



PHOENIX

— creative arts —

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2011

We're well into 2011 now and hopefully everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. It was a shame that the Horsham Gala Night was cancelled, but the Dorking one went ahead a week later as planned (minus the snow). A big thanks to all who took part and all those who planned to take part but were beaten by the weather!

As we wend our way into 2011, we're very excited in the office about the new and exciting things we have planned and hope you will be too. There's a lot of things in this latest newsletter so put the kettle on and settle down with a nice cuppa and your diary. You'll see we have now booked in all our exams, showcases, workshops and end of year show dates so please make a note of them now. In addition, there's a lot of show and teacher news and some exciting performances to look forward to. Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2011.

Gail, Sharon & Esther

EXAMS

Our next exams will take place in **Horsham on 2nd April** from 11-6pm. If anyone was entered into the Dorking session on March 6th, this has now been combined with the Horsham session so all exams will take place at Millais School, Depot Road, Horsham, RH13 5HR on 2nd April.

Most classes should now have received information about these exams from their teachers. Please ensure that you return the form along with payment to the office and not to your teacher, so that we can enter you into the session. The deadline for entries is Tuesday 1st March. Please get your entries in on time, otherwise a late entry fee is payable. We can then let everyone know their allocated exam time via classes and the website as soon as possible after this date.

Please ensure that you have all your correct uniform for the exams. See the website if you are not sure what is required. All uniform is now in stock including the small vest tops. Knee pads are needed for classes where floor work is done (street and older musical theatre/stage classes). If you need to order any uniform please do so well before the exam date so that we have time to source it if it's not in our stock. We cannot guarantee to have your exact shoe size if you phone us up in the last week!

Singing exams are set for **Sunday 8th May** in Dorking and LAMDA exams will be held on either **Friday 8th or Saturday 9th July** in Haywards Heath. The exact date for LAMDA will be known 4 weeks before, once the exam board issue the schedule. We will be issuing entry forms for both singing and LAMDA exams within the next couple of weeks, so please look out for these and get your entries back as soon as possible.

END OF YEAR SHOW

We have now confirmed the date of this year's **End of Year Show as Sunday 10th July 2011 at The Capitol, Horsham.** Please put this in your diary. There will be a few additional rehearsals in the summer term this year, but we'll confirm these dates as soon as possible.

SENIOR YOUTH THEATRE NEW SHOW: BILLY

The senior youth theatre have been rehearsing hard for their production of Billy (based on Billy Liar) for the last few months. It will be on at Epsom Playhouse Studio Theatre on the **24th – 26th March 2011.**

Tickets are £14.00 and £9 for under 16s and are available from the Epsom Playhouse box office on 01372 742555 or 742227. Please come and support your fellow students and bring your family and friends.



Billy is the three-year smash hit at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 1974, which launched the stage career of Michael Crawford. Billy Fisher lives with Mum, Dad and Gran in Stradhoughton and is an undertaker's clerk - but in his mind he is President of Ambrosia, a film star, a scriptwriter - and anything else that happens to occur to him! However, nobody else believes him, certainly neither Barbara nor Rita, to both of whom he has promised marriage, though there is only one

engagement ring! He frantically tries to lie his way out, so he can run away with Liz, the only girl who understands him, but will he ever make it. Billy is a funny, fast-paced show with great characters, a poignant story and excellent songs such "Some of us belong to the stars".

JUNIOR YOUTH THEATRE

Firstly, a huge congratulations to everyone involved in the junior youth production of Annie which was performed at the end of November. Photos from the show are on the website and available from our Flickr site and I've scattered a few throughout this newsletter. There was a good review in the Dorking Advertiser too. Many thanks also to everyone who helped. The next production will be **Bugsy Malone on Saturday 25th June.** If you'd like to be involved in this production please get in touch. The junior youth theatre runs from 4.30 – 6.00pm on Tuesdays at The Hut in Westcott.



Scenes from Annie



HORSHAM DRAMA SHOWCASE

Students in Horsham are performing in a drama showcase on **Saturday 12th March at 3pm**. The show involves the intermediate and advanced classes performing Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

Tickets are available now from the office at £6 for adults and £3.50 for under 16s. We are setting up a seating plan for the drama studio so tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email your ticket orders as soon as possible to sharon@phoenixcreativearts.co.uk.

