



The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

May 2024

Welcome from the Chair:

Welcome to May's newsletter, we have lots going on behind the scenes, including our upcoming production of The SpongeBob Musical - Youth Edition. The children are working so hard, the level of talent and craziness is blowing me away. Not only are they fabulous on stage they are also kind to each other off stage and forming beautiful friendships which is at the core of the Company.

In the last month we have also headed to the NODA awards ceremony, and I'm delighted to announce that we won Best Pantomime in our District for Snow White in 2023. As we head into the summer months, we have social events planned as well as lots of calls for assistance with behind-the-scenes projects, please offer your support where you can.

Lily x

Jottings from the Editor:

Vic & I were fortunate to pop into a rehearsal for SpongeBob a couple of weeks ago, and my you are in for a treat. The children are fantastic, and it made me smile to know that the future of the Company is in great hands. Going back several years, I know that Don Spall (one of our founding 'Four', and the linchpin that held the Company together for such a long time) would always tell me that his pleasure in being part of this Company, was the sheer delight at seeing the Children on stage and enjoying themselves. I know he gave me several opportunities and I have always been thankful to the Company for giving me a chance in such a wonderful hobby. It would be fantastic if we could sell all the tickets for the upcoming SpongeBob Musical, the children certainly deserve it. The audience reaction last year to Sister Act Jr, with a two-minute standing ovation was certainly a credit to the whole cast for their wonderful performance and the effort and time they put in, and this year's Juniors Production will be no different. So please, if you see a post on social media, share it and keep telling your friends, family and work mates to book tickets.

On another note, a small group of us moved the Company's props from the storage sheds at FRC in April into our new container. A lot of hard work, with still a lot more to do. I ask, that if you can give up a couple of hours over the next few months to give us a hand in clearing the rest of our props from another store, or help with the clearing of the Hut, it would be appreciated. We need help behind the scenes as such in keeping the future of the Company going, and we have some wonderful plans coming up in the near future. *(I didn't realise how much I would be writing for this part until just now, so I apologise for the essay this month!)* So with that...enjoy May's edition of the

Chorus Line... *Oliver*

The SpongeBob Musical – Youth Edition:

The rehearsals for The SpongeBob Musical are going so well, the children are excelling. There are lots of tickets left so make sure you come along and support this show. We also require some help please!

Props / set dressing - if you have any unwanted inflatables (sea / beach related!) that you would be willing to lend/donate to the company for use as props then please can we ask you to bring these to rehearsals? Additionally, we're on the lookout for bubble machines and a small boat.

Scenery & Costumes - we are looking to meet at the Fred Reynolds on either Saturday 11th May or Saturday 18th May during the afternoon to design, sketch & paint some of the scenery & props. This will not be a difficult undertaking, but will be time consuming, so the more volunteers we can attract, the quicker it will be for everyone. These will be simple activities like cutting out large cardboard fish & sea creatures, gluing, painting etc. Ticket prices are Adult £13, Child £8 & Family (2+2) £36 and can be obtained by calling the Riverside on 01394 382174. The production shall be staged at the Woodbridge Community Hall on Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd June.



Lily, Charlotte, Sarah & Neil

I heard there is a new shop called Moderation. They have everything in there.

The Railway Children: (Adaptation by Mike Kenny, by arrangement with Nick Hern Books)

