

MUSICAL NOTES

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The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company

The Pajama Game A Message from your Director

*"The pajama game is the game we're in
and I'm proud to be in the pajama game"*

Another crazy show - and I get to direct it (must be a message there somewhere!) Also coincidentally, another show from 1954 (like *Salad Days* and *The Boy Friend*) but this time from the USA. Three very different shows but each with a totally offbeam zany vein of humour running through it (must have been a crazy sort of year!!)

This time we have 'explanations', asides, comments directed to the audience; deliberately clumsy setting of words to music and splitting up of syllables; as well as: a nightclub scene in total darkness, someone singing a duet with himself, a hilarious daydream bedroom farce scene, an insanely jealous knife thrower and a curtain call final scene with the whole cast in pyjamas - nothing much unusual there then!

The humour extends to the music, which includes a mixture of styles, including Country & Western, crooning, barber shop and German beer garden.

The unusual slant on an otherwise familiar story line (unlikely pairing of boy and girl from different backgrounds) is that it all takes place in a nightwear factory, where the heroine (Babe) is the head of the grievance committee (shop floor) and her lover (Sid) is the new superintendent (management). Time and motion man Hines is an ex-professional knife thrower. The president of the union has a wife that doesn't understand him (what a surprise). Both main secretaries (Gladys and Mabel) appear to work on dance routines in their spare time! The boss is corrupt. Caricatures galore, full of over-the-top fun and laughs - a feel good show - "the pajama game - we love it!"

Kat Bond

Video Evening: Orpheus

A video of *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach) will be shown on Tuesday June 6th 2006 at Treowen School, starting at 7.00pm.

This is the show that we are currently planning to perform in Spring 2007. This is a good opportunity for those who do not know *Orpheus* to come and find out about it, or for those who do know it to come and enjoy it in good company!

Photo Shoot: The Pajama Game

The photoshoot for *The Pajama Game* will take place on the weekend of July 15th/16th 2006, venue to be announced (but probably somewhere for the Picnic Scene). Please keep this weekend free and we should have a great time again, like our Llanbedrog trip for *The Boy Friend* last year.

The Pajama Game Production Team

The Production Team for *The Pajama Game* is as follows (so far):-

Director	Kat Bond
Deputy Director	Jackie Titley
MD	<i>vacancy</i>
assisted by	Sarah Banks
Production Manager	Jeremy Thorp
Wardrobe	Marjorie Meredith
Make Up	Peggy Bound

The Cast

The parts that have been cast at the time of writing are as follows:-

Babe Williams	Emma Breese
Sid Sorokin	Richard Jones
Gladys Hotchkiss	Jill Peters
Vernon Hines	Andrew Bond
Mabel	Chris Clarke
Prez	Mike Clarke
Hasler	Mark Ward
Max (Salesman)	Roger Banks
Mae	Jane Breese
Poopsie	Bev Southall
Brenda	Harriette Lane
Charlie	Dylan Francis
Joe	Tom James
1st Helper	Ryan Lane
Rita	Carys Burgess
Carmen	Frances Western
Mara	Hanna Todd
Virginia	Vivica Flynn

Steam Heat and the Jealousy Ballet will both be performed by Dylan (Charlie) and Roger (Max) (with Jill (Gladys)).

Website:
www.newtownmtc.co.uk

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death on Saturday 20th May of Paul Hill, at the age of 29. Paul belonged to NMTC and took part in *Me And My Girl* and *Magic of the Musicals* in 2004, before moving away from the area.

Production Manager's Notes

The Pajama Game will follow the same successful formula for its staging as our production of *The Boy Friend* last year, including the same Director, Kat. As last year, we will have two pianos and percussion, although at the moment we do not have a permanent Musical Director. However, we are very grateful that Sarah is standing in as MD while we make other arrangements.

Marjorie has agreed to take responsibility for costumes, but she will be very grateful for help that other people can give because it is our intention that most costumes will be found, made or altered rather than hired.

As last year we will be building the set. Kat's ideas for this are that it will be very stylised, along the lines of "cartoon cutouts". There will be plenty of jigsawing and painting to be done, and lots of volunteers will be wanted. Anyone willing to help please come and see me. Most of the work will probably be done over the summer holidays during weekends, but no dates are set yet.

To make Kat's life easier, please can everyone make sure that they fill in a form indicating which rehearsals they will be unable to attend. Also we would like to get at an early stage a definitive list of everyone who will be taking part. A list will be on the notice board for people to fill in. If your name is not on it, you will be left out of the staging. If your name is on it, please make a commitment to come to as many rehearsals as you possibly can.

For the early stages, we are booking the hall from 7.30 to 9.30pm, so please try to be on time to help Kat or Sarah to start

promptly. We will always be stopping for a coffee break, for which a new rota will be constructed. When it is your turn, please sneak out of the rehearsal at about 8.15 to put the kettles on and lay out the cups. NMTC coffee etc is kept in a carrier bag in the cupboard under and to the left of the sink. The coffee money can be given to Ian at the end of the evening.

We must then make sure we stop at 9.30pm and vacate the hall reasonably promptly to avoid taking advantage of the trust of the Church. Nearer the performance date, we will book the hall until 10.00pm to allow for more intensive rehearsals.

Jeremy Thorp

Ladywell Car Park Collection

Please can we have volunteers to collect money for the society in Ladywell House car park on Saturday November 18th 2006. Please see Ian Hogg if you can help.

NMTC Sound System

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, plus a small amount from the company's funds, we now have our own sound system comprising two radio microphones, a mixing box and two speakers. (the system can accommodate more mics as we afford them).

This will enable us to gain more experience of using microphones, particularly those of us that rarely get to use them. It can also be used during performances if microphones are not available.

The system can also be used to plug keyboards, CDs or other devices into. Anyone interested in learning how to use this, please see Jeremy.

A Note from the Editor

Firstly, apologies that it has been four months since the last newsletter. I really am hoping to produce 'Musical Notes' a little more frequently than that, but *Guys And Dolls* did take up quite a bit of my time (on stage and producing the programme) and many of you will have noticed that I have since been treading the boards again, this time with Newtown Amateur Dramatic Society as well.

As always, could I ask everyone to please try and contribute to the newsletter? We might manage a 4 page edition next time! Thank you!

Ruth Thorp

NMTC were very sad to hear of the death of NODA stalwart Bill Matthews on 1st April 2006. Bill held many posts at NODA, including National President, and has often come with his wife Iris to see NMTC shows.

NMTC Committee

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