

# Derby Opera Company



## NEWS LETTER



### From the Chairman

#### In case y'all hadn't heard -

Derby Opera Company is all set to stage 'The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas' at the Guildhall Theatre in May; a lively, satirical comedy musical based on the true story of a legendary Texas brothel known as the Chicken Ranch. Read more about it over the page.

And with a fantastic production team, the show has all the makings of something special - Director/Musical Director, Andrew Nicklin; Production Assistant, Pandy Toy; Choreography, Fiona Carratu and back stage, Ken & Karen Owen and John & Jane Deverill. It can't get much better than this folks!

The show will run from Tuesday, 12th to Saturday 16th May (mat. & evng.).

We would like to get things moving as soon as possible in the new-year and a launch evening has been arranged for Tuesday, 20th January, at Shakespeare House (93 Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1FR) starting at 7.30. Auditions will be held soon after, possibly early February. There are some great parts for the guys, but it's a chance for the girls particularly to steal the limelight (not that there's any suggestion of anyone being type cast of course!). We're obviously hoping for a packed event, so put the date in your diaries and let's make sure we get the year off to a really good start. I look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, I wish you all a fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year.

Paul Kirkland

### Member's News



Our Best Wishes to Anna Church who will be getting married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December.

Congratulations to Steve Dunning on receiving his NODA award for 40 years membership, which was presented by our President, Colin Harrison at this year's Annual Dinner.

## Concerts

Anyone wishing to sing and take part to in our fundraising concerts, contact Sharon on 07939 126456 or [cooperj15@sky.com](mailto:cooperj15@sky.com). Please encourage all to come along and join us to help raise more funds for Derby Opera Company.

In particular, please keep free March 6th and April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 for forthcoming concerts.

## Acting and Non Acting Annual Membership Fees

Subscriptions are due every year on the **1<sup>st</sup> April**. Annual membership fees should be paid irrespective of whether the individual is performing or not. Primarily this is necessary in order to record continuous membership for NODA awards, but is also to protect stalwart members from feeling at a disadvantage by following the rules, when they can see others 'dipping in and out' of the group as and when there is something that interests them.

Some of you will say 'It's not intentional, I just forget about membership fees'.... At last years AGM it was suggested that we set up a system of payment by **Standing Order** through the bank, which simply requires you send a pro-forma instruction to your bank to pay your annual subscription on the same day every year, without you having to worry about it! How good is that? We may try this in April 2009.

Non-acting membership is currently £15, if you participate in community concerts it is £25 and if you perform in the main show it is £40. **Please** do the right thing by your Company and **catch up** by sending your cheque for membership fees to the Treasurer at 6, St Michael's Close, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0QR. Our thanks to all those that are paid up to date (2008/9 season)!

## Brief history - 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'.

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas is based on fact. The Chicken Ranch (so named because during the depression customers were allowed to pay with poultry) was founded in a little town in Texas around 1850. It was forced to close down in the 1970s by a Christian Rights television reporter, who directed his TV attack on the Governor, who in turn called in the local Sheriff. He placed the call that quietly ended the Chicken Ranch's 58-year history. The musical is a grand satire, making fun of Texas, "say nothing" politicians, hypocrites and the media in general.

The musical opened at the 46th Street Theatre in 1978 with Carlin Glynn as Miss Mona, Henderson Forsythe as Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd and an amazing dancing and singing chorus under the direction of Tommy Tune. It took New York by storm and ran 1584 performances. It was revived in 1982 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre and that same year, the film version opened with Dolly Parton taking the role of Miss Mona, the 'madam' of the whorehouse.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS !

Contact Matt on [mattclay84@hotmail.com](mailto:mattclay84@hotmail.com) with any items you would like to see in the newsletter.

Issue 161208