

# CENTRE STAGE

*Newsletter - Winter 2013*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Centre Stage Newsletter, we hope it finds you well. Rehearsals are well underway for our next production, the pantomime Little Miss Muffet, which will be the 50<sup>th</sup> show the company has performed. There is all the latest news from our members past and present and details of our 2014 Summer musical. This latest Centre Stage newsletter also contains some sad news as we mourn the death of our friend and colleague, Jim Smith. His untimely loss has affected the whole company and, while in the best traditions of the theatre, the show must go on, everyone at Centre Stage will miss his talent, support and friendship.



## **James 'Jim' Smith** **1954 – 2013**

Jim joined Centre Stage in September 2003 and in those 10 years with us played many diverse and challenging roles; all with his usual fantastic commitment, mischievous smile, infectious sense of humour and his vitality. From his sexy Dames in pantomime to his show stopping role as Jud in Oklahoma, he was always a consummate professional – extremely talented and yet so modest. Everyone loved working with Jim but also loved him as a person and feel themselves richer for having known him. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten. Our love and thoughts are with his family.

*Maureen Tait*

*Nothing is more beautiful  
Than the thoughts we have of you  
You were someone special  
God must have thought it too.*

Members of Centre Stage will be taking part in a fundraising event in 2014 for Teesside Hospice in memory of their late friend and colleague.

The cast and crew of Centre Stage are busy preparing for their next show, the pantomime **Little Miss Muffet**.

The role of the dame will be taken by David Murray who impressed everyone in the company with his debut performance as President Roosevelt in Annie. In true panto tradition, Lauren Smith will be taking the principal boy's role with Rachel Barnes as principal girl. The pantomime also marks the return as musical director of Elizabeth Buckley.

The show which, if the laughter during rehearsal is any indication, promises to be another hilarious, seasonal hit, runs from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February.



*Keep in touch with us at our website at  
[www.centre-stage-online.co.uk](http://www.centre-stage-online.co.uk)*

# NEWS FROM CENTRE STAGE

**Lauren Smith** has passed her NVQ practical exams in Hospitality Services and has been accepted into SRC doing Level 3 Child Care/ Early Years Studies

**Beatrice Mackintosh** performed at Blackpool Winter Gardens and came first in Stunts Cheerleading at Newcastle Arena.

**Beth Strain** has been accepted into the police cadets force.

**Katherine Abbey** received grades A,C,A in Sociology, Biology and Geology at A-Level

**Alice Abbey** received grades A,B,B in Biology, Psychology and Maths at A-Level

**Jo Banner** passed her course at college and gained NVQ level 3 in Child Care.

**Tom Wells** passed his driving test and achieved a double merit in Music Theatre level 3.

**Sue Brewster, Sarah Passman** and **Linda Roots** are performing in the opera Aieda at Sunderland Empire in November.

**David Murray, Mike Wood** and **Philip Kenyon** performed in A Chorus of Disapproval with Cliffe Theatre.

**Rachel Barnes** has passed her Level 1 Book Keeping exam, her NVQ level 3 for Customer Services, Level 2 and Level 3 in Business Skills and level 3 in Principles of Customer Services. Not surprisingly, she has accepted a new job at H&H Homemakers.

**Sarah & Sean Smith** are celebrating the birth of their 2nd child; baby Isaac was born in September

While studying for a career in the performing arts in London, **Beth Mullen** is celebrating some fabulous news. Following a successful interview, she has been awarded a Laurence Olivier Bursary Award of £2500 towards the cost of her studies. Previous bursary winners include Ewan McGregor and Michael Sheen. Everyone at Centre Stage would like to congratulate Beth on this really significant achievement.

*Beth is pictured receiving her award (7<sup>th</sup> from right)*



**Paul Simpson took time out from his final year of studies in London to send us his news:**



Hi to everyone involved at Centre Stage. My big news is that I've just adopted a new stage name! I'll now be known professionally as Paul Swainston. The name Paul Simpson is already a registered name with Equity and Spotlight, and so I've had to change it. But I'm happy to be embracing my new career with a fresh brand. The name Swainston came from combining two of my favourite villages from the Teesside-North Yorkshire area: Swainby, and Great Broughton. They mean a lot to me and I'm happy to have them in my name now.

Stockton Council has approved plans for a like-for-like replacement of the popular Orchard Shops, on Durham Road, Eaglescliffe. The shops are expected to be open early in 2014 and the food retailers will be especially welcomed back by the hungry cast and crew of Centre Stage next door!

*The  
Sound  
of  
Music*

**Don't forget to make a note in your diary not to miss our summer musical. Centre Stage are performing the timeless classic, *The Sound of Music* at Egglecliffe Community Centre from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014. We would love to see you there.**