

## Thurso Players Professional Programme

Thurso Players Professional programme kicks off on Thursday 28th February with a performance from the Internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Michael Marra. This will be followed on Thursday 6th March with a performance of 'Great Expectations' from Martin Heller's Prime Productions Company. Definitely one not to miss!

On 12th April we have a visit from Edinburgh based Theatre Crave who, in association with Emotional Tramps, will bring us Brian Friel's Lovers—Winners & Losers. Some of you may recall 'Winners' as being our winning entry at District & Divisional levels in the SCDA Festival of 2006. It will be interesting to see it performed from a different perspective.

Saturday 30th August sees the return of Fiona Knowles with 'Sex & Chocolate' and on Saturday 20th September it's the turn of Splinters with their 'Return to Neverland' which deals with the life and times of J M Barrie.

I also have options for shows from Martin Taylor and Mull Theatre Co. Who are touring 'Macbeth' later this year. These are both subject to a successful funding application to the Scottish Arts Council.

## Players Programme

Club Night—Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn	Reading Date—2nd February
A Dolls House directed by David Hunter.	Performance Dates 1st—4th April
Rocky Monster Show directed by Donna Swanson	Performance Dates 21st—24th May
Good Evening* directed by Dot Murphy	Performance Date—Late June
Whoops	Provisional Dates 7th 19th July*
Community Show directed by Iain MacDonald	Performance Dates Late August

Further Club Nights (*See article on p.2*) are planned throughout the year.

\* Subject to Change

## Child Protection

An incident recently came to light where some unsuitable backstage material involving members of Thurso Players had been posted on a public website. The matter was quickly resolved, the offending material was removed and those involved made aware of the implications of their actions.

I have no desire to be forced into taking Draconian measures to prevent such an occurrence as I appreciate that many of you enjoy posting your performance photographs and other material on private & personal pages such as those provided by 'Bebo' and 'My Space' which are shared amongst friends by invitation only. However I would ask that in these cases every care be taken to ensure the suitability of the material and captions posted. The subject was discussed at Committee level and it was agreed that members should be asked refrain from posting material to public websites other than the official Thurso Players & CCWS sites where material is posted for publicity purposes only.

# Thurso Players News

January 2008



## Jack & the Beanstalk

Well that's it done and dusted for another year and I'm happy to say we can look back on a very memorable show. The cast were fantastic as were the costumes and scenery. Barbara Barrett's props were all I could have asked for and then some! Of course with production deadlines there are many people who don't get a mention in the Pantomime Programme. Their contribution often goes unnoticed and unmentioned so here a few of the names who escaped acknowledgment for their hard work: John Glen, Christine West-Samuel and Judy Gordon – Wardrobe, James Reade and Joy Jackson – Scene Painting. Jean Dawson, Cath Nicolson, Val Ashpool, Janette Peddie and the numerous junior members who made up the Front of House team.



Thanks must also go to everyone who took part, whether backstage, treading the boards, producing music, training dancers, making costumes, building sets, painting backcloths, shifting scenery, making up, creating props, the list is endless. Special thanks to the producer and co-producer for all the hard work and support during rehearsals and performances. And if anyone has been forgotten- please accept our humble apologies, we still valued your help.

*Dot Murphy*

### Abandoned Clothing

Quite often articles of clothing are left either in wardrobe or the lounge. If, after a reasonable period of time, these items remain unclaimed they are added to wardrobe or donated to a Charity Shop. We don't have the space for long term storage so if you don't want to lose it, please **look after** your property!



It's been almost 6 months since the first performance of Educating Rita but still after this time it's fresh in my mind. I'm always thinking of ways we could have made it better (had Ken playing Rita for instance) or different ways to approach certain scenes. The beauty of directing, I find is that your job is never done; that's not always a bad thing but shows that a brilliant project never truly goes to bed. I still enjoy looking at the photos, talking to the cast about it and I am still delighted at the excellent response it received. I'm so proud to have been involved in such an exciting play. I hope that everyone, be it director, actor, producer has as much fun, when doing a play, as I did during the whole thing. I'd like to pass on my most sincere thanks to the club, for trusting me with the play, the cast/crew for making it all come together and of course the terrific members of the audience (who don't get thanked enough) because without you (yes, you!), we'd just be sitting in a lonely theatre playing to the ghosts.

