

Spring 2009 - 'Return To The Forbidden Planet'

Winner of NODA Eastern Region Award for Technical Achievement 2009

Goodness, Gracious - Great Balls of Fire!! The Starship Albatross has completed its final mission, leaving a trail of madly cheering audiences in its wake. On Opening Night we began our blast-off into the unknown, to boldly go where no WLOG member has gone before! The driving rock soundtrack then lifted our crew to even greater heights as they gave us such classics as "Born to Be Wild", "Shake, Rattle & Roll", "Good Vibrations" and "Teenager In Love" before hitting the heights with a finale the like of which Beccles ain't seen before!! The tumultuous applause on the last night just had to be experienced to be believed, putting the final seal of approval on this record-breaking production - our most successful spring show ever!

In case you were wondering, we were again delving into the cult archive so successfully trawled with 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Disco Inferno', to present Shakespeare's forgotten rock opera 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. Loosely based on 'The Tempest', this show took us into the deep reaches of outer space where fearsome monsters seem to have a strange delight in the rock'n'roll classics of the 50's and 60's! A fine crew of principal players did their best to lead us into uncharted territory though, so it all works out in the end! Those attempting to take command were as follows:-

Doctor Prospero -	Philip Allum	Miranda -	Kate Jackson
Science Officer (Gloria) -	Anna Fisher	Ariel -	Jenni Newman
Captain Tempest -	Ian Cook	Cookie -	Daniel Rose
Navigation Officer -	Helen Steed	Bosun Arras -	Anne Burlington

We were also delighted to secure the services of Stewart White, the well-known "front-man" of BBC Look East and also something of a local celebrity, to take the part of The Announcer. Though present only on the video screen, his involvement was something of a coup for the Society.

The plaudits the show received came from every quarter - audience, invited guests, letters to the press. Nice to know that, just for once, you can please all of the people all of the time! To attempt to summarise would not give the true picture so click here to "read all about it".

Stage Director John Cushing and Musical Director Chris Steed of course fully deserve all the congratulations coming their way but a very significant part of the success of the show was down to Stage Manager Terry Dentith and his excellent crew of video, audio and lighting technicians. The stage set was the most complex we have ever built and worked superbly well for the entire run. The band seemed to have just as much fun as the cast as they jammed their way through the never-ending selection of "golden oldies", and our makeup team, refreshment providers and Front of

House helpers were again all highly effective in contributing to the smooth running of the week and are thus also to be congratulated.

After almost every show we always say "that was the best yet!" but in the case of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' there's only one thing to be said - "that was the best yet!!"