



Os Algarvios  
Teatro Experimental



The Algarveans  
Experimental Theatre

# MAY 2010 SPOTLIGHT

## IT'S BEHIND YOU!!

Usually when we get to this stage, the last week, of rehearsals – all fun has gone out of actors and directors alike. The lines sound stale. Nervousness is in the air, even perhaps a bit of despondency. 'Allo, 'Allo, however is a different kettle of fish. There are still chuckles of appreciation at jokes that have been heard a dozen times before. Then an actor comes up with a new bit of business that is greeted with guffaws from all those watching. In the warehouse the sets are set up much as they appear on stage, and we can appreciate the clever design and the skilled construction and painting. The last of the costumes are just about finished after altering Chinese made German uniforms to fit someone who is not playing the Hunchback of Notre dame. And those elusive props, such as the Katari death pipe, are finally clutched in the actor's hands. It is good to be involved in a production that has a hum to it – and a feeling that we have a success just round the corner. This is boosted by the bookings figures – we are just about full for the last night and the other nights too are starting to take off. Now we just have to pull the show off! David Butler-Cole

Lagoa Auditorium. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm sharp. Tickets 96 9631329 or 91 7775245 and [algarveantickets@hotmail.com](mailto:algarveantickets@hotmail.com)

Os Algarvios Teatro Experimental Present The Algarveans Experimental Theatre

## LAGOA AUDITORIUM

Tickets  
Adults €10  
Children €5  
Bookings  
969 631 329  
917 776 245  
[algarveantickets@hotmail.com](mailto:algarveantickets@hotmail.com)

Directed by David Butler-Cole  
from the TV Series created by  
David Croft & Jeremy Lloyd

**EVERY EVENING AT 8 P.M.**  
**WEDS 12<sup>TH</sup> TO FRI 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**OF MAY 2010**

# Algarvean Annual General Meeting 25 April 2010



**ALISON'S AGM NOTES.** It has been a busy year again for the group in terms of productions, which is good news when you consider that we have not always been able to put on our traditional 3 shows each year. We started with 'Glorious', which was quite different from anything which had gone before! It was brave of Jenny to offer to direct it, and that it was such a success must partly be credited to Sian in the leading role - I honestly can't think of anyone else in the group who could have brought the experience and stage presence necessary to the role - not to mention the voice! Such a production certainly lived up to the 'experimental' part of our name, and its success was a great credit to all involved.

Our next show, 'Daisy pulls it Off', was again experimental in a number of ways, mainly because of the young cast, many of whom had not been involved with the group before. Chris Winstanley directed, and again the show was a great success, both in the quality of the production, and in terms of the numbers in the audience. We all know Chris put a lot of work into publicity, and while the sale of tickets was partly due to the friends and family of the cast being so supportive, I really felt that it showed that there is a larger audience-base out there if only we can tap into it.



The panto was of course 'A Boy and Some Beans', directed by Lloyd, and starring a number of the usual suspects, as well as others not so well-known to the audience. Although the title and storyline were a little less than traditional, the way in which the partnerships within the show were developed, and the script itself, were very much traditional pantomime. Again, it was a very well-received show, with all the positive press reaction we could have hoped for.

Looking ahead, we are almost at the next show, 'Allo, 'Allo, which I hope will produce the audience numbers I am sure it will deserve. David has chosen a stage production of a very well-known and popular show, which we are all confident will be produced with all the flair and comic timing needed to be a great winner - we just hope to have the odd errant cast-member back in time after the ash disruption to flights! Jenny has been writing some marvellous publicity, and we hope to benefit from that in terms of interest and ticket sales. May I offer my thanks and appreciation to all who have been involved, or are involved, in our productions.



