

CENTRE STAGE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

Welcome to this bumper edition of the Centre Stage Newsletter, packed full of the latest news and gossip from our favourite amateur dramatic society. The weather is warming up, summer is on its way and, we hope you and your family are fit and well. Rehearsals are well underway for our next production, *The Sound of Music* which marks the 52nd and final production for our founder Maureen Tait. There is all the latest news from our members past and present and details of the fundraising event held in March in memory of our beloved member Jim Smith. We hope you enjoy our latest newsletter and we look forward to seeing you for *The Sound of Music* in June.

Little Miss Muffett

Centre Stage's 2014 pantomime, *Little Miss Muffett*, was a great success. Crowds at Egglecliffe Community Centre were treated to a riotous mix of comedy, music and dance with David Murray stealing the show in his portrayal of Dame Dolly Drinkup.

The rest of the cast and crew together with the band, led by the returning Elizabeth Buckley as MD, helped create a brilliant show in the finest traditions of Centre Stage.

WANTED - PRODUCER

Centre Stage are seeking a producer for their annual summer musical and winter pantomime shows following the retirement of Maureen Tait. The company have a brilliant cast and crew and a huge wardrobe and props department. Performances are held at Egglecliffe Community Centre which benefits from full staging and scenery.

To discuss this opportunity further, please contact Maureen on 01642 782649

Teesside Hospice Fundraiser

Cast, crew, members and supporters of Centre Stage both past and present gathered at the Community Centre in March to celebrate the life of their friend and colleague, Jim Smith, who sadly passed away in September last year. The money raised on the day was donated to Teesside Hospice, a charity chosen by Jim's family.

The event included a children's talent show (won by Kenedi & Isla, stalls, raffles and a tombola, zumba fitness sessions and, in the evening, a variety show.

Both Alan Mitchell and Elizabeth Buckley provided the piano accompaniment as current and former members took to the stage in honour of Jim. The acts included a ventriloquist with a very lifelike dummy! A fabulous monologue from the show *Blood Brothers*, an Elvis impersonator and even Centre Stage's very own *Queens of the Desert*; the *Dames*. There were songs from various shows in which Jim featured; including *Calamity Jane*, *The King and I* and *Half a Sixpence*.

The variety show brought to a climax a fabulous day of activities and proved a fitting tribute to someone who brought so much joy to the people he met. The efforts of cast and crew raised a remarkable total of £1600 for the Hospice.

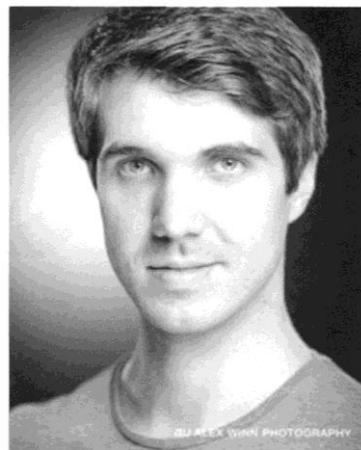


Hello from Paul

Hello everyone! Just an update from me in London. I'm super busy at the minute preparing for my final few months at Rose Bruford College drama school. Can't believe how quick everything has gone, and of course now comes the question of what am I doing next? Well I'm pleased to say I have quite a few options! In September last year I began an application process to join a newly re-opened mime institution in Paris, bearing the name of Marcel Marceau, and am pleased to announce that, cost-dependent, I will be accepted for training at the school as of April 2015 for one semester. It will be a great opportunity, and I am doing everything in my power to raise as much funds as I can to get there. However, there's no sadness involved if I'm not able to raise the funds in time, as I have also recently formed a theatre company with several London-based actors, called 'Pulse 53'. We profess to be a visual arts company, creating theatre based around the mutual existence of performer and art within the performance space, and we're headed by leading director-theatre makers Andrzej Welminski and Teresa Welminska, who are based at the Cricot 2 theatre in Krakow, Poland. We'll be taking our first professional piece, 'Against Nothingness or 3cm Above an Empty Head' to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer, hugely funded by donations given by Richard Demarco, who has been a huge production contributor to the festival for many decades. The piece itself tells the biography of Polish playwright-philosopher-artist Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz, particularly his experimentations with narcotics, and will be presented in the styling of theatre maker Tadeusz Kantor. 'Pulse 53' has many Europe-bound aspirations ahead, with festivals and development workshops booked in Germany and Poland in the latter part of this year.

On top of this, I am also in the foundation stages of creating another theatre company, which will strive to work with mime, pantomime and cartoon physics (the principles of animation as techniques for performing) to create work. I have one project currently in development for this as-yet-unnamed company looking into the performance and dramaturgical styles of French film icon Jacques Tati, combined with philosophical theories by John Locke. I'm so proud of the piece so far, and I look forward to seeing where we can take this work! So as you can see, I'm keeping myself extremely busy. I've had the most amazing three years in London, and my fondness for theatre and performance has truly developed into a love affair which I hope lasts a lifetime! I'll keep you all updated with any other news ahead, and hopefully do you all proud!

