

PRODUCTIONS

Each year there are two main productions, usually in April/May and October/November and a pantomime in alternate years during January. These normally take place in the West Horsley Village Hall but we do undertake occasional performances at the Electric Theatre in Guildford of more spectacular productions. Auditions are open to all members and casting is decided by the Director with the help of a casting panel of two or three other members not reading for a part.

A **Producer** deals with all administration matters and liaises with the Publicity Officer, Box Office, Front of House, Treasurer and Secretary as appropriate and provides the cast with information on rehearsals and other related matters.

The **Director** works closely with the Set Designer who organises the construction and scenery crew. Working parties are arranged for construction and painting at the Coach House where we store scenery and costumes.

Rehearsals are normally held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays either at West Horsley Village Hall, The Canterbury Rooms to the rear of St., Martins Church East Horsley or The Wheelhouse in West Horsley. The King William IV pub ("The Billy") is often used as our 'refreshment' halt after rehearsals or work on a set.

On the evening of the Friday before production week, scenery, props, etc. are moved down The Street from the Coach House to the Village Hall and from then until Sunday afternoon set-building is in progress.

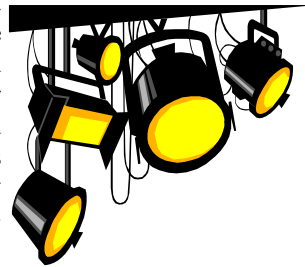
Dress Rehearsal is on Monday evening and on Tuesday the adult shows give a free performance to an audience of Senior Citizens, some of whom need transport, which members provide. First nights are on Wednesday, usually in aid of a **local** charity proposed by the Director, to which a proportion of the ticket price is donated along with the proceeds of a special 'Charity Night' raffle. The audience enjoys a complimentary glass of wine before the performance and this usually gets the run off to a good start.



Following the last night performance there is an after-show party and friends, family and others from the audience are very welcome. The members involved with the show provide food and drink and a **short** rounding-off speech from the Director is not unusual in bringing the evening to a close.

The traditional pantomime runs over two weeks with performances on Thursday, Friday and two (including a matinee in the afternoon) on the Saturday of each week.

On the Sunday after the end of the run everyone available is asked to help dismantle the set and return the scenery to the Coach House, return props and costumes and to generally clear and tidy the hall. Strangely, and purely co-incidentally, this is usually completed by midday opening time and so a final refreshment break inevitably takes place at "The Billy".



The Young Whips (teenagers) have a production every other year (non-panto years) in January/February, following the same pattern as The Whippets.

The Whippets (ages 7 – 12) have an annual production in March. The Whips provide the technical support and the production week follows a similar pattern to Whips shows, except that the Senior Citizens Night is held on Wednesday. The main performances follow on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, and may include a Saturday matinee.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTIONS

Productions are sometimes organised at other locations, notably at the ELECTRIC THEATRE, Guildford, Pateley Bridge in Yorkshire, St. Helier in Jersey, and Newcastle Emlyn in Wales with reciprocal visits from our counterparts.

Drama Festivals are often entered by the Whips and Young Whips, usually at Guildford, Woking or other local venues. Special productions are also arranged from time to time, particularly in non-panto years. We have presented *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in members' gardens and *Murder in the Cathedral* at St. Mary's Parish Church, West Horsley.

In recent years we have appeared in lavish costume productions for The National Trust at Polesden Lacey, such as a *Son et Lumiere* illustrating the history of the house and several *Greville Days*, where members of the Society have recreated episodes from the life of the house and its society hostess Margaret Greville, including house parties from the early 20th century.

PLAY-READINGS

These are informal, unrehearsed readings where everyone gets a chance to read a part and directors are able to trial potential future productions. These are usually held in members' homes. Friends and potential new members are very welcome as these evenings are generally for fun where we can try new characterisations, accents and voices in an easygoing and non-critical atmosphere.

WHAT ELSE?

Regular events include:

- the **JUMBLE SALE**, a major money-raising date in the annual calendar held in early September;
- the **CHRISTMAS PARTY**, held in December or late November;
- a **SUMMER BARBECUE LUNCH**, a family affair, in September and usually the Sunday following the Jumble Sale.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS are also organised such as theatre trips, bowling, skittles, charity fund-raising such as quiz and casino nights, readings for charities and outings to shows staged by other local drama groups.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Stage Whispers – our own newsletter – is posted approximately monthly to all Members and Friends. News from the Committee is included and the Editor is always happy to receive independent reviews of productions and reports on past events, together with news of past Members and any other items of general interest.

See also our website at www.thewhyps.org.uk for audition dates and a full diary.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership Categories

Individual/Family Members: who actively participate in Whips productions – on or off stage.

Friends of The Whips: who support but do not take an active part in Whips productions.

Young Whips & Whippets, who pay a separate subscription for each production in which they participate.

All Members & Friends receive copies of our regular newsletter – *Stage Whispers*, keeping them informed as to the activities of THE WHIPS, YOUNG WHIPS & WHIPPETS.

The subscription year ends on 31st March. New members joining after 1st January pay their next subscription on 1st April the **following year**.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Individual Membership: **£15**, Family Membership: **£20**, Friends: **£7.50** & Student rate: **£7.50**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please send me an application form to join **The Whips**

NAME _____

ADDRESS

POST CODE _____

TEL. No _____

EMAIL _____

Please send this form to Hon Membership Secretary;
**June Bailey, Foxcombe, Nightingale Road,
East Horsley, KT24 5EW or
email: membership@thewhips.org.uk**

RECENT PRODUCTIONS

The Whips	
Tons of Money	May 2007 (Tour Production)
Summertime	Nov 2006 Electric Theatre
Key for Two	May 2006
Family Circles	October 2005
The Winslow Boy	April 2005 Electric Theatre
Theft	October 2004
Rumours	May 2004 (Tour Production)
Dad's Army on Stage	October 2003

Young Whips	
The Boyfriend	February 2006
Hard to Swallow (Festival)	October 2002/March 2003
Alice in Wonderland	June 2002
Jane Eyre	March 2000

Whippets	
Skool and Crossbones	March 2007
Funfair	March 2006
Honk	March 2005
Angel	March 2004

Pantomimes	
Aladdin	January 2007
Santa's Viking Saga	January 2005
Goody Two Shoes	January 2003
Sinbad the Sailor	January 2001

THE WHIPS

WEST HORSLEY INDEPENDENT PLAYERS

www.thewhips.org.uk Registered Charity No. 299657

Welcome to **The WHIPS**, Horsley's local
AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY



Formed in 1948, The Whips is one of Horsley's liveliest organisations, keeping theatre tradition alive in the village. We are proud of our reputation for staging entertaining and technically ambitious productions. In the last few years we have performed French farce, classic whodunit, musical and pantomime. All ages are represented amongst our membership of over 100.

The Whips support both local and national charities with the proceeds of the special Charity Nights held at each of our shows.

Committee members are elected for one year at the spring AGM. The committee has final overall responsibility for the programme, administration and budgeting, appointment of production directors, and, in consultation with them, the selection of plays and the production team.

President: Mr Bill Pertwee

Patron: Her Grace Mary,
Duchess of Roxburghe