

# The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four  
June 2024

## Welcome from the Chair:

Hello all. What a lovely June we are having, we kicked it off with a great youth show. Thank you to everyone that pulled together and made such a wonderful production happen, it's the team effort like this that makes the company truly special. We are so delighted by our upcoming calendar of shows and social events so keep your eyes peeled for details of them, The Company of Four is so much more than just an amateur dramatics society. We are a family and anything we can do to support each other and spend time together is at the forefront of the committee's agenda. See you all over the summer for auditions and the commencement of rehearsals for The Railway Children. All the Best...

*Lily xx*

## Jottings from the Editor:

I'm sorry to all our members for the slightly late arrival of the June's edition of the Chorus Line, but as I sit here writing this, in the kitchen of the Community Hall, I am listening to a very enthusiastic audience clapping and cheering along to the children performing in SpongeBob. I am so thrilled that our junior members go from strength to strength and put on some wonderful performances, I'm sure we have some future West End stars in our midst. There will be more on SpongeBob below, but as Vice Chair of the group, can I say a huge congratulations to all the children involved and the production team for putting on yet another fantastic production for our wonderful Company...The Company of Four.

*Oliver*

## What kind of shoes do frogs wear? Open toad!

## The SpongeBob Musical - Youth Edition:

What an incredible weekend we have just had, the show was an absolute roaring success. The talent of these children knows no bounds! It has been a joy and a pleasure to see them develop their talents, skills and friendships over the last few months. They absolutely shone on stage and their kindness backstage was a delight to see. A massive thank you to the parents, chaperones, front of house, friends, tech support for everything you have done to support the production. Everyone was such a valued member of the team, and this will be another show that will go down in history. At the time of the Newsletter going out, the Noda review has yet to be published on the website, however, you can see the wonderful reaction from our representative Beyond the Back Page!

*Lily xx*

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

I've been really busy this last month with planning various parts of this production, from getting the set ideas sorted and getting ready for auditions later this month. Thank you to all those who have offered help with this production, however, if you would still like to be involved somehow behind the scenes, please do get in touch - I might have a job for you! A few people have asked about the production, I am looking for a cast of a maximum of 30. The ensemble are vital for the crowd scenes, but there is no singing or dancing in this production, It may not be suitable for younger members, so I shall be placing a minimum age of 8 for cast members. In case you missed the details, The Railway Children will be staged at The Seckford Theatre, with four

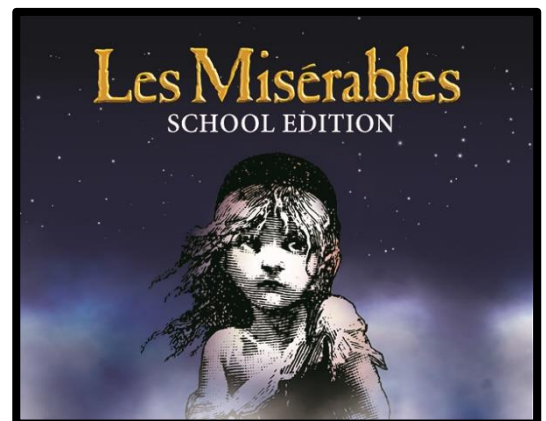


performances spanning the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and the auditions will be held on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** from 10am and **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** from 19:00 at the Fred Reynolds Centre. The cast list for the production is as follows: **Bobbie (Roberta)** - 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*

**Future Productions: EXCITING NEWS...**

Following on from the spectacular success of Sister Act JR & SpongeBob The Musical - Youth Edition, We are thrilled to be able to announce that for May 2025 we have gained the rights to perform **Les Misérable School Edition**, for our Junior Members. As per the last two Junior productions, Les Misérable will give our Junior Members the opportunity to show off their exceptional talent. It will be staged at The Seckford Theatre on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025, with auditions happening very soon after Panto. This production will be for members aged 8 - 18. More information shall be published in future Newsletters, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to ask Vicky or Oliver.



This Production will be Performed entirely by students.

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

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MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL and CAMERON MACKINTOSH (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

*Vicky*

### **The Treasurer Writes:**

With the end of another production, my time this month shall be taken up with finalising the costing and paying the inevitable bills. Sadly, it's far too early to advise on the financial outcome on *SpongeBob*, but I shall hopefully be in a better position to inform you next month. Although, saying that, the end of June sees the time where the Company's accounts have to be ship shaped and ready to be sent off to the Auditor, ready for the charity commission and the AGM in September, so no rest for the wicked!! If you ever have any queries regarding the finances of the Company of Four, please do feel free to get in touch, or better still, do attend the AGM where a full breakdown will be given, and I can answer any questions you may have!

