



# Pirate Productions

**NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008**

*Twenty-six years ago this month, having been made redundant from what had seemed a safe job with ICL, I thought I'd visit my friends in Luxembourg. I didn't know at the time that my next job would actually be in this country, so I took advantage of the unscheduled break from work to come over and assist in some way in the production of "Cinderella". Behind the scenes, I thought, not knowing of the existence of the all-powerful Backstage Union (motto: Semper Erectus).*

*However, when I arrived the conversation went something like this:*

*Me: Hi, folks, how are y.....*

*Pirates: Oh, hullo Alan, nice to see you, we've just lost an Ugly Sister, here's the script, get learning.*

*And so began my third involvement with a Pirates show, still without actually living in the country. Directed by Peter Carr-North, "Cinderella" was notable for the enthusiasm shown by the performers, and the generally high standard of the music. No pre-recorded music or backing tracks, and the chorus, if memory serves, singing in glorious four-part harmony. Only to be expected, of course, when the one and only Jim Larkin was at the (musical) helm. Several memories have stuck, like dried pasta to a saucepan: the dress rehearsal being abandoned at 12.30 a.m., two-thirds of the way through Act II, which made the first night very interesting; the conjuror's rabbit bleeding profusely all over his nice clean white shirt on that same first night; the wheel not falling off the car taking Baron Hardup and the Sisters to the ball when it was supposed to; cross-dressing for the second\* (and, so far, the last) time... and so on.*

*Times have changed, and so have the Pirates. We may have changed direction somewhat, but the important thing is we are keeping musical theatre alive in Luxembourg. Music Hall is part of the tradition of the theatre, so support the next production in any way that seems appropriate! (preferably by being in it. See page 3).*

*Yours piratically,*

*\*The first time, since you ask, was in the late fifties, when I was a sister, cousin or aunt (not sure which) of Sir Joseph Porter in the school production of "H. M. S. Pinafore".*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>When</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
13th January 2008	Pirates	Pre Music Hall social	Pam'n'Alan's, Haller
23rd – 26th April 2008	Pirates	Old-time Music Hall	Parish Hall, Gasperich

## SMALL ADS

### *Delicious Home-made Truffles*



*Also cakes and other confectionery!*  
*Phone Katherine Mason on*  
*+352691922629*  
*or email [pamela@sarumlux.net](mailto:pamela@sarumlux.net)*  
*for further details*



*Kat's truffles*

### *Going Down Under*

*House contents won't fit into my suitcase so*  
*regretfully virtually everything (furniture,*  
*furnishings, sports equipment) must be sold.*

*Call Hil on 48 12 10 or 621 27 49 72,*  
*or email [hag@pt.lu](mailto:hag@pt.lu)*

### *Contributions to the Newsletter*

This is your newsletter! Please feel free to email Piratical notes, jottings and any interesting ephemera to [alan@sarumlux.net](mailto:alan@sarumlux.net). Or you can send printed material to

“Sarum”, 2 Henerecht  
L-6370 Haller

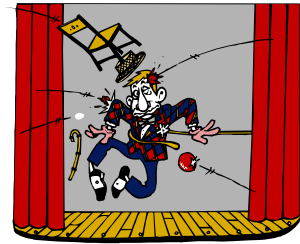
The next newsletter will, with a bit of luck, be going out in early February, deadline probably Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. Sharpen those quills and get writing!

# MUSIC HALL GET-TOGETHER

As you know, Pirates' next show will be a Music Hall. This will take place in the Gasperich Parish Hall from 23rd to 26th April 2008.

The music halls, a quintessentially British entertainment, flourished during the latter half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century. They were variety shows, including dancing, monologues, perhaps a short melodrama or musical play and of course songs – solos, duets, barber-shop groups, Christie minstrels (if you're very PC, don't ask), choruses and so on. The whole evening would be compered by a Chairman, who introduced each act in his own inimitable style, often with a great deal of alliteration and many polysyllabic words.

