

Out & About

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Preparing for a Summer Holiday

By Cheryl Gould

With less than two weeks until curtain-up, the cast of the Kirkwall Amateur Operatic Society (KAOS) are heading full throttle towards the opening night of their latest show, *Summer Holiday*.

Based on the 1963 film of the same name, which starred singer Cliff Richard, the show promises to be full of laughs and songs for everybody to sing along to.

In the run-up to the show's launch, some of the cast will be out and about this weekend to promote what's in store.

Director of the show, Carol Taylor said: "We're doing a publicity tour. It's just so folk can get a wee sound byte of what's it's going to be."

The cast members will entertain at the Kirkwall Lifeboat Station at around 3pm, on Saturday, January 29, and at the Kirkwall Red Cross shop at around 4pm. They will then be at Tesco, from 4.30pm to 5pm.

Following this, show tickets will be on sale at Tesco until 7pm.

Talking about ticket sales, Carol said: "People are stopping me and saying they have got their tickets, or they are getting tickets so that's good in my book. I think people are so up for this show. I can't go through a shop in one go because everybody's stopping me and everybody's looking forward to it."

Since rehearsals began in September last year, the cast and crew have been working hard to create a bright and breezy show, that will entertain all the family.

Speaking on Monday, January 24, Carol said: "We're nearly there. It's almost solid rehearsing for the next two weeks now."

"It's looking good, sounding good, it's bright and cheery. The make-up and costumes are going to be great and we have got a band

on stage."

There has been a decision to have the seven-piece band up on stage with the actors, instead of being positioned in front of the stage.

Carol explained: "We have got a really simple set, really straightforward, and it moves quite easily so there's lots of room for what we have to do on stage."

Alasdair Harvey will take the role as musical director for the show.

Outlining the story, Carol said: "It's basically four London mechanics who borrow a bus to travel to Europe on their holidays."

The show follows the characters as they travel from London to Greece and all the places they stop in between.

Carol added: "Along the way, they pick up three female singers, The Do-re-mis, and meet various other characters along the way. The whole show is slightly different from the film. The stage show is a real vehicle for Cliff Richard songs, every scene is building up to a Cliff Richard song."

Among the classic tunes that will feature in the show are *Livin' on the Doll*, *Do Ya Wanna Dance?*, *In the Country* and *Bachelor Boy*.

Playing the main roles of the four mechanics are Mark Aim, in "the Cliff part," Philip Matthews, Jack Scott and Graham MacDonald.

Cast as "the later day Girls' Aloud," in Carol's own words, are Katrina Tait, Iona MacLeod and Sarah MacPhail.

Carol said: "They are the main players and they are all just absolutely fantastic. I think people are going to be really surprised when they see what these guys can do."

Helping to make each performance more than just a show, Carol is also inviting the audience to participate by singing along to the songs and dressing up in groovy sixties gear.

She said: "We're already assuming that people will come along



and join in with the songs. We are hoping people will feel they can give it a blast. We're also hoping some people will come along in 60s clothes, and have already had people asking if they can dress up."

Due to the requests for fancy dress, Carol said a "spotter" will be on the lookout for the best-dressed audience member at each show, with a prize for the winners. Fancy dress is optional however.

As director, Carol has the difficult job of co-ordinating everything, from gathering backstage crew, to sorting out the direction of the show and what it's going to look like.

But despite the daunting task, Carol has thoroughly enjoyed the role so far. She said: "It's been fabulous, we have got a really good group of people this year, and they are so excited about it and that makes it worthwhile, when the people are coming along and they are so looking forward to it."

"Everyone is pulling out all the stops to make it look and sound great."

Summer Holiday is not an opera, which is what KAOS is more

associated with performing, so to put on this show was something different for the group.

"The youngest person in the show is 13, and the oldest is 71, which is really unusual for KAOS, because it's always been an older person's group, not like the ones that do pantos with a lot of children."

"For this year, the show has attracted a different group of people, which is what we hoped to do. As soon as we said we were doing *Summer Holiday*, we got a lot of younger people along. It's different, as KAOS is a group of people that have been together for years, but this year we have attracted a new group of people."

Carol added: "It's a good family show. It's funny from the very first minute, and it's just a good fun, bright, jolly show. It's not what you will be expecting from KAOS that's for sure, I think everybody's in for a real treat."

Summer Holiday will be performed at the Orkney Arts Theatre in Kirkwall, from February 8 to 12. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and tickets are available at Nimm's shop in Kirkwall's Albert Street.

New festival for Papay

A new contemporary arts festival is to take place in Papa Westray, from February 14 to 21.

The programme for Papay Gyro Nights 2011, promises works of film, video installation, performance, painting, music, storytelling, photography, architecture, and public art.

It will contain work by artists from Thailand, Berlin, Norway, Iceland, China, Argentina, France, London, Japan and Shetland.

Alongside these international artists, will be work by Orkney based artists, such as Brendan Colvert, and storytelling by Tom Muir and Ragnhild Ljosland.

The idea originated from the ancient Papay tradition of The Night of the Gyros, which until the beginning of the 20th century was celebrated on the island on the first full moon of February. It last occurred in Papay in 1914.

