

The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

January 2024

Welcome from the Vice Chair:

Happy New Year! 😊 With the beginning of 2024 upon us, I have had time to reflect over the festive period about the last 12 months within the Company. It has been wonderful to see so many things happen, and hopefully this will continue well into the future. With the sourcing and building of our new costume store, to putting on three major (and fantastic!) productions, the Company goes from strength to strength. Starting 2023 with a brilliant panto last February, it was then great to see so many talented youngsters take part in Sister Act Jr during the summer, and then welcoming several new members to the Company for Little Shop of Horrors. I'm glad that the hiatus we all endured is not having a major effect on us. I would also wish to thank, as I'm sure Lily would do as well, all of those who made 2023 happen, not just backstage during performances, but with the many social events we held, whether that be organising or supporting them, it really does give a family feel to the Company. Lots to read about this month, so I will stop waffling and let you carry on...with that, I'll raise a glass to 2024 and the continuing success of this wonderful Company...

The Company of Four...Cheers!

Oliver



Noda:

We had some exciting news at the back end of December, that all three of our productions for 2023, Snow White, Sister Act Jr & Little Shop of Horrors, have all been nominated at this year's Noda awards. Good luck to all those who were involved in those productions, and if we are successful in winning anything, we will of course let you all know in future Newsletters.

An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Year's Eve. One was charged and the other was let off!

Christmas Sleigh:

Thank you to all of those who came to help deliver leaflets advertising Panto and raising some money for the East Anglian Children's Hospice with Santa and his sleigh. Sadly, we didn't raise as much as we'd hoped, only £104, however, I'm sure the charity will be pleased with our efforts. The children were very excited to see Santa out and about, a couple of weeks before Christmas, and the feedback we've had on our socials has been pleasing to read.

Vicky



Jack & The Beanstalk:

After a two week break for Christmas, we shall start again in earnest in the New Year. That's when we all start to panic about the jobs that have been forgotten! If anyone is free to lend a hand with making props or painting some scenery, then please do let myself or Adam Thorpe know, and we can try and arrange to get stuff made. Talking of props, if anyone has any 2" insulation board hanging around in there garages or shed collecting dust and not being used, we would be most appreciative if it could find its way to us to use to make props. We need to make a lot of sweets for one of the scenes. Also any unbranded cardboard boxes, and sweet tubs (I know there will be a lot of those kicking around!) would come in very useful.



I was thrilled to receive our new Beanstalk just before Christmas, that the Company has purchased for this production. I can't wait to get it up! We will then be able to hire this out to other companies in the future. A Giant all the way from Coventry has been ordered, along with a Cow from the Deben Players. Lots of big props are needed for this production!

Thank you for to all those who have offered to help with chaperones for our younger members. If you know of anyone who has a current licence and can perhaps do one or two performances, then please do let us know.

The tickets went on sale at The Riverside during December, and so far, the pick-up has been encouraging to see before the festive period. Ticket prices are: Adult £16, Concession £14, Children £12 and a Family ticket (2A & 2C) £50. All tickets for the Friday 16th performance are priced at £10 each. We will be holding a relaxed matinee performance on the Wednesday 21st, and both Wednesday performances will be BSL signed. Please can I encourage all members to spread the word about panto, and if you can all share any of our social media posts, it will get them out to a wider audience and boost our audience members and more importantly, our ticket sales.

Oliver

What do cows say on January 1st? "Happy Moo New Year!"

Panto Party:

Once again, it's time to boogie on down and have an evening of frivolities at our Panto Party. So come along on **Saturday 2nd March** at Martlesham Community Hall (behind Tesco) and join us for a smashing disco and games throughout the evening. Tickets can be purchased during Panto week, from Catherine Dale or bought on the door.

Catherine

Why do birds fly south for New Year's Eve? Because it's too far to walk.

Little Shop of Horrors Bucket Collection:

The committee were thrilled to learn that the production of Little Shop of Horrors raised a total sum of £278 for the Lighthouse Appeal. Thank you to our wonderful audience for kindly donating their money for a well-deserved charity. A hand over shall be performed in the New Year.

