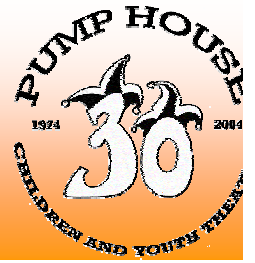


June 2005

# Pump House Children and Youth Theatre NEWSLETTER



Email: [cyt@pumphouse.info](mailto:cyt@pumphouse.info) Web: [www.pumphouse.info/cyt](http://www.pumphouse.info/cyt)

Your editors welcome you to the new style newsletter. We wanted to include other voices and viewpoints so would welcome your opinions on its developing style. This issue includes children and youth viewpoints and others who previously had not considered writing for a newsletter.

We thought we would try out a three sectioned approach: Past, Present, Future, so that you can get a better feel of the various ways we all work together at the Pump House, hence, our future diary dates which includes promoting events by those linked with the PHCYT. If anyone wants to have a place to do likewise, please feel free to approach us with suggestions or events.

The next edition will be in early September, so please do put pen to paper the old fashioned way and send your articles to Moya Brewer C/ O Pump House Local Board Road, Watford. Or text or email the new age way.  
**Moya Brewer and Olivia Gunter**

## Recent Performances

### FINAL SHOWDOWN AT LIBERTY CREEK

*By Hollie Sullivan*

Being in Liberty Creek was an experience that I will never forget, as we worked with the most wonderful director, Karen Rhodes, and that was the highlight of it all. I would have to say that we had the most wonderful team doing everything from tickets to sound, which, by the way was done by Lauren Murdoch.



One of the highlights of it all was being in the Bushey and South-West Herts. Festivals and also being mentioned with my friends in both of them. I was a lead role, Rebecca Louise (Becky Lou) which I really enjoyed doing and I was so pleased to be nominated for best Junior Actress in the Bushey Festival. I learnt, as one of the younger ones, that it is quite hard to adjust to one stage such as the Pump House and then to swap to another stage such as Queen's School.

I would like to thank the backstage crew for helping and supporting us all while we worked so hard and last but not least Sue Vos, the trophy we won for costumes is meant for her. Thanks for having me in Liberty Creek I absolutely loved it.

### BAD GIRLS

*by Niamh, Rosie, Emily and Nick*

In October, a group of mainly the older children, began rehearsing Jacqueline Wilson's Bad Girls.

In December we performed an extract in Crackers, we then continued rehearsing until our performance in March, in the festival of new writing. This was an opportunity for us to perform the piece as the first amateur group of children. A week later we performed on Queen's School stage in the Bushey Festival. This was very different for us as the stage was a lot smaller. However, we did gain runner-up Junior play and three individual acting awards.

In May we had a few rehearsals to prepare us for fitting it onto Welwyn's stage, which was the same as Pump House's stage but sideways! When it came to the night, we all found it quite challenging but got through it. This was a good chance for us to perform to different audiences on different stages.

Overall, we have enjoyed working together with our fab director, Moya Brewer, on Jacqueline Wilson's Bad Girls.



### PALACE GETS MUGGED

*by Sean Lovell, Jon Bolitho-Jones & James Sheppard*

As you may have been aware, the PHCYT Youth section (whooping and cheering) performed the great success of Mugged at the Watford Palace Theatre.

The initial thoughts were on projection to the over whelming size of the auditorium but despite this, we performed what most of us feel was the best performance of the show yet. We are now setting our sights on the Edinburgh Festival with high hopes on making a great impression on total strangers and give credit to the PHCYT at this renowned festival.

We show tremendous gratitude to the Shell Connections team in our area for selecting us to go to the Palace and our loyal fan base (mums, dads, friends of CYT etc). For our efforts, we were given (drum roll)... a cactus! Which by the way is the symbol of the Shell Connections (which Sean Lovell stole!). As for commendation of the night, Dawn Gerrard (Guy's mother) had funky key-rings made for us saying "Mugged" PHCYT, Palace Theatre 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

Special thanks to Jean Staveley-Taylor and Lee Farman for directing us, without them we are just a load of mugs!