Not a lot to report about this production this month, as there is still a lot going on behind the scenes to get it ready for auditions. **HOWEVER**, I would like to put out a plea for help from interested members to work on areas that need fulfilling. I would like help with someone willing to take on costuming the show, as well as organising and securing the massive number of props that are going to be needed for the production. If you feel that you would like to get involved, please do drop me an email (details below) or see me at a rehearsal. In case you missed the details last month, The Railway Children will be staged at The Seckford Theatre, with four performances spanning the 24th, 25th & 26th October 2024 and the auditions will be held on **Sunday 23rd June** from 10am and **Tuesday 25th June** from 19:00 at the Fred Reynolds Centre. The cast list for the production is as follows: **Bobbie (Roberta)** - Oldest Child, **Peter** - Her younger brother, **Phyllis** - The youngest sibling, **Cook** - London, **Butler** - London, **Maid 1** - London, **Maid 2** - London, **Mother** - Mother of the Children, **Father** - Father of the Children, **Two Officials** - London, **Perks** - Station Porter at Oakworth (25 -45 in age), **Mrs Viney** - Housekeeper in Oakworth, **Doctor**, **Mrs Perks**, **The Perks Children** - 4-6 children, **The Old Gentleman** - Rides the Trains, **Mr Szezcpankey** - A Russian Author, **District Superintendent**, **Worker 1**, **Worker 2**, **Jim** - Young lad who gets injured in the tunnel (13-18ish). **Other Ensemble members will ride the trains, be villagers, and several will be 'hounds' who follow the paper chase etc.** The three main children can be played by older teenagers or young adults, as the story is narrated in retrospect. Some parts maybe/will be doubled up, depending on numbers auditioning. There are two versions of this play, please bare this in mind if you are buying a script! If you have any questions or would like any more information on this production, please do get in touch.

Oliver

The Treasurer Writes:

With the background work still going on with accommodation at Dallinghoo; the old Hut clearance; and moving props from the sheds at the FRC to the containers; my attention is also drawn to the build up to "SpongeBob". I have also been busy with various insurance / utility contract renewals. Over the course of the next month, I will also be looking at the membership registrations to see what 'Gift Aid' monies we are able to claim. The Company can claim back an additional 25p in every £, so if you are a taxpayer, please can we ask you sign this part of the membership form, so we can gain additional funds for the Company.

Neville

Today at the bank, an old lady asked me to check her balance... So I pushed her over!

Costume Hire:

We have been busy behind the scenes hiring out many items of our extensive wardrobe. If you wish to hire anything for a fancy dress evening, a schoolbook day, or know another group who wish to hire a set of costumes for a performance, then please do get in contact with us.

Katy

Friends of the Company of Four:

It's been a quiet couple of months for the Friends, however we are arranging a trip out to Lowestoft, with a meal at a fabulous Pub on the way home in due course. We will be in attendance at SpongeBob, offering the usual raffle and drumming up support for new members to the Friends. If anyone wishes to donate a Draw Prize or two, that would be most appreciated. They can be dropped down at rehearsals or to us at 91 Seckford Street, Woodbridge.

Penny & Vernon

Drink & Get Together:

After the success of the first drink and get together in April, we thought it would be nice to have another night out in Woodbridge with a few drinks and maybe some food. If you are interested in getting together, you don't need to book, just come along to The Kings Head in Woodbridge (Top of the Market Hill) on **Friday 10th May** from 7:30pm and join in the fun. There is no structure to the evening, and everyone would be welcome to join us.

If your house is cold, just stand in the corner. It's always 90 degrees there.

Possible Social Event:

It was recently discussed at committee, the idea of having a social day out in Great Yarmouth. Plenty of time to have a wander around Yarmouth or have some fun in the amusement arcades (and for the children amongst us, a ride on the snails in Joy Land!) then an afternoon at the Hippodrome Circus and an evening out at the Yarmouth Dogs. This is only a suggestion at this time, but if you would be interested in either (or both!), please do let us know and we can try and arrange either a coach party, or tickets for the circus. *Vicky*

Noda Awards:

The Company of Four were proud winners for the Best Pantomime in District 12 at the recent Noda Awards. This was for the 2023 Pantomime of Snow White & the Seven Dwarves. Well done to the entire production team for all of their hard working in making such a fantastic performance...An award so well and richly deserved.



April's Drink and Get together:

It was lovely to have an evening get together back in April for a few drinks and a bite to eat. See elsewhere in the NL for the next evening out in May, but here's a snap of the attendees...a few beverages in! (Not that we condone any silly behaviour 😊)



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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, 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...**

Friday 10th May - Drink & Get together at The Kings Head

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd June 2024 - The SpongeBob Musical - Youth Version

Sunday 23rd & Tuesday 25th June 2024 - Auditions for The Railway Children

24th, 25th & 26th October 2024 - The Railway Children

February 2025 - Dick Whittington



*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 June Newsletter is **May 25th**.*

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