It's several years since Pirates last staged a Music Hall, and many newer members, particularly those not originating from the British Isles, may well be wondering what on earth they'd be letting themselves in for if they became involved in the 2008 show. So, in order to whet your appetites, a Music Hall social afternoon/evening will be held on Sunday 13th January 2008, from 3.00 pm at the home of Pam and Alan Carlisle in Haller. There'll be an opportunity to watch Pirates' previous Music Halls, staged in 1985 and 1996 – a trip down Memory Lane for some members! – and generally socialise, refreshments being available throughout.



“Cox and Box”, a one-act G&S-style operetta, will form part of the programme of the Music Hall. This will be directed by Pam Carlisle, with Liz Turner at the piano. “Cox and Box” has a cast of three – two baritones and a tenor – and lasts about 25 minutes. Rehearsals for this part of the Music Hall will take place on Monday evenings, and begin in the New Year. At the social on 13 January, there'll also be an opportunity of viewing a professional recording of “Cox and Box”.

If you are interested in auditioning for “Cox and Box”, or would like further details, please contact Pam on 356339 or email [pamela@sarumlux.net](mailto:pamela@sarumlux.net), if you haven't already done so, as soon as possible. And if you've any ideas for something you'd like to perform, or be involved with, in the Music Hall – songs, dances, monologues – Pam would be delighted to hear your suggestions.

## WHAT WIKIPEDIA HAS TO SAY...

Music hall in London had its origins in entertainment provided in the new style saloon bars of public houses in the 1830s. These venues replaced earlier semi-rural amusements provided at traditional fairs and suburban pleasure gardens such as Vauxhall Gardens and the Cremorne Gardens. These latter became squeezed out by urban development and lost their former popularity.

The saloon was a room where for an admission fee or a higher price at the bar, singing, dancing, drama or comedy was performed. The most famous London saloon of the early days was the Grecian Saloon, established in 1825, at The Eagle (a former tea-garden), 2 Shepherdess Walk, off the City Road in north London. According to John Hollingshead, proprietor of the Gaiety Theatre, London (originally the Strand Music Hall), this establishment was "the father and mother, the dry and wet nurse of the Music Hall". Later known as the Grecian Theatre it was here that Marie Lloyd made her debut at the age of 14 in 1884. It is still famous these days because of an English nursery rhyme, with the somewhat mysterious lyrics:

*Up and down the City Road*

*In and out The Eagle*

*That's the way the money goes*

*Pop goes the weasel.*

Other such "song and supper" rooms included Evan's in Covent Garden, the Coal Hole in The Strand, the Cyder Cellars in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden and the Mogul Saloon in Drury Lane.

The music hall as we know it developed from such establishments in the 1850s and were built up in and on the grounds of public houses. Such establishments were distinguished from theatres, by the fact that in a music hall you would be seated at a table in the auditorium and could drink alcohol and smoke tobacco whilst watching the show. In a theatre, by contrast, the audience was seated in stalls and there was a separate bar-room. A strange exception to this rule was the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton (1841) which somehow managed to evade this regulation and served drinks to its customers. Though a theatre rather than a music hall this famous establishment later hosted music hall variety acts. It was destroyed by enemy action in (1940).

# KLEESCHEN IN THE KANNERKLINIK

Our friends over at NWTC will surely not mind our reprinting the following article by Chris Albrecht:



At the initiative of Kiwanis Luxembourg, NWTC joined forces with Pirate Productions and Voices International in a move to provide some relief to the unfortunate children attending the city's children's hospital, the Kannerklinik, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, St Nicholas's Day.

NWTC arranged for The Man himself to be present, while Kiwanis supplied the bishop's attire, presents and chocolates, Pirates provided clowns and voices, and Voices International supplied a string of festive Christmas season songs.

