



Irving Stage Company Newsletter

October 2009 - Number 13

Secretary - Julie Merrick

Congratulations and Thank You to all those who helped and supported our latest production

The Murder of Suffolk girl Maria Marten in 1827 continues to capture public imagination. It's been the subject of many newspaper articles, plays and songs. It was the subject of a film in 1935. Many of the plays – including this one - continued to be popular throughout the 19th century. With songs from the time this play was probably one of many playing around East Anglia during the trial.

In this performance we see Maria Marten (Deborah Croll) encouraged to fall for the charms of William Corder (Chris Starkey) by the palm reading of the cunning gypsy, Nell Hatfield (Jacqueline Deane) wishing to avenge the death of her sister.

Chris Starkey is well cast as William Corder, depicted as a dastardly villain and seemingly revelling in the audience's dislike of him. A very professional and confident performance with a touch of humour delivered perfectly.

Nigel Turner played Thomas Marten, Maria's Father with a strong, clear voice which made him own the stage. Andrew Deane played Tim Bobbin, the village idiot, raising plenty of laughter from the audience. His scenes with Christian Jenner (Maria's Sister) were well timed and added plenty of comic relief from the sordid goings on. Jacqueline Deane as Nell Hatfield never missed her cue and had that witches cackle down to fine art when plotting Corder's demise.

Although there were a few minor hiccups which I'll put down to first night nerves, my only criticism would be that some of the scenes were a bit drawn out and I did start to lose interest at times. However this did not detract from my overall enjoyment of the production.

Kerry Burn - One Suffolk



IRVING STAGE COMPANY 50TH GALA NIGHT

The Athenaeum, Saturday 12th December 2009

Doors 7pm, Carriages 11pm.

Dress - Black Tie

Bar

To celebrate the closing of our 50th year the Irving Stage Company will be hosting a Gala evening at the Athenaeum in Bury St. Edmunds.

Proceeds from the evening will be divided equally between the *Irving Stage Company*, *St. Nicholas Hospice* and *CLiC* (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children). Ticket price includes finger buffet and entertainment.

We have received the generous gift of a grant from St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to recognise our 50 years, I do hope you can join us.

The entertainment will consist of *St. Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir*, with over 90 members the largest Male Voice Choir in Eastern England, members of the *Irving Stage Company* and, topping the bill, **OUT OF THE BLUE** the all-male singing sensation recently awarded 2nd in the world at the International Male ACappella Competition, USA.

Oxford's all male vocal group have achieved both national and international success with their signature blend of dazzling harmony and outrageously unprofessional choreography. With award-winning arrangements of songs by artists ranging from *The Beatles* and *Stevie Wonder* to *Outkast* and *Lady Gaga*, this is guaranteed fun for all ages and musical tastes.

"the best fun ever" - Three Weeks Magazine

"Go see them" - Broadway Baby

"If you don't enjoy them you're officially the curmudgeon of the millennium" - The Scotsman

Sell out Edinburgh Fringe Show - 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Tickets are priced at £18.50 per person and are available by contacting the committee or in person from Churchgate Books, Churchgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds (01284) 704604