

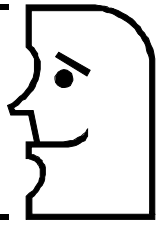


The Guild Players

www.guildplayers.org.uk

part of Finchley Methodist Church

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Newsletter - January 2012

A happy new year to all Guild Players members and friends.

Puss In Boots (7-10 Dec 2011)

Well now it's all over we can reflect upon a job well done. We had a total of 502 paying customers – almost exactly the same number as at our last panto in 2008. Good going! Everyone who has spoken to Mike Sparks about the production has been very complimentary and, it seems, they have compared us favourably with professional pantomimes they had been to see. As Director he was pleased with the way in which the whole of the cast worked together and created a 'family' atmosphere which showed itself in what was produced on the stage.

A review of the production appears on page 10 of the January 2012 issue of "The Archer", the East Finchley community newspaper. www.the-archer.co.uk

All together another successful event for the Guild Players, which made a profit of £1500. We have sent a cheque for £456 to Save The Children to support their UK work. This was a combination of the profit from the Wednesday performance and £180 from the front of house collecting boxes (a new record for us?).

Thanks must go to Carol Renfrew for organising the Christmas meal for those of us involved in the Panto. We all had a great evening, particularly the awards ceremony which was cleverly put together and accurately targeted!

Spring Production (17-19 May 2012)

David Constable will be directing but is yet to decide which play he wishes to produce. The final decision partly depends on who is available to take part. Rehearsals will be on Mondays & Wednesdays at 8 pm from February to May, with performances on Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th May. Casting will be made in our usual way through informal read through evenings.

Holy Week Tour (2-6 Apr 2012)

We will be going out on tour again from Monday 2nd to Good Friday 6th April with a one act play which Mike Sparks is writing around the story of Joseph of Arimathea. The final venues for the tour have yet to be fixed but we are likely to have at least five performances. If you haven't taken part in the tour before you should get involved this time. It really is fun and helps greatly to improve acting skills. Rehearsals will take place in parallel with the Spring production, elsewhere on the premises, so both companies will be able to meet for coffee & chat!

Read Through Evenings

Our first group get together for 2012 will be on **Wednesday 18th January at 8 pm** in Finchley Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome - both regulars and newcomers.

We will also meet on the following two Wednesdays, 25th Jan & 1st Feb. It is planned that by the last of these 3 sessions both the Spring & Easter productions will be cast. Therefore if you want to get involved in either production (acting or backstage) you must come along to a read through and get your name on the list.

Future Plans

The Guild Players Committee met recently to consider future activities.

Following the success of the Christmas meal we agreed that we should hold some sort of group social activity around once every three months. Hopefully members will take their turn to organise events, coordinated by a social secretarial team of Carol Renfrew, Louisa Agamemnos and Marianne Bigg. Initial suggestions included karaoke and theatre trips to both professional and local amdram performances.

As 2012 is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, "The Hollow Crown" was suggested as a summer workshop and production. It is an anthology of varied items about the British monarchy. During June & July we could hold a number of workshop/rehearsal evenings to work on voices, projection and presentation of this read piece, culminating in a one night performance.

A decision on a summer production will be made at the next committee meeting when any other proposals will also be considered.

If you have ideas or suggestions for future productions, please submit them via Mike Sparks so that the committee can discuss them and make a decision.

Production Dates For Your Diary

Easter Touring Production	Monday 2 nd to Good Friday 6 th April 2012
Spring Production	Thursday 17 th to Saturday 19 th May 2012
Summer Production?	A Saturday in July 2012?
Autumn Production	Thursday 22 nd to Saturday 24 th November 2012

New Members

Thinking of joining us? You are most welcome to come along to our informal read through sessions to meet the other members and find out more about the Guild Players. You don't have to join the group first. If you decide to remain with us and take part in productions, you will be expected to pay a membership fee.

Contact Us

If you need to contact the Guild Players, the best way is via email: info@guildplayers.org.uk
As long as it is clear who the message is for, anything sent to that address will be forwarded on to the appropriate person.