For some of the cast, it will be their first and only chance to perform at the Edinburgh Festival with PHCYT and we are grateful for the opportunity.

Now the serious business – we need money. We need the cast of Mugged and Co to help organise any fund raising events to help us get to the festival, or we are hitchhiking, any ideas are welcome.

Thanks for your continuing your support, from the cast of Mugged.



# Recent Performances

## BAD GIRLS AT WELWYN FESTIVAL BY MOYA BREWER

*"My favourite parts were when Mandy was having the dreams and when Mandy and Tanya went out. When I read Bad Girls it was much more boring than the play."*

This was the final performance of a play adapted by Vicky Ireland from Jacqueline Wilson's book. The journey we had embarked upon had commenced in October 2004 when I had received permission from Vicky for us to be the first amateur group, and the first children's group, to perform at the Pump House, as well as for local festivals, this newly adapted play.

An exciting prospect and having seen a company of 10 professional adults perform it at the Swan, High Wycombe in October half-term, we felt a presentation by young people for young people, would be a great challenge for us.

The journey and different presentations since then: an extract in December, part of the Pump House's Festival of New Writing in March and the Bushey festival all revealed how differently we needed to approach these projects. It also revealed how differently adult adjudicators perceived our interpretations and how



junior audiences had perceived it.

It also revealed to me, who had a vision, that sometimes this can become too fixed and lose sight of the crucial issues underlying the play being performed. Different stages provided different difficulties. Changing it from a written play for a cast of 10 playing multiple parts to a cast of 24, which then reduced to 12 for Welwyn, and only a 50 minute extract also provided problem solving anxieties for all of us.

Throwing young people into preparing with 2 rehearsals a revamped piece for a different stage with 2 rehearsals as the company was working on *Oliver*, its summer show, after a 2 month gap from their last performance was really asking an amazing amount of them. Finding that the technical support, i.e. youth crew, were up to their ears in year 10 exams, the Welwyn festival week and we brought in a Year 9 Rickmansworth student, David Fish, to crew the sound at short notice, was an even bigger challenge for him than any of us had realised. Asking parents to ferry the

cast and crew to a technical rehearsal and then the performance mid-week, without becoming snarled up in commuter traffic was another aspect not really considered fully.

What then are the memories and would we do it again? The memories are mixed and huge thanks must go to parents, the case and the Youth and fellow tutors who supported us in all the performances and not forgetting the costume crew without whom we would have gone "naked".

Thanks too to Vicky Ireland for letting us so freely adapt and perform this unpublished play by waving royalties because we are a voluntary based children's theatre.

Thanks to the years 5 and 6 pupils at Water Hall School from Milton Keynes who came down in the snow and saw our first night in March because they are such Jacqueline Wilson fans. They wrote us all brilliant thank you letters that leave lasting memories writing such things as:

"MY FAVOURITE PART WAS AT THE END WHEN THEY ALL SANG - THEY ARE REALLY GOOD SINGERS."

*"I also liked the bullying in it because it always happens, the acting was superb."*

*"I really liked the way they did Mandy's dream. It was quite funny."*

So would we do it again? Learning from these experiences and these insights, yes, because of this quote from this final young person which reminds me why we are all at the Pump House and what exciting things we can do by young people for and with young people:

"I liked the way you led the path of bullying into the play which touched me in some way because I used to be bullied in the same way as Mandy." Amelia.

P.S. Just found out we missed 3rd place at Welwyn because of a 2 point penalty for running over time—better luck next year!!

## Shell Connections by Jenny Hibberd

Shell Connections has been a great experience and we have all had a brilliant time performing at different venues, within various festivals. The next performances we look forward to are a weeks worth at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

I've been at the Pump House, what, almost seven years now and never have I taken part in something like this: where there is such a variety of scripts, talents and interpretations, where there's so much enthusiasm and energy and lots of constructive criticism to take in all at once. Tons of effort has been put into Shell Connections and the various performances within it; rehearsing, learning lines, practising, polishing and performing. Obviously perform-

## THE RETURN OF THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

By Karen Rhodes

Liberty Creek enjoyed one last performance at the South West Herts Festival in early May. As there was no junior section, we bravely entered the youth section, which meant we were in competition with young adults up to the age of 21.

