

MUSICAL NOTES

Number 21
November 2006

The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company

And another award ...

After reporting on our success in winning the 'Best Programme' award in the 2006 NODA Western Area competition, the Guys And Dolls programme went on to scoop the runners-up award in the National competition.



Jackie and Ian were presented with the runners up plate - the Kay Darbyshire Trophy - at the NODA National Weekend in Eastbourne on 30th September.

Announcing *Brigadoon*: Show, Cast and Crew

At a vote earlier in the year, it was decided that it was no longer appropriate for *Orpheus in the Underworld* to be staged by the company at this time. The programme subcommittee put forward a list of three shows for the company to vote on: *The Slipper and the Rose*, *Brigadoon* and *Oliver!* *Brigadoon* was selected by a narrow majority. Rehearsals began last month and auditions were earlier this month.

CREW

Co-directors Chris Clarke
. Kat Bond
Assistant Director Jill Peters
Musical Director Kat Bond
Choreography Kat Bond
. Maureen Cullen
. Jackie Titley
. Jo Western
Production Manager Jeremy Thorp

Wardrobe Irene Harbron
Props Majorie Meredith
Make Up Coordinator Peggy Bound

CAST

Tommy Albright Gareth McMurdo
Jeff Douglas Andrew Bond
Charlie Cameron Dylan Francis
Fiona MacKeithKatrin Wyn Williams
Jean MacKeith Emma Breese
Meg Brockie Jane Breese
Donald Ritchie Penry Thomas
Maggie Abernethy Hannah Wilson
Mr Murdoch Mike Clarke
Harrie Ritchie Richard Jones
Bartender lookalike Richard Jones
MacGregor Mark Ward
Stuart Cameron Ian Hogg
Jane Carys Burgess
Leader of Jeannie's friends
. Bev Southall
Dancers Karen McMurdo
. Harriette Lane

NODA Summer School 2006

A first but hopefully not a last for NMTC. This summer I spent a fantastic week at Loughborough University taking part in The NODA Summer School. Everything about it lived up to all hopes and expectations ... and more. It was a truly memorable experience.

I chose to do the Musical Theatre Performers course for *Titanic, the Musical*, which involved working with 30 other people aged between 18 and 65(?) on three sequences from the show.

We began at the start of the week in a fairly experimental, workshop style, exploring different staging possibilities and interpretations of the text, all under the skilful and very sensitive eye of professional director, Jim Paterson.

Some very intensive vocal sessions

with MD, Tim Davies, ensured we learnt the music quickly, with individuals, pairs or small groups performing specific sections, as well as the big, stirring whole chorus numbers.

It was remarkable how, by the end of the week, the raw talent of the group had been moulded into a strong, committed company, eager to perform on stage to the rest of the summer school. With token scenery, props, costume, and lighting we presented three contrasting scenes, giving the audience a taste of the powerful and moving story.

The evenings were spent doing a variety of additional workshops (not necessarily related to our chosen course), also an open forum discussion, a quiz night, a choral sing-along and of course the inevitable last night disco – yes, I danced the night away!

So, there was plenty to keep us occupied and lots of fun to be had too. It was certainly a very demanding week in terms of commitment, concentration and mental energy required, but also extremely enjoyable and hugely rewarding. Value for money? Definitely!

Many of us in NMTC have attended a *Les Misérables* Masterclass – the NODA Summer School (despite the lack of West End stage to perform on) was equally exciting and worthwhile.

I believe I am the first NMTC member to go on a summer school for some time – hopefully I won't be the last. It was an experience I would thoroughly recommend and I'm already hoping to go again next year. See you there?!

Vivica Flynn

Welcome to New Members

Apologies that we're not keeping up to date with our welcomes.

The Pajama Game

We were pleased to have the following new members taking part in *The Pajama Game* in October: Thomas James, Carys Burgess, Ann Morrison, Sarah Webber and Bridget Jones. We were sorry that Hanna Todd and Lauren Parrotte had to miss the show at the last minute for personal reasons and wish them both well.

Brigadoon

Firstly, we are particularly delighted to welcome Sarah Astley as a rehearsal accompanist. We are very grateful for the time Sarah has already put in helping us out in *Brigadoon* rehearsals and auditions.

We are also pleased that the several new members have joined the cast for *Brigadoon* and will announce these in the next issue.

AGM 2006

The AGM of Newtown Musical Theatre Company was held on Wednesday 1st November 2006 at the Methodist Church Hall, Back Lane.

A new Committee was elected as shown elsewhere on the page. Thank you to the outgoing committee members (Tony Crozier and Gareth McMurdo) for all their hard work for NMTC and welcome to two new committee members (Frances Western and Harriette Lane).

Fees for membership remain unchanged this year.

Child Protection Policy

The new contact for Child Protection matters is John Harbron (01686 627509).

Website:
www.newtownmtc.co.uk



Preparing for the concert at Plas Cae Crwn

Goodbye and Good Luck...

... to Emma Flynn who has gone to Warwick University to study French and Italian – thanks to Mike and Chris for a little bit of help along the way!

Emma appeared in 8 shows with the company, the first being *Salad Days* in which she played a manicurist (painting Chris's nails bright red!) and a Greek slave waitress in the Cleopatra nightclub, ('egg and chips' was it Ian?!).

She always enjoyed the variety of characters, costumes and choreography that the chorus had



to offer, as well as playing two principal roles: Peep-Bo in *The Mikado* and Fay in *The Boy Friend*. She went out on a high with her final and favourite show, *Guys And Dolls*, another nightclub appearance, this time as a sizzling Hot Box dancer.

Emma participated in various other NMTC events: the Theatr Hafren performance with Peter Karrie, "Hymns and Arias" at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, Maureen's tap classes and Party Pieces. In October '03 she joined 5 other NMTC members for one of the last opportunities to take part in the West End *Les Misérables* Masterclass.

Emma thanks everyone for the fun and friendship she has enjoyed with the company over the past 4 years, and to her we say: well-done, goodbye and good luck!

Plas Cae Crwn Concert

On Tuesday 21st November, a couple of dozen NMTC members were pleased to stage an evening concert for the residents of Plas Cae Crwn in Newtown.



Compères and pianist

The concert followed on from a 1940s exhibition at the home and itself started with the first half dedicated to songs of the 1940s, including sing-a-long medleys of war songs.

Compèred by Chris and Mike Clarke and accompanied on the piano by Kat Bond, the second half feature songs from the musicals decade by decade from the 1940s to the present day.

Many thanks to Erryl Cruse at Plas Cae Crwn for asking us along and to the staff for the wonderful buffet they laid on afterwards.

NMTC Committee

Chair	Jackie Titley
Vice Chair	John Harbron
Secretary	Jeremy Thorp
Treasurer	Ian Hogg
Business Manager	Peggy Bound
Publicity Manager	Frances Western

Committee Members:-

Emma Breese*
Harriette Lane
Mark Ward

(*responsible for social events)

Non-Committee Posts:-

Librarian	Jill Peters
Archivist	Chris Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Thorp
Website Editor	Roger Banks