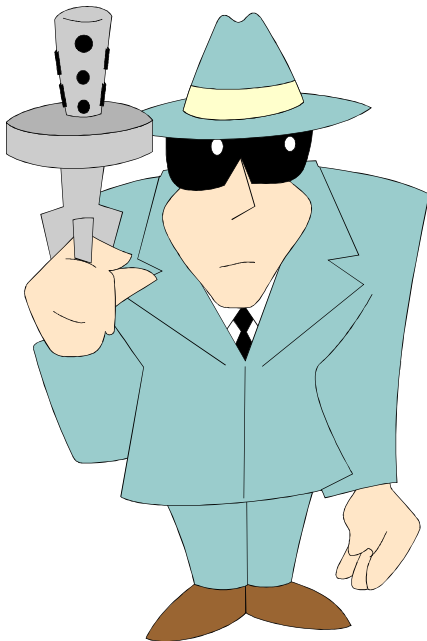
Many of the out-patients, aged between 1 and 14, had congregated with their parents in the activity room and were eagerly awaiting the arrival of St Nicholas. When the white haired man finally arrived in the room, he was greeted by the children's sparkling eyes and a festive rendition of *An der grousser hellger*

*Nuecht*. Visibly moved by the joy displayed by these unfortunate children, not to mention by the sheer beauty of the song, St Nicholas was ushered by assisting Kiwani angels and clowns (clad in costumes strangely reminiscent of those seen in a musical called *Showtime*) to the comfort of a white chair and beckoned the children to him. He exchanged warm words with each child, and rewarded each one personally for his or her good conduct and remarkable courage.

Before returning to his busy schedule, St Nicholas insisted on visiting the children in the emergency room as well as looking in on each of the sick new-born babies and their parents in the hospital rooms, leaving each baby with a squashy teddy-bear and pledging that each teddy would make the baby strong and healthy.

A wonderfully worthy cause – and a prime example of camaraderie and cooperation between several clubs. To be repeated!

# DEIRDRE VELCRO



Our intrepid reporter managed to locate Ms Velcro, the aforementioned sunny climes turning out to be a solarium in deepest Dudelange. She looked quite ravishing in a translucent pearl-effect bikini trimmed with dangly bits from some small furry animal. Unfortunately, as she was deep in conversation with one of the hunky young men (at least, he thought they were conversing), our intrepid reporter was only able to request a brief interview with another HYM. The interview started badly. It is traditional for the reporter to start the questions, but on this occasion the HYM opened the proceedings with “Wha’ chew lookin’ a’, pal?” Our intrepid reporter immediately lost his adjective, and replied “Um...”. Whereupon he was informed, in no uncertain terms, that Ms Velcro was not to be disturbed, that his address was known, and that the location where his cats frequently spend the night was also known. Fur gloves were then mentioned, so he hastily made his excuses and left.

# PIRATES' CHARITY

In the last financial year, Pirates' chosen charity was the SOS Children's Village Kraljevo, in Serbia. Wikipedia says:

*SOS Children's Villages is an independent, non-governmental international development organisation which has been working to meet the needs and protect the interests and rights of children since 1949. It was founded by Hermann Gmeiner in Imst, Austria.*

*The organization's work focuses on abandoned, destitute and orphaned children requiring family-based child care. Millions of children worldwide are living without their biological families for a variety of reasons including:*

- *parental separation,*
- *domestic violence and neglect*
- *they have lost their parents due to war or natural catastrophes*
- *disease - including increasingly AIDS.*

*Such children are supported to recover from being emotionally traumatised and to avoid real danger of being isolated, abused, exploited and deprived of their rights.*



Your editor has an entirely unjustified reputation for not being very fond of children; on the contrary, he thinks that the children in this picture from Kraljevo are actually quite appealing. In particular, the young lady wearing the inverted ice-cream cone will be a natural choice for a pantomime in a few years' time.. The next two pages contain the Christmas letter from the village.



As far possible, this letter from the Children's Village has been reproduced verbatim. It wasn't sensible simply to scan the letter as a bitmap — the resulting file would have been 72Mb in size — but I have endeavoured to retain the flavour of the original. — Ed.

---



SOS Children's Village Kraljevo  
Serbia

Prvomajska 46-A  
Serbia – 36103 Kraljevo  
Tel: + 381 36 375 451  
Fax: +381 36 375 468  
[office@sos-kraljevo.org](mailto:office@sos-kraljevo.org)  
[www.sos-kraljevo.org](http://www.sos-kraljevo.org)

Kraljevo, 10. December 2007.

## ***Dear sponsors, dear friends,***

***On the beginning*** of this letter I would like to thank you on your generous support.

Life of the children who live in the SOS Children's Village Kraljevo will not be like it is without your help. You are bringing fortune and putting smiles on their faces with your love. Thank you for everything what you are giving to them, on behalf of SOS Children's Village, SOS mothers and, of course, the children.

