

**February
2008**

PTC News

Audition time again

**Thursday 31st January at 8p.m.
Sunday 3rd February at 6p.m.**

Both at Prestwood Village Hall

Our Country's Good

By Timberlake Wertenbaker

Our Spring production will be Our Country's Good to be directed by Archie Wilson. This is a play with a large cast - 22 – although some doubling up may be possible. It is set in an early Australian penal colony.

The production will take place on the 15th, 16th and 17th May 2008 at Prestwood Village Hall. Auditions will be open to club members and non members alike as a large cast is needed. Obviously help will also be needed for the usual backstage roles.

Pantomime Critique

Our February club night

Monday 4th February – the Chequers, Prestwood – 8pm.

Our Country's Good

This award winning play features a large cast and involves the newly transported convicts trying to put on a play – the character list is as follows

Captain Arthur Phillips; new Governor of colony. Decent man, believes in reform rather than punishment.

Major Robbie Ross; Head of Royal marines. Very strict, nasty character. Believes absolutely in punishment for misdeeds. A soldier's soldier. Requires a Scots accent

Captain David Collins; Advocate General (judge), Ex Royal marines. Believes implicitly in the power of the law and thinks the play would be bad for discipline

Captain Watkin Tench; Royal Marines. Typical soldier, agrees with severe punishment and wants no truck with the play.

Captain Jemmy Campbell; Royal marine, Major Ross's assistant and agrees with everything Ross does or says. Rather inarticulate with a Scots accent

Reverend Johnson; Face of the church in the colony. Puritanical, disgusted with the way convicts behaved during the voyage and once on land with respect to sexual ethics.

Lt. George Johnson; Royal marines. In Act 1 Scene six only. Compassionate, feels for the prisoners.

Lt. Will Dawes; Royal Marines. Act I Scene six only. Interested in astronomy and ambivalent towards the play

2nd. Lt. Ralph Clark; Royal marines. Idealistic junior officer. Directs the play and has a liaison with Mary Brenham.

2nd Lt. William Faddy Royal marines. Act 1 Scene six only. Sarcastic.

Midshipman Harry Brewer; Royal Navy. Came up through the ranks and is very aware of it. Likes Ralph Clark and uses him as a confessor.

An Aboriginal; Gives the native inhabitants view ...four appearances only

Cesear; Coloured in original play, from Madagascar. Can be white if necessary. Prisoner.

John Arscott; Prisoner in the play. Convicted to 150 lashes for stealing. Very passionate, if rather inept actor, in the play.

Ketch Freeman; Prisoner. Irish accent. Hangman and hated by all the prisoners for it.

Robert Sideway; Prisoner. Thinks himself a gentleman pickpocket and thinks he knows all about the theatre.

John Wisehammer; Prisoner. Man of words, loves words. Helps Mary Brenham .

Mary Brenham; Prisoner. Shy, quiet soul at first. Sold herself for sex on board ship to get food for the other women.

Dabby Bryant; Prisoner. Friend of Mary. Illiterate but helped by Mary.

Liz Morden; Prisoner. Hates everybody, big chip on her shoulder to start with.

Duckling Smith; Prisoner. East Ender. Lover was hanged by Harry Brewer.

Meg Long; Prisoner. Old, known as shitty Meg in one scene only.

And so ends the pantomime

All good things come to an end and the 2008 pantomime seems to have gone down particularly well – the audiences have been good all the way through, both in number and vocal encouragement although the second Friday night crowd seemed earn the award for being the noisiest.

This year we tried as an experiment a 5p.m.show on the first Saturday, which had a very good attendance and may well be worth repeating as it had a lot of slightly older children than in the afternoon matinees.

A pantomime is a big production and many thanks must be given to all of the people who played their part, however small, in making it happen. We had a very large cast with a number of seasoned regulars and a lot of new faces, especially amongst the children. A special thanks must go to the parents and chaperones without whom it would have been very difficult to put on the production.

The backstage teams, construction and stage management, worked very hard as ever - maybe they should be likened to the swans feet paddling furiously whilst the main body of the bird glides serenely forward.

It must also be noted that we had good attendances at both of the construction Sundays and the demolition Sunday when everything had to be put away.

If there was an area where we had difficulty it was on the front of house side where we could have done with more help and the front of house manager did far more than his fair share, it just seemed that with a big cast we ran out of willing bodies.

This general thank you hasn't named names because when you do that someone is forgotten so it is just a big thank you to everyone for giving up their time in order to put on the production. The impression gained was that the audiences, actors, crew and helpers all had a big smile on their faces which is what it is all about.

And a final thank you to Steve and Sandra Aves - the production has probably dominated their lives for the past few months.

SLAYING AT THE SCHOOL REUNION

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

It is 1995 and 'A' stream pupils from the Alderman Woodrow Secondary Modern School years 1960 to 1970 are having a reunion. Initiated by Wendy Parkhurst each member has been requested to wear St. Trinian style outfits or short trousers, shirt and tie for the men.

Set in a village hall, with a three-course meal, comprising "School Dinner" type food, the ex. Pupils catch up with each other. Old rivalries surface jealously abounds as the more successful pupils brag, and long seated hatreds bubble up.

One of the pupils has become an internationally famous film star and is expected to show up.

It is yet another excellent Murder mystery from the pen of Archie to follow on from the Elvis night last year – the format will be similar with a meal for guests whilst the action carries on and afterwards there will be a 60's disco. To create the school reunion atmosphere it would be ideal if all of you intrepid sleuths could come dressed for the school reunion.

The 2008 PTC Murder Mystery Dinner Saturday 29th March
At Prestwood Village Hall

If you would like to help with the production please let Archie know asap.

The Old Joke of the month spot

Oswald walks in to the pub to find Lemuel finishing off a bottle of expensive champagne rather than his usual pint of mild. "What's the celebration for?" asks Oswald, "Well" replies Lemuel, "I just finished me jigsaw, 500 pieces and it only took me only 3 month" "Three whole month to do a jigsaw, what's so special about that?" says Oswald scornfully, Lemuel proudly retorts "It says 4-6 years on the box"

Anything older or better than this one please send it in for inclusion in next months newsletter

The PTC Horrorscope - Aquarius

21st January to 17th February

Come the new year and Mars moves his tanks on to your lawn in the greatest show of strength since the demise of the Soviet Union. Avoid the phrase "you and whose army" and agree to abide by the ASBO. Meanwhile your fledgling career as a Carmen Miranda impersonator is threatened by the arrival of Eric the Fruit Bat – remember not only are fruit bats protected but you need a licence for one as well – a guinea a year is the going rate. Buy a large "bug gun" if you want to deal with the swarm of aphids that appear from nowhere and cover your TV every time Bill Oddie appears. Once you've dealt with pestilence you'll only have to bear fire and flood before the end of the month, but I do keep thinking there's something else I'm forgetting that will afflict you – well never mind. Deliveries of the South Bucks Star will recommence; remember to rip it up every week in revenge for them not publishing your poem about Star Trek. The rag isn't fit to light the fire with. Toast crumbs will cause discomfort in embarrassing places – again!

Contacts

To submit articles to PTC News, Please send articles to Vic Rance, Llanberis, Moat Lane, Prestwood, Bucks HP16 9DF or via e-mail to vicrance@hotmail.com **Deadline 22nd February**

For other enquiries please contact club Chairman Sharon Brown on 01494 862357

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