

## York Shakespeare Project Newsletter September 2007



### **Henry VI**

July now seems a terribly long time ago but Henry VI remains fresh in the memory. It was one of the most ambitious projects taken on by the project, producing three plays as one, in such an impressive venue, with fantastic performances all round and amazing props and costumes. The quality of the productions were reflected in great reviews. So many thanks go to so many people in putting

these tremendous performances on, and all can feel extremely proud of their contribution. Well done everybody!

### **AGM**

September is upon us now, which means that those serving on the committee will be resigning their positions, and elections will be taking place. The serving members, Ali, Raymond, John, Julia, Matt, Janet and Richard have worked desperately hard for the project and put in an awful lot of time and effort and we are very grateful for their contribution as well, and hope they remain involved with the project in the future.

The main positions on the committee are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and there is also the website, membership and minutes that will need to be looked after and it is also possible to be a member without portfolio. Elections will take place at the AGM which will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September at the Stables in Nunmill Street, off Bishopthorpe Road, where all members are welcome. If anyone wishes to stand for these positions they must be nominated by another member of the project either before or at the AGM. Anyone wanting further information can either contact Raymond Baggaley, Matt Simpson or Alistair Carr. It is vital that there are at least seven on the committee as, according to the constitution of the YSP that is the minimum number that must make up the committee, if there aren't seven the project will not be able to continue.

Matt Simpson has been the membership secretary for two years now, and to give an idea of what being on the committee involves he agreed to answer the following questions...

#### **1) What does being membership secretary involve?**

*Being membership secretary essentially involves keeping the Project's membership records up to date. Obviously this means adding new members and updating those who have renewed, as well as sending out reminders and other mailings as "keeper of*

*the contact list". It generally requires someone well-organised (so goodness knows why Ali thought I'd be a good candidate) but good with people.*

**2) Why did you decide to join the committee?**

*I ended up on the committee within a couple of weeks of discovering the project. I joined based on the website, went along to the AGM to find out more and was asked by someone - I forget who now - if I'd consider joining the committee as a Member Without Portfolio. Always happy to be of assistance, I agreed to accept a nomination and was duly elected.*

**3) How demanding is it being on the committee?**

*It's not as onerous as you might think. We generally meet once a month, discuss whatever matters have come up during the intervening time and so on. There may be odd jobs that come out of the meeting, and of course when there's a production looming it's all hands to the pump, but other than that it's fairly easy.*

**4) What advice would you give to people considering joining the committee?**

*Go for it. It's great having the opportunity to make decisions about the project, and in fact one of the first tasks for the new exec will be one of the most exciting parts - deciding what play to do next and where, interviewing directors, that kind of thing.*

**5) Is anything exciting looming up in the future for Mr and Mrs Simpson?**

*Yes, we've got our first baby due at the end of October, which is why I'll be stepping down from the committee at the AGM after 3 1/2 years on board.*

**MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

DVDs of last summer's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream are available. The two-disc set includes a full version of the play, plus a three-part documentary series on the auditions and rehearsals currently being broadcast on local TV station YorkA@54. Copies are available from Matt Simpson for £10, of which £1 will go to YSP.

**FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

As far as the newsletter is concerned they should be more regular from now. We'd prefer to distribute them via email as it's cheaper and better for the environment, but we'll continue to post it out to those who either don't have an email address, or those who would just prefer to receive it by post, just let us know! Also if anyone wishes to

contribute anything to the newsletter, erudite essays on the themes of nature in 'The Tempest' for example, please feel free to do so, email to [mr.alistair@talk21.com](mailto:mr.alistair@talk21.com).

There is no information about a future production at the moment, due to the change in the committee coming soon, the current incumbents felt it unfair to commit the incoming members to the difficult task of putting a show together in a short period of time. Hopefully in the next month or so we should be able to let you know the coming plans for the Project (of course, if you leap aboard the committee, you can take part in the decision making!) There will need to be a period of consolidation and fundraising, so if anyone has any fantastic ideas for money making schemes (preferably legal ones), do get in touch.

Next time, we should be able to introduce the new committee, and give an idea of what the next few months hold for the Project.

Pippity pip!

Alistair Carr