I'm pleased to say, my cast were undaunted by this and rose to the challenge of setting a high standard, whilst also having some fun and gaining experience. Festival time constraints and rules, such as not being allowed to take a bow, aren't always easy, but during adjudication it's good practise for the children (and directors) to take on board any constructive criticism they think valid.

It was nice to see 'The Return of the Magnificent Seven', Barney Littlely, who was taken ill just before the Bushey Festival. He stepped back into his boots and made up for lost time when settling an old score with Wild Bill Hiccup.

For both festivals we were blessed with talented members of the children's theatre, who stepped in at the last minute, when some of the original cast were unable to perform, and done us proud.

I'd be the first to admit how difficult it is to keep the enthusiasm going for a play when it's spread over such a long period of time, bearing in mind it was first performed back in December. But the adjudicator's feedback was very positive and she clearly enjoyed the children's performance.

Well done to all involved and many thanks to the parents and PHCYT members who supported us and gave us an audience on the night.

On a personal note, I found the whole experience from writing the script, directing, gathering props, to set painting, was by no means easy, but it was a lot of fun and watching it finally performed?...I'm lost for words.

Well almost! Your children have inspired me to put pen to paper.... the scene opens in.....

ing is the most enjoyable part, as rehearsing can get very stressful but I think the hardest part is learning your lines properly, so you can completely focus on acting the part, rather than focusing on getting the words right.

It has also been a brilliant experience to watch how other drama groups have interpreted the play in comparison to how we have and also perhaps to take inspiration from their performances to enhance our own. Overall Shell Connections has been (and will continue to be) great fun and I certainly hope we take part next year.



# What's happening in the PHCYT

## Chairs' Update

Instead of my usual lengthy missive, probably the only newsletter piece that should come with its own bookmark, I have happily been given only a few column inches for this edition because there's just so much of it from a whole new range of writers.

As you know, Jeanette handed over production of the newsletter after an impressive length of service. Now maths is not my strongest skill, but as with other roles Jeanette has done, we find that one of her equals about three mere mortals, so we decided to divide it up and the result is a new style PHCYT Newsletter with well established roots. Moya Brewer, that one-woman dynamo who won't take no for an answer, has elicited articles from Children and Youth members which really confirm the reason we all do what we do for the CYT and Lee has taken charge of the technical side of production, hence the colour amongst other stuff! So I'll be brief.

The recent festival performances of Bad Girls, Liberty Creek and Mugged provided some wonderful entertainment. Seeing the familiar pieces in unfamiliar surroundings gave a new dimension to the productions. Our standards are so high in every area, which received well deserved praise from the various adjudicators. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Can I say thank you to you, the audience, for turning out in such force to see Mugged at Watford Palace Theatre. It was one of the best attended evenings for the week of showcase performances. The cast of Mugged filled the theatre with their drama taking us from laughter to tears with the most professional of performances. It was a great evening's theatre.

There was a 10% return of the volunteers request forms, which I am told in marketing terms, is pretty good. I am also receiving very helpful and positive responses when I telephone for offers of help with the forthcoming productions' rotas. Excellent!

In the next edition of the Newsletter, I shall be talking about the committee in the run up to the AGM, which is in October (date to be fixed shortly). They are an interesting bunch and I would like you to get to know them better. See you at Oliver and Romeo and Juliet.

**Elisabeth Gunter**

## Surreal or what?

*By Pat Hibberd*

So there we were, driving down Rickmansworth Road on the morning school run. We'd watched "Mugged" the night before, thoroughly enjoying it of course. "What's that going on in Cassiobury Park?" we thought – and there it was "Mugged" in action – two school lads by the bench looking agitated and staring out across the park – looking for mates? – looking for muggers? – who knows? Or could it be the Pump House venturing into open-air theatre?

## The Youth theatre: Every little helps

*By Lauren Murdoch*

As most members of PHCYT are aware, the tutors in the Children's theatre work exceptionally hard with the children to put on wonderful productions and give them valuable experience of the performing arts – but is this all down to the tutors alone?

