283372 E-Mail colin@east-horsley.freeserve.co.uk
283372 e-mail june@east-horsley.freeserve.co.uk
283051.-e-mail francesking123@btinternet.com
281286 e-mail juliamcclung@btinternet.com
282106 e-mail jackgriffith7@gmail.com
www.horsleyamdram.org



THE WHIPS: FUTURE

Whips Going Forward

Whips committee have recently discussed the future sustainability of the Society taking account of a number of factors, specifically;

- decline in the number of active members due to ageing and moving from the area
- general reduction in audience numbers

We are looking at a number of initiatives to address this but are very interested to hear the views, ideas and suggestions of all members. We value your thoughts on the way the society is run; how we might recruit new members (especially at the younger age group), our productions, social events and anything else you think is relevant. Let us know by email to colinbailey@hotmail.co.uk or feel free to post on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/horsleyamdram

At our forthcoming AGM; 7.30pm on Wednesday May 17th we will be electing next year's committee and are always looking for new members so if you would like to join us or learn more about it, please contact our Secretary June Bailey on june@east-horsley.freemove.co.uk or 01483 283372.

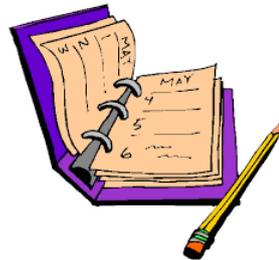
Many thanks

Colin Bailey (Chairman)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23-15 th March	Whippets show Seussical Junior
26-29 th April	Spring Production: Lord Arthur S.C.
17 th May	AGM
18-21 st October	Autumn Production
18 th November	Quiz night



AND FINALLY

Florida woman saves herself in alligator attack using a small Beretta pistol .

This is a story of self-control and marksmanship by a brave, cool-headed woman with a small pistol against a fierce predator.

What is the smallest calibre that you would trust to protect yourself? A Beretta Jetfire testimonial.... Here is her story in her own words: "While out walking along the edge of a pond just outside of my home in Florida with my soon to be ex-husband discussing property settlement and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 12-ft. alligator which suddenly emerged from the murky water and began charging us with its large jaws wide open.

The alligator must have been protecting her young and her home because she was extremely aggressive. If I had not had my little Beretta Jetfire .25 caliber pistol with me, I would not be here today!



Just one shot to my estranged husband's knee cap was all it took....

The 'gator got him easily and I was able to escape by just walking away at a brisk pace.

The amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible.

"



This has been another 'Rush it out swiftly before the Playreading starts ' production!



