

SEPTEMBER 2014**Diary of Events for September**

- Sat 6th - Sat 13th **“Pack of Lies”** by Hugh Whitmore (Phoenix Theatre Co) 7.30pm
- Sun 14th **“The Grand Budapest Hotel”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
- Fri 19th **“A Very Long Engagement”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
(Royal British Legion Fund Raiser)
- Sat 27th **“The Kid with a Bike”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm

Diary of Events for October

- Sat 11th **“The Love Punch”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
- Sun 19th - Wed 22nd **“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”** by CS Lewis (PYT)
2.00pm (Sun), 7.00pm (Mon - Weds)
- Sat 25th **Performathon** (organised by Mary Brigg) in aid of Children in Need
- Sun 26th **“The Book Thief”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm

Membership

Just to remind you that subscriptions are due for renewal this month. The renewal form is at the back of the Newsletter together with a Standing Order form should you wish to pay your subscription in that manner either by giving the form to your bank or setting one up online.

The Committee has decided to re-introduce Membership Cards which will clearly identify you as a member, entitling you to members' reduced prices at the bar on production nights and, for full members, to take part in productions. You will be issued with a new membership card after we have received your completed renewal form and subscription for 2014/15. Any queries, please contact the Membership Secretary Catriona Pearson on 01989 769425.

John Edwards

As many of you will already know, John Edwards, the husband of our Chairman Sue, has passed away. John was the driving force behind the Cinema being set up at the Phoenix. An obituary to John appears later in the Newsletter.

Graham Russell (editor)

e-mail: manchester.house@btinternet.com tel: 01981 540749

Production Co-ordinator's column

Our next production "**Pack of Lies**" by Hugh Whitmore and directed by **Renee Field** from **Sat 6th to Sat 13th September**, is in the final stages of rehearsal. The set construction team of



Catriona Pearson, Trevor Jones and Graham Russell has been working hard to put together a very realistic set. The play is based on the true story of a couple, called Kroger, who lived in Ruislip in the 1960s and were Russian spies. The play tells of their relationship with a family who lived opposite and how they came to be caught. It is a gripping tale of friendship and betrayal. Get tickets quickly for "Pack of Lies" to avoid disappointment.

The cast: Jane Bovell, Penny Field, Anna Ricks, Phil Field (front row); Brian Jackson, Michelle Cooper, Chantal Poole, Les Davis (back row).

Postcards from Home - an afternoon of prose, poetry, tea and cakes, took place on 3rd August and was a great success. Brian Jackson gave charming and moving renditions of prose and poetry at the time of WW1. Many thanks to all who helped make the afternoon so enjoyable.

"William Shakespeare's Star Wars" by Ian Doescher - the reading on 13th August was well attended with 14 members present. Ben Champness who arranged the reading had reduced the length of the play to prevent the evening being too long. It was great fun. As the licence is not available for us to perform to the paying public, a rehearsed reading for members is being considered.

The Phoenix Youth Theatre will be performing "**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**" by C. S. Lewis from **Sunday 19th to Wed 22nd October**.

Rehearsals for our **November** production of "**No Naughty Bits**" by Steve Thompson and directed by **Roger Spragg**, are on Mondays and Wednesdays and commence on Monday 15th September. The cast is Robin Haig, Murray Tremellen, Michelle Cooper, Tom Lee-Hynes, Alison Clarke, David Pollard, Lucy Davies and Les Davis. This is a re-invention of a true story. In 1975 the Monty Python team were taking their Flying Circus to America and had sold the rights to the ABC television network. Someone had cut out all the naughty bits, ostensibly to make room for adverts but in reality it was censorship. Outraged, Pythons Terry Gilliam and Michael Palin take a plane and a lawyer and take on the networks. This is a wonderfully funny play. The cast are The Pythons - Michael, Terry and Nancy, their PR person; the Network - Myers, the network boss, and Franklin, their PR lady; The Law - Osterberg, a lawyer, Fried, an advocate, and Lasker, the judge.

If you would like to help in any way please contact **Roger Spragg** on **01989 720297**.

Suzanne Hill
tel: 01989 770428

Review of “It’s all in a Name” – The Phoenix Theatre Singers

In June The Phoenix Theatre Singers presented their annual summer concert – a “whistle stop tour of the world” under the title “It’s All in a Name”. Opening with the full company’s “Around the World” medley we were treated to a scintillating evening, visiting places as diverse as Amsterdam to Dakota with solo performers evoking the Girl from Ipanema, and Evita in Don’t Cry for me Argentina. Other medleys followed including the Beatles ladies (Michelle, Jude etc), an extraordinarily wistful London Medley, South Pacific and Chicago.