A few members of the Youth theatre are happy to give up their Saturday mornings (and occasionally turn up for the odd technical) to lend a helping hand.

We work as a team to get things done and generally make everyone's lives a bit easier! Jobs we do can be as small as making cups of coffee and photocopying or as big as helping load pieces of set and being given the responsibility of controlling the lighting or sound in a play.

Others include: dance choreography, set painting, assistant directing, props, sorting costumes, being part of the backstage crew (and sprinting to Tesco to blag plastic bags) and we enjoy every minute of it.

## And at first I didn't want to go!

*By James Sheppard*

Realising I was fond of drama, my mum signed me up to a membership of the PHCYT after I left secondary school, but after she did, it had skipped my mind and it was a surprise when I got the letter saying I had a place.

I didn't want to go at first because naturally, I was nervous about starting something new, along with college but as soon as I arrived for the first rehearsal, a number of members were chatting to me, asking questions, talking like we had all met before.

The show was Humpty Dumpty. From then I have enjoyed being in the cast of four more shows, the opportunities to be a part of some of my favourite productions such as Fiddler on the Roof and to perform on the Palace stage and the Edinburgh festival in August. All this, and the experience in lighting, sound, stage management and the pounding headaches from the after-show parties.

## Bring it on!

by Jeni Bolitho-Jones, Sophie Lardner & David Thomas

Greetings! It's David, Sophie and Jeni from the Youth theatre here and we have chosen to write an article in this newsletter because we are very excited about our forthcoming production, "Les Miserables"!!!

This show is fantastic to watch in the West End and we are certainly sure our version will be just as good, perhaps better, he he!

The musical is very well known and has been running for many, many years and attracts a variety of audiences. There isn't a target audience for this musical because it is quite easy to understand and the storyline was not difficult for us to follow when we saw it.

There are some amazing songs in this show such as "Bring him home", or "On my own", and "Stars". These songs are very emotional and build up so much tension in the show and we couldn't imagine what the show would be like without them.

"Master of the house" is our favourite chorus song. This scene is going to be wicked because the Youth Theatre work really well as a group and we can just imagine how much fun it will be to create this in our rehearsals. The use of comedy in this scene is hilarious and we simply can't wait because we know there will be a great cast, a great backstage team to help with the set, costumes, props, lighting, sound etc! and of course Lee, who will be our musical director and will work us hard to have a successful, powerful, performance. So let's round this up, we can't wait, everyone else can't wait, so bring it on and let us all work hard to create a spectacular show.

With Romeo and Juliet being my last show on the Pump House stage, I am grateful for the chance to design the set. Because of the Pump House I have made a decision of a career choice, that being design for the stage, so I guess it is fair to say the Pump House has been a life-altering two years.

I go to my next college this autumn with some fond memories and I would like to thank the volunteers who make the shows, especially Lee, Jeanette, Jean, Moya, Kelly, Robin, Chris (Swallow), Edna, Ursula and her fellow costumiers, Karen, Jason as well as all the members of the PHCYT. I look forward to coming back and seeing the shows and good luck to you all.



# What's happening in the PHCYT

## In at the deep end

By James Bradshaw

Almost a year ago now I started my first day at Pump House Children and Youth theatre. I was at a sage where I knew everyone at my school and got on well with them all. It took me a long time and a lot of effort but I was happy. My first day at the Pump House I knew only three people, one of whom was my sister. During the first few weeks we separated into three groups to do various workshops. I started making friends with more people. I found that everyone was so friendly and welcoming. It didn't take me long to settle in and was soon having a lot of fun and learning new drama techniques.

Everyone was separated into new groups where we would be working on different plays to perform at Crackers. This was my first performance at the Pump House and I was very nervous. I remember standing in the wings thinking to myself, "This is it, now or never." I stepped on the stage for the first time and I remember how bright the lights were how hot the stage was. I made no major mistakes and was absolutely thrilled when we had finished. I felt like I could do anything. We continued to work on Bad Girls for the full performance in March.