In preparation for these shows, there will be some additional rehearsals at Millais as follows:

Tuesday 22nd February

The Witches: 10am – 1pm
CC Circle: 1pm – 5pm

Saturday 5th March

The Witches: 1.30am – 3pm
CC Circle: 3pm – 5pm

It is important that students attend these additional rehearsals.

EXTRA SINGING HORSHAM

In order to make up the singing lessons missed last term due to Tamara being ill, we are arranging 2 additional singing days as follows:

- Tuesday 22nd February: 10–5pm
- Tuesday 12th April: 2pm–6pm

Would all private singing students please phone or email Sharon at the office to book onto these days. (Please also be aware of drama rehearsals taking place on the 22nd February too.)

As many students in the intermediate and advanced singing groups also have exams coming up, we have decided to offer pupils in these classes the chance to have a half hour private lesson with Tamara instead of a group lesson. Please call the office to book this in. For students in the youngest group singing class (10.30 – 11.00 on Saturdays), we will make these lessons up in the Summer Term with additional rehearsals for the End of Year Show.

SINGING LESSONS AVAILABLE

We have some spare capacity for singing lessons in Dorking. If you are looking for singing lessons, please call the office and come for a free trial lesson. We are also hoping to appoint a new singing teacher in the future in Horsham so that we can have some additional capacity to meet the demand for lessons there.

WEBSITE

Thanks to everyone who is visiting our website regularly. We are in the process of adding further information and it was great during the adverse weather in December, that everyone was able to get the most up-to-date information from our site.

We will add the exam schedule to the website during the 2nd week of March, and all information in this newsletter, is also available online.

We will be launching a new Teachers/Staff page soon, updating the news page and adding a Members Area for downloads which are only applicable to members of the school. Please check back regularly to see these new features.

INVOICES

Thanks to everyone who has paid their invoice – we have had record numbers of people paying on time so thank you. If you have yet to pay, you will now have received a surcharge invoice. Please pay as soon as possible either by cheque or online so that we can keep the costs down for everyone.

STAFF CHANGES

It is with great regret that we will shortly be saying goodbye to one of our drama teachers, Mandi Cox and our receptionist at Horsham, Esther Francis. They are both relocating for personal reasons and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their hard work and dedication over the last few years. We hope you will join with us in wishing them all the best for the future.

I'm sure that they'll be back to see the shows whenever they can, so hopefully we'll see them again soon. In fact, although Mandi is leaving officially after half term, there are some dates that she is covering after that until we establish the new drama teacher in Horsham. Gail will be taking over the drama in Dorking on Wednesdays so after half term, the drama class will shift by 15 minutes to run from 5.15 – 6.15pm. The advanced street dance class will also shift and will therefore run from 6.15 – 7.15 after half term.

Esther is leaving at Easter and will be replaced by Chris Angus. Chris is the wife

of Ian Angus who photographs our shows and builds our website. Chris is a graphic designer and administrator who has also been involved with us since the very beginning as her daughter Ruth was one of our first students. She will be taking over in Horsham after Easter although you'll probably see her there sooner than that, covering for Esther. I know you'll make her very welcome.



Miss Hannigan, Rooster and Lily



Daddy Warbucks and Grace Farrell



The orphans

PHOENIX'S NEW CHARITY

I am very pleased to announce that as part of our commitment to making a positive contribution to our global environment, we have decided to adopt a children's charity and to run various fund raising initiatives over the next few years to help. At Phoenix, we believe that we live in a privileged part of the world, generally have food on the table, heat, light, running water, and education. It's sometimes easy to forget how many things we have as we worry about rising energy prices, the budget deficit and the cost of a gallon of petrol. And whilst I do not belittle these concerns, I would also like to do something to try to help at least a few of the many millions of children who are not quite so well off as us. To that end, we have chosen the charity ChildHope to support.



