

Spring 2008 - 'Treasure Island'

The curtain has now descended on our spring show 2008, 'Treasure Island', and judging by the audience reaction another production has been added to our roll-call of success. They laughed at all the jokes, applauded warmly in all the right places and generally had an excellent evening's entertainment. The cast just about managed to survive the rigours of the Saturday matinee before emerging triumphant in the final chorus.

This modern interpretation of the famous literary work is full of rollicking songs and a cast of salt-encrusted sea-farers who gave us a show that had something for everyone. The author, Stephen Kingsbury, says "Treasure Island is an attempt to retell the well-known, classic tale with appealing songs and a few twists to the original characters and events. I have tried to capture the exhilarating mood of the book whilst adding a few irreverent touches here and there". We think he succeeded! A light hearted and, in places, energetic show with plenty of opportunity for dance and movement was thoroughly enjoyed by cast and audience alike.

We got off to a flying start last November when the Preview Evening introduced us to the show, the music and the characters. The auditions for principal parts in December then left the panel with the perennial problem of deciding between excellent characterisations but in the end a cast was pencilled in which had some interesting departures from the original script - you might note one or two gender reversals in the list of characters below!

Long John Silver - Philip Allum

Jim Hawkins -Lauren Cropley

Squire Trelawney - Sorrel Adams

Doctor Livesey -Jody Harris

Mr Arrow -Kate Jackson

Ben Gunn - Daniel Rose

Black Dog - Derek Monument

Big Jesse - Mike Catling

Polly Parrot - Megan Gallagher

Billy Bones - Steve Holmes

Blind Pew - Peter Martin

This excellent mix of youth and experience was joined by a chorus of pirates, phantoms and island maidens to complete a really promising line-up.

Rehearsals started in earnest in January with Musical Director Chris Steed doing music "note-bashing" for a few weeks. Stage Director Trevor Thurston then got into the act in early February to show us how to weigh an anchor (a pair of scales is not required!) and splice a mainbrace (without any glue!) while searching out treasure on the high seas. A couple of full run-throughs confirmed what we all knew (there was quite a bit of work to be done) but then it was all hands on deck for the technical rehearsal, the dress rehearsal and the final run to the line.