

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY THEATRE SYNDICATE, 2006 - 7

2006/7 was a year spent building on previous successes at the ADC Theatre. The previous year's record-breaking admission figures were once again broken, with over 49,000 audience members enjoying 334 performances, and an incredible range of drama, comedy, dance, musicals, pantomime and literary events, presented by both student companies and local amateur drama groups.

Programme Review

The Autumn season opened with the Cambridge University American Stage Tour production of **Twelfth Night** and the Footlights production of **Niceties**. Both shows had spent September touring, and found a receptive Cambridge audience in their week-long runs. This was followed by bold productions of **Closer**, **The Alchemist** and Sarah Kane's **Blasted**, which showed the range of drama being produced by current undergraduates in Cambridge.

The start of November saw a special collaboration between the Amateur Dramatic Club and CUSU, with a production of **In The Blood**, marking CUSU Anti-Racism week.

See What I Wanna See proved a bold and innovative choice for the term's musical, and comic relief was provided in the annual Footlights/ADC pantomime **Faust**, which sold so well it prompted an extra, sell-out matinee in the second week of the run.

A critically-acclaimed production of **Macbeth** was presented by the European Theatre Group at the start of the Spring season, following their acclaimed tour. This was followed by the contemporary dance show **Elemental** and slick productions of Chekhov's **The Seagull** and Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. **Mozart and Salieri** was a surprise hit of the Spring Season, selling out its week-long lateshow slot, whilst new writing was well represented with the intriguing **Hang On Mr Bugson** by Footlights President Tom Sharpe as well as the annual Footlights Harry Porter Prize winner **Coat** by Rory Mullarkey, which later went on to receive critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Festival

Return to the Forbidden Planet, the Lent Term Musical, was a real highlight of the year, bursting with energy and attracting huge audiences from both the town and student community. The season ended with productions of **Travels With My Aunt** and **Pygmalion** by local amateur groups Bawds and Combined Actors.

The literary festival **cambridgwordfest** enjoyed its third annual run at the Theatre at the start of the Summer season, including talks from Rageh Omaar, Clive Stafford-Smith, and A.L. Kennedy.

The summer season featured a variety of student, local and touring groups. Highlights included the Footlights tour show **Wham Bam**, the Festival Players' **The Witches of Eastwick**, and the Amateur Dramatic Club's production of **The Merchant of Venice**. The Theatre was pleased to welcome the touring production of **The Man Who Planted Trees**, which was a delight for young and old alike, and a production of **Shakespeare Shorts**, which was an exciting and fast-moving series of Shakespearean scenes.

Financial Performance

Income from Theatre Hire was a record £90,602, significantly higher than in previous years and a reflection of the record number of admissions. The ADC Bar remains a popular venue for theatregoers and students alike; its popularity was obvious in the bar surplus which rose to £40,952. The Box Office started to establish itself as a significant additional income stream for the Theatre, with surplus on the Box Office account amounting to £8,822 over the year. Income from scenic hire was slightly down on the previous year, though profits from the sale of theatre sundries had increased.

Ongoing Projects & Redevelopment

'Camp ADC' continues to be a successful and enjoyable annual project, with volunteer technicians spending a week in the Theatre at the start of the summer vacation working on the installation of new equipment and testing/maintenance of existing items. The main project during camp this year was the installation of two new counterweight sets.

Much progress was made securing the funding for the redevelopment, and by the end of the year the Executive Committee was confident enough in funding to proceed with building plans. Building work onsite is due to start in April 2008, for completion in September 2008.

Staffing

The Manager and Licensee for 2006/07 was **Christopher Adams**. The Housekeepers were **Peter Tovey** and **Daisy Black**, who both settled well into the jobs. Peter implemented many changes beneficial to the long-term development of the Theatre, including carrying out a review of the Theatre's Health and Safety Policy and putting a significant amount of time into planning the final phase of the Redevelopment work, as well as effecting many repairs and improvements to the fabric of the building. Daisy continued to manage the bar and box office and also continued to advance the Theatre's archival project.

The Theatre also employed four casual Duty Managers (**Tristan Booth, Christian Ashby, Andrew Morley-Smith** and **Anna Hobbs**) to help the full time staff cope with the workload of the long seasons whilst keeping working hours within reasonable limits.

Daniel Morgenstern has continued to design the theatre brochure.

James Baggaley took over as Manager and Licensee from September 2007. **Peter Tovey** remained as Technical Housekeeper and **Megan Prosser** was appointed as Marketing Housekeeper for 2007/8

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