



# theatre

## on the steps

BOX OFFICE : 01746 763257

### TOTS 2003 PRODUCTIONS



Far From The  
Madding Crowd  
March 2003



Educating Rita -  
May 2003



Hay fever - June 2003

## The Season So Far!

For those of you who have been to any or all of the shows so far this season you will know that we have had an excellent start to the season with almost every night of each performance being near sell-outs, our smallest house so far this year was 120. Not only have the audiences been good but so have all the shows, and as we are only part way into the season 2003/4 it looks as though our audience figures will beat last years record figures. Particularly as booking is going well for all remaining shows, with George Melly already sold out.

The last 2 weeks saw the premiere of David Tristram's new musical *Sex, Drugs and Rick & Noel* which was extremely well received, this week we have *All Steamed Up*, and the very popular *Ghost Walk* and still to come before Christmas we have *Youth on the Steps*, with *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Animals*, *Bootleg Abba* with their Christmas special, ending the Winter Season after Christmas with the panto. *Dick Whittington*.

The Spring and Summer programme is in the process of being finalised, headline acts include *The Searchers*, *The B'Eagles* and hopefully 2 or 3 other star names.

For our own productions we will have *Abigail's Party* by Mike Leigh, Directed by Sally De Sancha on the 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> June. Set in the 1970's this is a painfully funny modern classic which casts an eye over the chromium plated leather upholstered nastiness of the nouveau riche. Auditions for this production will be early in the spring and there are 5 superb parts for 3 men and 2 women.

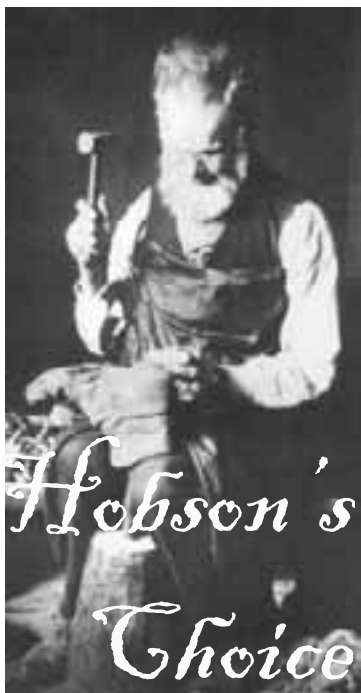
In May we hope to see the return of a Farndale Ladies farce and for April Rob Ollerton has selected *Hobson's Choice*, see below for audition details.

We are looking for a production to open the season in March so if there is a show that you would like to see the Theatre produce, or would like to direct, appear in or otherwise become involved in please contact me. **Jain Reddihough**

## Youth on the steps

All of Youth on the Steps are taking part in *The Wizard of Oz* which opens on the 6<sup>th</sup> November and this promises to be a colourful musical show and gives everyone the opportunity to see our young talent at work. Youth on the Steps have been invited to perform at Wenlock Priory on December 6<sup>th</sup> as part of an English Heritage Christmas pageant.

Already students are working towards their Lamda examinations next May where we are hoping to match our achievements this year when every student passed with Distinctions, with 2 students gaining Honours.



# Auditions for Hobson's Choice

Auditions for a production of "Hobson's Choice" are being held at the theatre on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. The play is being produced and directed by Rob Ollerton (director of "Far from the Madding Crowd") in April 2004

There are parts for five women ( 4 20s/30s and 1 40s/50s) and seven men (20s/30s/40s/50s)

This really is a "character" play about character strength and is a comedy based around the battle of wills between Hobson, a hard headed and domineering Manchester shoe shop owner and his daughter Maggie, who defies him by marrying his most talented but timid and downtrodden worker, Will. She helps Will to develop his potential and together they turn the tables on Hobson himself.

All are invited to audition for this magnificent play. It will require Manchester (or least northern) accents, but don't let this put you off. Rob is intending to invite a dialect coach along to the first few rehearsals!

If you are interested and want to ask Rob about the play before the auditions, you can ring him anytime on 07976 428667 or e-mail [rob@ollerton.entanet](mailto:rob@ollerton.entanet).

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## CALENDER / TICKET PRICES

### November

Sun 2	George Melly & the Digby Fairweather Band	SOLD OUT
Tues 4	Audition Hobson's Choice	
Thur 6	Wizard of Oz	£ 7.50 & £ 6.00
Fri 7	Wizard of Oz	
Sat 8	Wizard of Oz	
Thurs 13	Audition Hobsons' Choice	
Fri 14	The Animals	£16.00 & £14.00

### December

Sat 13	Bootleg Abba	£12.50 & £10.00
Sun 14	Bootleg Abba	

### January

Wed 14	Dick Whittington	£ 7.50 & £ 6.00
Thur 15	Dick Whittington	
Fri 16	Dick Whittington	
Sat 17	Dick Whittington	
Wed 21	Dick Whittington	
Thur 22	Dick Whittington	
Fri 23	Dick Whittington	
Sat 24	Dick Whittington	
Wed 28	Dick Whittington	
Thur 29	Dick Whittington	
Fri 30	Dick Whittington	
Sat 31	Dick Whittington	

Lowers price is for seats in stalls, higher price for seats in balcony

## Ghostly Goings On in Bridgnorth!

As this newsletter is being written Theatre on the Steps is presenting 10 ghostly events in Bridgnorth to over 200 blood thirsty locals. On the night I ventured, with my children, into the murky darkness around St Mary's church, the rain was falling and the air was cold but it did not deter the 8 parties of gruesome tale seekers being led around town by the TOTS ghoulish guides. There were kids and adults alike dressed in Halloween costume as Sarah Isaacs came floating across the graveyard, complete with hideous cut and dripping blood. She told of the spirits that haunt Bridgnorth, rising from their graves at the sound of St Mary's bells, which then eerily began to ring for real, perfectly on cue! Later, back at the theatre we were treated to a 19th century ghost story read by Richard Aston. Having walked past severed heads in doorways the tale of a mysteriously opening sarcophagus finished off the evening perfectly. The children slept soundly that night.....with the lights on! KC



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