

Pantomime 2006 - special edition - It's almost Christmas, it's pantomime time!

Calendar

Membership fees due - see details below

Stockholm Players AGM - March 5th - Venue TBC

Pantomime - Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes

End March and beginning April - TBC

Panto 2006 - Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes

We are honoured to be staging the premiere production of 'Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes' penned by the Stockholm Players very own David Locke and Garry Wevill. Garry demonstrated his flair for writing during last year's "Project." When this talent was coupled with David Locke's infamous cheesy joke telling - there could only be one result... a rip-roaring, side-splitting pantomime.

Charged with this 'mission impossible' by the Committee, they agreed immediately (oh no they didn't), not knowing what they were letting themselves in for. Their time, effort, blood, sweat and tears have paid off.



Garry Wevill

The committee would like to thank them for their hard work - we believe 'Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes' will be a great hit for us and our audiences.



David Locke

Synopsis of Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes

Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes has all the ingredients you'd expect from the best of pantomimes: good versus evil, men dressed as women, thigh-slapping women dressed as men, people dressed as animals, shouting, booing, hissing and a few songs thrown in for good measure. So what's this panto all about?

Highwayman Dick Turpin, our hero, and his sidekick Little John get wind of an evil plot by the Wicked Witch of the West. Dick, Little John and Dick's mum decide to travel to France to find the Wicked Witch and challenge her to a duel.

When they arrive in Paris, Dick meets the beautiful Joan of Arc - and falls in love. But even together, will their powers be enough to defeat the Witch and her evil henchmen - Arniestein and Hannibal?

Helped by our story tellers, the Hare and the Tortoise, we will encounter some very colourful characters, such as Phileas Frog and the Abominable Showman.

Will good win over evil? Will Dick get his girl? Will the Hare beat the Tortoise? You'll have to come along to find out!

So just who is this year's pantomime director?

John Willis joined the Stockholm Players back in 2003, and made his debut in our last pantomime King Arthur. Since then he has moved on to star in a memorable Cabaret at Diesilverksaden. We are delighted that he has agreed to direct this year's pantomime and are looking forward to seeing the results.

In the 70's and 80's John sang in various rock bands both in England and Sweden. He has also written and illustrated his own children's books for Norstedts in Sweden and produced and directed musicals mainly for young people.

Our brave pantomime director teaches scriptwriting, scenography and film theory at a sixth-form college in Stockholm. He spends most of his time writing plays and musicals (books, lyrics and music) and even translates other peoples' plays from Swedish to English. One of his recent translations -- Urban Lindh's 'Kaino's Sång' -- commissioned by the Kulturråd has a London premiere next year.

This year has seen eight productions of John's plays and musicals put on in Sweden at youth and amateur level. In addition to directing the pantomime, he is currently writing a film script - let's hope we provide him with some interesting material!

Fun starts at auditions

Who said you need to be nervous for auditions? On a wet Sunday and Monday early December, 20 people or so braved the weather to audition for Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes.

Lots of fun was had by all, from crawling around on hands and knees as tortoises, to awe-inspiring renditions of 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,' from cackling Witches to falsetto dames. All accompanied by the lovely guitar sounds of John Willis. This was an informal, though well-organised audition. A great sign of things to come!

Cast of Dick Turpin and the Lost Heroes

(in order of appearance)

Hare - Joanna Willis
Tortoise - Twyla Lidén
Dick Turpin - Lisa Cockette
Town Man - Louise Ulvelund
Little John - Joshua Arsenio
Mrs Turpine - Dave Meur
Conductor - Nina Riikonen
Wicked Witch - Helen Burgess
Arniestein - Cynthia Morissette
Hannibal - Olle Lindholm
Joan of Arc - Kate Kabala
Saint - Juan Libossart
Abominable Showman - Tom Howland
Phileas Frog - Isabella Willis
Rose Lee - Katherine Stuart

As always, no show reaches the stage without a good production crew. If you would like to join the team, whether it be for make-up, lighting, stage-hands, scenery or marketing, please contact our panto producer, Katarina Trodden katarina@message121.com

The Singing Workshop, 2005-10-30

by Tom Howland

9am on a Sunday morning just isn't the ideal time to sing. Even if we did set our clocks back the night before giving us an extra hour's sleep, most people would prefer to get even more sleep that day.

