



# Ribchester Amateur Theatrical Society

## Members Newsletter - September 2010

	Committee	
Chairperson	-	Jean Skilbeck (Tel. 01254 878 530)
Secretary	-	Sue Cronshaw
Treasurer	-	Phil Baugh
Committee Members	-	Claire Davies, Katie Farnworth, Laura Frost

To Members and friends :-

### *Review of the Junior Production*

**MUSICAL STARS:** Performers from Young RATS pulled off a show stopping summer production with the play “Tap, Tap” and renditions from popular musicals.

THE Young RATS of Ribchester delighted audiences with their talent and versatility when they performed a one act play - “Tap, Tap” by Bill Tordoff before launching into song with renditions of popular musicals.

The talented youngsters treated their engaged public to very professional renditions of songs from the shows, including Anna Davies’ ‘Popular’ from the hit musical Wicked, and ‘Just can’t wait to be King’ from The Lion King, with Alexandra Finch taking the role of Simba, ably supported by the rest of the performers.

Isobel Austin delivered a haunting version of ‘Memory’ from Cats, and dance styles ranged through jazz, tap and ballet.

The performers ranged in age from Emily Royle, making her singing and acting debut, aged eight, to Emily Watts, who was the most senior at the tender age of 19.

All of the youngsters contributed to an excellent evening of entertainment but a special mention must be made of Hanna Bennett, Harriet McCartney, Heather Pye and Alexandra Finch who took the parts of the four pensioners in the play, with insight beyond their years.

James Watts and Anna Davies were well cast as the two teachers leading the outward bound trip

The Young RATS summer production has become a feature of village life for the youngsters during the summer break, with rehearsals throughout the school holidays.

Laura Frost, 17, director and choreographer, aided by musical director Katie Farnworth, should be commended for their work as it certainly pays off when you watch the smiling faces of the cast (and audience) at the end of another successful performance.

This review appeared in The Longridge News

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that Subscriptions for the 2010 / 2011 season are now due from Members. Subscriptions are payable to the Treasurer or to any Committee Member who will pass them on for you.

## Pantomime Time

With the decision to bring the Pantomime forward to December rehearsals have begun for “Sleeping Beauty” by Bob Marsden. Rehearsals will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. If you wish to be involved in this production in any way just pop into the Hall on either of these evenings and you will be made welcome, or speak to any member of the Committee.

The pantomime will take place on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Thursday 9th, Friday 10th, Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm. There will also be a matinee performance on Saturday 4 December at 2.00pm. Tickets will be £6.00 Adults, £3.00 Children and will be available from the Box Office on 01254 878 530

## PRODUCERS FOR 2011

We still require Producers for our March and May plays in 2011. If you feel you would like to produce/direct a play - please let us know.



## **NEW MEMBERS**

RATS are always on the lookout for new adult members, so if you fancy being on stage or helping backstage come along and join us. We are in the Village Hall most Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 8.00pm and 10.00pm

## **NEWS OF A FORMER RATS MEMBER**

News of another young RAT from the Ribchester "stable" ! Jo (Jonathan) Shipman appeared in many RATS productions. His first appearance was in The Wizard of Oz in 1995.

Jo starred in productions such as "James and the Giant Peach", "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", "Wind in the Willows", "Arsenic and Old Lace", "Mutatis Mutandis", "Habeas Corpus", "Measure of Success" as well as several Pantomimes.

He was always interested in writing and on leaving school went to Bretton College, part of Leeds University Campus to study Creative Writing. A former student at Bretton College was John Godber, the writer of several plays performed by RATS.

Jo lived in Leeds but has now moved to London and continued his interest in the Theatre - partly by working in them!

He has also continued to write and has had his plays, including "Vicious Women" produced in both Leeds and London. He has remained in touch with Ribchester through his father, Glyn, who still lives here and through his long friendship with Owen Phillips. It is through that connection that Jo has had his latest success as a writer. Ribcaged produced Jo's latest play, "The Degenerates" at the Edinburgh Festival where it received excellent reviews.

'Three Weeks', one of the important reviewers of the Festival Fringe said of Jo's play,

"It's always a pleasure to encounter a piece of new writing which managed to both entertain and stimulate the audience to reflect on social issues." It continues, "An intriguing plot with two well constructed characters. The author succeeds in conveying his message provocatively in a universally necessary and compelling play." Great praise, and not easily given, especially to the poor old script writer - so often overlooked.

### **STOP PRESS**

**WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT JO HAS BEEN INVITED ON TO A 12 WEEKS PLAY WRITERS COURSE AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE IN LONDON.**

**WELL DONE JO - AND GOOD LUCK IN WHATEVER YOU DO.**

And Finally.....

The Ribchester Amateur Theatrical Society Chairperson and Members are cordially invited to the Licensing of the Reverend Gill Henwood as Priest in Charge of Ribchester St Wilfrid on Thursday 28 October 2010 at 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church Ribchester PR3 3XS

There will not be a rehearsal on this date as refreshments will be served in the Village Hall following the service.

*Jean Skilbeck (Chairperson)*