

Prospectus

The Newsletter of the Cayman Drama Society

November 2006

Editor – Alan Hall

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A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

This seasonal family entertainment opened on Thursday 16th November, and runs until Sunday 3rd December with performances every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30 pm and every Sunday at 6 pm.

With a talented cast of 23 playing a total of 37 roles, led by Bill Bewley stretching his thespian ability to play a cantankerous old miser, magnificent sets and special effects created for us by Paul de Freitas and Peter Phillips, and a vast array of Victorian and Regency costumes, co-ordinated by Producer Cathy Wight but provided mostly by the cast and crew only supplemented by a few which had to be purchased or rented, this is a show which is not to be missed.

For those who may be worried that the performance will be too long to hold the attention of younger children, the production consists of three acts of about 35 minutes each with two 10-minute intermissions, so the total running time is just over two hours.

If you have not already done so, you must immediately phone the Box Office at 949 5054 to reserve tickets at \$15 for adults or \$10 for children, otherwise you will be too late as performances will be sold out.!

A Financial Tragedy for the CDS ?

It is rather unfortunate that the Cayman Drama Society appears to have become a victim of its own success and the hard work of its members over the years

When the Prospect Playhouse was built in 1990, we had a basic theatre building constructed at a total cost of under CI\$200,000, and some antique lighting and sound equipment borrowed from Phillips Stage Lighting. We were justly proud of the fact that we were one of the few amateur drama societies in the world with its own theatre, and we were able to cover the running costs from our productions.

In the intervening years we built two extensions to provide storage facilities and to enlarge the foyer and, partly thanks to Hurricane Ivan, we have now been able to extend the stage with state-of-the-art rigging and lighting equipment.

As a result of the above, we now have a Theatre recently valued at CI\$997,500 with equipment and contents worth a further CI\$100,000.

It may all seem like a success story so far, but the tragic part is that Hurricane Ivan was also responsible for a huge increase in running costs, particularly insurance and electricity, as you will all be aware from your own domestic budgets, and the expense of running the Prospect Playhouse has more than doubled from its level of three years ago, and it now costs over CI\$60,000 per annum just to insure and operate the building.

The Executive Committee is therefore considering all possible means of ensuring that the CDS can continue to be

financially viable in the future, and they would welcome any ideas which you the members can provide to assist with the continued success of YOUR Society.

The following appear to be inevitable:

- An increase in membership fees for Annual, Family and Life Membership, which have been unchanged for many years, to be proposed at our January AGM. If you are considering an application for Life Membership, this will be your final opportunity to do so for only C\$100, so send your cheque now to the Treasurer at the address on page 1 of this newsletter.
- An increase in adult ticket prices from \$15 to \$20 for all straight plays (and to \$25 for major musicals which are substantially more expensive to stage), but with children's ticket prices remaining at \$10 (or \$15 for musicals).
- A modest increase in bar prices to bring them more in line with other licensed premises.
- The sale of programmes, rather than giving them away which has always been our past practice.

However, even these measures will only make up part of our increased expenditure, and we therefore need to "think outside the box" to make up the balance. The Committee is already debating means of achieving the following:

- We must have 6 major productions each year, rather than being satisfied with 4 or 5 which has sometimes been the case in the past;
- How can we ensure that our productions play to full houses from the start, rather than only for the final weekend?
- For the past few years our Club Nights have been sporadic and at times have been poorly attended. The intention has always been that these should be organised by, and principally for the entertainment of, our own members and their friends

and families. If these were to be held every 2 months between major productions, what would you be interested in helping to organise and attending?

- Can we encourage a higher level, and more regular routine, of corporate donation, sponsorship and advertising?
- The "CDS Patron" scheme has generated over \$10,000 this year, which has been used to defray some of our reconstruction and improvement costs, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of those who have contributed so far but how can this initial impetus be continued?
- Might there be sufficient interest if we were to make the Playhouse available for rental for private, corporate and charitable functions (provided that it included some form of theatrical entertainment to remain within the terms of our lease)?

If any of you have any suggestions which would help to achieve the above, or any original ideas to help us attain our objectives, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.



