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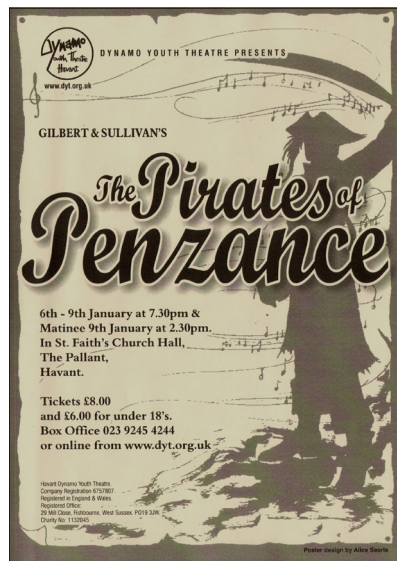
DYNAMO YOUTH THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 07

Winter 2009

Our next show

The Pirates of Penzance



This comic opera in two acts, with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W. S. Gilbert, has been given the Dynamo Youth Theatre makeover.

The opera's official premiere was at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York City on 31 December 1879, where the show was well-received by both audiences and critics. Its London debut was on 3 April 1880, at the Opera Comique, where it ran for a very successful 363 performances, having already been playing successfully for over three months in New York.

The story concerns Frederic, who, having completed his 21st year, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tender hearted pirates. He meets Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley, and the two young people fall instantly in love. Frederic finds out, however, that he was born on February 29, and so, technically, he only has a birthday each leap year. His apprenticeship indentures state that he remains apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday, and so he must serve for another 63 years. Mabel agrees to wait for him faithfully.

Performances

January 6th ~ 9th 2010 at 7.30pm, matinee Saturday 9th at 2.30pm

St Faith's Church Hall, The Pallant, Havant

Ticket box office: 023 9245 4244

Or on line at www.dyt.org.uk

Ticket price £8.00 or £6.00 for under 18's

Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre
company registration No. 6757807 Registered in England and Wales
registered office, 29 mill close, fishbourne, west sussex po19 3jw
Charity No. 1132045

Raised Up (a Directors Perspective)

Way back in the first half of 2009, when the sun was still up at 5:15pm, I got my nerve up and bravely trotted up to Andrew Bowker one Monday session and asked if dynamo could do a song showcase. His initial reaction seemed somewhat unenthusiastic, as if I wasn't being serious. He told me to come back to him when I had a clearer idea of what I wanted to do, so I could advertise it to him a bit better. I soon understood that it wasn't a case of convincing him that it would be good for Dynamo – he kept reassuring me I had his full support - but I needed to prove to him I was serious and willing to follow through with the idea. As I was pondering song choices, possible venues and having consultative chats with my good friend and fellow Dynamo member, Rosie Dempsey, it dawned upon me that this project was slowly taking over my life! But strangely, I didn't care. I wanted to do this.

Mid-August and I thought it would be fun if me and Rosie dragged Andrew out of his burrow (where all teachers hibernate over the summer) and have a look round the United Reformed Church, which was my first preference of venue as it was new and unfamiliar to Dynamo and yet only round the corner from HQ. Standing inside that church on that blindingly sunny day felt like the biggest step we'd taken so far. But the excitement had to be put on hold as rehearsals for the sixth form show got underway. The sixth form show proved to be a good distraction from thinking about the concert and was an unforgettable experience in itself, but that's another story! When 'The Weekend' was done and dusted we only had two weeks before rehearsals for the concert began! By this time I had to provide Andrew with a provisional programme, technical requirements and a name and poster for the show. I was told that help was there if I needed it but I was too determined (translation: stubborn) to make it as independent as possible, to prove to myself and the rest of the company, that making stuff like this happen isn't beyond the realms of possibility. I was yet to learn this was very naïve of me!

