

Centre Stage



Welcome to Centre Stage's Autumn Newsletter.

It is panto time again for the cast and crew of Centre Stage. This year we are performing the classic panto, **ALADDIN**. Be sure to make a note in your diary as this year's show is going to be one of the best with dazzling sets, foot-tapping tunes and jokes by the magic lampfull.

ALADDIN

Monday 28th January to Saturday 2nd February 2013

(including Saturday Matinee)

Eggescliffe Community Centre

For ticket information and booking, please contact Cynthia Cowley on 01642 651268 or Maureen Tait on 01642 782649.

Half A Sixpence



Everyone at the company was delighted with the reaction to the latest summer musical. Centre Stage's production of Half a Sixpence was very well received with large crowds enjoying such classic songs as Too Far Above Me, If The Rains Got To Fall And Flash Bang Wallop. The show saw a number of our newer members taking their first leading roles in a musical. Gary Davis as Kipps and Robin Wharton as his girlfriend, Ann, led the company brilliantly, supported by a cast comprising long term members as well as other new faces. Centre Stage continues to strengthen its reputation for developing some of the most talented performers in local musical theatre.



Welcome

Maureen rubbed the magic lamp and wished for some new members! Her wish was, of course, granted and Centre Stage would like to welcome the following to the company for the production of Aladdin:

Adrian Clarke, Linda Walton, Katrina Whattam, Sophie Lamond, Ellen Watson, Leah Walmsley, Sinead Corley, Faye Patton, Hannah Horner, Jack Feeney, Angus McIntosh, Becky Bird and Libby Wright.

We would also like to welcome back a whole host of past members into the company for this pantomime.



OLIVER!

On 11th October, twenty members of Centre Stage travelled to the Theatre Royal in Newcastle to watch past member Ryan O'Gorman star in Cameron Macintosh's production of Oliver.

There were a lot of proud friends and family in the audience especially when they found out that, as well as starring in the show, Ryan had also helped to choreograph the energetic circus and fight scenes and had even had a special job training Bullseye, the dog. Ryan, who is an understudy for the starring role of Bill Sikes, met his Centre Stage family after the show and wished everyone luck for the coming pantomime.

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Becca's Dubai Diary

In light of recent celebrations in Dubai, 'Eid Mubarak!' I never really understood what heat meant until the last 3 months! Summer in Dubai is unbearably hot! I am pleased to say the weather has now cooled down and I can enjoy sitting out on the balcony again. Over the last few weeks I have joined a local Girlguiding unit to continue my hobbies from England but an amateur dramatics group like Centre Stage still remains to be found...! Centre Stage should be receiving its first delivery from Dubai over the forthcoming weeks, taking full advantage of the amazing textiles we have, so look out for sparkly bits on the costumes, I look forward to seeing the pictures!

*Lots of Love
Becca*



Never one to miss an opportunity, when we heard Becca's mum was popping over to see her, we furnished her with a shopping list for Aladdin. Hopefully anyone seeing the show will be dazzled by authentic Arabian slippers and costumes!

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

-  Alicia Carroll achieved A* grades in Fine Art and an A in photography in her BTEC National Diploma and is now at Northumbria University studying Fine Arts. She also works in the café at the Sage in Gateshead.
-  Ethan Carroll finished year 11 at Egglecliffe school in style with 5 A*, 5A and 1B grade in his GCSE's.
-  Beth Mullen has obtained a full scholarship to complete her degree at the Academy of Live and Performing Arts in London.
-  The younger members of Centre Stage have special job to do on 15th December. They are helping Father Christmas when he visits Egglecliffe Community Centre.
-  Lauren Speight is performing with her school band at the School Proms in the Royal Albert Hall! She is playing a piccolo, which is a new instrument to her having previously played the flute.
-  Amber Parks is progressing well with her ballet, modern dance and musical theatre at Harlequin Stage School.
-  Ellie Marshal has passed her audition for Stockton Stage and will appear next march in Annie at Billingham Forum.
-  Centre Stage continues to support the Butterwick Hospice and recently sent the takings from a plant sale to this worthwhile cause.

Paul Simpson

Paul sent Maureen this update on his studies at Rose Bruford College in London.

'I worked for the Royal Opera House in August as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. It was host to an Olympic Journey Museum, the official museum of the Olympics. I worked as an usher and tour guide and got to meet some very exciting Olympians including Dame Kelly Holmes! I watched Jessica Ennis and Mo Farah win their first gold medals in the same room as her – I couldn't believe my luck. I also met Michael Johnson, the famous American sprinter, and also worked the shift in which the Princess Royal visited the museum. Very exciting! I have been invited back to work at the Opera House over the Christmas period, so hopefully I'll be returning there for some last minute money before I head aboard. In August I went to work for the Polka Children's Theatre in Wimbledon and then in September I was very lucky to be given a free day pass to the Olympic Park to watch the Paralympic games. I watched both the women's and men's wheelchair basket ball which was amazing. Then we got tickets to the athletics inside the Olympic stadium and our seats were on the finish line and right next to the media stands. It was the most amazing experience of my life.

I've started back at Rose Bruford now and am working on Polish and Spanish theatre at the moment. Very interesting; very different, but I am enjoying it.

Do pass on my best wishes to all at Centre Stage. I do miss it. I am often catching myself singing Calamity Jane songs at the top of my voice in the shower. I feel no shame!