New Members

Thanks to the wide variety of productions during 2006, we have attracted more than 50 new members. Space does not permit us to list all of the names here, but we welcome all of you, and your contribution to the CDS, whether as active members onstage or backstage, or those of you who are offering your support from the audience.

In future we hope to welcome new members by name on a monthly basis.



Visual Arts Society

Following their successful October show at the Prospect Playhouse, the Visual Arts Society has made a very generous donation to the Cayman Drama Society, enabling them to become the first of our Silver Patrons.

We hope to be able to stage similar joint ventures at the Playhouse in the future.

2006 Executive Committee

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Committee Members

Valerie Cottier

Rick Glass

Regina Oliver

Penny Paterson

Penny Phillips



Auditions for *The Judith Code*

Auditions for the latest play written and directed by Colin Wilson will be held on Monday 4th December at 7 pm at The Prospect Playhouse. The play is to be performed at the Prospect Playhouse from 16th February to 3rd March 2007, and rehearsals are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting 8th January.

“The Judith Code” is a present day drama based on the apocryphal biblical book “Judith”. A new wave of terrorism has struck America and the west. The Nebak-Ad-Nizzar Group boasts they act for all Muslim Freedom Fighters. Their target is the multi-national department stores that have come under attack from suicide bombers, killing and maiming thousands of people. Only “Judith’s”, the largest and most successful of the department stores, has been spared. Why? Who is Judith, the mysterious owner whom no one has ever seen? A talk-show host asks these questions to the Muslim CEO of “Judith’s”, a woman known simply as Ayin with surprising results. A devout widowed Christian Jew decides to make an unconventional stand against the terrorist general, Holofernes. She is shocked to discover he is the man she was deeply in love with when she was a teenager – a love she still carries in her heart.

The following roles are to be cast:

Judith (as an adult) – the lead role

Judith (as a teenager)- small role

Ayin – female second lead

Holofernes – male lead

Hayder (Holofernes as a teenager) – small male role

Rosie King – medium female role

Angel Bagoas – medium female or male role

Deborah Halpern – medium female role

Achior – medium male role

Uzziah – small male role

News Boy or Girl – small non-speaking role.



May 2007 Production *Annie Get Your Gun*

The Broadway Musical and Oscar-winning movie based on the book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields with music by Irving Berlin is scheduled to be performed at the Prospect Playhouse in May 2007.

Preliminary planning is being undertaken by a production team consisting of Neil Rooney, Wendy Moore, Sue Howe (Director) and Phil Pace (Producer).

2007 AGM and Production Meeting

The CDS 2007 AGM is to be held on Monday 8th January 2007 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting to enable members to make proposals for productions during the 2007 season will take the form of a “Happy Hour” on Friday 12th January 2007 starting at 5.30 pm.

CDS PATRONS

HONORARY PATRON

Mrs Mariko Jack

PLATINUM PATRONS

(for Donations in excess of CI\$5,000)

Peter and Anne Pasold

GOLD PATRONS

(for Donations of CI\$1,500 to CI\$4,999)

**In Memory of Marion Auld
Anonymous**

SILVER PATRONS

(for Donations of CI\$1,000 to CI\$1,499)

Visual Arts Society

BRONZE PATRONS

(for Donations of CI\$500 to CI\$999)

Joyce Cantlay

FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

**Phillips Electrical Ltd
Androgroup Ltd
Butterfield Bank (Cayman)
Limited
CITN
Cayman Coating Industries
Ltd
Deloitte
Island Electronics Group**

The future generosity of our Patrons and Friends is essential if we are to continue to present quality productions and to maintain the Prospect Playhouse to acceptable standards.

For further information about how individuals may become a Patron, or how corporate benefactors may become Friends of the Theatre, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Cayman Drama Society 2006 / 7 Calendar of Events

16th November to 3rd December every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30 pm and every Sunday at 6 pm

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

adapted by Shaun Sutton

Directed by Alan Hall

Monday 4th December 2006 at 7 pm

Auditions for The Judith Code

Monday 8th January 2007 at 7.30 pm

Cayman Drama Society AGM

Friday 12th January 2007 at 5.30 pm

Happy Hour and 2007 Production Meeting

16th February to 3rd March 2007

The Judith Code

Written and Directed by Colin Wilson