I was suffering weeks of ridicule from Andrew for not yet having a title for the concert; "Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to 'A List Of Songs' devised by Harry Atlee" he would jab. I shoved a draft poster under his nose, kindly allowing him to eat his words. A rather talented friend from college had agreed to design the poster for me on the condition I bought him some sweets. Easy deal, I thought. There was one remaining concern that I found hard to put out: the variety of the show's content. Honestly, I was concerned that my love of all things musical might have blinded me a little in terms of keeping it diverse, and I never felt 100% sure that it was, despite my reassurances to Andrew. But we knew we were getting somewhere when Andrew and Pauline were asking "Where's that song from? I've never heard it before."

Our first rehearsal was an ambitious one, teaching the whole company the Opening Medley. With many tough rehearsals to follow, we tackled each song one by one. Taking on the whole company was definitely not an easy task but the end results made every moan and shout worth it!

I think I can speak for both of us when I say that come November 1st, Rosie and I were beyond stressed! In the evening our nerves were sky high but we had faith in the cast. Having not actually timed the running length of the show, we were praying the show didn't seem too short! As we were filing off stage after the last song, there was a bit of mayhem backstage as we only just realised we hadn't worked out a final bows! The audience were of course forgiving and let us treat them to an encore! Success! And breathe out... I hadn't been able to do so since August. I am so grateful for the opportunity Dynamo has given me, and it felt nice to give something back. It was truly one of the most worthwhile things I have ever done.

Thanks again to everyone who came to support. If it weren't for all this college/university business in my life right now, I'd do it all again in a heartbeat... well maybe give it a few months!

Harry Atlee

Stop Press

Well done Harry, the evening raised £1129.50 profit towards club funds



Harry Atlee with some of the cast

Dynamo Youth Theatre at the Havant Literary Festival 2009

And the writer in residence, Stella Duffy.



The older company members spent a fantastic day on Sunday 27 September working with Stella Duffy in St Faith's Church Hall. At the end of the day the young people entertained a varied audience of friends, family and members of the public, including the Mayor of Havant, with an hour's worth of improvised sketches that was very well received.

A huge vote of thanks goes to Stella and to the organisers of the Literary Festival for enabling 20 young people to benefit from a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

Stella Duffy has subsequently written on her blog: <http://stelladuffy.wordpress.com/2009/09/22/recommending-havant-and-my-wife-not-necessarily-in-that-order/>

"I had the loveliest weekend. all the workshops were great, lovely people all round, and then the Dynamo Youth were amazing – engaged, intelligent and enthusiastic. what more can you ask when starting work at 10.15am and knowing you'll have created an (unscripted) performance by 6.30pm??!!"

A Day with the Duffy.

I'm not quite sure when the point came when I wondered to myself "What on earth am I doing?" It might have been when I was announcing to the group that I have stubby toes. It may have been when I was sliding across the floor whilst chanting gobbledegook, or possibly even when I was hopelessly attempting to think of a word that rhymed with muesli. Anyway I'm pretty certain that thought occurred to me during our wonderfully crazy workshop with acclaimed writer and director, Stella Duffy.

On Sunday 27th September the senior members eagerly gathered at St Faiths Hall bright and early, excited at the prospect of working with such an esteemed director. When we were introduced to Stella, everybody seemed a little bit intimidated but her lovely warm attitude soon won us all over. We knew absolutely nothing about what was going to happen that day, so when Stella announced she didn't either we were surprised to say the least, as we were going to be showing what we produced to our friends and family in less than nine hours!

In those eventful nine hours, Stella introduced us to the wonderful world of improvisation and how much fun it can be. To start off with, we played the game. That was the only title Stella gave it, and it needed no more. It started off rather normally, everyone standing in a circle perfectly. Then by slowly watching others and copying any small moments it soon escalated to us running around making a series of high pitched squeaks whilst swinging our arms like a monkey. The best bit was that everyone completely let go even though we must have looked like escapees from a psychiatric ward! Then Stella showed us 'The Poetry Game' where in fours you had to rhyme with the person before, our poems about Robin Hood and his spoon and other such fun topics soon had us in hysterics. As did 'DIE' a storytelling game, where any hesitation can cost you dearly...