Everything went fine on the night(s) and everyone who saw it said they enjoyed it. All the time I was growing more confident and enjoying myself more and more. We took the play to the Bushey Drama Festival which was held at Queen's School. Bad Girls just missed on Best Junior Play but did pick up three individual acting awards. I enjoyed acting on the new stage and it was a great experience. We also took the play to Welwyn Drama Festival but we have not heard back from them yet so we presume we haven't won anything!!

After Bad Girls, we have been rehearsing for Oliver in July and I think it will be the best. I have had an amazing year and have gained a lot of friends and confidence. I wish I had joined earlier but being thrown in at the deep end has been an unforgettable experience.



By Robin Scarborough

(director)

Well, here we are with four weeks to go and are we stressed? – Of course we are, what a daft question!

Seriously though, we have just come through the "why did we start this section?" and there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. The children are beginning to remember their words, their songs and the dance routines. The scenery is being built at a secret location and will be shipped in on 19 June and the seamstresses are beavering away to provide the multitude of costumes that are needed.

Despite being on first name terms with the man in the off-licence and the cigarette shop, I would highly recommend this to anyone! I must say a big thank you to everybody who comes down a Saturday morning and have helped put this show together, especially Lee, Sue, Moya, Karen and Jean, all of whom have been very patient with me and kept my feet on the ground, normally when I have started to get a little over-ambitious. This show has been a real team effort. I must give a special mention to Julie Paloma, who has come down on a Saturday after she has finished her own dance classes to develop some amazing dance routines with the children, which they are now doing as if they have been doing it all of their lives, thanks to Julie's patience and encouragement.

It is going to be a fantastic show, the children are going to do us proud and I urge you to sell as many tickets as you can, so that this talent and enthusiasm can be shared far and wide.

I look forward to seeing you at some time during the 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Consider Yourself...



One of the Family

## PHCYT VOLUNTEERS

Dear Parents and Friends of PHCYT,

In true PHCYT tradition, I'm not entirely sure how I came to be Volunteer Co-ordinator, but what I am sure of is that we do need your help.

When I look at adverts for and information about other Children's Drama Groups, one thing that always leaps out is the cost compared to PHCYT. As parents, we get a very good deal because of the voluntary work of the leaders in particular and of those who volunteer to help with productions.

## ROMEO & JULIET

By Edna Eckett (director)

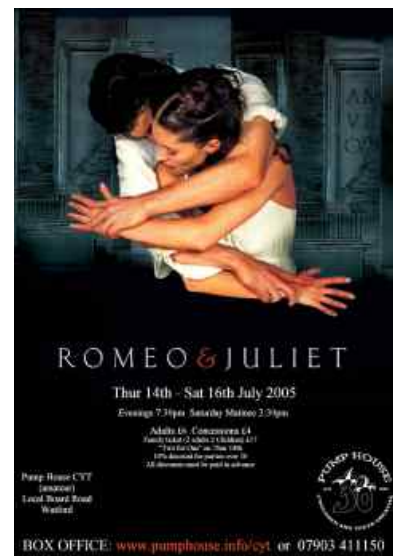
Romeo and Juliet is making good progress. Tom Kanji has taken one of his master classes in sword fighting. In a very short time he had transformed the swordsmen and women into something very like the real thing. Two of the girls were taught to head butt and other lady-like techniques – and were ecstatic – I found that very worrying.

The cast are still having trouble with "yea", "art", "thee" and "thou" but still seem to manage text messages!

Talking during rehearsals continues to be a problem – apparently it is what's "normal", silly me!

However, we are "getting there" as they say.

*From what I have seen of the rehearsals "getting there" means getting to a stunning performance of this version of Romeo and Juliet especially adapted by Edna. (Ed.)*



Oliver and Romeo & Juliet are going to be great opportunities for a big productions involving lots of the Youth and Children's sections. To make it work, we need you to give up at least one evening or afternoon to support your child's show.