Love and best wishes - Paul Swainston



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 Eggescliffe Community Centre from the 16th to 21st June 2014

One of the world's best loved musicals, the show contains many memorable songs such as Maria, Do-Re-Mi and Edelweiss.

Captain Von Trapp will be played by David Murray, Maria by Sarah Smith (Ingham) and Mother Abbess by Carol Howes.

Please ring Cynthia Cowley on 07583465295 or Maureen Tait on 01642 782649 for more details.



Keep in touch with us at our website at www.centre-stage-online.co.uk

NEWS FROM CENTRE STAGE

DAVID MURRAY has performed in *An Unfortunate Woman*, a Pimm Productions film directed by London based director, Sean Cronin. David played the Home Secretary in the tale of Kathleen Mumford who was jailed for killing her severely disabled son Derek in 1938. The producers of the film are hoping it will form part of the famous Canne Film Festival in May this year.

JO BANNER passed her course at college and gained NVQ level 3 in Child Care. She has got a job working as a children's rep with First Choice & Thompson Holidays and will be working abroad from April to October.

LIBBY WRIGHT gained first prize in her most recent dancing competition and has passed her grade 1 Saxophone exam.

EVE and **GRACE MURRAY** are to take part in Stagecoach's production of *Peter Pan* in June.

LAUREN SMITH has begun work as a nursery assistant.

ELLIE MARSHALL has taken part in Stockton Stage's *My Son, Pinocchio* – a reworking of the famous Disney show which tells the story from Gepetto's viewpoint.

KATHERINE ABBEY has been accepted on a childcare course at Stockton Riverside College.

ALICE ABBEY is a Junior Administrator at Rowlands Accountancy.

SUE BREWSTER and **SARAH PASSMAN** have appeared at Sunderland Empire in the opera, *Nabucco*.

TOM WELLS has celebrated his 21st birthday by gaining a place at Teesside University to study Performing Arts.

KIERON LAYTON is celebrating passing his degree. He achieved first class honours in Performance and Events Production.

RYAN O'GORMAN will be leaving *Billy Elliott* in April to go touring in the USA in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

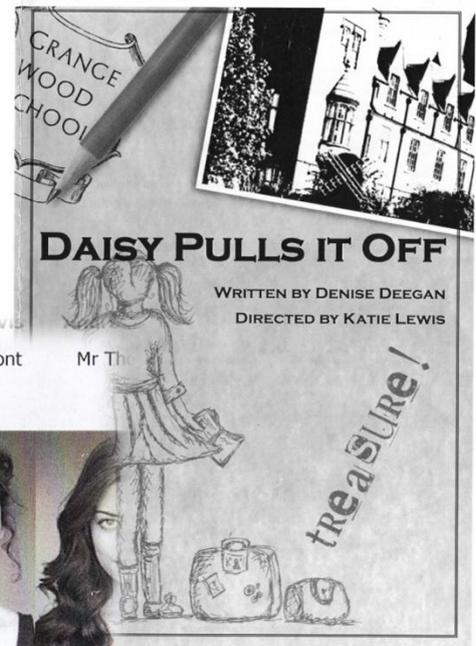
TREVOR FAIRCLOUGH now has his own sound and light company and is currently out on tour with a band.

The rebuilding of **ORCHARD SHOPS** is nearing completion together with improved parking for the centre.

A big **WELCOME** to all our new members and **WELCOME BACK** to some old friends returning for the summer show.



As part of her studies in London, **Beth Mullen** has just had a successful run in Daisy Pulls It Off for Academy of Live and Recording Arts. The show was directed by Katie Lewis who also directs for The National Theatre amongst others. Beth will also be appearing at The Globe Theatre in London in the Sam Wanamaker festival on April 5th. Following the show Beth has also been approached by a casting agent! Watch this space.



Manville/
Annie

Mariele Jarvis
Clare Beaumont

Mr Th



Michael
Patrick

Beth Mullen
Daisy Meredith

Holly
Mol
Maden

Becca Jones has sent her best wishes from Dubai. She has adapted completely to living and working abroad and has recently received a bonus in the form of an Employee Excellence Award from the Al Habtoor group. She is obviously proving to be as inspirational as a teacher as she was while at Centre Stage.



Becca is looking forward to meeting up with everyone when she returns to England in July for her wedding.

Centre stage starlets, **Isla, Kenedi** and **Darcy** took part in the Darlington Music Festival earlier this year and impressed everyone with their singing. Isla achieved 3 first places solos, and also came first in a duet with Kenedi. Darcy achieved a second place and, in total, their choir received 23 first places, 6 second places and scored highest ever festival score with 92 points.

Members of Centre Stage continue to gain international recognition and the latest is **AJ (Andrew) Riach** who has just finished producing his first film!. Set Fire to the Stars is to be previewed at the Edinburgh International Film Festival on June 18th.

Although shot on location in Wales, the film is set in America and tells the story of poet, Dylan Thomas's last days. AJ has been working with some of the biggest stars in the business including Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit actor, Elijah Wood as well as Steven McIntosh, Shirley Henderson, Celyn Jones, and Maime McCoy. The film has been directed by Andrew Goddard, of Downton Abbey fame!

