

MUSICAL NOTES

Number 22
January 2008

The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company

Message from our New Chairman

As we head into a new year, we look back at what NMTC has achieved in the past year and look forward to what 2008 might bring.

In 2007 we have continued to build on past successes, continually striving to develop our skills and talents for the enjoyment of the local community and, indeed, ourselves.

Our most recent production, *Follow Your Dream*, was an ambitious project and a huge challenge for Mike as creative director/compiler and Kat as MD, ably assisted by Sarah, her accompanist, and Emma as assistant MD.

Despite early problems and heartaches along the way, those of our members who faced up to the challenge were rewarded with a fast-moving, slickly-choreographed and brilliantly-performed musical feast.

The Company is rightly proud of the enormous range, versatility and quality of talent we have amongst our ranks. The director's plans to mix and match working partnerships and create opportunities for performers to be in the spotlight at downstage centre - the first time for many - resulted in many members enjoying their debuts in solo/duet or group items and for seasoned principals to share the stage with them. A bonus outcome has been greater socialisation within the company and an appreciation of one another.

This past year, thanks to Committee members and

... continued overleaf

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 23rd February 2008 *Party Pieces VI* - All Welcome

Saturday 15th March & Sunday 16th March 2008 Weekend Rehearsal for *Calamity Jane*

CALAMITY JANE

Well - the Deadwood Stage is well on its way now, and the good townfolk of the community of Deadwood are getting to know themselves and each other.

Once again, in directing this show, we have decided to invent a character for everybody, to give the special feel of a chorus made up of lots of individuals. Our hope is that these characters will start to 'do their own thing' (within our guidelines) whenever they are on stage and that this will give added interest in all scenes for audience and singers alike. Everyone is important (not just the principals) and the sooner we all in NMTC realise this, the better!

The fun has already begun, with the saloon 'slappers' throwing

themselves into their roles with great gusto; the hotel workers - barmen, cleaners and washerwomen - acting their socks off; and the more respectable members of Deadwood society forming attachments (or suffering the consequences of earlier liaisons!). Once more the males of the community seem to have been largely wiped out by goodness knows what! (We know that two surveyors 'died where they fell' in Eagle Pass, thanks to 'injun arrows', and a similar fate befell 'soljers and a major from the Fort'. Maybe an epidemic hit the mining fraternity leaving widows and orphans to populate Deadwood - who knows?!)

The music for 'CJ' is a wonderful mix of energetic non-stop upbeat numbers and beautiful relaxed melodies with strong supporting harmonies. We aim to reflect this mix in the movement and dance throughout the show, to give it that Hollywood feel. Yes, *Hollywood*, not Broadway, for this show, because - although we are interpreting CJ in our own mischievous way (we never could resist the odd bit of lateral

thinking!) - we have tried to keep in mind the fact that the original concept was the *film*. The film was later arranged for stage, not the other way around, so the writers' intentions (when it suits us to go along with them) can be most clearly seen on screen.

Aiming to add the professional touch to our production, we have decided on colour coordination: purple, silver and artificial bright colours for the Chicago showbiz element; natural, more muted greens, browns and yellows for Deadwood. We are lucky enough to have the opportunity (courtesy of Debbie and others) to construct our own set of costumes, individually made to measure to our own designs. This is a new venture for an NMTC spring show (tried out on a smaller scale in *The Boy Friend*).

So, we're all set - teamwork being the main order of the day. To misquote a recent BBC drama 'we are *Calamity Jane*'.



Handwritten signatures of the production team, including names like 'Katie', 'Julie', and 'Ruth'.



*Follow
Your Dream*
October 2007



Welcome to New Members

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

Brigadoon

We were pleased to welcome to NMTC for our Spring 2007 production of *Brigadoon* Freya Rowlands, Gaenor James, Catrin Wyn Williams and - as a much appreciated last minute stand-in - Sion Wyn Williams.

Calamity Jane

Joining us for our forthcoming production of *Calamity Jane* in April 2008 are Jenni Gregory, Connie Rowlands, Caroline Howells, Sylvia Hughes, Ben Dearden and Rachel Struthers.

A warm welcome to all of you and we hope you enjoy being part of NMTC.

AGM 2007

The AGM of NMTC was held on 17th October 2007 at the Methodist Church Hall, Back Lane.

A new Committee was elected as shown below. Thank you to the outgoing Committee members (Jeremy Thorp, Peggy Bound and Mark Ward) for all their hard work for NMTC over very many years and welcome to three new/returning committee members (Chris Clarke, Karen McMurdo and Jill Peters).

Fees for membership were changed to £45 (full), £32.50 (concessions) and £20 (junior).

NMTC Committee

Chair	Chris Clarke
Vice Chair	John Harbron
Secretary	Emma Breese*
Treasurer	Ian Hogg
Business Manager	Jackie Tittley
Publicity Manager	Frances Western

Committee Members:-

Karen McMurdo
Harriette Lane
Jill Peters

(*responsible for social events)

Non-Committee Posts:-

Librarian	Jill Peters
Archivist	Chris Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hendry
Website Editors	Emma Breese Harriette Lane



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Social Scene 2007

Thanks to the efforts of Social Secretary Emma Breese and others, there have been a lot of social events this year, including:

* a trip to see *West Side Story* at Aberystwyth, including the afternoon on the beach (1) (2) and birthday celebrations for Gaenor, Hannah and Jackie (3) - Jackie said she only wanted a birthday cake if it was in the shape of a Dalek - duly created by Gwiryon (7);

* a barbeque at Jackie and Ian's in September (4) (5);

* a trip to see the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in June (6);

* a trip to see *We Will Rock You* in September;

* Christmas dinner at Mellington Hall in December;

* after show parties at the Shilam in March after *Brigadoon* and the Wagon in October after *Follow Your Dream*.