But it wasn’t simply choral singing; individual singers delivered everything from the comedy of Victoria Wood to the pure romance of “Heaven” (a Brian Adams hit). In such a full and diverse programme it is impossible to acknowledge each performance; indeed in an amateur ensemble like The Phoenix Theatre Singers there are no individual stars. But some performers do deserve a mention. Claire Price’s antics as Maria behind the nuns in the Sound of Music set were “priceless”!! Samuel Callen stepped confidently forward from the ranks of Phoenix Youth Theatre to solo Don Black’s “Ben”. George Tait, hitherto one of the

“back-room boys” revealed a delightful singing voice in Don Mclean’s “Mountains of Mourne”.



The production values throughout were superb. With up to 33 singers on stage the evening’s entertainment was non-stop. Played before a dark star spangled curtain, subtle set and lighting changes made full use of the theatre’s versatility, transforming it from concert platform to cabaret with apparent ease and without fuss. Exits and entrances were slick and the accompaniment of Richard Watson on keyboard and Osian Griffiths (percussion) was excellent.

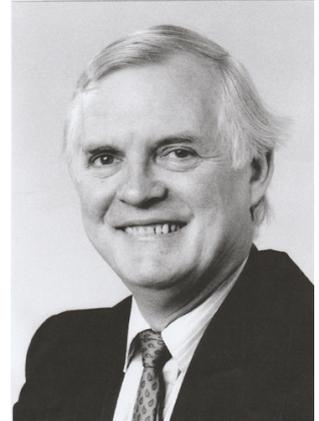
With this concert The Phoenix Theatre Singers have set themselves a new standard of excellence and Musical Director Mary Brigg must be congratulated not simply for the vision which created this production but also for the precision and discipline which makes this group a joy to listen to and watch. The concert closed with “What a Wonderful World” and at the end the audience were calling for more. And no wonder; we had been treated to an evening of seamless entertainment.

Brian Jackson

John Edwards

Before moving to Ross, John had a very successful business career with the Financial Times over a period of 25 years where he was their Commodities Editor and then their Personal Finance Editor. The FT's tribute to John is a fitting testimony to his business acumen and personal charm which has delighted everyone who knew him in Ross. Retiring from the FT in 1990 he was elected to Ross Town Council and served as mayor in 2009-2010.

His brother David directed a number of plays at the Phoenix and John himself became involved with the Phoenix by being the driving force behind setting up the Cinema. His financial skills and experience paid dividends whereby the Town Council were persuaded to fund the installation of a screen and projector at the Phoenix at a cost of £7,500. Screen at the Phoenix was born and has proven to be a great success with regular screenings drawing in a new audience to the theatre.



On a personal level, John clearly loved life being the father of an extended family through three marriages and was loved by all those who came into contact with him. He was a keen sportsman, particularly hockey, although his prowess at skiing may not be something for which he would like to be remembered.

We, however, will remember John and our condolences go out to Sue and his family.

Graham Russell

**Saturday 25th October
12noon - 10pm**

A "Performathon" for "Children in Need"

Please come along and give your support...

**You can book a slot to perform...sing, dance,
act, recite a poem, play an instrument, tell
jokes...**

Or come along, sit back and be entertained...

Refreshments served all day...

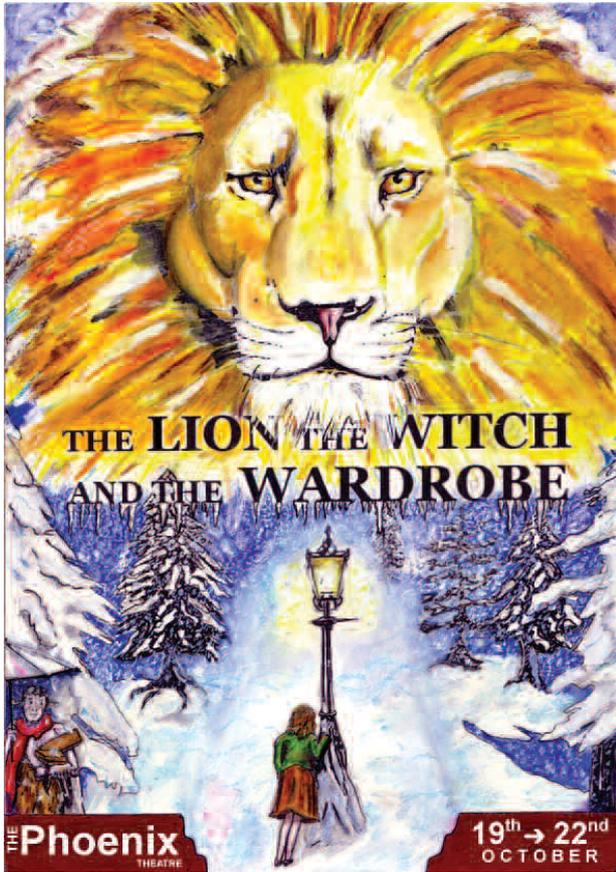
More details from any member of The Phoenix Singers

