



# NEWSLETTER

For Members, Patrons,  
Vice-Presidents and Friends of the Society



ONLINE COPY

## We're Ready to Go!

After our break over the past few months, the committee have been busy getting everything ready for the start of this year's 'season'.

As always, this newsletter has lots of information and important dates for your diaries, so please read it carefully.

## The King And I

We are delighted that our major autumn show this year is once again under the direction of Andrew and Norma, who have already begun preparation work on the show.

We have no doubt that this production will be a lavish and spectacular follow-up to last year's amazing success. We also expect rehearsals to be a lot of fun, and that all participants will have plenty to do in the show.

## Introduction Night

The first important date for us all is Tuesday 3 May, when we will get together for the Introduction Night. It will start at 7.30pm at Community House, Easemore Road.

As always, this first night will be a social occasion, with drinks and nibbles, at which you'll get the first chance to hear Andrew's vision of the show, and no doubt have a casual sing-song through some of the music.

Prospective new (adult) members, who wish to join us for this show should also come along this night.

Please note that any children who might want to participate in the show should not be brought to this evening, or any of the subsequent company rehearsals, since they will

have their own audition day and rehearsal schedule (see more below).

## Rehearsals and Auditions

After the Introduction Night we skip a week, and start rehearsals proper on Tuesday 17 May.

All newcomers should also come along on this date, and they will be 'auditioned' to join the society at the end of the evening.

For those wishing to audition for adult principal roles, there is an Audition Workshop on Thursday 26 May, at the Continental Club, Oakley Road. At this, Norma will go through any audition pieces to help you prepare your audition.

The auditions themselves are on Sunday 29 May, starting at 1.00pm at Astwood Bank Methodist Hall.

## Children

We need lots of children to participate in this production, so if you know of any 5 to 14 year olds who would like to be considered for the show then we have a special audition day for them on Sunday 12 June at Walkwood School.

Ideally, we are looking for two sets of at least twelve children who will play the princes and princesses.

In addition, we are looking for four boys with a playing age of around 10 to 14 to play the principal parts of Louis (Anna's son) and the Crown Prince.

Adverts will also be going in the local press, nearer the time, and there will be an information sheet and application form to complete.

Full details will also appear on our website.

## Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be on Tuesday 24 May, starting at 7.45pm at Community House.

As always, we expect all members of the Society to attend. There will be plenty of awards and prizes to be handed out, too.

Our guest speaker will be Mr Dave Wilkins (who many of you will know) who is going to entertain us with a humorous talk entitled 'Ham and Ego - a look behind the scenes at amateur dramatics'.

So please do to come to the AGM, and stay afterwards for some drinks, nibbles, and Dave's talk - it will be a really good evening.

## Committee Nominations

We will have at least three vacancies on committee this year, since Barbara, Ryan and Sonia are all reluctantly having to step down. We thank them all for their valuable contributions over the years.

It does make room for some new faces on committee, and we would love to hear from anybody who thinks they might like to get involved. In particular, we would welcome more help with marketing; the show programme; and finding sponsors, amongst other jobs.

So why not think about it? If you've got any questions, please speak to any existing committee member, and they'll gladly tell you everything you need to know.

Any nominations (for both Officers and Committee) need to be made in advance of the AGM - so these must be received by our Secretary, Jean Chalk, by Monday 23 May, at the very latest.

Nomination forms are available at rehearsals, or you can download one from the website.

## NODA Long Service Awards

Important: If you are due any kind of NODA long service award this year you must act now, or you may miss your chance.

If you think you are due your ten year badge, or a badge/bar for any full five years thereafter, then please phone Jean Chalk on 01527 63319 immediately and she will complete a form for you.

The awards will be presented at the AGM, and must be ordered at least a month in advance. So to ensure our order gets through in time, please phone Jean now, or by Tue 19 April at the very latest.

## Society Membership

Annual membership subs are now due from everybody for this year. These are £10 for full membership (adults) and £5 for concessionary members (u18, retired, low waged).

The final date to pay your membership is Tuesday 24 May at the AGM, although you will also be able to pay at the Introduction Night and first rehearsal. If you are unlikely to attend any of these, then please post a cheque or make some other arrangement to pay Jean Chalk over the next month.

We are lucky that so many people want to be a member of our Society, and we hope that you consider membership of ROS to be a privilege that you wish to continue

You can, of course, choose not to renew your membership. But please understand that you will then give up your right to return to us in the future, unless your application is specifically approved by the committee. Considering the number of people who wish to join us, this cannot be guaranteed.

## NODA West Midlands Awards Evening

We were pleased to hear that our programme for *50 Years of ROS* was nominated for best basic programme at this year's NODA West Midlands awards.

We didn't win this year (not surprising, since we won last year) but congratulations to Dan and Michael who won best standard programme for STC's *Jekyll & Hyde*, and to Andrew who was the director of the show which also won best musical in their region.

## Future Shows

Whilst we have been exploring ideas for future shows - both for spring and autumn 2012 - we have not yet made any firm decisions.

Unfortunately, a couple of shows we were considering can only be played in theatres with less than 400 seats due to licensing restrictions. Since its refit, the Palace now has a maximum of 421 seats!

So, we are keeping our eye on certain shows that we would like to do, but would also like to hear suggestions from yourselves.

Have you got a particular show that you'd really like to do which we may not yet have thought about? Do you know of a 'smaller' show or revue that we could consider for a spring show?

Even more importantly, we would like to encourage our own members to get involved on the production side of things. Do you have a yearning to direct a show, or be a choreographer? Maybe you'd be wary of taking on a major show, and would like to 'try out' on a smaller

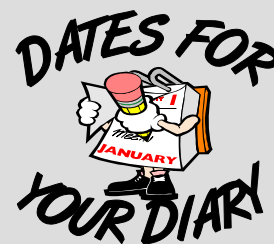
scale production? Whatever you're thinking, please just let us know.

With such a large company, there must be lots of hidden talents that we don't yet know about, which we would love to develop and give opportunities to.

## Other Societies

If you can, please support our members who are appearing in other shows over the next few weeks:

- Studley OS in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Palace Theatre, running this week until Sat 16 April.
- Bromsgrove OS in *Iolanthe* at the Artrix, from 9 to 14 May.
- Solihull Theatre Company in *Hello Dolly* at Solihull Arts Complex, from 10 to 14 May.



### **Tue 3 May 2011, 7.30pm**

Introduction Night for The King And I, at Community House.

### **Tue 17 May, 7.30pm**

First rehearsal proper for The King And I, at Community House.

### **Tue 24 May, 7.45pm**

AGM and social evening with guest speaker, at Community House.

### **Thu 26 May, 7.30pm**

Auditions Workshop, for anybody considering auditioning for a principal role, at the Continental Club, Oakley Road.

### **Sun 29 May, 1pm onwards**

The King And I Auditions (adults), at Astwood Bank Methodist Hall

### **Sun 12 June, 10am onwards**

The King And I Children's Auditions, at Walkwood School.

### **Tue 15 to Sat 19 November 2011**

The King And I Show Week at the Palace Theatre, Redditch.

Newsletter Issue 26.

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