*Neville*

### **Where do fish keep their money? In a riverbank**

### **Friends of the Company of Four:**

Huge amount of praise and thanks to everyone involved with the latest production 'SpongeBob Musical' at Woodbridge Community Hall, whether it was on-stage, behind the scenes, the technical crew at the rear of the Hall, members dealing with refreshments, the children's chaperones etc. Penny organized a fund-raising Raffle at each of the three performances as she and the Friends of The Company of Four willing do and have done for approximately forty years. The profit of £122.50 was very pleasing, given that the majority of the prizes had to be purchased. Thank you for the prizes that were donated.

We look forward to our next coach outing with 42 of the Friends, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, when we will visit a garden centre, travel on to see a variety show at Marina Theatre in Lowestoft and then stop on the way home at Lt Glemham Lion PH for a meal. The three events are undercover, but it would be lovely to travel in glorious sunny weather; is it asking too much?

*Penny & Vernon*

### **Hoodies & Polo Shirts:**

Several members have made enquiries about ordering some official Company clothing, and we have been busy behind the scenes trying to source our next batch. I'm sorry if this has taken a little longer than hoped, the trouble we face is the price, and not being able to order just one or two items, it has to be ordered in bulk. We are now in a position to be able to offer some new black hoodies and polo shirts with our branding on in Gold. Polo Shirts will be available at a cost of: Adults £15 & Children £12, with Hoodies priced at: Adults £25 & Children £20. I'm afraid we don't have any samples, until someone orders one! If you would like one of these, please do get in touch by June 30<sup>th</sup> and we can place an order. Payment will need to be made at the time of order, if you have any queries regarding sizes etc, please do get in contact.

*Vicky*

### **Two artists had an art contest. It ended in a draw!**

# SpongeBob Pictures

We thought we'd share some of the pictures from the amazing cast of SpongeBob for all of those who sadly missed the terrific performance!



# The Back Page

## 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...**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Auditions for The Railway Children

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - The Railway Children

February 2025 - Dick Whittington

**23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Les Misérable School Edition at The Seckford Theatre**



*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](mailto:cof4secretary@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions for the July Newsletter is **June 25<sup>th</sup>**.*

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EMAIL: [cof4secretary@gmail.com](mailto:cof4secretary@gmail.com)

## Beyond the Back Page

As mentioned further up the Newsletter, The Noda report has yet to be Published, but we can bring you the fabulous report on SpongeBob the Musical from our Rep.

And a well deserved write up it is too!!

Company of Four

The Spongebob Musical Youth Edition

Woodbridge Community Centre

2nd June 2024

Director - Lily Griffiths

Musical Director - Charlotte Lamb

Choreographers - Lily Griffiths & Charlotte Lamb

Assistant Director - Paul Moss

This new junior musical is based on the animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and is packed full of great musical numbers by lots of familiar artists including Cyndi Lauper and David Bowie. It's a colourful and vibrant all-singing, all dancing show set in an undersea world, reminiscent of 'The Little Mermaid', with all the inhabitants of Bikini Bottom as they discover a volcano will soon erupt destroying their homes and together they must create a plan to prevent this.

SpongeBob Squarepants was played by Benji Hughes. Well done to him for landing the lead role, he gave a confident and impressive performance both in his acting and singing. Connor Farrell was Patrick Star along with Kit Widdup as Eugene Krabs. Other leads included Evelyn Wheatley as Sandy Cheeks, Violet Wheatley as Squidward Q Tentacles and Annabelle Ward as Pearl Krabs. Their individual personalities all shone through in their acting, were confident in their singing and energetic in their dancing. Connor Farman was Sheldon J Plankton and Caitlin Jackson was Karen Plankton and both captured their characters well. This young and talented cast of over thirty young people ranging in age from 8 to 15 years all gave lively performances with plenty of energy, vitality and unrelenting enthusiasm.

The combination of Lily and Charlotte, who together must have put in an incredible amount of work, gave confidence to their cast in their characterisation, singing and dancing. Their efforts were rewarded to the delight of the very supportive audience. It was obvious that the whole cast thoroughly enjoyed being on stage and had bonded so well together. There were some good lighting effects to produce the underwater scenes and all the costumes were colourful and innovative. The set was minimal but very effective and the few scene changes were quick and efficient.

Thanks to all the FOH for your warm welcome and hospitality. Well done to the whole team at Company of Four for supporting this youth production and to Lily, Charlotte and all their cast in a wonderfully enjoyable show.

Catherine Dixey. NODA East Representative District E12

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