e-mail: wbrigg@btinternet.com



The Phoenix Youth Group

The cast and crew have returned from the Summer break and it is full steam ahead in preparation for our forthcoming production in October. Our Youth Group production is “**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**” and we are performing at



the theatre from **19th - 22nd October**. There will be a matinee performance on **Sunday 19th at 2pm** and the rest of the performances will be at **7pm in the evening**. Tickets are available online from our website and cost £6.50 per ticket. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

There is not much time left and we have lots of hard work to do. Rehearsals and preparations are going well and the cast of 30 have now been fitted for costumes and the set is in construction as we write! We are in rehearsal each and every weekend and are enjoying the whole build-up to the performance dates. Please come along to one of our performances to see what we do.

Auditions for the 2014-2015 season

Auditions are held once a year for the new intake for the Youth Group for the following year. The date for these auditions is **Saturday 1st November from 10am - 12pm**. You will need to prepare an audition piece for the day - details

about this will be available from Sarah O'Neill from 25th October onwards. The auditions are open to current members and any new members who would like to attend. Everyone is welcome. The choice of play for this season has yet to be decided but will be performed in October 2015.

The Drama Company

Based at the theatre, The Drama Company is now able to offer mid-week, term-time, drama classes to the youth sector - ages 5 - 18+ years.

For details on all of the above, please e-mail: sarahoneill362@btinternet.com

Sarah O'Neill (Youth Group leader)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

Reg. Charity No: 508668

There are three types of membership as set out below. All members receive a bi-monthly Newsletter, and also receive concessionary drink prices at the Bar on production nights. **Memberships are renewable annually on 1st September.** (Subscriptions for new members joining on or after 1st May are not renewable until the September of the following year).

Please ✓ the appropriate box: **New Membership Application** **Renewal of Membership**

FULL MEMBERSHIP **£15**

This form of membership enables you to fully participate in all activities within the theatre which include: acting, directing, backstage, the Singing Group, Front of House, Cinema and attend social events. With this membership you have full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). You are also eligible to stand for election to any committee post at the AGM.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP **£10**

This form of membership enables you to do Front of House duties, and attend social events. However it carries with it no voting rights or the ability to be involved with productions.

FULL JUNIOR OR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP **£10**

This membership is open to any persons under the age of 21 or full-time students above that age. You are able to fully participate in all productions and attend social events.

Please fill in your details below and send this form to the Membership Secretary at the address below. Cheques should be made payable to: **The Phoenix Theatre** or **complete the Standing Order form and give it to your bank.**

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

Date:

I agree to my address, telephone number and e-mail address appearing in the membership list circulated to the Committee members.

Please tell us what your interests are by ✓ the appropriate boxes:

Acting Directing Stage Management Set Construction Set painting

Sound Lighting Wardrobe Props Cinema Singing General Backstage

Front of House Bar (serving drinks) Box Office

Membership Secretary
The Phoenix Theatre
St Mary's Street
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire
HR9 5HT

Tel: 01989 564570

E-mail: info@phoenix-theatre.org.uk

www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk

STANDING ORDER FORM

THE MANAGER _____ BANK

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

PLEASE CREDIT THE ACCOUNT OF THE PHOENIX THEATRE AT LLOYDS BANK

SORT CODE 30-94-14 ACCOUNT NO 02231108

WITH THE SUM OF £ _____ ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2014 AND EVERY YEAR
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MY NAME _____

MY ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

MY SORT CODE _____

MY ACCOUNT NO _____

SIGNED _____

DATE _____