Elisabeth has already listed the jobs – please get in touch. Regards,

Mike Lovett [lovettmike@hotmail.com](mailto:lovettmike@hotmail.com)



# What's happening in the PHCYT

## PLEASE – CAN YOU HELP? PROPS NEEDED

Thank you to those who have already sent in props for this show, which opens at the start of July.

If you are able to bring them on a Saturday morning that would be great or if you would like more details, please contact Tracy Calder on 01923 231652 or Audrey Whitty on 01923 250845. We are on a countdown so we need you to hunt for these things now please. Thanks.

## OLIVER!

We are still on the lookout for the following:

- 12 enamel camping mugs
- Hessian sacks – any type
- Leather wallets
- A leather Gladstone bag
- A gold locket
- Dark woollen blankets x2
- China cups and saucers
- A coffin
- Snuff boxes
- A wooden mallet or hammer
- A knife grinding machine
- A brass topped mace
- A school bell

## ROMEO AND JULIET

If you can help with the following props for Romeo and Juliet, could you please either call me, on 01923 240762 or email me at [Elisa.beth.Gunter@btinternet.com](mailto:Elisa.beth.Gunter@btinternet.com)

Thanks very much.

- Wooden trays for food in the market scenes
- Goblets and jugs for drinking - preferably pewter coloured or a metal
- Chemical bottles for potions
- Quill pens Wicker baskets Sewing or embroidery ring
- Rope
- A palm shaped fan



## Daisy Daisy

On the 17th July, (just 24 hours after the Romeo and Juliet after show) Romeo, a.k.a Steven Bland, and his Dad, will embark on a near-950 mile journey from Land's End to John O Groats....on a tandem bicycle. We hope to do it in 12-13 days, and along the way raise at least £1500 for the Rainforest Foundation- an invaluable charity working alongside indigenous communities to educate, save the rainforest, and return it to its rightful owners.

But this is where we need your help- at Oliver and Romeo and Juliet we will have collecting buckets to ask you for loose change- so please come prepared! If you'd like to sponsor us a set amount we'd be delighted- just give us a ring and leave us your details!

## Pump House Centre News

We launched the new seats with inscriptions and the refurbished bar with a reception to thank the donators at a performance of Private Lives.

Watford's elected mayor, Dorothy Thornhill did the opening honours and declared that she was looking forward to working even more closely with the Pump House and often used the centre as an example of how to run a successful trust. She also stated that the Pump House will stay at its current location for the foreseeable future.

There are still a few un-sponsored seats left. So if you still would like to have an inscription on the seats, please contact [lee.farman@pumphouse.info](mailto:lee.farman@pumphouse.info)

## Onwards and Upwards!

*by Olivia Gunter*

It has been nearly two years since I was a member of the Children's theatre. It had taken a good few years for my confidence to grow, slowly but surely. So the prospect of moving up to the Youth theatre was incredibly daunting.

"Will anyone talk to me?" is a question I repeatedly asked myself.

Not only is moving to Youth a scary transition to make, you are starting GCSEs and suddenly, after being one of the oldest, you revert to being one of the youngest. However, the reality of going up, for me, was very different from my expectations. I found that people I knew vaguely from being a member of the Pump House, seemed happy to see new faces in the Youth theatre and on the whole, were very accommodating.

Joining the Youth opens up a whole new range of opportunities. In addition to working on shows where you have more responsibility over your general performance, you are given the chance to get involved with the more technical side of a production such as sound, lighting and backstage.

I have found that being in the Youth has provided me with a great escape from the pressures of school and at the same time has the additional value of being a place to meet people and to socialise.

My brother, Charles, and I have had very different but positive experiences of the Youth theatre. It is whatever you want it to be, so make the most of it!

## Double trouble

The two casts of Oliver hard at work



Help the box office volunteers by using the online form or credit card system at

[www.pumphouse.info/cyt](http://www.pumphouse.info/cyt)

Oliver has sold 80% of its tickets but Romeo and Juliet has only sold 5%. Romeo and Juliet is going to be a great show from what I have seen at rehearsals, plus it is on the school curriculum so I would expect everyone would benefit from coming to see it.

Book your tickets now.