Stella was so bright and interesting to work with, that our day simply flew by and before we knew it we were standing before many faces about to show what we'd spent our day doing. We condensed all that we'd learnt that day into an amazing forty five minute showing. During that time we sang an improvised madrigal about what people love about Havant, acted out a member of the audience's proposal and told a story about Boadicea and her handbag. The audience thoroughly enjoyed seeing something so original and new, including Jackie Branson, the mayor of Havant who came along to enjoy another Dynamo triumph.

Stella Duffy was so infectiously enthusiastic that we all left our workshop enthusing and inspired at the magic we had created in just one day. Working with Stella has been one of the highlights of my time at Dynamos and the workshop is a day we will never forget.

Rosie Course

We are moving forward!!!

As all supporters of Dynamo know, for more than 2 years, we have been looking to establish ourselves in a building in Havant where we can achieve our aims of:

- Raising our profile in a building that is recognised as our headquarters and consolidating our activities and storage on a single site
- Enabling rehearsals to be less dependent on other users and uses of the building
- Expanding the group to include senior and junior sections.

Our usage of St Faiths Church Hall has been gradually expanding and we believe that we are coming close to an agreement that will give us enhanced rights to the building and a significant say in improving the facilities. Hopefully, some more positive news on this early in the New Year.

Dynamo has recently become a charity which will give us a platform to expand our fund raising. During the last year, we have been saving money into a Development fund that now totals more than £12000. This won't go very far in equipping a new facility and we will be fundraising with renewed vigour next year. We can potentially benefit from the use of the tax advantages of Gift Aid and also expect that the official recognition of Dynamo as a "good cause" through granting charity status, will enable us to apply for grants and corporate sponsorship that have not so far been available to us.

So 2010 looks to be the start of a very exciting time for Dynamo! Our first major show in St Faiths Hall and the possibility of reinventing ourselves in a different home!

Tony Goodbody
Chairman

Email addresses are a highly sought after commodity at DYT. If you have one, we would like to know it! Why? Because we can email this newsletter to you rather than paying to send it by mail! Please share you email address and receive your future newsletters on-line.

Dynamo delivers sparkling Revue

On Sunday 19th July the friends and relatives of the members of DYT gathered in St Faith's Church Hall for the annual Dynamo Revue. The evening's entertainment was produced and directed by the 6th formers and as usual we were all in for a treat.

The Revue is a marvellous opportunity for the members to showcase their other hidden talents besides singing, dancing and acting. Various musical instruments made an appearance including a Flute Quartet. We were given a very amusing flavour of life 'Behind the Scenes of Dynamo' and the three James' comedy pieces had everyone in stitches. There was also an opportunity to watch a repeat of the winning Shield piece produced by Fiona Haward.

The evening finished with a very moving reprise of 'Living for the Day' from Bombed Out which brought the audience to their feet. The members all gave a brilliant performance and the Directors: Helen Moyle, Yas Langley, Harry Atlee, Sonny Baker, James Quick, James Diprose, Fiona Haward, Emily Short and Michelle Sturgess should all be very proud for putting on such a great evening which raised nearly £900 towards our new Base.

Tricia Roberts

Dates for your diary.

Pirates of Penzance; January 6th ~ 9th 2010 at 7.30pm, matinee Saturday 9th at 2.30pm

Wed, 3 February 2010, 17:15 – 22:00 Mayor's Fundraising Concert - 17:15-22:00 - Civic Council Chamber

Fundraising Concert for the Mayor of Havant's Appeal - to be held in conjunction with Havant Light Opera

Disclaimer.

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Your contributions welcome.

If you are interested in providing an article for our next issue please contact the editor: info@dyt.org.uk