We all know how much work is needed from so many different people to bring any show to the stage, and although I hope that everybody who gets involved does it because they enjoy it, the whole process is very time-consuming and demanding. To make the back and front stage crew feel more a part of the team we now have t-shirts available for all the crew from the stage manager. Plus we have provided the walkie talkies

needed for the back stage to communicate with the front. We also have purchased a computer printer to produce tickets and posters which in the long term will save us money. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members, who have done sterling work this last year. Margaret does perhaps the most necessary job in legal terms, and keeps us up-to-date with our finances. Sue has done a great job as Secretary, and brought all her experience as a Committee member to bear. Lloyd has not only been on the Committee, but given up a lot more of time to the productions he has been so involved in. The same is true of Des of course - on the Committee for the first time - and he has also found (or made!) the time to produce Spotlight, in a colourful and interesting new format - that is definitely a job you won't get out of easily, Des!



Nikki has worked very hard at a job which holds a number of disappointments, as we can see from the number here today. It is really difficult to captivate the interest of people who have so many other distractions as on offer nowadays, but I really appreciate all your efforts and support, Nikki. In between all the effort you have put in as a Committee member, you have also done choreography, and been everywhere - even doing a great job as a one-woman cow!



Last, but by no means least, Sian. I wonder if there is anything left I could say about Sian that hasn't already been said before! She has put a huge amount of effort into the group as well as the Committee, and I'm sure that will continue. For all her input and support as a Committee member, thank you very much - and reluctantly, I'll accept that you are perhaps due a break!

As you will see from the accounts we still have about 1200 euros to go to a good cause. Your Committee would welcome suggestions as to where or what this should go to, preferable something tangible rather than just a donation. I am looking forward to another year of success for us all, and although some hard work is always necessary in all areas of putting on productions as well as in raising interest in the group, let's remember that it is something we do for enjoyment. We always want to get more people involved, so let's make sure we're having fun in the first place! Alison.

**Explanation by Sian.** Every year we award the Algarvean's Achievement Award, initially set up in the names of Ron Flower and John Luckman, who did so much to help the Algarvean's in their early days. As the years go by, sadly, we loose more of our members. Jean Luckman, Noel Howes, Gerry Lane, Joan Biggs are also, now sadly, on the list. The award is presented in memory of these folk, who did so much to make us what we are, and to express out thanks to our contemporary members who have made exceptional sacrifices for the benefit of the group. Previous winners have been (and I'm not sure I remember them all!), Jean Luckman, Wendy Nazar, Lloyd and Trish, Jenny and Gordon, myself, Sue Bickerdike and this year, quite deservedly, Nikki!



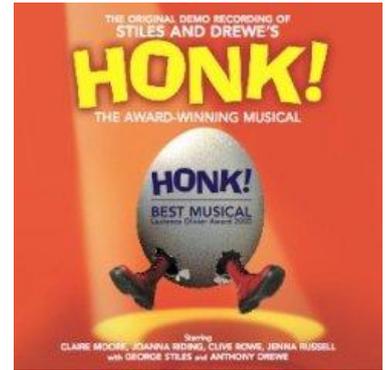
**A Word from the Chair** I hope that you are all ready to pack up your troubles in your old kit bags, and join us in war-torn France!! Ticket sales for "Allo, 'Allo" look as though they will be phenomenal, which perhaps shows both how much people need cheering up and what a good choice of show David made. Do enjoy it! We have, as a group, made a donation through the Royal British Legion, to buy a hospital bed and equipment to help a lady of 90 who is totally dependent and needed the help in order to move to her daughter's home. I have had a lovely 'Thank you' card from her, for the 'wonderful generosity' of the group for providing equipment that 'is making such a difference to my life'. I am sure you will all agree that it makes our efforts even more worthwhile when we can help someone so obviously in need and so obviously appreciative. May I take this opportunity to say a public 'Welcome' to the Committee to Pat Sandford and Mel Winstanley. It is very encouraging that we have enough interest from members to keep the Committee fully- staffed, and I'm sure they will add a lot to the running of the group. We are looking forward to another great year - watch this space for details of productions!