Unfortunately, the Teatresalon at ABF-Huset wasn't available any other time so Sunday morning it had to be. With that in mind, it was particularly pleasing that 11 people made it to the Singing workshop that day, along with our accompanist, David Hynes.

We were very lucky to have three hour's of instruction by Anette Stridh-Freiberg, a coloratura soprano who has sung at the Kungliga Opera and Drottningholm Teatre, just to name a few places.

This was a workshop, not an audition or a performance and Anette made certain everyone was relaxed about singing for her.

She began with group exercises and then let those who wanted to, sing individually so that she could give them special instruction. Anything was allowed here. Things varied from Jeanette Clayton singing the aria "When I am laid in White" from Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" to Juan Libossart's Brazilian song accompanied by Jorge Borrás on the guitar.

Anette was able to help everyone differently and it was fascinating to see the results her experience produced. By the end, even those originally said didn't wish to sing solos, were wanting to. Afterwards, everyone expressed a wish to have another opportunity to work with her. Hopefully this can be arranged sometime in 2006.

It should come as no surprise that there is definite musical talent in The Stockholm Players and voices in all the various ranges from soprano down to bass.

It was a pleasure to have Anette with us even on a Sunday morning. Thank you to Katarina Trodden for initially giving us this opportunity by introducing us to her friend, Anette. Thank you also to David Hynes for your wonderful accompaniment.

Congrats to the Öwerströms

On November 10th, Deirdre Öwerström, Dee to most of us, became a mother for the first time, to a boy, Liam Mikael Öwerström. Not surprising, he is a very long baby since his father, Dan "the Man" Öwerström measures in around 2 meters. He also has a head of hair any guy would be proud to have. We hope he will eventually share his mother's interest in the theatre.

Congratulations to Dee and Dan from the Stockholm Players.

Time to pay membership

Please continue to support the Stockholm Players by paying your annual subscriptions on time. The paying in details are on the next page.

LONDON - a new musical

Stockholm Players' member David Hynes has written a new musical called LONDON, which will have its world premiere on 12th May. This will be a showcase performance with special invitations for well-known producers from the UK and the USA. In total there will be 5 performances in Stockholm from 12th-14th May. The musical will be directed by another Stockholm Players' member, Nigel Harvey.

Auditions will take place in Stockholm on 17 - 18 January. For information contact: nigel.harvey@comhem.se or go to www.molandercasting.com

At the beginning of the story there is a Town, no a city, a great city. LONDON.

The story of London is always the same;

It is the story of love, life and death,

It is a story of the streets and those who live in them.

And the story of London will be played out everyday on these ancient pathways.

Until the ending of the world.

Be part of something extraordinary. Be part of LONDON.

The Little Mermaid, Engelska Skolan, Jarfalla

When not teaching his students, or preparing for his debut as pantomime Dame, or co-writing this newsletter, Stockholm Players' member Dave Meur is directing his school's production of The Little Mermaid. Kate Kabala is assisting Dave as Artistic Director.

The show will be performed on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd February. Please contact Dave for more information. davemeur@yahoo.co.uk

And finally....

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best of health and happiness for 2006.



Contributions

We would very much like to receive tips for events, reviews, short articles, you name it; or perhaps you even have a play dying to see the light of day. Please forward your contributions or any ideas or comments to the Editor. Note that the publication of submitted material is not guaranteed.

Are you a budding director, or would you like to be one? Contact any of our committee members and let us know.

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It's time to pay your 2006 membership fees

Membership runs from
January 1 to December 30.

Family rate:	200 kr.
Single membership:	150 kr.
Students, children, pensioners:	100 kr.

Postgiro number 76139-5.

We appreciate your continued
support.