

The Chiltern Player



January 2009

So – another year bites the dust and here we are at 2009 with much to look forward to on the drama front.

One of the undoubted highlights will be our spring production of *Jane Eyre*, an abridged version of the Charlotte Brontë classic which is being directed by Jane Brough.

How Jane plans to convey those brooding passions amid the bleak beauty of the windswept Yorkshire moors is still under wraps, but with almost every Player taking part, this promises to be a cracking, true ensemble production.

Performances take place on March 27/28 and April 3/4. Please note that tickets will be on sale nearer the time at Occasions in Wood Lane, Sonning Common and NOT Village Yarns.

Serena Jones is the queen behind our 2009 festival entries. An expert in matters historical, particularly the first half of the Stuart period and the Civil War, Serena has written and will direct a short play, *A Falling Star*, the true story of a scandal that rocked James I's court between 1613 and 1616. The play will be entered into three festivals – Didcot, Abingdon, Wallingford – and promises to be as colourful costume-wise as its salacious content. Playreading/casting is on Thursday, January 22 at St Michael's.

As everybody will be aware by now, Tiffany Saul has reluctantly had to pull the plug on this year's panto. However, with the scripts already purchased, we are hoping that she will mastermind *Dick Whittington* for us next year.

And on the subject of scripts, it was decided at the last committee meeting that in these credit crunch times, actors will be charged £5 towards the cost of their scripts when they are in productions. Many other am dram groups operate a similar system. However, techies can still have their scripts free.

As you should all have heard by now, the Players' annual 'Christmas Dinner' will now be a theatre visit combined with a meal.

Rosemary, Helen and Jane (alias the 'social sub committee') have been investigating and early signs are that the Watermill at Bagnor near Newbury would be ideal for this annual bash.

I'm away today for the next three weeks and at the time of writing, unable to confirm when this will take place, although February 6 could be a possibility. So keep checking emails to find out more.

That's all for now. A Happy New Year to you all.

Carol Evans