

TOWER NEWS

Vol. 1, No.5

FHODS Entertaining the area since 1913.

Dec. 2007

BEAUTY AND BEAST

TT THE TOWER THEATRE
North Road, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent. CT20 3HL



Assistant Director: Audrey Baulch
Musical Director: Richard Baulch
FHODS are proud to present their first pantomime at the Tower Theatre.

Folkestone - Hythe, Operatic and Dramatic Society (N.O.D.A affiliated)
Friday 15th - Saturday 23rd February 2008
Concessions and advance bookings available
Box Office (01303) 223925
visit our website www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk

FHODS members are urged to purchase their tickets now. From next month the full level of advertising will come into swing and tickets are expected to fly out of the box office. So if you want the best seats for you and your family then book your tickets now. Tony Cock (Box Office manager) reports that ticket sales are going well so far, but notes that not many FHODS members have booked yet. He hopes that this reminder will ensure that members get the tickets they want, remembering there are fewer seats at the Tower Theatre compared to the Leas Cliff Hall. Tony quipped, "but the few seats there are will be more comfortable and give our audience a better view". *So hurry, hurry, hurry...*

Box Office number 01303 223925

A BEDFULL OF FOREIGNERS

By David Freeman

Performance Dates;
Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd March

To continue in its drive to provide exciting theatre in the Tower Theatre, FHODS is going to present the sparkling, fantastically funny comedy 'A Bedfull of Foreigners'. A breathtakingly fast paced farce of the old school this play will woo audiences and performers alike, as the romp makes the hotel spin and seem to come to life. Although a fair amount of clothing is removed, including the inevitable trousers, the play also has some very witty dialogue.

What's it about...

The play is set in a French village near the German border on the eve of a local festival. When Stanley and Brenda, on a motoring trip, obtain a room for the night, they consider themselves lucky - but not for long. In less than an hour, Stanley finds himself, in Brenda's absence, lowering an attractive girl, nearly naked, from the window, with the room's radiator hanging from a rope near the ceiling. The arrival of Claude, the attractive girl's husband, and or his

own girlfriend, Simone, causes further chaos. By the second hour, almost everyone is in the wrong bed, as figures dressed as nuns and monks rush in an out and seductions and confrontations run rampant.

The cast of characters include,

Karak The Hotel Porter, who likes speak in a Slav accent, and drink more than enough beer. He has a dead-pan mocking sense of humour and could be mid fifties.

Heinz The hotel manager, probably in his thirties, described as slim, good looking and inept. Slight German accent

Stanley Parker English guest at the hotel. One of life's victims, somebody you will glad you are not. With his wife on their first trip abroad and all the prejudices show. Main character.

Brenda Parker An attractive woman who suffers Stanley, but not always in silence

Helga Philby Another guest who is in her twenties possibly, slim, tall and attractive, cool and self-possessed. A former nursing sister, she speaks excellent English with a slight German accent.

Claude Philby Middle aged and pompous English businessman who also thinks he is staying in the hotel

Simone Slim and attractive. She is a cabaret dancer. Tough and very worldly, she has, however, a wild and outrageous sense of humour. She has a French accent

If you are interested in auditioning please note the following:-

- Scripts available from the 30th November 2007
- Auditions on Thursday 20th December 2007 at 7.30pm

For more information about this production please contact the director, Peter Heselden on 07711710952.

ELECTRONIC TICKETING

FHODS at the Tower Theatre has leapt into another league. With a new ticketing package FHODS now prints its tickets as it sells them. This fantastic new equipment may mean sadness for the printers but puts FHODS firmly into this century.

Each production is given an event number and can be called up as when required. It is possible to have up to 99 such events, more than enough for FHODS at any one time. Eventually we should be able to have on-line booking, so those of you with internet capabilities will be able to book your seats from the comfort of your own home. This should happen by the summer 2008.

This provides another opportunity for members. Anybody interested in operating this new system should contact either Peter Heselden 07711710952 or Tony Cock 010303 223925 to arrange for training. Do not be put off as the system is genuinely simple to operate. FHODS really needs a rota of one or two persons a day Monday to Saturday to do a set time, say 10am - 12am each day. Please make contact if you think you might be able to spare the time.

NEW DIMMER RACKS

By a remarkable piece of luck FHODS has secured some second hand but good condition dimmer racks from the Bournemouth International Conference centre. This equipment was the 'Rolls-Royce' of its day and is still regarded by some as the best available if somewhat old. Spares can be a bit of a problem but as luck would have it not only did FHODS secure enough racks for the Tower Theatre but it managed to secure double this amount. So there are spares galore. The total cost of £150.00 including transport was money well spent.

DIRECTORS WANTED!

The Performance and Planning Committee are currently seeking directors for their 2008 programme, either for plays or musicals. Therefore if you have a play or musical that you would love to direct or even co-direct, please get in touch with one of the following committee members who would LOVE to hear from you.