# Back to the Future

## Diary dates

### JULY

2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom Kanji performs in *Hiawatha* at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art'

5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> – *Oliver* by Lionel Bart performed by Pump House Children's Theatre with two casts (why not come to support both!)

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> – *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (abridged) performed by Pump House Youth Theatre

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> – post *Oliver* party at the Pump House 7:30–10pm

### AUGUST

16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 19:05 – *Mugged* by Andrew Payne (Shell Connections/National Theatre) performed at the Edinburgh Festival by Pump House Youth Theatre. The venue is the Augustine Studio, if you are in the area, do drop in!

end of month – deadline for CYT newsletter articles

### SEPTEMBER

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> – Youth theatre begins

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> – Children's theatre begins  
21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April in Paris  
*Pump House Theatre Company*

### OCTOBER

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm AGM and fun social event

### NOVEMBER

14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Darling Buds of May  
*Pump House Theatre Company*

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Old Tyme Music Hall  
(*Open House* group fund raiser)

### DECEMBER

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> - last Saturday morning session of term

9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> A Carousel at Christmas a showcase from the Children's theatre

### JANUARY

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> - Start of spring term  
18-20 & 25-28 - Youth theatre  
Les Miserables Schools Edition

## Future Shows

We are constantly looking at the future programme for the CYT and researching the many possibilities. It is always a difficult task finding the right mix of large number of parts, right level of difficulty for the ages, not too technically complex, balancing plays and music, avoiding too many repeats, finding fresh good quality shows, avoiding the many badly written "Children" shows and securing the slots in the theatre at times when our members are not doing exams or school shows or trips!

You can not satisfy everyone so we try to plan variety at the same time as being led a little by the production teams who are willing to put in the huge amount of time and effort to put on a successful show.

Lee Farman is the Artistic Director for the CYT who is responsible for co-ordinating this "5000 piece jigsaw puzzle" and is always happy to explain the reasoning behind the choices or hear suggestions.

Hear is a taster of what is to come up in the future:

#### Carousel at Christmas

A showcase for the Children theatre, which gives a gentle entry for new members and gives other a chance to showcase their skills workshops activities from the term.

#### Les Miserables School Edition

Youth theatre's chance to show what they are made of with this challenging piece

#### Shell Connections

Following this years success we will join this festival again next year

#### Festival of New Drama Writing

Another chance to explore new drama and have fun with improvisation

#### A famous Musical - for Children's Theatre

## Edinburgh Fringe

*Mugged* is off to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. Think of a show that no one knows, with over 100 shows on at the same time and then trying to encourage complete strangers to come and see it. You can start to understand how hard the cast will have to work to get an audience. But we have a good show and it is a great learning experience so I am sure we will have fun.

If you know anyone in Edinburgh or who will be there please, please pass on the following details and get them to spread it as much as possible.

*Mugged* by Andrew Payne  
Tue 16<sup>th</sup>–Sat 20<sup>th</sup> August 7:05pm  
Augustine's studio,  
41 George IV Bridge  
Box office: 08452 26 27 21  
Tickets: £5 (£4)

## Footnotes

- The Adult Pump House Theatre Company have offered free membership for 2 years for any older Youth member who would like join them. Call Pat Knight for more information on 01923 675284



- The Adult Pump House Theatre company are also putting on Darling Buds of May 14<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup> November 2005. They are looking for children from the CYT to take part.

Rehearsals start from September and are likely to be early evenings either Tuesday or Thursdays.

The auditions are by an open workshop on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June from 6:30pm (Children should already be at the Pump House for a costume call). Please e-mail ([lee.farman@pumphouse.info](mailto:lee.farman@pumphouse.info)) if your child is interested. Children's parts include girls around ages 9, 11 & 13 and boy about 13-15.

As we hope you will have noticed the newsletter has had a major revamp. Your editors would welcome your opinions on this new format newsletter.

So please send any feedback or contributions for the next newsletter to Moya and Olivia c/o [elisabeth.gunter@btinternet.com](mailto:elisabeth.gunter@btinternet.com)

This newsletter is also available online at [www.pumphouse.info/cyt](http://www.pumphouse.info/cyt)