Neil & Sarah

Costume Store:

Sadly, time has run away with us, with the festive period and with many people falling ill, we have taken the sad but necessary decision to postpone the grand opening of the new costume store for the foreseeable future. We still have a few minor jobs to do in the building, but we are now open for hiring again, and we have had some good news with quite a few hirings coming in over the last month or so, making around £500 for the Company. So please spread the word regarding hirings, all details can be found on our website. It all helps, and as soon as we are ready, we shall pencil in a new date for members and potential hirers to come and look round our new premises.

Katy

What does a caterpillar do on January 1st? It turns over a new leaf!

Christmas Meal:

It was wonderful to see everyone gathered for our Christmas meal at the Cherry Tree in Woodbridge on Sunday 3rd December. Lots of fun and laughter was had, Christmas jumpers were worn, and the meal was delicious. We look forward to next year's meal!

Vicky

What happened to the person who stole a calendar? They got 12 months!

Future Productions:

As this Newsletter goes out, a licence for our summer production is currently with the licence holder. We have sadly had one licence turned down, because another group shall be performing that production locally in 2025, hence us having to go for option number two, but with the festive period, the offices in London are having a break, so we hope to find out early in the New Year if our application has been successful.

We are now looking for submissions for other future productions. We should have a calendar up to October '25 (again, we are waiting to confirm a few details, before we can officially announce anything for that production), so we are looking for Pantomime '26 and beyond. If anyone would like to submit a production, and a production team, even if you have submitted it before, then please do drop Neil an email at the details below, so the committee can discuss and decide. Whether the ideas are a Christmas show, a play, a song and dance variety or a Musical, we want to hear from you!

Fred Reynold Centre:

With the incessant rain throughout December, it was annoying to find that the leak in the kitchen roof had started up again, as well as new drip forming in the main hall itself. A roofer was duly telephoned, and a repair was made the same day...let's hope it holds! Since Covid, we have struggled to obtain any new long-term hirers. If any members know of anyone wishing to hire a building for a birthday party, an afternoon tea, or even a club looking for a suitable venue, then please do point them in our direction. To hire the hall, all the details can be found on our website or googling the FRC itself. Please spread the word.

Neville

Did you hear about the guy who started fixing breakfast at midnight on Dec. 31? He wanted to make a New Year's toast!

Friends of the Company of Four:

Our Christmas outing by coach on 21st December was very successful and thankfully wasn't disrupted by any of the storms we seem to have had recently. Our day comprised of shopping at Clacton Outlet, followed by watching a Christmas show at Clacton West Cliff theatre, then enjoying a meal at Brantham Bull pub on our way home. Our thanks to ALL including Felixstowe Travel and their driver Marcus.

One of our Members wrote - "Retail therapy, a fantastic show and a fantastic meal, raffle and extra gifts, plus all that lovely company". From The Friends of the Company, we wish you Best Wishes for 2024

Penny and Vernon



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The Committee:

Chair: Lily Griffiths

Vice Chair: Oliver Fosker

Treasurer: Neville Woolnough

Secretary: Neil Thorpe

Committee Members:

Natalie Barker, Catherine Dale, Vicky Fosker, Adam Kearney, Kayleigh Richardson, Allan Rogers, Katy Spall, Adam Thorpe & Sarah Wheatley.

If any member has any questions, issues, concerns, or suggestions, please do speak to any of the committee members above, and if they can't help, we shall guide you to who can. We are here to support the Company and you as the membership, so please do get in touch with us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

New This Month in **RED...**

Saturday 20th January 2024 - Postponed for now...

Friday 16th - Saturday 24th February 2024 - Jack & The Beanstalk

Saturday 2nd March - Panto Party

Saturday 16th March 2024 - Barn Dance

October 2024 - The Railway Children



There we are, another Newsletter completed. Please do feel free to send me anything you wish to include in a future Newsletter, this can be some good news you may want to share, a birthday shout out, a poem, a short story, or if you wish to be included in the Star Profile section, it really is as easy as emailing me on cof4secretary@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for the February Newsletter is January 25th.

Follow us on our socials:

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