

the GRIFFIN PLAYERS newsletter

Welcome to the Griffin Players Newsletter

Hello all,

This is the 1st of hopefully a long line of Griffin Newsletters.

The aim is to keep you up to date with Griffin News and Social events.

If you have anything that you would like to have included in the next Newsletter please contact Cheryl Evans: ce_groovy_baby@hotmail.com with what you would like included.



Social Events

Karaoke –
Friday 30 April,
8pm @ the Four Horseshoes

It's a Knockout–
Saturday 8 May
TBC in Wardown Park

Camping Weekend –
2 – 4 July
Details to be confirmed

Quiz Night –
Friday 9 July
8pm @ the Balcony Bar, VRC

Show Dates

Our House
16 – 19 June

Billy Liar
September 2010

Dick Whittington
December 2010

Alison Wonderland
January 2011

Every Seat Needs a Bum

By Gary Nash

We all love to do musicals and **Our House** looks as though it's going to be one of the best and most enjoyable of all.

Unfortunately musicals are very expensive to produce and the limited capacity of the Library Theatre means that it is even harder for these shows to make a profit. It is no secret that our recent musicals have lost money – 'Little Shop' lost over £3000 and 'Tommy' over £5000. Fortunately for the Griffins, our pantomimes usually make a profit and can help to offset these frightening deficits but it is a very delicate balancing act. One false move and the Griffins could be in dire trouble.

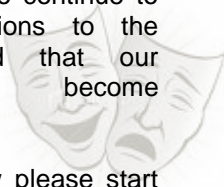
That is why ticket sales and especially those of the cast and crew are so important. Only relatively a small percentage of our customers are people who actually come to see a Griffin Players show *per se*. The vast majority of people who buy tickets because they either know someone in the show or someone involved in the backstage or creative team. Given our current financial status the absolute maximum production

deficit that the committee feel that the group can afford is £3300. To achieve we need to sell an absolute minimum 81% of our tickets.

This may seem like an easy target but we have struggled to reach these levels in recent years and this year we have the added pressure of competing with the FIFA World Cup. Of course, what we really want to happen is for ALL performances to SELL OUT.

Whilst even this would not result in a profit, it would help to secure our future and enable us to continue to stage future productions to the professional standard that our customers have become accustomed.

If you are in the show please start selling tickets straight away, especially if you are hoping to sell over 30 to get the £15 refund of your show fees. It is essential that people pay for their tickets 'up front'. The group has lost money in the past when people were due to pay on the door and did not turn up, this was particularly upsetting where the show was sold out for the night. We need people to commit to seeing...



Committee Members

Chairman
Gary Nash

Vice – Chairman
Liz Hale

Treasurer
Michael Costabile

Secretary
Lynda Fagan

Social Secretary
Sam Cooke

Membership Secretary
Cheryl Evans

Minute Secretary
Jackie Houghton

General Committee
Tom Crabtree
Dave Houghton
Ben Jagers
Richard Lovelock
Reece Lowen

Co-opted Committee member:
John O'Leary

...the show before World Cup mania takes over!

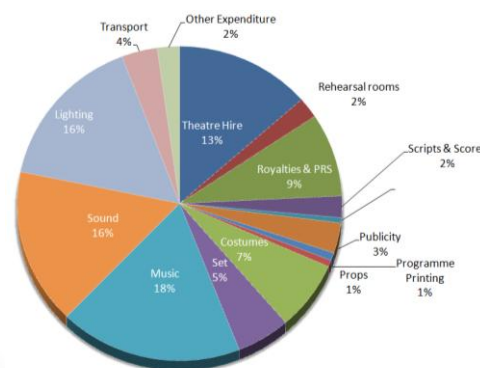
See elsewhere in this newsletter for how you and your customers can now purchase tickets online through our website.

If you are not directly involved in the show please support the Griffins by trying to sell tickets to your usual customers as well as buying one for yourself.

The production team has committed to a budget that has been trimmed as much as possible without compromising the show – the only major variable now is our income, the bums on the seats so to speak. So please don't waste any time and get

out there and start selling.

The estimated cost of staging **Our House** is £11 750, the chart below shows how this money will be spent



The Griffins make bookings easier

By Michael Costabile

In this day and age, our customers expect to be able to make bookings online and pay by card.

This has proven challenging for amateur societies in the past due to the complexities of maintaining a website and the cost of credit card processing.



The Griffin Players have taken advantage of a service provided by Paypal to allow customers to make secure bookings online and pay by card.

It's a simple system, request your tickets and make your payment – we do the donkey work of allocating the seats and posting the tickets out – but this allows us to keep the cost down – the cost to you is only 50p per ticket to cover the credit card processing fees.

Cast members can still get credits for these purchases as there's a box where your name can be entered when booking. Also, cast members can make credit card payments over the reception desk at the VRC when buying tickets at rehearsals there.

To book online, go to the Griffin Players website <http://www.griffinplayers.co.uk> and follow the link to the Box Office.

Other Shows in the Area

Putteridgebury G & S Society
The Gondoliers
20 – 24 April 2010

DAOS
Crazy for You
23 – 24 April 2010

Phoenix Players
Mack and Mabel
6 – 8 May

Dunstable Rep
Importance of Being Earnest
14 – 22 May 2010

The Bancroft Players
Stepping Out – the Musical
17 -22 May 2010

St Christophers Players
No Sex Please We're British
20 -22 May

St Andrews Players
Children of Eden
25 – 29 May 2010

