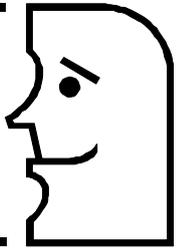




The Guild Players



www.guildplayers.org.uk part of Finchley Methodist Church info@guildplayers.org.uk

Newsletter - August 2006

'The Affairs At Meddlers Top' (14th - 16th July)

A brave decision was proved right with Judith's production of this piece at Brookside Methodist Church Hall, East Barnet, plus an extra performance at our 'home venue' in Finchley. Just five weeks in rehearsal and with a cast of seventeen, the whole idea proved a triumph both audience wise, and in proving that we can tour a 'proper' two act play.

With the decision not to run an advance box office, plus performances at a new venue, this summer production was a bit of a leap in the dark. But the risk paid off and around 100 people came to see this funny murder mystery play. Audiences were well entertained and made very positive comments, despite groaning at some very corny gags! We were made very welcome at Brookside, whose stage has not hosted am dram productions for about 25 years.

Some excellent performances from a range of newcomers, plus a few 'old hands', created a great finish to the 2005/06 season. Over the last 12 months we have successfully organised a total of 16 public performances of 4 plays, in 7 different venues. Is this a new record for the Guild Players?

What's Coming Up Next?

Wednesday 2nd August will be a meeting night at the Hall where some training on voice production and stage awareness will be on offer. This will start as usual at 8 pm.

The Church have replaced the windows in the room we use as our green room / dressing room. Together with the recently replaced heaters, this will make the room far more comfortable for us. We have agreed that the Players will undertake to re-decorate the room and see whether we can get some blinds for the new windows. We would obviously like to do this before the start of the new season and any offers of help would be appreciated. A couple of evening's work should see the job done if enough people offer.

The first read through for our next main production will be on Wednesday 13th September in the Hall at 8 pm. We are not yet certain what the main production will be, but the usual casting arrangements will apply. This means that we will be giving priority to those who have supported and engaged themselves in the overall work of the group over the past season's four productions, and encouraging newcomers to get involved.

If the current trend continues, we shall have to consider whether we can run a touring production alongside the main house play. Thanks to our recent work, we will not lack venues for a 'tourer'.

Financial News

The Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust has awarded a grant of £3500 to the Guild Players for the purchase of stage equipment. We can now buy some new lighting and sound equipment which will make our touring productions easier, and some new rostra which will be easily stored and flexible to use.

We are also looking at whether we can afford to replace the main stage curtains - the quote for this is £1200 plus VAT, so we shall have to see.

At a recent committee meeting it was agreed that this year we should contribute the sum of £2600 to Finchley Methodist Church. As members will know, the church does not charge the Guild Players for the use of the premises so we strive to keep our annual donation at as high a level as possible.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of The Guild Players will be held in Finchley Methodist Church Hall at 8 pm on Wednesday 27th September. We hope that as many members as possible will attend. We do try to keep it down to about half an hour, as a rehearsal for the autumn production will follow. Further details will be circulated in due course.

Guild Players Newsletter - August 2006

Written by Mike Sparks (Chairman)

Edited, printed and mailed by David Constable (Publicity Officer)

NOTE: This printed version has only been sent to those people on our membership list for whom we do not have an active email address. We send out email updates more regularly than these occasional printed newsletters. If you have an email address you would like to add to our list please contact info@guildplayers.org.uk or use our online update page at www.guildplayers.org.uk/mydetails