

THURSO PLAYERS' COMMITTEE NEWS

Thurso Players AGM elected the 2008-2009 Committee:-

Office Bearers

Hon. President	Margaret, Lady Thurso	
Hon. Vice Presidents	Joan & Tom Meyrick	
Chairman	Andrew Crawford	15 Bardnaclavan Place Janetstown Tel. 894006
Vice Chairman	Denise Imrie	Lanrig, East Gills, Thurso Tel. 893682
Secretary	Betty Bradstreet	12 Brabster Street, Thurso. Tel. 892019
Treasurer	Peter Jackson	Harbour House, Scrabster Tel. 891429

Committee Members

Christina Doake	Dot Murphy
Donna Swanson	C Crawford
Kevin MacLeod	

At a committee meeting following the AGM volunteers for these specific posts were co-opted to the committee:-

Mill Managers	Technical - John Firth Buildings - Alan Gerrard
Subscription Secretary	Lesley Jackson
Wardrobe	Eunice Cruickshank
SCDA Rep.	Robert H Roy
Professional Programme	Neil MacDonald
Child Protection	" "

Two representatives of the Junior and Youth Players will be elected on 6th June.

Child Protection Policy

The Highland Council are required to carry out a check on a percentage of organisations which receive Council funding or other resources. Thurso Players has been chosen as one of this year's candidates. Every member of our organisation should be aware of the Policy which is on display on the Main Entrance notice board. Take time to familiarise yourself with the policy, its guidelines and contact points. By the time you read this the Policy Document will be available for download from the Thurso Players Website. For those of you not having access to the Internet, please contact me for a hard copy of the document. It is vitally important that every active member of the club be conversant with the document and comply with its contents. An officer from Highland Council will be making a spot check in the near future. Any failure on our part could lead to legal proceedings and potential closure of the Mill.

Neil MacDonald

Thurso Players News

June 2008



A Doll's House

Just a wee thank you to everyone involved in bringing *A Doll's House* to fruition. It was a wonderful experience to have work with such a dedicated group of young actors (and some not so young) but everyone really gave their all: on stage and back stage. It is a play I have always wanted to do and I enjoyed (yes enjoyed) every minute of rehearsals. A lot of kind words have been said about the show (and few moans but you can't win them all) but one of my favourite comments was from the marketing manager at Eden Court who told me that he had seen eight professional versions of the play and this one wasn't the worst - backhanded praise but praise indeed! I will look back over my time in Caithness with fond memories and many of them have been at the Mill - either watching shows or rehearsing - and I really appreciate the friendship that has been shown to me by so many at Thurso Players. I will miss it very much but don't think you will get rid of me that easily. I will be back when you least expect it!



Dr Rank (John Lawes) and Nora (Jacqui Barclay) share an intimate moment in Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'

STOP PRESS Comedy Night

Sunday 8th June, 3.00 - 5.00pm at the Mill

A riotous one act version of *Lysistrata* (imagination needed) and sketch show. Anyone interested in having a bit of fun with a Greek Comedy is invited to come along for a chat and to throw some ideas around. Bring along your favourite comedy sketch (or song) and see if we can put an evenings adult entertainment together at the end of June!

D Hunter

Club Night

There will be a Play Reading at The Mill at 7:30pm on Wednesday 4th June where Barbara Smith will lead a reading of 'A Month of Sundays'. Please do come along if you can. For further information contact Barbara on 01847-892650.



*The cast ahead of their performance at the Jim Love Studio, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness
Rear l to r - John Lawes, Andrew Crawford, Glyn Jackson.
Front - Linda Crawford, Jacqui Barclay, Clare Crawford.*

The Rocky Monster Show

I can hardly believe that the show has come to an end after four months of hard work from a lot of people. I hope that those of you who saw it enjoyed it as much as I did directing it. It was my first time directing, and quite a scary experience at times, but I had a wonderful producer in Andrew to reassure me that it would be 'alright on the night' – and thankfully, it was. I want to thank everyone who was involved. Firstly the cast; you guys were great and you made me really, really proud! Glyn and Lynne did a great job with singing and dancing to the accompaniment of 'The Rocky Fenton Five' otherwise known as, Lesley, Philip, Angus and the multi-tasking Kevin. I had solid support from Barbara with the props and Audrey, the prompt, not to mention Alan as stage manager and a large team of set builders, painters and lighting and sound technicians. I could go on thanking people all day, but I especially want to thank Eunice, Judy, Barbara, Lynne and Betty for the great job you did on the costumes – they looked fantastic.



Igor (Kevin MacLeod and Mungo (Euan Sinclair) with Professor Fenton (Andrew Ross) and Elsa (Cara Gordon) take a bow

I hope to direct again in the near future, I found it very rewarding. I just can't make my mind up about who would be easier to work with. Kids or adults? (KIDS!) Thanks all.

Donna Swanson

Pantomime

I once read in a Primary Teacher Guide, "It's never too early to start thinking about the Christmas Play!" In the case of Panto, it's very sound advice! This year's offering, Hansel & Gretel, will be directed by John Glen. If you're interested in taking part, John will be holding open auditions at the Mill on Sunday 10th August at 2.00pm. Even if you just want to help backstage or with set building, painting etc., come along and register your interest.



Dan (Brady Rae) and Rebecca (Karyn Johnston) dream of a future together in a scene from The Rocky Monster Show



NEWS

Now is the time for anyone interested in directing a play for next year's SCDA Drama Festival in February to consider his or her choice of play, in order to submit it for consideration by the Planning meeting and the Committee.

To assist in this choice Donna Swanson will be holding a Club Night in the Mill at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18th June. All interested parties are cordially invited to come along. For a few ideas ahead of the night, have a look at this link from the SCDA website: <http://www.scd.org.uk/whatwedo/PlaywritingWinnersCatalogue.pdf>



Wick Players - District Festival Winners 2008

This year we plan to take a few mythical stories from around Caithness & Sutherland and devise two or three short plays from them. The pieces will be physical and colourful, igniting the participants' imaginations for creating a magical, mythical world on stage. The workshops leading up to the performances will encourage the participants to think beyond words written on the page and how to bring them to life. It will test their ability to create monsters, wizards and other creatures with minimal costume and makeup. Also, they will participate in games & workshops which will break down inhibitions and allow them to work closely with all other participants.

Those with musical abilities will be encouraged as we would like to use song and incidental music to help create the atmosphere. We are currently researching into old Caithnessian folk songs that could be used. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

We want the whole two weeks to be great fun and really hope that everyone (including adults) enjoy themselves. We would appreciate any help from adult members such as we wonderfully received last year.

Over June, Hayley and I will be coming up with a detailed plan for the two weeks so if anyone is interested in leading a workshop or just generally being around at the time, please email me on iainmacdonald86@hotmail.com We will hopefully have a meeting with everyone who wants to be involved the weekend before Whoops begins.

Thank you.

Hayley and Iain

Professional Programme

As a result of successful funding applications to Highland Council and The Scottish Arts Council the professional programme for the current year is looking a lot more promising compared to last year. I have some first rate shows lined up for the remainder of the year and these are detailed below:

- 14th June: 'About the Jacobites' (Bruce Fumme)
- 27th August - 'Sex & Chocolate' (MsFits)
- 10th September: 'Indigenous People' (The !gubi Family)
- 20th September: 'Home to Neverland' (Splinters)
- 25th September: 'Amada' (Arches)

I also have a provisional booking for Martin Taylor. Date to be confirmed subject to his touring schedule.

