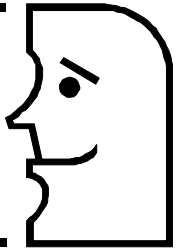




The Guild Players



www.guildplayers.org.uk

part of Finchley Methodist Church

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Newsletter - January 2008

Happy New Year

First and foremost can we wish you all a very happy new year. The Guild Players have a busy time ahead in 2008 as the items below will witness. We do hope you will be able to be part of the programme.

The first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 9th January in the main hall at 8.00 pm.

We will be looking forward to the next two productions which as usual will be rehearsed in parallel. As Easter is so early this year, both productions will need to be cast quickly so that we have enough rehearsal time. Therefore it is essential that you make yourself known if you want to be involved, either acting or backstage.

The Fumblings At Friar's Bottom (performed 6th - 8th December 2007)

Despite misgivings expressed by some members about the script and style of the production, the simplicity of presentation as well as the quality of performances meant that our autumn production was a great success. We did finally manage to reclaim use of the understage store and green room by late November which allowed us to present the performances on stage with a 'minimal' set. We had good audiences, totalling nearly 240 over the three nights, and because of the low production costs we netted around £1200 in profit. Altogether another great achievement for all those involved.

Holy Week Production (performances 18th - 21st March 2008)

This year's play is entitled "Peter's Tale" and has some very strong parts in it. Once again performances will take place at a number of churches in North London on Tuesday 18th through to Good Friday 21st March, with a dress rehearsal on Monday 17th. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday nights, running alongside the Spring Production.

The opportunities offered to expand and develop acting abilities through taking part in the Holy Week run should not be under-estimated. We should be able to practice our acting skills in any situation, not just behind the proscenium arch on the stage in the church hall. Neither should anyone be worried about the religious content of any presentation. Although the topic in question might deal religious issues, as actors we approach each production as being a theatrical experience for the audience.

Spring Production (performances 24th - 26th April 2008)

Our Spring Production will be directed by Judith Shrank. We have not yet settled on a play but hope to do so in the next few days. However, it is likely to be fairly small cast and possibly a thriller of some sort. But nothing has been finalised yet. Come along on 9th January when we hope to have more information. Rehearsals will be on Monday & Wednesday evenings.

Autumn Production (performances 10th - 13th December 2008)

The Guild Players Committee acted very wisely last summer in postponing our usual biennial pantomime as, unsurprisingly, the major works to the church heating system seriously overran. This was why we chose to perform "Fumblings" instead, as it was simple to stage.

This autumn it will be panto time again! The present thinking is that we might do Aladdin. We will see who is available over the next few months and casting will start in the summer so that we can make a flying start to rehearsals in September. There is always tons of interest in pantomime but it also requires a lot of support staff and helpers. Last time, although we had some 20 actors on stage, the total company numbered more than 50.

Publicity

Following the AGM back in September, the role of publicity officer fell vacant. If you have enthusiasm for publicity design, promoting our productions and bringing in an audience, please don't hesitate to put yourself forward.

Now, Time For Some Moans

We have lost a great deal of rehearsal time over recent years because of people not turning up on time. **PLEASE** make every effort to get to rehearsals at, or preferably slightly before, the advertised start time (usually 8.00 pm).

We are still not convincing members that unless more are prepared to help backstage, as stage management or on front of house duties, then our ability to carry through the year's programme might well be in jeopardy. We only just got away with things during "Fumblings", but could in no way cope with a pantomime or major production in the same way.

Remember, we do not have an army of people just waiting to put you on stage, and you cannot perform without the immense efforts of the few willing volunteers who presently fill these roles. The truth is that unless some of us are prepared sometimes to take on these other roles, the net result might be that none of us will get the opportunity to act. Taking your turn to help backstage or Front of House does not mean that you will not be asked to take part in productions - in fact it may actually enhance your chances. It can also be as much fun as acting - although you don't get the applause! Please think about it.

Finally, an appeal to our few nicotine addicts to perhaps make it their new year resolution to be more considerate with the disposal of their litter. It is not a great advert for the Guild Players to be the source of the discarded matches and cigarette butts surrounding the back door of the premises. Unfortunately it is usually left to the non smokers to sweep up the mess.

Note to newcomers:

The Guild Players meet at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3 1NB.

We use the back entrance to the hall for meetings & rehearsals. From the front of the church premises in Ballards Lane, walk 20 metres down Essex Park (the road alongside the hall). Turn left and walk along the tarmac pathway at the rear of the hall (towards the door marked 'Vestry'). On your left, up two steps, you will find a red door marked 'Kitchen'. Ring the door bell and somebody will let you in.