A lot of things happened in the last year. It had been laughs, picnics, vacations, songs, sports, playing, school... I will to describe you most interesting events.

***The New 2007*** children celebrated in theirs SOS families. Santa Claus made some wishes true, SOS mothers took care for the others... House's and family's warmth was in the air than. Children decorated Christmas threes, village's courtyard, helped SOS moms about cookies ... They enjoyed in funny games and masked bal during winter vacation days. And those masks! They were doctors, boxers, pirates, princesses...

***In the beginning of April*** we celebrated Easter. Our children, together with their friends from city art school, painted Easter's eggs as real marbles. After that performance, they made, together, Easter's lunch in the courtyard. One big SOS family, mothers, children, friends and associates. Motley eggs, motley smiles, motley jokes... Picnic to the near by mountain, after couple days, exposed some new emotions in the front plan. All of them talked just about "three of love", two intertwined big threes. They wanted some big secret and beautiful wishes near it...

***Lilacs blooms in the May.*** A long time ago, in the vale of river Ibar, our people planted a lot of lilacs for one real princess, Helen of Anzuj. That was in her honor. She came than for the first time in Serbia, to be married for our king. Her grand, grand, grandson visited our Village in May with his fiancé and, together with our kids, planted couple of new lilacs in "The vale of Lilacs". During the summer, our elder children were in Caldonazzo, SOS children's resort in Italy. First time abroad, together with children from foreign countries... Some new friendships were made; words on Italian, German, English languages were learnt... They accommodated with hands, words, smiles, drawings. And, they enjoyed in everything. Younger children were on sea vacation. All of them spent nice summer and met refreshment, joyous and full of adventures for paraphrasing to friends, first September and school days.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

***Some babies start to walk, some to speak, some find out what love is for the first time in the Life..***

***School year had just started*** and "Pipi long hose" came to visit! The granddaughter of famous writer Astrid Lindgren came to check did children know something about glorious Pipi. Of course, they knew everything! How strong she is, with who she lives, who are her friends...

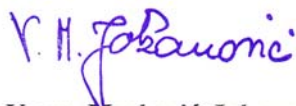
***In the October*** some special atmosphere was in the air in the whole Village. We had Official opening ceremony of our SOS Children's Village on October 25. All of inhabitants and associates gave maximum efforts in the ceremony preparing. SOS mothers kneaded pastries, children danced, declaimed... They presented theirs most beautiful smiles to the guests, rushed them in houses proudly, and showed how much they are grew up and how much they are prospered. Full of impression, as jolly sparrows, children babbled and commented everything what happened couple days...

***Then the air started to smell like a snow*** atmosphere become peaceful, life was routine proceed. School, responsibility, learning, training of karate, volley ball, ballet... One old, but again, new word, hovered trough the Village those days, together with several strayed snowflakes. Santa... Children's analysis starting: who was good this year, what was his wish, were they write letters with wishes on time, which ornament for Christmas three will buy, which special cakes mom will make...

***Thank you for your generosity,*** on behalf of our children and SOS mothers, one more time. You help to every child's heart feels delight, love and warmth. We are sending Lilac's smell, couple of strayed snowflakes, the whit of chocolate from child's small roguish finger immersed in the pie and lot, lot of love to make you lovely coming holidays!

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

Sincerely,



***Vesna Mraković-Jokanović***  
Village Director  
SOS Children's Village - Kraljevo



# **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

This form should be completed in the case of new members or in order to amend the details for existing members.

Name :

Address :

Telephone number (home) :

Telephone number (work) :

GSM (Handy) :

Email address :

Nationality :

Would you like to receive the Newsletter in electronic form via email?

YES / NO

Do you agree that the above contact details may be included on a contact list, circulated to members on a regular basis?

YES / NO

Date and Method of payment for first annual subscription :

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in September each year. Please see the back page of the Pirates' Newsletter or the Pirates' web site ([www.pirates.lu](http://www.pirates.lu)) for current rates and payment details.

Please return this form in electronic format to the Membership Secretary.

