



Fish Hoek Dramatic Society Newsletter May 2010

Winter has hit the Peninsula with a vengeance and I'm sure everyone is bundling into layer after layer of clothing. Our last play Towards Zero behind us, it's a time to take stock and have a breather before the next onslaught. I'm pleased to say that Towards Zero enabled us to give R25 000 to the Masque Theatre. Congratulations to all the performers who made this a success and our never-tiring backstage crew who worked hard to get the show on the road and keep our expenses to a minimum.

Our next slot would have been opening on 16 July, but due to two other large-cast period pieces (we were doing The Winslow Boy) overlapping rehearsal time with that slot, we have given it away. Milnerton Players move in with a tense two-hander The Collector. The play stars James Skelton and Jane de Sousa – both excellent actors who actually hail from the Masque. Please make an effort to attend this highly polished production directed by Yvonne Copley. FHDS has undertaken to assist with people for backstage. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to move into the theatre under the eye of an experienced stage manager, for instance, and learn the ropes. We will need all types of volunteers, and I'll be on my soap box pleading nearer the time.

We are in the throes of negotiating foyer shows to replace our slot. This will give those members who would love to do a cabaret or music show more chance to use their talents. We intend that the shows be slick and highly entertaining with the emphasis on a high-performance standard. We have also approached a professional director with a view to doing a cabaret or revue in the foyer – watch this space!

Alastair Duff, a member of our committee, is directing Pride and Prejudice for MVDS. It promises to be an excellent production with some highly unusual features – also a “must-see”. They move into the theatre this Sunday and open on 04 June.

Josh Knott is starting a band called “Barefoot and Naked” – the best of luck, Josh! – catch him on Facebook! Nikki Hodgson has had a great porti of photos done; you can also see them on Facebook. Those of you who know Jo Darby – send her a message via Facebook – she is settling down in Oz and missing news of CT. And don't forget the FHDS is also on Facebook, and we have our own website thanks to Shelley Lombard, so bookmark – www.fhds.co.za.

Jyl Clarke is now working with Shelley Lombard – so congrats to both of them, and at least one knows how to track either of them down! It is great for Jyl at last to have a good job and, believe me, she is well out of this building! We used to meet in the lifts when both of us were late for work ...

The Masque budget meeting is set for 14 June at the Madhouse (52 Promenade Road, Lakeside, also known as the False Bay Rendezvous) at 19:30. The meeting will be an open one, and anyone who has suggestions or wants further insight and input into the Masque finances is welcome to come and participate. Any positive suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

There will be a member's evening on 19 June at Margi and John Blewett's house. We will provide rolls, soup (no garlic ☺) and glühwein. There will be charades, karaoke and a pool table (one only, I'm afraid!). The evening will start at 19:30-ish, and if you arrive too late you'll miss out on the food! Cost will be R20 per person, pay at the door. The address is 17 Windermere Road, Muizenberg – the property is a Cape Dutch house with a low white wall and a hedge. The entrance is through the driveway gate. It is opposite the trapeze of Muizenberg High School, near the M5-side of the road.

Has anyone been to the Muiz? Currently the cabaret show Waar was Djy is running, and it is absolutely wonderful. It is a most enjoyable experience – loads of atmosphere, give it a try and expect a treat. The quality of the show is stunning and, if you enjoy singing along, you are encouraged ...

See you on 19 June if not before,

Margi, on behalf of FHDS committee

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P.S. You can find the minutes of the Stern Masque Theatre recent AGM somewhere else in this website.