

CENTRE STAGE

Newsletter, November 2011

TOM THUMB

Christmas is getting ever near which means one thing - Panto time!

Rehearsals are well underway for Centre Stage's production of Tom Thumb which sees our hero battle against the evil giant and his henchman, Slither Slugslime. If the fun and laughter of the rehearsals are anything to go by, this promises to be one of most hilarious pantos yet.

The Pantomime will be performed from Monday 23rd until Saturday 28th January and tickets are available for all shows including the Saturday matinee. For ticket information and booking, please contact Cynthia Cowley on 01642 651268 or Maureen Tait on 01642 782649.



Centre Stage scored another summer hit this year with their production of the popular musical Calamity Jane. Eggescliffe Community Centre resonated with the sounds of classic songs such as The Deadwood Stage, Windy City and Adelaide. The show also marked the final performances of two of Centre Stage's brightest young talents, Paul Simpson and Bethany Mullen.

Next year's summer production will be another classic – Half a Sixpence – the show will run from Monday 25th to Saturday 30th June 2012 at Eggescliffe Community Centre. Make a note in your diary!



A Fond Farewell

As the curtain fell on the last performance of Calamity Jane, Centre Stage said farewell to two of its brightest stars.



After hanging up his gun belt having played Wild Bill Hickock, Paul Simpson has travelled to London to study for a degree in European Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance. As part of his degree Paul will be travelling to Europe to train at several top theatre institutions in such exotic destinations as Prague, Tallinn and Barcelona. Paul will be following in the footsteps of BAFTA award winning actor, producer and director, Gary Oldman.

Bethany will be riding off into the sunset following her superb performance as Calamity Jane to study at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts in Wandsworth, South London. She will be studying for a degree in acting which will involve working with a variety of local film showcases. Her inspiration is former pupil comedienne, Miranda Hart



Also saying a fond farewell to Centre Stage is Rebecca Jones. Rebecca has been a member of Centre Stage since 1996 when she played Gretel in the Sound of Music. Recently Rebecca has been working as assistant producer, providing encouragement and support to everyone involved in the shows. Rebecca has recently got engaged and starts a new job at the International School in the United Arab Emirates in January.

Everyone at Centre Stage wishes Paul, Bethany and Rebecca good luck for the future.

Don't forget to check out our website at
www.centre-stage-online.co.uk

Ryan O’Gorman

Another member of Centre Stage whose career continues to skyrocket is Ryan O’Gorman. Ryan has been performing in the West End production of the



Phantom of the Opera for the past 2 years and recently took part in the show’s 25th Anniversary spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall.

Ryan is now busy rehearsing for his latest role in the touring production of Oliver. Ryan will feature in the ensemble but is also first cover for the role of Bill Sykes. The tour starts in Wales on 10th December and will arrive in Newcastle in September next year.

BUTTERWICK BONANZA

Earlier this year Centre Stage held a fund raising event for the Butterwick Hospice in Stockton. The charity provides help for people living with life-limiting illness, relieving symptoms, enriching patient’s lives and supporting their families.

The Bonanza was a day packed full of events including a coffee morning, a Zumba-thon and a sell out Variety evening to finish



things off. The final total raised for the Butterwick Hospice was over an amazing, £1400. Centre Stage would like to thank all its members who helped to organise the day and to all those who supported this worthy cause.

Windermere Productions

Several of Centre Stage’s members have been helping another local theatrical society make an impression in the region.

Windermere Productions was set up in 2007 and won a DOSH Culture Award in 2009 for a hugely successful production of Arsenic and Old Lace at the Darlington Arts Centre. Centre Stage’s Paul Simpson, Faye Hall and Katie Peel have been members since its inception and travelled with the group to the Prague Fringe Festival earlier this year. The group gained a wonderful reception from the festival goers and returned home with prestigious ‘Inspirativni Cena’ or Inspirational Award, beating off competition from over 50 other acts performing at the fringe.

News from Members - Past & Present

Tom Wells – gained a BTEC level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts from Stockton Riverside College and has now moved to a level 3 course in Vocational Musical Theatre.

Gary Davis – achieved a 1st class Foundation Degree in Performance and Events Productions at Teesside University. Gary has also recently directed ‘Bad Air’ by DM Bocaz-Larson at Thornaby Aerodrome.

Simon Keay – achieved a 1st class Bachelor of Arts degree in Performing Arts from Teesside University and has also added the Zumba Gold award to his fitness qualifications

Rachel Barnes – achieved 6A’s, 4B’s and 3C’s in her GCSE exams at Eston Park School.

Alicia Carroll – achieved an A in Photography and 3 other distinctions in her First Year National Diploma Foundation Course at Cleveland College of Art and Design.

Carol Howes – recently appeared as Peep Bo in a wonderful joint production of the Mikado by Stars and Aycliffe Musical Theatre.

Robert Tait – married Victoria Staples on 12th August this year.

Jill Moody – is expecting a baby next year

Congratulations and best wishes go out to you all.

Welcome

Tom Thumb marks the debuts of the latest Centre Stage recruits. A warm welcome to:

Caitlyn Meynell, Beth Strain, Ellie Marshall, Donna Levin, Katy Levin, Callum Shears and Kieron Layton

