

York Shakespeare Project



“where there’s a will” or, “all the world’s a stage door”

Newsletter – September 2008

Merchant of Venice

Casting complete and rehearsals now into their second week...! Auditions saw the usual mix of old hands and new faces turning up to impress Cecily – thanks to everyone who got involved.

The cast is as follows:

Roger Took	Duke of Venice	Matt Pattison	Launcelot Gobbo
Pulak Sahay	Prince of Morocco	Richard Easterbrook	Old Gobbo
Paul Toy	Prince of Arragon	Neil Standish	Leonardo
Brian Sharp	Antonio	Mike Foster	Gaoler/Casket bearer
Robbie Swale	Bassanio		
David Hartshorne	Solanio	Grace Bird	Portia
Jon Hughes	Salerio	Alex Darlington	Nerissa
David Kendra	Gratiano	Katy Sharp	Jessica
Izaak Cainer	Lorenzo	tbc	Court Clerk
Ged Murray	Shylock	Carys Hartshorne	Crowd/servant
Jeremy Muldowney	Tubal	Mike Foster	Crowd/servant
Alan Flower	Stephano	Vicki Hill	Crowd/servant
Elaine Innes	Servingwoman	Julia Atkinson	Crowd/servant

Backstage we also have some new faces to YSP. Jeremy Muldowney has volunteered to have his arm twisted and takes on the role of Stage Manager, assisted by Adam Baldwin. Paul Shepherd and Rosalind Campbell will be helping out backstage. Costumes are being ‘stitched up’ by Harriet Boys and Vicki Hill, and Naomi Benjamin will be doing hair and make-up. Paul Toy is Musical Director with the help of Jon Hughes.

Personally I have very fond memories of the last time I was in Merchant of Venice (getting cosy with the Prince of Morocco in the prompt corner!) and am looking forward to seeing

this latest production. We will of course, be sending out details on tickets and publicity nearer the time.

Call for props

With only a fairly short rehearsal period before the run of Merchant in mid-November, we're already on the look out for props. If you can provide any of the following, please get in touch with Jeremy Muldowney on 01904 421588, j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com (or if you're at the AGM, speak to him there).

- Two pairs of vintage motoring goggles: ideally with bevelled lenses mounted in leather or vulcanized rubber. (Flying goggles from slightly later period eg WWI would do at a pinch!)
- Human skull - preferably real, but quality medical model would be okay.
- Small silver (or silver-plated ... preferably NOT chrome but EPNS okay) salver, suitable for deposition of calling card. (ie saucer-sized or slightly larger.)
- Victorian/Edwardian handcuffs (with key) MUST WORK reliably! Must be old "barrel lock" variety.
- Monocle or small mounted lens on chain/cord which would serve as such.
- Two parasols - ideally white, trimmed with purple and green. (Will consider any alternative!)
- Two white ostrich-feather fans.
- Cut-throat razor ... (Jeremy says "I KNOW I've got one somewhere but just can't lay my hands on it at the moment!")
- Pair of Vic/Edwardian specs: ideally wire-mounted "half-moons" but Lennon type "granny glasses" considered. Focal length immaterial, since Portia will hopefully know her lines by the time she needs them!

ANYTHING EDWARDIAN CONSIDERED: WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE IT!

Gone with the Wind?

Is there a wind-break-shaped hole in your life? Jeremy has been looking after a windbreak (grey, red, yellow) since the run of AYLI. If it's not claimed from his office in St William's College before the AGM it's going to the nearest charity shop! Also, the split-cane fencing is still available to anyone with a reasonable offer.

AGM – Final Reminder

Don't forget the most exciting event of the year! YSP's AGM will be held in the upstairs room at the Black Swan on the 16th September at 8pm. A new committee will be elected (or re-elected) and as there is the possibility that this may be my last newsletter to you as Membership Secretary, byeeeeee!