



# RAVING MAD NO 26

*"A day without laughter is a day wasted"*

A bright great and healthy New Year to you all - being that cold time again I have just realised the last seasonal issue of a MAD Newsletter was in 2010, when the mood was hot and saucy because at that time that there were Saucy Alien Reprobates and Space Misfits from the debauched distant planet of Frottage 3 everywhere. It was a MAD time and everything was dripping with sleaze but this time as the world didn't end in December, you will be pleased to know we are returning to a more traditional seasonal Pantomime in the form of The Wizard of OZ, by John Morley.

Looking back over the last decade MAD have produced some great pantos; our last being 'Hercules the Panto' in 2007, when NODA gave us an award for producing one of the best pantomimes in the south east area for that year. I also must mention one of my favourites, being 'The Christmas Cavalier' by Richard Lloyd and directed by Marion Lavender. An interesting fact here is that one of the actors in 'Wiz' made their debut with MAD in that one, leave it to you to guess who - it was not me.

Another not so well known fact is that 'Smut's Saga' or 'Santa and the Vikings' by the same writer, has on so many occasions been put forward for MAD to do at Christmas but has always 'fallen at the last hurdle'. A Christmas saga with the likes of Helgar Forkbeard, a hideous witch, Eric Big Axe, Thor Smallsword, Filafax, Radish a beautiful Viking slave girl and Dame Dustbin, all coming together on a journey in the frozen waste, aboard a giant Viking long ship must have potential for the future. Anyway don't forget your tickets for Wiz details on the poster elsewhere on this Newsletter and Please! Please! Don't think we are just producing this for children. It is a very funny production, for adults as well. We do need full houses every night and for the one matinee, which we hope this time will be supported.

Tony Gibbs (Chairman)

## **Wizard of OZ**

I must now just take a little of your time to promote 'The Wizard of Oz'. As I mentioned before, a return to panto for MAD after several years. This one is going to be just that little bit special and a great evening of fun for all ages to enjoy. For those of you unaware, Paramount, who holds the rights to the music and film keep a tight rein on what you can or can't do without giving them loads of money.



As they can't stop a panto using the basic story line we have chosen a great one, true to the original, by the master of pantomime writing, John Morley. We have added songs you will know, plus two or three original ones written especially for the show by our very own Jim Harvey & Paul Boswell. Harv & Bos's masterpiece 'Somewhere' and 'Down the Yellow Brick', is going to astound our patrons. Complete the package with typical MAD comedy and energy and you have so many reasons to see our Pantomime offering this year. You will not be disappointed I can assure you, so go out and get your tickets now.



## Thoughts for today or any day

"The illiterate of the 21 century will not be those who cannot read and write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn" Alvin Toffler.

Just take some time to stand and stare.

## Music Hall

Just a quick mention of our Music Hall, like the first one it was great fun to do and another winner from the reaction received by you all. So my thanks go out to all those involved and just a pic now of that mischievous leprechaun who was so original and certainly tickled a few people during the week.

## Christmas Season Past

Roller-skating which had been introduced from America in the early 1870s reached the height of its popularity in Britain between 1906 and 1912. Nothing changes, as the slogan around that time was "Don't go drinking when you're rinking"

In London the big Theatre hits around this time was J.M. Barrie's 'Peter Pan' and 'Charley's Aunt' by Brandon Thomas had been packing them in since 1892.

By 1905 Father Christmas could be telephoned and as result 'Hullo' or 'Hello' was adopted as the official telephone response, bringing the term into widespread use.

In the 1890s the most famous Christmas crackers around were Batger BonBons, "never heard of them", I hear you say.

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## Hot of the Press

Garry will be directing a rather haunting comedy called "Tomb with a View" by Norman Robbins, for our May production, so if interested contact him on

07779 078287 [garryf1505sky.com](mailto:garryf1505sky.com)

Adams family eat your heart out!

## Date for your Diaries

'The Wizard of Oz' Panto - 18th to 26th January 2013  
Read through 'Tomb with a View' Thursday 31st January 2013  
Auditions 'Tomb with a View' Tuesday 5th February 2013

## 'Tomb with a View'

(Over 2 weekends)

16th to 18th May 2013 & 24th to 25th May 2013