



Dramatic News Dramatic News

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

In Our 63rd Year

Jun/Jul 2007

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From the Editor

It is that time of year when many of us look to sun-soaked climates with our buckets and spades (or are still using our buckets to empty this Summer's rain out of our backyards).

Well, there are still many of the club members hard at work on the next production and other such things. Just read on and you'll see.

This issue

- The Autumn Production.
- A letter from one of our past members now turned professional.
- What some of our members are up to in other productions.

The Autumn Production - JANE EYRE

There's great interest in 'Jane Eyre', our autumn production, and we've got a very strong cast of 20. These include people new to the Club, people who have been regular performers in the last few years, and people who haven't been active recently but have been attracted back by the play. The cast list is on the Club website.

We also have a very good production team, led by Ann Monk as producer, assisted by Carol Wadey, and John Morgan as technical supervisor. Both Ann and John will also be acting in the play.

We've given the first night, 15 November, to the Mayor of Huntingdon, Jennifer Sarabia, to raise funds for the Mayor's charities. This should mean we have a large audience, and generate even more good will for the Club.

If anyone would like to help behind the scenes, please contact Ann Monk (annmonk@hotmail.com) or me (michael.black@btinternet.com).

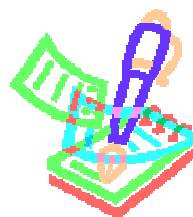
Michael Black (Director, 'Jane Eyre')

CONTACT DETAILS

<mailto:theeditor@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk>

For details of past, present or future productions:

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A letter from a former member, turned professional – Richard James.



I was delighted to stumble across Huntingdon Drama Club's website a few weeks ago, and more delighted still that the club continues to go from strength to strength – and long may it last! My association goes back to 1986 when, having just left school, I auditioned for 'Night Must Fall' and won the part of Danny. The play, I remember, was directed by Ted Sandy and also featured Lynne Dent and the wonderful Jack Hyde. It was my first taste of the stage outside of school and a real baptism of fire it was, too. One memory is of being upstaged by a huge spider on the Commemoration Hall stage!

Next came 'Any Number Can Die' a few years later, a comedy thriller with Michael Black in the director's chair. I played Edgars, the butler, and I remember Michael writing (tongue in cheek, I hope!) that I had reached the pinnacle of my career in the role!

After a year or so gaining experience in other local groups, most notably Brampton Park Theatre Club and Shakespeare at the George (in Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream), I was lucky enough to be accepted for a three year course at the prestigious Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. I learned, graduated in 1992, and have been a working (sometimes!) actor ever since.

Most of my experience has been on the screen, especially on children's television, and I am lucky enough to have travelled widely in the course of my work. Most recently I took a part in a comedy drama about Mary Whitehouse starring Julie Walters, and was flown to Tunisia for a part in a children's series 'The Roman Mysteries'. Strangely, stage work has eluded me for the most part, but I have learned that in this game simply to be in work is enough!

Through it all, of course, I hold great memories of where it all began; of a wonderful bunch of people dedicated to the fun of performance, and a certain dusty Hall on Huntingdon High Street.

To all those who may remember me and might want to get in touch, you can do so via my website, www.richardjamesonline.com

Maybe I'll hear from you soon!

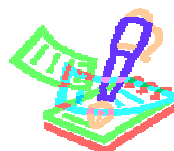
Richard James

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“As You Like It” – what club members are also up to.

Three of Huntingdon Drama Club's members are performing in an all-female production of Shakespeare's delightful comedy **As You Like It** at the beginning of August.

Annie Welsh is playing the faithful old servant Adam, **Caroline Harbord** is the good and bad dukes, Duke Frederick and Duke Senior, and **Kat Sexton** is appearing as the cynic Jacques ('the seven ages of man') and Orlando's brother Oliver. The director is Vicky Welsh.

It looks like being a lot of fun, so do come along and show them your support – and enjoy yourself at the same time.

Performances are as follows:

Saturday 4th August, 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Commemoration Hall. Tickets £7.50 (£6.50) available from the Card Gallery.

Sunday 5th August, 2.00 pm. Ramsey Rural Museum (open air). Tickets free!

Wednesday 8th August, 7.30 pm. Grafham Water (open air). Tickets free, but call to book a space.

Saturday 11th August, 2.00 pm. Ely Cathedral (open air). Tickets free!

For more information, email Caroline at _____.

Future events

We'll update you in the next newsletter.

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