**President’s Report 2017**

Having been a member of Harlequin in my teens and then helped out as stage crew, been on the committee, directed a couple of panto’s and taken programme and dress rehearsal photo’s for a few years, I realised that this club has a huge impact on those involved. So in 2008, when Joanna auditioned, became a member and brought home the parent help form, I felt duty bound to complete it and volunteer to help front of house. Wilma did say at the time “you’ll be sucked back in” – I don’t know what she meant…

So, on to our 40th year and everything that we have accomplished together in the past 12 months. I’d like to thank this year’s committee for all their hard work behind the scenes, at rehearsals and during show weeks, and also the many members, past members, friends and parents that help out during the year. It is because of each and every one of us, as part of the Harlequin family, that the club keeps going from strength to strength.

I’d like to thank a few people in particular for their work in the background, Ruth for all her roles including making sure we have somewhere to rehearse, Glenn for guarding our finances, Lorna for guiding me through the role of president, Kevin for taking over the membership secretary role for the past year, and Christine for being on the exec of THUGs – the theatre users group, always with Harlequin’s best interests at heart, and continuing her role as archivist along with Myra & John Ralston, currently back-dating rather than updating our records.

On to Legally Blonde – our first show of last session, and a break with tradition as we could only get a licence to perform this last November. We welcomed a new director, Blair Cruikshank, for his first time working with us, Ronnie Hillis as MD, Linda Smith as choreographer and Lorna Wyllie as producer (assisted by Kirsten McLean for mat cover!). The show was great, enhanced by the spinning set that changed into many different rooms – it took all week, and many revolutions, to get Shirley and Caro back out of there after they disappeared into the salon!

We were also honoured to receive the NODA Youth Award in our 40th year, this is awarded to a club that has made a significant impact within their community. I’d like to thank Ruth for putting our entry together, and Grace for guarding the trophy!

The Christmas party was its usual success - thank you to Lorraine and Ewan for organising this, and to the committee for supporting them.

Snow White, our panto, was slightly dislodged from its usual pre-christmas spot and was in January this year instead, but our audiences still thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was more challenging to rehearse as Legally Blonde was also rehearsing at the same time, but it gave more junior members a chance at principal roles. This was directed by Jen Clokey, Karen McKay as MD, Chris Glasgow as choreographer and produced by Christine Kyle.

Our 40th party in Carmichael Hall was a great night – celebrating the success of our club. I’d like to thank all the committee and the sub-committee involved for their help at making the night one to remember. I’d also like to thank the members that performed that evening and their accompanists (Ronnie/Karen/Dave/Kirsten) for coaching them for the weeks prior to the evening, and Kirsten McLean in her role as producer. Thanks also to Kenneth for the musical slide show from the years gone by, to Barry and Ian for being our photographers on the night, and Billy, Linda, Vince and Anna for running the bar.

As part of 40th year celebrations, an updated version of The Harlequin Book was printed. Thanks to all involved with this, especially Christine, Grace, Kenneth, Myra and Ruth, and everyone for their updated memories.

We were of course “All Shook Up” in May, and had another fantastic week in the theatre. Thanks go to Julie Brown as director, Karen McKay as MD, Chris Glasgow as choreographer and Ruth Baillie as producer. It seems appropriate to say very well done and “thank you very much”.

Our final 40th event last session was our junior performance of Matilda (in 20 minutes), followed by a family party. This was back in Clarkston Halls, where the club started 40 years ago, and was a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. The production team for Matilda, along with myself, was Dave Zochowski as MD, Jo Thomson as choreographer and Lorna Wyllie as producer. Once again, I’d like to thank the committee and sub-committee involved, and other members and friends for all their help in making the night a great success.

I’ve mentioned the committee lots this evening so it seems only fair to mention them by name. I’d like to thank, Lorna Wyllie, Cath Boyd, Ruth Baillie, Glenn Allan, Kenneth Robertson, Karen McQueen, Marc Cowan, Susie Burgess, Hannah Muir, Sue Laurie, Ross McDougall, Pam King, Debbie Hanvidge, Lorraine Kyle and Ewan Pringle for all their help this year. Most are up for re-election but special thanks to Debbie and Lorraine as their terms on the committee have come to an end.

Looking forward to this year, we have a weekend away to Auchengillan coming up very soon. More information on this will follow shortly, we are looking to have all payments made for this by the end of this month.

Our upcoming panto is Cinderella, with Julie, Kirsten, Dave, Linda and Sarah as our production team, and the senior show will be Sister Act – I believe this will be a first for Eastwood Theatre.

You will all be given your membership forms tonight, please take them away with you. Also in the envelope you’ll find information regarding the increasing costs involved in hiring the theatre – please read this information, and pass this on to your parents as well.