**Graham and Maggie Cooper, who have done so much in the form of entertainment and fund raising for various charities in the Algarve, are in our thoughts at this difficult time. Get well soon Graham!!**



## Honk! The Musical March 2011 Production Launch

The Algarveans committee has decided to break with tradition this year with our Spring show and is excited to announce our production of Honk! The Musical by Stiles and Drew, the production is planned for Mid March 2011. The show is being directed by Chris Winstanley, who produced our very successful production of "Daisy Pulls It Off" in October 2009. Chris has already approached some of the production team who assisted him with "Daisy" and to his surprise they have said yes to Honk! This musical follows the Hans Christian Andersen story of the Ugly Duckling. But the script and music makes this a fairy tale for all ages as many adult themes are explored and all the farmyard animals are played in a human style and there will not be a feather in sight. Let's tell you a bit about the history of the show, HONK's big break came in 1999 when Sir Trevor Nunn invited Julia Mackenzie to direct the show on the Olivier stage at the Royal National Theatre. The show was expanded and, to everyone's amazement, in February 2000 HONK! won the Olivier award for Best Musical beating both The Lion King and Mamma-mia. Since then the show has been seen in over 4000 different productions around the world, winning many awards along the way. Our production will be a premiere for Portugal. This production is going to be our biggest for a while and we hope as many people as possible will get involved off and on stage. The great thing about this show is that there are many parts and we are planning to make the rehearsals workshop based which always prove to be great, full of fun and laughter. In the next few days Chris will be writing a separate invite to everyone to get involved in the first amateur musical on the Algarve this decade and give dates for workshops pre summer to introduce us all to Honk! With rehearsals starting proper at the beginning of September. Tell your friends and family to come along too.



## FOUR GREAT NIGHTS IN CENTRAL LONDON



There were some positives to be had from the Icelandic Ash Cloud which closed European air space for 6 days the week before last. Barbara and I were stranded in central London with nothing to do except to make the best of it and see as many shows as possible. However, this had an adverse effect on my wallet which I do not think Easy-jet will compensate me for. We started with "Jersey Boys" which was fabulous for us oldies, didn't realize how many songs they were responsible for. The whole thing was slick, entertaining and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Next one up was "Mamma Mia"; I have to say for me it did not live up to expectations, nowhere near as good as "Jersey Boys" and I thought the cast were a bit weak. Then we hot footed it over to the Victoria Apollo to see "Wicked", now this was spectacular with fantastic music and special effects and is great for kids, but not too young; some frightening and noisy bits, even for an old salt like me. Finally, we visited the New London Theatre in Drury Lane to see "Warhorse". I must say I went to see this with a certain amount of scepticism but it was recommended by a friend. The story is set in the West Country and then France at the outbreak of World War One. Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the cavalry by Albert's father and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary odyssey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. But Albert cannot forget Joey and, still not old enough to enlist, he embarks on a treacherous mission to the trenches to find him and bring him home. Actors, working with astonishing, life-sized puppets, lead us on this emotionally charged journey through history. Fantastically done with wonderful music, yet humorous and with spectacular special effects. The horses are unbelievably realistic and at one point there is a WW1 Battle tank on stage. If you are in London and want a treat, this is a must and I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. Des the Ed.

**AND FINALLY** I make no excuses for including the "Allo, Allo!" poster on the front page of Spotlight two months in a row. David is doing a fantastic job directing this classic and I think we have a real winner here. I may have a slight bias towards this performance in that I am in it; but the rehearsals have been such fun and I don't want anyone to miss it. Are you involved with another group that would benefit in receiving this Spotlight newsletter? If so, feel free to post it at your website or circulate via your email list. The more people we can get the message to and bring to our live shows the better. Forward it to your friends and neighbours. Please don't forget your letters to the editor, just send your input via email [Desbabs@hotmail.com](mailto:Desbabs@hotmail.com) alternatively, you could write to me; Des Briggs BEM, Apt 1123 Carvoeiro, Lagoa 8401-910. If it is easier, ring me at 282 084438. Do you want to advertise another group or organisation then send input to me, at the above address. Maybe you have something for sale, a joke or cartoon, an article, a photograph or information on forthcoming shows or just information of a general interest. "Ta-ra" everybody, see you next month. Des the Ed.