ChildHope believe all children deserve a life free from injustice and abuse and yet recognise that many millions of children around the world are far from living this ideal. It is an international children's charity committed to securing social justice for children and young people in Africa, Asia and South America where many children live in poverty, under the constant threat of abuse, violence and exploitation. ChildHope aim to work in these communities to improve education, support families giving priority to prevention, finding long lasting solutions and tackling the underlying causes of poverty and violence. We will have more information about how Phoenix intends to support this charity in later newsletters but in the meantime, please visit the website below for more information on what they do:

www.childhope.org.uk

And if you have any ideas of fund-raising events we can run, please email us at the office.

EASTER & SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Following the success of the half-term Glee workshops, we have decided to run 2 more holiday workshops. Although these are a little way off, we wanted to be 'ahead of the game' and give you the dates asap.

Easter Holiday 3-day Course

This workshop will be open to 7 – 14 year olds and will run from 10 – 4pm on the **13th–15th April 2011** at The Hut in Westcott. The course is open to students from Dorking and Horsham and will culminate in a short performance on the last day. Students will cover dance, drama and singing in this short course which promises to be lots of fun. Places on the course are limited so please call or email the office to book yours now. The cost of this workshop will be £70 for the 3 days.

Summer Holiday 6-day Show Course

This week-long course will also be open to 7 – 14 year olds and will run from 10 – 4pm on the **1st–6th August** at The Hut in Westcott. During this course, the students will rehearse and perform a full-length show. We will confirm the show in later newsletters, but if you are interested in this, please let the office know. The fee for this course is £150 (sibling rate £120) to cover the whole 6 days. A non-returnable deposit of £50 is required to secure a place, so put the date in your diaries and email the office for an application form.

Both courses are also open to non-students so please tell your friends and family if you think they may be interested.

TEACHER NEWS

Some of our teachers have been very busy recently with their own professional careers and we are all very excited for Kelly who has recently appeared on both The X-Factor and Dancing On Ice. Tamara has recently been on Serbian national radio and television explaining about her successful singing career and her teaching at Phoenix and at the London College of Music. We are lucky to have teachers who are at the forefront of the industry and who can bring this expertise to the lessons.

Kelly has also been training hard to run in the London Marathon this year (in April) in aid of the Surrey Air Ambulance. She's looking to raise £1000 so if you'd like to sponsor Kelly to help out this local and well-deserved cause, you can donate online at: www.justgiving.com/kelly-louise-rowden

We wish her well in her training and will bring you further news of her progress nearer the date.

MOVE IT

Some of you may already know about this, but the Move It Exhibition is running at Olympia on the **11th –13th March**. It's an exhibition especially for dancers with lots of classes, dance fashions and industry-related items. Check out the website at the following address but book early if you want to go to some classes as they sell out fast.

www.moveitdance.co.uk

That's all for now – remember to check out the website for any updates and have a good year.

DIARY DATES

2011

- **10th January** – Invoices for Spring Term due on or before this date as term starts
- **21st–26th February** – Half Term
- **22nd February** – Catch up singing lessons in Horsham and additional drama rehearsal for Horsham drama students
- **1st March** – Deadline for dance/drama exam entries and singing exams
- **5th March** – additional rehearsals for Horsham drama showcase
- **12th March** – Horsham drama showcase
- **11th –13th March** – Move It Exhibition
- **24th–26th March** – Senior Youth Theatre production of *Billy* at Epsom Playhouse
- **2nd April** – Exam session in Horsham
- **11th–24th April** – Easter holidays
- **12th April** – Catch up singing lessons in Horsham
- **13–15th April** – 3-day Easter Course
- **7th May** – Dorking drama showcase
- **8th May** – Singing exams
- **30th May–4th June** – Half Term
- **25th June** – Junior Youth Theatre production of *Bugsy Malone*
- **8th/9th July** – LAMDA exam days
- **10th July** – End of Year Show
- **16th July** – End of Summer Term
- **1–6th August** – Summer School Production
- **5th Sept** – Autumn Term Starts

ACTION POINTS

1. Return exams forms in time to enter
2. Order any Phoenix uniform needed
3. Order *Billy* tickets
4. Book onto workshops/courses
5. Book in for singing catch-up days
6. Put all exam and show dates in diary