

THE DEBEN PLAYERS

www.debenplayers.org.uk

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Newsletter July 2009

THE ROSES OF EYAM

What a stunning and successful production this was. A cast of 54, the first time that we have used the juniors in a play, many new members, biggest audience so far at the Seckford for a play, we made a good profit which will be put towards our new ticket software and the entire cast and crew had a very happy time from the moment we started rehearsing to the cast and crew party at Melton.

In addition we were awarded 4 cups at the Felixstowe Drama Festival, **Best Director, Best Dressed Play, Festival Winners and the Audience Award.** We were also nominated for Best Set, Best Supporting Actor (Simon Dodwell), Best Actress (Erica McLean), Best Actor (Steve Roche and Dick Glover) and Adjudicators Award. The Adjudicator was full of praise for the entire production and said **"There was not a weak link. Whoever came in for a cameo moment was convincing and at the same level as everyone else. It was a terrific ensemble piece"**. He finished his adjudication with the words **"So, the answer to the question as to whether it convinces us that this village and the dilemmas of its people have been successfully brought to life by this ensemble is a triumphant yes. Many thanks for a powerful, rich, skilled and moving piece of theatre."**

We also received the greatest number of congratulation emails ever. This was in addition to the many compliments we received from the audience after each show. Selections of comments received by email are below.

"Just to say we were there last night and Congratulations to everyone! Everyone we met coming out was so impressed. An amazing Project Management achievement Anna! Everyone involved deserved praise. The costumes were outstanding"

"Many congratulations to the Deben Players on The Roses of Eyam. I am full of admiration for you all in taking on such an ambitious production - and bringing it off so well. There is real talent amongst the actors; the set, costumes and direction are all to be admired. Thank you for a brilliant night out"

"We came last night with 2 friends to see the play and could only sit in awe of the magnificent performance that your company presented - we were carried through a tidal wave of emotions as we followed the 'plot' so to say, of the story. Bravo to all involved. Even I was moved to tears when Marshall Howe lost his family"

I have just seen your immensely moving production of the "Roses of Eyam" and have to say, you did remarkably well for a man who died 343 years ago! It was an amazing play. I am 12 and very interested in joining your wonderful group the Deben Players.

"We just wanted to say how very much we enjoyed the Deben Players' production of The Roses of Eyam on Saturday night. Everyone was fantastic and we both felt transported to Eyam at a terrible time. Your juniors, even those with small parts, acted so very well. Everyone was part of the action; no one appeared to be just some part of the scenery. We can't begin to imagine how you found so many talented people and got them to work together as a team.

"Just had to comment on the outstanding performance of Roses of Eyam. I must admit I was a little surprised, and possibly nervous, at the very brave decision to break with the traditional farce type play usually associated with the spring production, and I was really delighted with the outcome. What a very polished and professional performance it turned out to be. It was a real eye opener to see the cast turn their hand to such a serious piece. (O yes it was!). The set was so simple yet effective, the changes in scenes superbly handled. The whole cast, right down to the youngsters were in character the whole time they were visible, showing such concentration and dedication! Costumes, very cleverly ageing and depicting the sorry state of the villagers. I was pleased to be able to see it at both the Seckford and the Spa and was so pleased that the adjudicator was also praising you all for such a wonderfully poignant and gripping performance - certainly not easy when the play was a little long and of such a dark nature. Well done to all concerned, it just shows what can be done when the company are brave and confident enough to 'give it a go"

If you were a member of the cast, looked after a task backstage, no matter what you did, if you supported this play my grateful thanks from the bottom of my heart. This production, without doubt, will go down as one of the greats in the society's history and that is down to everyone who took part and who had the guts to support it. Who Dares Wins is a well known motto, and we dared, and we won. Thanks to our Captain, Anna, for being at the helm and steering the ship so well. *Steve Parks*

DEBEN PLAYERS ONLINE TICKET BOOKING

We are very pleased to announce that we have our own online ticket booking service up and running. You can book tickets:-

Online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at: www.debenplayers.org.uk Go to "What's on" and click the "Book Tickets" logo.

By Telephone: At the Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre on **01394 382240**
Lines open Mon to Sun, 10am to 5pm (April to September)
Mon to Sat, 10am to 5pm (October to March)

In Person: At the Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre, Woodbridge Railway Station.
Open Mon to Sun, 9am to 5pm (April to September)
Mon to Sat, 9am to 5pm (October to March)

Please do not contact the Seckford Box Office as they no longer sell tickets for us.

Our grateful thanks go to Ash who has spent many hours on this and has looked after the project from inception to finish. He has brought us into the 21st Century and we can only benefit from how easy it is to book tickets for our productions now

SLEEPING BEAUTY AUDITIONS

A reminder that auditions are being held at: **Melton Parish Rooms, Melton** as follows:-

On: **Monday 6th July** and **Thursday 9th July** and **Monday 13th July**

Juniors: **6.00pm to 7.30pm**

Principals: **7.30pm to 10.00pm**

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

Rehearsals are going well for our next production which is a farce. Performances are at the Seckford Theatre from:-

Weds 23.9.09 to Sat 26.9.09

Tickets can be booked online, by telephone or in person as detailed above.

ROSES OF EYAM SOUVENIR BOOK

Ash has put together a special edition, 28 page book containing a selection of pictures from the recent production of The Roses of Eyam. Books are priced at £11.95 + p&p and can be viewed and ordered from...

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/699384>

PLAY READINGS

Anna is organising some play readings and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking part.

Call her on: 01473 620062 or email on: brian.beaney1@btinternet.com

When Anna knows how many people are interested, a date and venue will be fixed.

BAR – B – QUE

There will be a Bar-B-Que on **Sunday 2nd August at Bawdsey Beach from 11.00am** onwards. Just bring yourself, family, friends, food, drink and utensils

Neill will provide the bar-b-que to cook on and he will also come and get you if you park at Felixstowe Ferry. Yes, he does have a boat to do this in.

If the weather is not good and you want to know if it's still on or you want a ride from Felixstowe Ferry call Neill on: **07970 852536**

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 2nd September 2009

Comments/Requests to Steve by 1st Sept 09
steveparks@debenplayers.org.uk

DATE OF THE AGM

Thursday 29th October 2009 at 7.30pm

At Melton Parish Rooms
Full details will follow soon.