

# Twyford and Ruscombe Theatre Group

[www.twyrusdrama.org.uk](http://www.twyrusdrama.org.uk)

Newsletter April 2009

## Committee Members:

Chairman: Mike Brooks (9340040)

Vice Chairman: Val Aves (9345830)

Secretary: Jane Rhodes (9016799)

Treasurer: David Tanqueray (9341544)

Social Secretary: Rosemary Chapman (9340101)

Membership Secretary: Ian McDonald (9345495)

HQ Manager: Gavin Robinson (9349522)

Ordinary Members: Ian Darling (07825636888)

Kirk Wootton -Publicity (07766 208447)

## Current Production: May 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

Valerie Aves is directing the Alan Ayckbourn comedy "Role Play"

Only a month or so away, so get booking tickets.

## Autumn Production 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October

Jocelyn is to produce a Terry Pratchett play, "Wyrd Sisters" and has provided a brief synopsis of the plot, followed by a cast list:

**Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett**  
**Directed by Jocelyn**  
**Stage Manager - Gavin**

"Wyrd Sisters is based on the Discworld book by Terry Pratchett, and is a comic take on Shakespeare's Macbeth. 'It's all there - a wicked Duke and Duchess, the ghost of the murdered King, dim soldiers, strolling players, a land in peril. And who stands between the kingdom and destruction? Three witches. Granny Weatherwax (intolerant, self-opinionated, powerful); Nanny Ogg (down to earth and vulgar) and Magrat Garlick (naïve, fond of the occult and bunnies).'

The script is, at times potentially hilarious. Terry Pratchett uses words and characterisations to squeeze every bit of humour out of the text, and every word of the script has to be taken straight from the book.

There are actually about 35 parts in the play, although I am looking for 5 women and 8 men

to play the main roles and about 6 people of either sex to play a number of minor roles each. However, the parts with less lines to say can still be showstoppers, from the Bald-ric-like Sergeant to a camp Demon who appears out of the top of a water boiler and insists that people throw insults and curses at him / her.

**Read through and auditions for major parts in Wyrd Sisters will take place as usual on the Tuesday and Thursday after Role Play - that is 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. As the following week is the Bank holiday and half term, I shall hold principal's rehearsals for that week and put off casting the rest of the roles until Tuesday 2nd June.**

Anyone who wants to be considered for any of the parts but will be away on the relevant dates, please contact me beforehand and I shall make sure you are considered when casting. For most of June to August the minor parts would only be needed on a Thursday and I shall make sure that I plan the other scenes so that people know when they need to be there. During September we shall need everyone around as much as possible. The performances will be 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October. My challenge (or one of them anyway!) will be to get the story across to people who have never read any Discworld books - they can be confusing at the best of times! It would help if most of the cast could read the book as well as the script as parts of it have had to

been omitted, and it helps to understand the background, and how the characters relate to each other.

If you are still interested, please read on for a brief summary of the plot and a description of the main characters.

Hope to see you all in May, Jocelyn"

### Brief summary of the plot

King Verence of Lancre is murdered by Duke Felmet who, with his wife the Duchess, now rules the kingdom. King Verence comes back as a ghost to try to save his infant son, who has been smuggled out of the castle and handed to three witches. The witches leave him (and his crown) with a party of strolling players who bring him up, although they are ignorant of who he really is.

The Duke and Duchess try to destroy the witches using torture and other means (all foul) with little success. However the resident fool (also called Verence after the late King) is cleverer than he looks and suggests they may be able to get the better of the witches using words. To complicate matters the Fool then falls in love with Magrat (the youngest witch).

The witches manage to engineer a happy ending that brings the infant king (who has meanwhile become an accomplished actor and orator) back to the Lancre throne.

The Duke employs a party of strolling players (no prizes for guessing which ones!) to act out a play portraying the world as he would like it to be (where he didn't commit the murder), but truth will out and all ends well, although a couple of sharp twists and turns at the end should keep the audience guessing to the last.

### **Main cast roles**

#### FEMALE

Three witches:

Granny Weatherwax - Formidable senior witch of the coven. Hot tempered, competitive, selfish and likes to look the part. Complete technophobe when it comes to broomsticks.

'Nanny' Gytha Ogg - Oldest witch and family person - has 15 living children!

She is

slightly coarse and good-natured, has a cosy but haphazard approach to life but does like her home comforts.

Magrat Garlick - Youngest of the three and very naïve. Incurable romantic with a very open mind; she is into magic and the occult.

Duchess - The wicked queen and power behind the throne. Could either be played as an old battleaxe or a vampish character.

#### MALE

Fool - From a family of fools, he serves the current ruler of Lancre, whoever that may be.

Not very happy as a fool, but philosophical about his situation. He falls in love with

Magrat.

Duke - He is ruled by his wife and killed the king (Verence) on her instruction. He has now claimed the throne of Lancre. The Duke is of a nervous disposition and spends most of the play trying to convince himself and others that he didn't commit the murder.

Tomjohn - Son of King Verence rescued as a baby and brought up with the Players. A natural leader and orator, he is the lead actor of Hwel's plays.

Hwel - Welsh Will Shakespeare. Actually a dwarf in the book but not necessarily here.

Father figure to Tomjohn.

King Verence - Dead king of Lancre. Appears as a ghost only visible to witches. Tries to get justice by letting everyone know that the Duke murdered him.

Other minor speaking parts include:

Robbers

Actors

Peasants

4 Guards

3 Soldiers

Baldrick-like Sergeant

Mr and Mrs Vitoller who adopt TomJohn

Demon summoned from the washtub.

## Panto 2010

Nigel Aves, in conjunction with Mike Brooks is to produce the panto "Goody Two Shoes", by Paul Reakes.

This is based on a popular 18<sup>th</sup> Century story for children; in its Panto guise it will include magic shoes, a sinister sorceress, usual Panto jokes, singing and dancing.

## 2010

We still need producers for Spring and Autumn 2010 - if you are interested, or have a suggestion for a play, let any of the Committee know please. Don't forget, anyone who has produced a One-Act play, or works with the assistance of an existing producer is eligible to choose and put on a production.

*Jane Rhodes has a printer which is surplus to requirements - do you need one? The printer is an Epson Stylus C66 photo edition and is a perfectly good printer in excellent working order. It's around 2 yrs old and produces good quality prints. It works with Vista, with XP and was previously used with Windows ME. It uses 4 separate ink cartridges giving good value for money.*

*You can contact Jane on 9016799, e-mail - [janey.r@ntlworld.com](mailto:janey.r@ntlworld.com)*

## Social Events - Social Evening

Main event this month is a social evening which gives you not One but Two One-Act plays.

These are: "The Live-in", written and directed by Natalie Forward, and "A Fishy Business" directed by Helen Lofting.

**The Social evening will be on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, at St. Patricks Hall Charvil, cost £3 per person. Please, as is usual at these events, bring food and drink with you.**

Please ensure you arrive by **7:45 pm**, since "The Live-in" is scheduled to start promptly at 8:00. Food will be at approx 9 pm, followed by "Fishy Business".

## BBQ

Please make a note in your diaries for Mikes annual BBQ - Saturday 18th July

## AGM

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 8:00 pm sharp at Group.

Some members of the Committee are leaving, and thus the opportunity is there for any member, including those who have joined the Group only in the last year, to volunteer for one of the Committee roles. We are always anxious to avoid having the same person doing the same role every year. Last year's minutes will be included in the next newsletter.