



Newsletter October 2021

Kays Theatre Group

Phil's Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the October Newsletter, thank you to all those who have contributed towards the edition and to Sue for putting it together.

With still many challenges ahead the committee agreed to go ahead with this year's Panto 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Slowly theatres are opening back up albeit with some restrictions in place. I cannot wait until we can all meet up again and so looking forward to this year's Pantomime. If you are interested in being part of the production team please contact me; we are always looking for more help with props, wardrobe, make-up, back stage crew, front of house, helping with refreshments and the list goes on, you will be made most welcome by the group.

Phil Weston OBE

Little Red Riding Hood

Fabulous news! Kays Theatre Group's 67th production, Little Red Riding Hood, directed by Paula Dymock has now been cast!

Auditions took place in September and thanks go to everyone who took part. As ever, the standard was high and the audition panel were not disappointed. Such a difficult decision to make with so much talent available. Finally, we are able to announce this wonderful cast:

GRANNY - Red's Granny. Warm, lovable with a twinkle in her eye; to be performed by **JULIE MERRY**

FAIRY SWEETCORN - Fairy; **BRITT NEEDHAM**.

BASKERVILLE THE WOLF. The Baddie. **ANDREW SKELTON**

SILLY CECIL - Idle Jack/Silly Billy type. Red's Brother; will be performed by **PETE COXHEAD**

RUFF - Baskerville's Servant. Another Wolf with a few quirks; **JAKE HEATON**

ROBIN HOOD - Red's and Cecil's Father; **RAY NEEDHAM**

MAID MARIAN - Dame. Red and Cecil's Mother; performed by **BARRY NORTH**

RED - Principal Girl. **CHARLOTTE HEELS**

ZOE / ZIGGY / ZOINKS - The Three Little Pigs Pop Group. **LEANNE HOLLYHEAD, SARAH GILHOOLY, JOANNE HUGHES, LAURA FULLELOVE** (sharing role)

PRINCE CASPIAN - Principal Boy. Dashing Hero; performed by **MATT SUDWORTH**

STUMPY MCGUINNESS – **ANN MAYOR/GAIL MORAN** (sharing role)

PLUG, SOCKET and FUSE – Sheep. **HARLEQUIN INTERMEDIATES**

CHORUS:

Daisy H, Leah F, Lotte Collins, Vicky Kyte, Simone Pascolutti-Werrett, Jade Merry, Georgia Sproul, Nicki Martin, Danielle Forest, Helen Alldridge, Sharon Beal, Jennifer Brinton, Karen Davies, Sue Evans, Debbie Lane, Helen Lowe, Rachael Satchwell, Sarah Shervington, Sally Smith, Maria Spain, Matt Heels, Jason Beard, Stuart Southern

Thanks to Paul Tate for the fabulous script written especially for KTG. We welcome back Andrew Easton as Musical Director. Rehearsals will commence soon.

Excited beyond belief! Miss Paula x

Pickles

All proceeds to the Air Ambulance, Sheila's Pickles are back!

Selling is underway so panto people if you see a few jars hanging around at Perdiswell feel free to buy, every little helps. Remember friends, the sun will shine again after the storm has passed, life's not about waiting for it to pass its learning to dance in the rain.



Thank you for making this possible; stay safe everyone and hope to see you all soon.

Sheila

A final round of applause for: Peter Sanderson



Peter was a long-time member and former KTG Chairman. He performed regularly as Viziers, Squires, Side-kicks, Princes, Guards, etc., appearing firstly as a chorus member in the 1987 panto, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears with

Susan Slater and they married the following year. A true gentleman and valued committee member using his business skills to drive the group forward. He relished being involved and enjoyed the friendship and fun. He was a huge support to Sue when she directed. Nominated for a Life Membership for services to Kays Theatre Group, he declined to accept as he didn't want a fuss. Sadly, Peter developed an aggressive cancer during the summer of 2020; his funeral, held under Covid

restrictions last December attracted many KTG friends to the churchyard to support his family.

Carole Langford



Carole is pictured here receiving her NODA long service award from Bruce Wyatt at KTG's 65th anniversary celebrations.