Bob Osborne	07815 020576
Jeanette Lewis	270803
Davey Lewis	270803
Suzanne Fisher	850529
Dave Woolnough	07967 342225
Natalie Hubbard	01797 344493

RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS

'A jewel of a production' said Anne Mortimer, after attending Chalkfoot's Arts Centre latest production and first in the Tower Theatre. This show with only four professional actors filled the stage and buzzed along at a pace that was at times breathtaking.

Peter Heselden remarked, "this was the first of many such productions to be put on in the Tower Theatre as part of FHODS desire to bring all sorts of drama, both amateur and professional to the area". Plans are afoot to bring this company's next production of 'Laurel and Hardy' in the spring. So keep your eyes peeled for more details later.

New Members

Acting:

Richard Denham and Craig Hoveman

Patrons:

Mr John & Mrs Cherili Krawczyk

Youth:

Thomas Higgins

ARTHUR KENSETT

It was with great sadness and shock that we received the news of the death of Arthur, especially as he had so recently been to the Tower to see "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum". He was such a familiar sight to our audiences at the Little Theatre, as he carried out Front-of -House duties whilst Norma was in the Box Office. He performed the same duty with equal vigour when we moved to the Tower Theatre. He was an incredibly enthusiastic and supportive character at whatever chore he was currently engaged in, whether for FHODS or for his many other interests around this area. Our sincere condolences go to Norma and their family

The 100 Club

The 100 club draw for October took place last night at the Tower Theatre before rehearsals for A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

The winners were:-

Bill Kempson £12
Kathleen Bernthall £12

Whats On!

AN EVENING WITH COLE PORTER

Tuesday December 4th
Doors open 7:30pm 8pm start
Tickets £5 (pay on the door)
An evening of Cole Porter performed by Maggie Denham and Stan James

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

A pantomime by Stephen Duckham

At The TOWER THEATRE -

FEBRUARY 15th - 23rd, 2008, party bookings and concessions for all performances including matinees

NOW BOOKING -
Contact Tony Cock on 01303 223925

A BEDFULL OF FOREIGNERS

A superb farce full of fun

At the Tower Theatre

Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd March
Tickets £8.00/7.00 concessions
Party bookings available

NOW BOOKING-
Contact Tony Cock on 013030 223925

ACTORS AND ACTRESSES FOR THE FOLKESTONE TRIENNIAL

We have been approached by the organisers of next year's Triennial regarding providing performers as part of this project, which is going to be a huge event for Folkestone.

Jeremy Deller (Turner prize winner 2004) will be concocting a series of simple sketches to be performed in various sites in Folkestone.

The Triennial runs from 14 June - 14 September from 11am-5.00pm each day We are looking for a pool of 20 performers to work on their own in 2 hour sessions per day. (One person only most days although at weekends and the bank holiday they will probably need two performers)

Obviously some people will be at work but this could appeal to retirees, part timers or students who have set free time each week. The work will be paid (£45 for each 2 hour slot). It will need commitment but could be great fun if you like this kind of challenge and you could get paid for it.

There will be a workshop in January to discuss the scenarios.

As well as the street performers required by the Folkestone Triennial, we have been asked if we could provide 4 local men aged between roughly 18-35 to do some recording work as follows. There is a plan to place 4 sound installations on the Leas for the summer; these installations are going to be playing recordings of soldiers' letters written as they passed through Folkestone on their way to fight in the two world wars.

Each recording will be about 2 minutes long and they are planning to make these recordings in a studio in the Old High Street, Folkestone, sometime in January.

If you are interested in either of these two events then please contact Anne Mortimer by phone or email as follows 01303 873811 or amm1@btinternet.com

CARTOON DE SALVO: HARD HEARTED HANNAH AND OTHER STORIES



Part-gig, part-jukebox, part-theatre - but entirely a voyage of discovery - Hard Hearted Hannah tells a different story every night. Featuring live Jug Band music (think souped-up washboards, guitars, banjos and cider jugs for bass!), each new adventure is inspired by songs chosen by the audience from a 'menu' before the show. Will it be the Boodle Am Shake or the Lindy Bird Hop? Will tonight's tale star Smokey Joe, Scrubber Sam - or Hard Hearted Hannah, the notorious vamp of Savannah? Only one thing's for sure - no two audiences are alike and no two shows will tell the same story... Cartoon de Salvo's all-new, script-defying and spontaneous show, inspired by the sassy, dirty and bittersweet music of the American South, is the latest freewheeling antic from the team behind hit comic romance Meat and Two Veg and 2005's outdoor theatre event, The Sunflower Plot.

Audience: Suitable for all
Performance: 2 x 45 minutes

Date for this show is 29th February 2008

price £6.00 and £5 concessions
available form Tony Cock/Box Office
01303 223925