

Estuary *Players*

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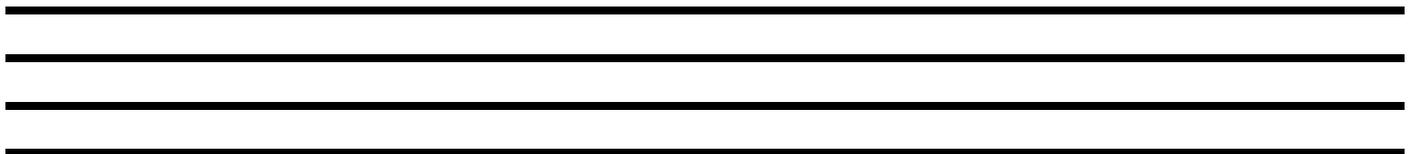
Newsletter December 2012

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and their families! It has been a good year for us again, with *Brassed Off* and *Separate Tables* both proving to be critical successes, with the added satisfaction of knowing that the first made us and the Lympstone Band some money for the reserves, and the latter breaking even. Both involved a lot of members, including new ones, and thanks to everyone for their contribution.

Special thanks also to Howard and Chris for organising our Christmas meal in the Globe on the 7th December. All those present certainly enjoyed a convivial evening, in spite of the standard of food and service not being quite what we might have expected. Nevertheless it is always great to get together without the pressure of a production to get off the ground.

This is the first formal newsletter since the death of Chris Williams, and a fitting moment at the end of the year to pay tribute once again to his unfailingly good-humoured and positive contributions to Estuary (along, we all found out, with innumerable other societies, institutions, causes and charities). We dedicated *Separate Tables* to his memory and took a collection at the end of each performance for two of his favourite charities.

Time now to look forward to 2013 (I am writing this on the last day of the Mayan calendar, 21 December, but it is after 11am and nothing seems to have happened yet, so I don't think I am unduly optimistic in doing so), and the rest of this newsletter is devoted to our forthcoming production of *The Mysteries*, 23 – 26 April.



The Mysteries

Date for your diaries:

Reading of the Script: Wednesday 9th January 2013

In the Malthouse 7:30pm

There won't be formal auditions for this production as there are 50 odd smallish parts, so everyone who wants to will have at least one part, and I hope that most of you will want to. It is very important though that you let Alan Caig know (01626 891579, or alancaig@aol.com or alan.caig@exeter.gov.uk) of your interest, either by turning up on the 9th or getting in touch beforehand. We won't be seeking other participants until we know that all our members who want to get involved have had a chance to do so.

The Mysteries

Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 April 2013

In a version by Tony Harrison

We will be doing the version prepared by poet Tony Harrison for the National Theatre about 20 years ago. He turned the cycle into three separate plays to be performed on consecutive nights, but we will condensing this somewhat, but using most of the first play, which contains the Old Testament and the Nativity, followed by some extracts from the 2nd – the Entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, and then a brief section from the last play to take in the Resurrection. Harrison used the Wakefield and York cycles as his source, so the speech is fairly northern. It is quite robust in places too, and there is lots of comedy.

We will be presenting the show in St Margarets Church, on specially built staging, by permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens. We are even going to be able to erect the staging the previous week to enable several rehearsals on the actual set.

There will be a live band, to play incidental music and songs. This isn't a musical, as the songs are more commentary than part of the action, but we will be looking for singers as well as actors for several concerted and solo numbers.

Musical Direction will be by Ben Beeson, Set design by Phil Keen, Set construction and supervision by Eliot Wright, Costume co-ordination by Clare Philbrock, and lighting by Peter Tapp,

but all of these people will need some help either for the performance or crucially before it – especially for costumes and set, where we need help to make and construct and collect. Costume and set work will start very soon in the New Year, so please let Alan know if you can be a member of a team, and he will pass that on to the appropriate person.