Artists Ivanov and Chan are at the helm of the event, which is one of many they have organised in Papay.

They said: "We would like to reflect on the folktale, the island, as well as interpretations of tradition and ritual through contemporary art, music, architecture and storytelling."

"In February, when nights are long and weather can be vicious and only brave ones will dare to undertake a journey across the rough sea, the island will be transformed into the art gallery, where works will be displayed in unconventional locations, changing perception of the timeless landscape."

"Selected works are over layering landscape and stories, representing Ritual by themselves, or becoming tactile fragments of Ritual and exploring Tradition as a fluid creative process."

"As our island is not very big in size and it can be difficult to accommodate a big number of visitors, we do not want to create



A piece of work by Saunders Architects (Norway), Fogo Island Artist Studios, who will take part in the Gyro Nights Festival on Papay.

a big festival, but a great one, which will become a local event of international significance, where a wider audience will be reached through an all around the year programme and means of modern technology.

"We'd like to say thank you to 7001S Hreindyrland Experimental Film and Video Festival in East Iceland, for providing a selection of short films by Icelandic film-makers, and thank you to the Centre for Nordic Studies and Dr. Ragnhild Ljosland for taking part in our programme, as well as to The Chair."

As part of the festival, a new award, The Knap o' Howar Art Prize will be presented for the most outstanding and relevant work of art to the island.

All participants of the festival are nominated for the prize, which will be judged by residents of the island. It will be awarded for the very first time at the festival finale.

For further information on Gyro Nights 2011, and full details of the programme, log on to www.papaygyronights.ubahob.com.

Holm Community Association's
Dinner, Concert and Dance to Liam & Co
Holm Community Centre
Saturday 16th February at 7.30pm
EAST SIDE STORY (WITH A DIFFERENCE!)
*Includes one table at the hall 5pm - 6.30pm Jan - then from Holm Front, 10.15am - 11.30am Jan onwards - 2011 and all our 14 years and under
CONCERT ON DA Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm - 25% pay at the door

ST OLA HOTEL
KARAOKE
BACK BAR
9.30pm onwards
Saturday, 29th January

Seeking actors, dancers, acrobats and gymnasts for our 2011 production of **The Tempest**
Saturday 29 January
Upper Room, King Street Halls, Kirkwall
Workshop/Auditions 09.30 - 11.30
Final call for anyone who couldn't attend our first session
Whole company call 13.30 - 17.30
Please contact the Festival office on 871445 for further details

Skipper's Bar
Warm Welcome, Cold Beer
Saturday, 29th January
STEVIE KE
9.30pm onwards
6 SCREENS FOR LIVE SPORT
SCOTTISH & ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOWING LIVE
FOOD, DRINKS & MUSIC
FREE SERVICE BY THE BOTTLE ONLY
BEERS & SPIRITS
WINE BY GLASS OR BOTTLE
COVER CHARGE ONLY
MUSIC BY THE HOUSE
Tel: 01856 872222
www.kirkwallhotel.com

Smithfield Hotel
Friday, 28th January
BIRSA BOYS
3pm-1am
BURNS SUPPER MENU
from 28th-30th January

LODGE ODIN No. 917
Thursday, 8th February: First Degree.
Thursday, 17th February: Second Degree. L.O.J.
Lodge Tynd 8pm.

TAI CHI
Anybody Interested?
Please phone Eric 821252 evenings

Orkney West Highland Agricultural Society
ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH
on Saturday, 12th February at Kirkwall and Hallowick, Kirkwall, Orkney
By the permission of the Hon. the Earl of Sutherland
Prizes:
Silver Cup (winner of 12")
Cup (winner of 12")
Wings Langland (18")
Wings Sutherland (18")
Prizes will be in village hall - please call the village hall for details and to book your plough
The ploughing is being opened up on the day - tickets will be issued to ploughmen
NO ENTRY FEE
Programme available at £1
All ploughmen to be on the field for draw at 9am
Start to be completed by 11am or ploughmen to be discharged

Orkney Athletic Club
PRIZE BINGO
Friday, 28th January
King Street Halls
Draws open 7pm (open draw 7.30pm)
Entry fee £1.50 adults, £1 children
Lunch included
PLUS RAFFLES

LODGE MERCHANTILE MARINE No. 483
A Regular Meeting of Lodge Merchantile Marine No. 483, will be held on Tuesday, 1st February, at 8pm, in the Merchant Hall, Kirkwall
Business L.O.J. First Degree.
By Order of R.W.M.
F. S. Pate, Secy.

Creating Pottery Heads and Animals at **FURSLICK POTTERY ACADEMY**
Saturday, 29th January and Sunday, 30th January
10am-4.30pm Lunch included
Participants will have a chance to see some Ancient Egyptian head models to gain inspiration for their Pottery Animal Sculpture at Kirkwall on 01856 851414
www.facebook.com/furclickpottery

TABLE TOP SALE
Saturday, 28th January
10am - 12 noon
King Street Halls
Come and grab a bargain for all of ERIC's Exhibition 2011!