



Welcome Pack

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WELCOME

By now you're thinking, "They are all a bunch of nutters!" "What have I got myself into?" "Will they see me sneaking out?" Well, probably YES to all three, but we are nice nutters and we all have one thing in common, the love of the stage. So welcome and a big hello, from all at Hilton Amateur Theatrical Society (more affectionately known as HATS).

Hilton Amateur Theatrical Society was formed in 1988 by Roma Walton and performed its first show, 'The Wizard of Oz' in 1989. Since then HATS has grown, moved home, and endeavored to produce better shows year on year. Currently we perform two shows a year, a pantomime, usually towards the end of January and a play, in late spring.

During the first ten years HATS performed their shows in the, now demolished, old Village Hall which stood on the corner of Peacroft Lane. It was a great venue, rather small, but generated a unique atmosphere and stays fond in the memories of those who trod its boards.

Then in 1998 HATS moved home, approximately 500 metres down the road, to Hilton's own 'Theatre Royal'. The new Village Hall has afforded HATS the chance to expand its cast, audiences and to produce more and more ambitious productions.

HATS hope to continue its success in the years to come and welcomes members young and old to join in the fun. We hope to stride forward, producing better productions and enhancing HATS' reputation every year.

THE COMMITTEE

HATS is run by a committee, elected every July at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Regular meetings are held throughout the year, where a number of matters are discussed including the direction of the group, ideas for shows, and matters arising.

If you would like to raise any issues, or would be interested in becoming involved at committee level, then speak to one of HATS committee members and they will be happy to help or give advice.

Current positions held by members are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Rachel Buxton
<i>Secretary</i>	Jean Cameron
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sue Harrison
<i>Social Secretary</i>	
<i>Ordinary Members</i>	David Bullimore
	Steve Russell
	Matthew Ufton
	Mike Sacker
	June Rigby
	Ben Dowell
	Rona Hamilton

OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

	Year	Winter Season (Pantomime)	Summer Season
1	1989	WIZARD OF OZ	
2	1990	CINDERELLA	THE GODMOTHER
3	1991	SINBAD THE SAILOR	KEEP CALM AND A CABARET
4	1992	JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MURDER
5	1993	ALADDIN	PLAY ON!
6	1994	DICK WHITTINGTON	CONTINENTAL QUILT
7	1995	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH!
8	1996	SNOW WHITE	GASPING
9	1997	FRANKENSTEIN THE PANTO	ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13¾
10	1998	ROBIN HOOD	STAGS AND HENS
11	1999	WIZARD OF OZ	CALIFORNIA SUITE
12	2000	PETER PAN	BLITHE SPIRIT
13	2001	ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES	ABIGAIL'S PARTY
14	2002	SLEEPING BEAUTY	GYM AND TONIC
15	2003	MOTHER GOOSE	TIME OF MY LIFE
16	2004	CINDERELLA	MORT
17	2005	ROBINSON CRUSOE	IT'LL BE ALL WRONG ON THE NIGHT
18	2006	SNOW WHITE	A SHOW TO DIE FOR
19	2007	ALADDIN	SUMMER REVUE
20	2008	DICK WHITTINGTON	LONDON SUITE

A TYPICAL HATS YEAR

Currently HATS produce two shows a year. A typical year's cycle of major events are listed below:

Winter Season (Pantomime)

<i>Early September</i>	Pantomime Auditions for Major Roles
<i>Mid September</i>	Pantomime Auditions for Chorus/ Minor Roles
<i>Early January</i>	Panic!
<i>Late January</i>	It's Panto Time
<i>February</i>	Recovery after Pantomime, approximately 3 weeks' break

Summer Season

<i>Late February</i>	Auditions for the Summer Production. Typically for adult members
<i>May</i>	Panic!
<i>June</i>	It's Play Time...eek
<i>Early July</i>	HATS Annual General Meeting, open to all involved in the society and members of the general public.
<i>June – September</i>	Summer Recess

AUDITIONS

Dependent on the Director, auditions will involve a casting committee of 3 impartial Panelists. Parts will be cast as objectively as possible, but unfortunately not everyone can get the part they want.

At the audition you will be asked to perform a short exert from the play/pantomime, have a short informal interview and show off your singing skills as the part dictates. Generally the audition will be performed only to the casting committee and behind sound-proofed closed doors!

Usually a decision on the casting is made on the day.

Remember - There are no small parts, only little actors.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held at Hilton Village Hall on Sundays from 4-7pm. Occasional line learning rehearsals are arranged ad hoc for the summer production.

Technical rehearsals are typically held the Sunday prior to the performance week. These will be longer in duration usually starting around 10am until 7pm.

Dress Rehearsal: Normally a Thursday, the day before opening night, you will usually be required to attend between 6pm and 10pm

Refreshments are available at all rehearsals a small fee of 25p is charged to cover costs.

IT'S SHOW TIME

Pantomime

More recently the Pantomime has been held over 2 weekends. Performances are Friday nights, Saturday matinees and Saturday evenings.

Evening performances start at 7.30 and the matinees at 2.30. You will be asked to arrive at 6pm and 1pm respectively. Generally the performances will be completed around 10pm but this is obviously dependent on the length of the play.

Summer Production

Two performances held on a Friday and Saturday evening. Again curtains-up at 7.30pm. You will be required to arrive at the Village Hall at approximately 6pm.

Subscriptions

Subscription charges are set annually at the Society's AGM. Subscriptions are paid **per production** – See below for current costs.

In addition there is a one-off joining fee for ALL adults; this is to cover administration costs for a Criminal Records search (a disclosure application form).

This is essential for adults working with children.

All costs are payable within the first month of starting rehearsals. If you need to spread the payment over a longer period special arrangements can be made with the Society's Treasurer.

	PER SHOW	Or PER YEAR
Adults	£20.00	£35.00
Concessions & Under 14's	£15.00	£30.00
ONE OFF JOINING FEE	For CRB Check	£7.50

* *Concs = Students and OAPS*

BEHIND THE SCENES

If you do not fancy treading the boards then get involved in the production side of things! A huge amount of work is done and needed behind the scenes.

Here is a list of some of the activities and jobs which need doing to make a HATS performance successful:

Stage Manager	Set Design
Set Construction	Scenery painting
Costume Design	Costumes
Properties	Special effects
Lighting Design	Lighting Control
Sound Design	Sound Control
Visual Effects	Prompt
Stage Hand	Curtain
Front of House	Publicity
Ticket Management	Programme Design
Catering	

We also require help just around the performance dates. Examples of which are, helping serve refreshments and looking after some of the younger chorus members. If you think you fit the bill let one of the committee know. Your help will be much appreciated.

SOCIALISING

Throughout the year our Social Secretary, Rachel Buxton, organizes social events. At Christmas we attend a meal and disco for some dancing (yippee), we have had weekends away in Wales (different postcode), been 10-pin bowling, been to the Theatre, the Cinema and even dabbled at Karaoke (what a surprise!).

As a group we have also participated in community events such as:

- 1) The Christmas and Summer fayres normally with face painting
- 2) The Hilton Street party, running a stall or joining in with the team challenges, (the Pantomime Derby being most memorable!!)

On a more informal level we attend the local hostelry after rehearsals for a bevy or two, where we unwind and cogitate over the day's rehearsal.

We also tend to go for a curry after performances and then on the last night we go for a party at someone's house – a great laugh.

OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website to keep up to date, see photographs and reviews of past productions

www.hilton-hats.co.uk