*Iain MacDonald*

## CLUB NIGHTS

At the recent round of planning for the Players' programme for 2008 there was a general feeling that Club Nights for reading plays would be a good idea. The aim is social, not to cast the play, but simply to read a script for enjoyment and to get a feeling for the possibilities and problems of a production in the future.

The first play reading club night will be on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in The Mill at 7.30pm** when Betty Bradstreet will lead a reading of IMPROBABLE FICTION by Alan Ayckbourn. The play has a cast of 3 men and 4 women, ages ranging from 18 to 80 and all the intricate structure and comedy of an Ayckbourn classic. Do come and have a good read or a listen or even just for the refreshments!

Future projected play reading evenings are of two George Mackay Brown short stories – WITCH, adapted by Edna Walford, which the club has done in the past, and WHEEL which has been adapted by Tina Doake who will lead the evening. This is planned for the end of March, the exact date yet to be fixed. Later in the year we hope to have a reading of A MONTH OF SUNDAYS, led by Barbara Smith.

All the plays mentioned are potential future productions for the club so do come along and let us know how you feel about them.

*B Bradstreet*

### Thurso Players - Junior/Youth Section

Friday Night workshops resume at 6.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 so be sure to come along. The first session will be Theatre Games while on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February we will concentrate on singing and movement workshops with a view to the forthcoming junior musical.

### A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

Our first amateur production at the Mill for 2008 will be Ibsen's, 'A Doll's House' which will be directed by David Hunter.

The play tells the story of Nora Helmer who once secretly borrowed a large sum of money so that her husband could recuperate from a serious illness. She never told him of this loan and has been secretly paying it back in small instalments by saving from her household allowance. Her husband, Torvald, thinks her careless and childlike, and often calls her his doll. When he is appointed bank director, his first act is to relieve a man who was once disgraced for having forged his signature on a document. This man, Nils Krogstad, is the person from whom Nora has borrowed her money.

An adult cast of three male and two females is required. For those who are interested in taking part, in whatever capacity, there will be a read through and discussion, at the Mill, from 2.30pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January where David will outline his expectations. This will be followed with open auditions at 8.00pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Rehearsals start on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and these will follow the usual Sunday/Monday Wednesday/Thursday timetable.

Performance dates at the Mill will be 1st to 4th April incl. The show is also booked for a single performance at the Jim Love Studio at Eden Court on Saturday 5th April. I'm sure this will prove to be a very valuable experience for everyone involved.



# NEWS

This year the SCDA District Festival takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Thurso High School (**curtain up 7.30pm**). There are two plays entered, one from Wick, "The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish", and our own entry, "Wedding Day" written by John Glen. Sarah Glen will be directing, so please make a note of the day and time and come along and support your Club.

The winner of the District Festival will go on to compete in the Divisional Finals which will be held in Portree at the Aros Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Following the Divisional Finals the Scottish Finals will be held in the newly re-furbished and extended Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, an event not-to-be-missed, a chance for a three day break to view fierce competition, a chance to meet up with old rivals (in a friendly fashion of course) and a chance to see some interesting plays with opportunities to learn a lot, whether in the acting, directing or stagecraft aspects of our hobby.

Susan Gerrard has kindly agreed to act as FOH manager for our District Festival and I am sure she will welcome volunteers to help her, so please, if you are willing to get involved with the nitty gritty work that goes on behind the scenes and off stage, do offer her your help.

*Barbara Smith*



### The Rocky Monster Show

Our early summer production this year will be the Rocky Monster Show. Described as, 'riotous mix of the Addams Family, Young Frankenstein and Phantom of the Opera with Rebecca and The Rocky Horror Show thrown in for good measure', this will be a junior production with a cast of around 30 directed by Donna Swanson. Glyn Jackson will serve as Musical Director. There will be two Friday evenings, (2<sup>nd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February), spent on singing and dance workshops and auditions will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. So, if you fancy trying out for a part, don't be shy, come along and have a go.

### Community Play

This summer over a 6 week period, July to August, I will be directing a full length play combining actors/crew from the Thurso Players and other community drama groups. The play will climax with up to 6 performances around Thurso, Wick and other venues in the Highlands. The play itself has not been chosen but will be by the end of the month. I hope there are some people who are keen as it is going to be a terrific experience and a huge amount of fun. If you are interested in any capacity whatsoever or just want to ask questions about it, please email me at [iainmacdonald86@hotmail.com](mailto:iainmacdonald86@hotmail.com) or call on 07817858465. There will of course be auditions and such, but it's important that I get an idea of how many people are willing to be involved. I hope to hear from you soon.