Carole's

sudden passing whilst enjoying a Devon holiday shocked us all. In 2009 Carole took over the booking manager duties for KTG with commitment and tenacity, working tirelessly to ensure that the maximum number of tickets were sold and that patrons were given that personal touch. She and Tony attended every possible rehearsal and were the front of house face of Kays. The fact that all the recent pantos have been in profit resulting in considerable donations to charities were, in no small way, due to Carole's efforts.

Doreen Pritchard



"The sweetie lady" as Doreen was latterly known by many cast members, always beautifully dressed in monochrome.

A former switchboard operator at Kay & Co Ltd, Doreen was a wonderful

principal boy, notably in the 1967 production of Dick Whittington. Married to John, who produced 8 pantos for KTG in the early 1970's, Doreen relished every moment she spent with the Group, throughout its entire history. Great pair of pins!!! X

Betty Chester

Betty worked for Kay & Company Limited in the China department in Droitwich and was introduced to KTG by Ron. She worked back stage before joining



the chorus in the 1970's. She and Ron finally married when she was 70 in the early 2000's and, following Ron's death, was invited to take his life membership.

Janet Birbeck Janet was the wife of Derrick Birbeck and grandmother to Jim Griffiths both of whom performed for KTG. A huge support to KTG.

Our love and thoughts are with the families of Peter, Carole, Doreen and Janet.

AGM and Committee Election



Due to the Covid19 outbreak restrictions, and as no pantomime was produced, the committee agreed that an AGM would not be held in 2020. The accounts were approved by the committee and filed with the Charities Commission.

As we come out of lockdown an AGM will be held on Thursday 28 April 2022. A date for your diary.

Membership Subscriptions

All membership subscriptions for 2021/22 are now due. All cast members are required to be members of the Group. Subscription rate is £20 for all who are 18 years of age and above. Membership forms are attached to this newsletter or available from Secretary Sue

St Richard's Hospice Jail & Bail

Once again, St Richard's Hospice have asked KTG to join them for this wonderful fundraising event. It will take place in the Cowngate Centre at the back of Boots on **Saturday October 30th** from 10.00am onwards. Ideally, I'd like two people to dress as Red Riding Hood and a wolf - if Lotte and Andy, who are cast in those roles can join us, even better! Anyone is welcome to join us - the more the merrier! If you have KTG tops, please wear them.

This is fantastic publicity opportunity for us as we are able to display our pop-up banner and raise the profile of KTG and the hospice. Anyone interested, please do let me know.

Cath Skyrme

Publicity Team

We are on the look out for members to join with our publicity team. This would involve leaflet distribution, attending panto launches and promotional events, and generally raising the profile of the panto. If you are interested, please contact Chairman Phil.



Costumes/Storage unit



Members of the committee had a good clear out and moved props and costumes to a smaller unit at Stock & Lock halving the cost of storing useful items. Storage contact is Ray

Needham.

Sponsorship

We are looking for businesses or individuals who may like to sponsor this production or advertise in the programme. Contact Chairman Phil for more details.

Christmas Tree Festival



KTG have booked a space in Worcester Cathedral's Christmas Tree Festival to promote Little Red Riding Hood, following previous successful entries. If you have a spare artificial tree which we can borrow from the beginning of

December until the New Year please let Sue Cassidy know on 07912 617971



Raffle Prizes

We are always on the lookout for raffle prizes for our rehearsal and front of house raffles. Contact Sheila or Phil

Worcester Theatres

Worcester Live has undergone a rebranding to Worcester Theatres to cover all its operations in the Swan Theatre, Huntingdon Hall and Worcester Rep.

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Registered Charity No: 1140050.
www.kaystheatregroup.co.uk

Tickets for Kays Panto - Little Red Riding Hood

Following the creation of Worcester Theatres, it is a contractual condition that all tickets for Kays panto must now be booked through Worcester Theatres box office. So, don't delay, follow the link <https://worcestertheatres.co.uk/whats-on/kays-theatre-group--little-red-riding-hood> or pop into the Box Office at Huntingdon Hall or phone 01905 611427 to book your tickets and get your first choice of seats.

Worcester Musical Theatre Company

Invite you to their forthcoming production:

