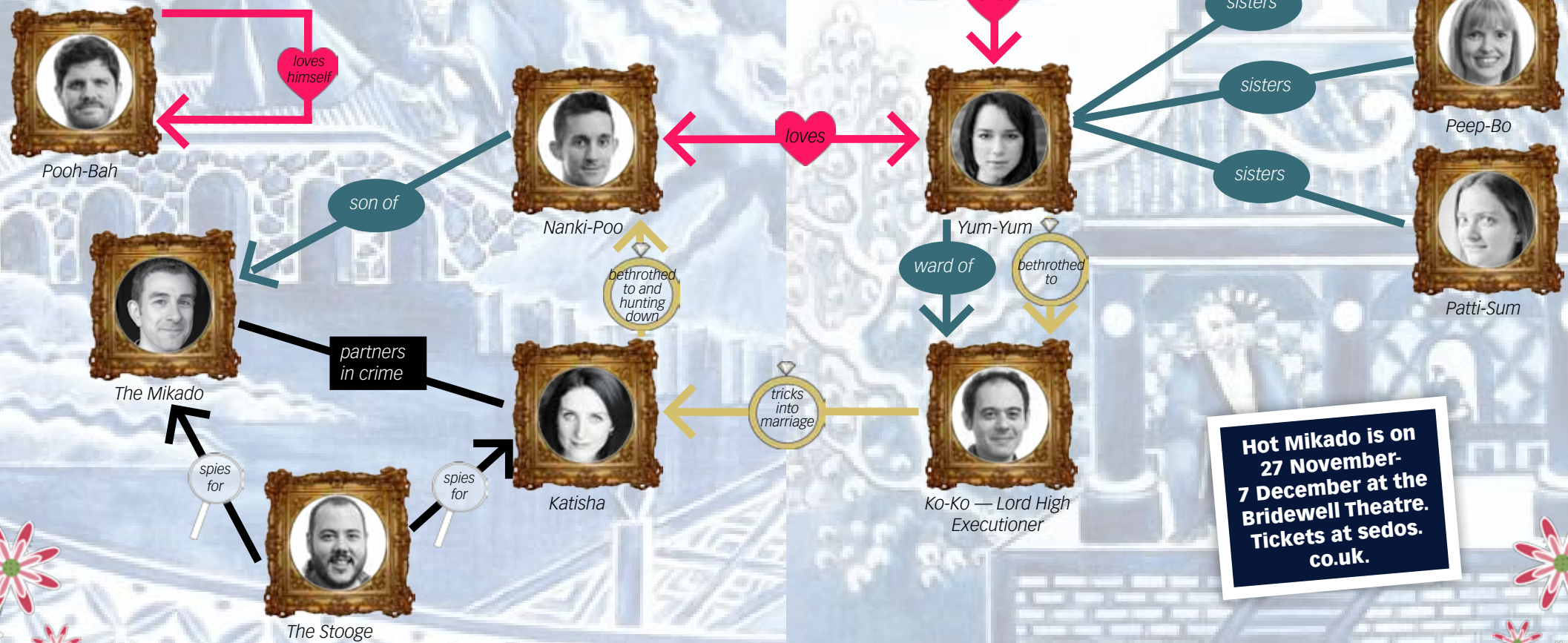


sedos grapevine

november 2013

The love puzzle

Our final show of 2013, Hot Mikado opens this Wednesday. To celebrate, the Grapevine brings you this character map of the main players in Titipu and their relationships...



Hot Mikado is on
27 November-
7 December at the
Bridewell Theatre.
Tickets at sedos.
co.uk.

Stop press! As the Grapevine was going to press, we heard the Sedos Christmas party is at 7pm on Saturday, 14 December at The Bowler, Clerkenwell (bowlerclerkenwell.co.uk). Be there!

Put on a 2014 winter show

Not long after we'd announced our 2014 season, we received the disappointing news that the rights-holders had changed their minds about letting us stage Jerry Springer: The Opera.

This is sad for all involved and the society, but opens up the chance for another team to pitch to put on a two-week musical in pre-Christmas (26 November-6 December). This slot has the advantage of being 12 months away (obviously) so the team will have plenty of time to lay their plans.

The committee are looking for a two-week musical that is likely to have a fairly large cast and will complement the rest of the 2014 season. Something substantial and a bit dark — or at least challenging — may well work better than something slightly lighter, but we will consider all pitches.

Given the significant budget involved in staging a two-week musical and the production requirements, we would prefer that at least some of the team have previous experience directing or producing for Sedos.

Closing date for applications is 31 December, with the aim of announcing a replacement title by the end of January.

If you are interested in applying, download the pitch form from the website, complete it and email to pitches@sedos.co.uk.

If you would like to discuss possibilities, teams, rights and so on in advance, which we would encourage, please email Sedos secretary Matt Gould: matt@mjgould.co.uk.

From the committee

• **Macbeth:** huge congratulations to everyone involved in our recent production of Macbeth, which received universal rave reviews that we're extremely proud of. 388 people pre-booked to see the show. See page four for photos and reviews.

• **Ambassadors:** the first meeting of the Ambassadors group has been held and the team has been tasked with thinking about an array of issues to secure and improve the future of the society.

• **Production:** we're very pleased to announce that Clare Harding has taken over the

chairmanship of the Production group. Thanks to Matt Hudson for setting the group up and steering it until now.

• **Charity of the Year 2014:** remember the deadline for nominations is 29 November. Full details of what we are looking for at sedos.co.uk/members/index.htm#charity

• **Pub chat:** we answered our first pubchat email in the last Grapevine and are happy to tell you more or set the record straight on any rumours you may have heard about Sedos. If there's anything you want to know please email pubchat@sedos.co.uk.



Members were sad to bid goodbye to two members who have brought many talents to Sedos over the past 10 years, **Anne-Marie (née Leigh) and Nick Chronnell**, who have headed off to Ottawa, Canada, with daughter Maia. They held a farewell party for Sedos at the Greenwich Tavern, where they were presented with two posters, one showing the title of all the plays and productions they have been involved in (above) and another memories of their personalities.

From Hazel East at Angel Shed

We're getting to the exciting final stages of our rehearsals for Hit Home, our brand new play to be performed on the 6-7 December at the Studio Theatre at CANDI College in Islington. We'd love to see you there, check out our website for details on how to book tickets.

We're also coming to the end of a fantastic year as Sedos' Charity of the Year. We've enjoyed watching the fantastic theatre that you've put on throughout 2013 and we'll hopefully see some of our members on the Bridewell stage in years to come!

If you'd like to stay up to date with Angel Shed in future you can follow us on twitter @angelshed or on facebook.com/angelshed as well as get all the latest news at angelshedtheatre.org.uk.

Pictures by Becs Weymouth and Pippa Roome

Dates for the diary

27 November-7 December

Hot Mikado performances

7/10 & 11 December

Heaven Can Wait auditions/recalls

6, 7, 8 & 10/14 & 15 December

Into the Woods auditions/recalls

14 December

Sedos Christmas party



Into the Woods (left) and Heaven Can Wait both had more than 60 people at pre-audition workshops

Contacts

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Sedos website

sedos.co.uk

Find us at

facebook.com/sedostheatre
 youtube.com/sedosvideo
 twitter.com/sedos flickr.com/sedos

Sedos committee

Chris de Pury (chairman), Matt Gould (secretary), Craig Topp (treasurer), Jacqui Adams, Stephen Beeny, Dawn Harrison-Wallace, Matt Hudson, Angus Jacobs, Deborah Lean, Pippa Roome, Bob Stanex
 committee@sedos.co.uk

'This is the only play I want to direct'

Peter Bryans, director of our first show of 2014, *Heaven Can Wait*, talks to the Grapevine — and explains what he'll be looking for at auditions



I have been a Sedos member for nearly seven years, my first show being *Comic Potential* in 2007 directed by the legendary and fabulous Chloë Faine. I found Sedos to be incredibly inclusive and creative — and it has come on in leaps and bounds since then!

I have never directed before and after *Heaven Can Wait* I never intend to direct again. *Heaven Can Wait* is the only text for which I have a strong vision and passion directorially. Since my teens I have wanted to stage *Heaven Can Wait* and I feel now is the perfect — and perhaps only — time in my own life to do it. Furthermore the standard that Sedos is at will maximise the play's chance of success. An added boost of enthusiasm also comes from Sedos's ability to attract new and terrific talent continually. Haved trained at Oxford School of Drama in 2000 and taken on all sorts of lead and supporting roles since then — and having worked with many different directors — I feel I am certainly ready to take the lead.

I first came across *Heaven Can Wait* in my teens, when I saw a black and white 1941 film called *Here Comes Mr Jordan* and loved the comedy and heart-warming nature of the story. When I found out that the film was based on a 1938 American stage play called *Heaven Can Wait* I decided that one day I would put it on so that a theatre audience could experience such a wonderfully fantastic, comedic and moving story. The original text has been so influential, especially in the sci-fi movie and TV genre, with

seminal shows such as *Quantum Leap* having been inspired by it.

In three words, the show is elaborate, convivial, touching.

I feel that we have an excellent strong team (with assistant director James Franey and producer Pip Deppeler) and between us we have the full set of skills to produce a great show. The interest in the workshop was terrific (over 60 turned up, for a play) and we expect around 100 at the auditions.

We'll be looking for suitability, compatibility and enthusiasm at auditions. The show will be challenging to do well as the story is rather complex and we only have eight weeks rehearsal time. Therefore we're looking for actors and actresses that fit the roles almost automatically and have natural chemistry with the other characters. The biggest sway for us will be enthusiasm — the show is lovely and great fun to tell and as long as we have a highly enthusiastic cast we'll be flying (pun intended).

I'm most excited about working collaboratively with the cast on crafting a full performance — taking the first read-through and developing the characters and working on the details of portrayal.

I'm most nervous about falling behind schedule, be it by absences, overlooking something critical, etc. To be honest, with James and Pip on-board and with Pippa Roome as our committee liaison I am not actually that nervous...

Providing we get the casting right I will be incredibly excited and proud on first night. For me, the process of getting to the first night will be a really proud moment — being the point at which the show that started off as mine becomes that of the cast.

Heaven Can Wait is on 4-8 March at the Bridewell Theatre. Tickets on sale soon at sedos.co.uk.

Super Steampunk Shakespeare



Our final play of 2013 was Shakespeare's Macbeth, directed by Chloe Faine. The show received great reviews:

- Sardines said: "As soon as the play began the commitment of every actor hit you in the face with every inch of stage swarming with character, character that as the play progressed and actors doubled up on parts, was never lost. Every line, every performer... absolutely deserved their every moment and created a performance well beyond the level of the amateur theatre... So many performances stood out... All the costumes were beyond fantastic and Deborah Lean's mixing of military, Scottish and the Elizabethan was seamlessly done, including the translation of set design to costume... Final praise, however, has to go to Chloë Faine's directing. Also credited as designer, her vision is seamlessly woven

through performance, costume, blocking, set design and everything else. This production was meticulously thought out, and it shows... Sedos has set the 'Macbeth' bar exceptionally high."

- Remote Goat wrote: "Praising a production for the quality of the costumes, design or special effects is sometimes seen as rather a backhanded compliment. While this can be true, it is easy to forget that theatre is a visual medium, and so such elements are a legitimate part of the spectacle. In the case of Sedos' Steampunk inspired 'Macbeth', at the Bridewell Theatre, the production values are far beyond anything else you are likely to see on the fringe stage. Indeed, they put large parts of the West End to shame... Director Chloe Faine and Matt Gould (who produced the show) should congratulate themselves on a job well done, along with the rest of the cast and crew."



A glass of wine with... Dawn Harrison-Wallace

When did you join Sedos and what was your first show?

I joined Sedos in 1991 and performed in Daisy Pulls it Off and Lock Up Your daughters. The first show I saw was A Chorus of Disapproval in 1989 as my then boyfriend, Will Harrison-Wallace, was in it!

Are you involved in a Sedos show at the moment?

I'm committee liaison and GUPTHA (Generally Useful Person To Have Around) for Hot Mikado.

What do you do in real life?

Hmmm... my LinkedIn describes me as an organisational development consultant with a background in oil and gas, but I'm currently a wedding planner at the Bridewell!

What's the worst thing that's happened to you on stage?

When starring as Sally Bowles in Cabaret back in 1989 as I sang out "When I saw her laid out like a Queen..." all I could hear was "I haven't been laid like a queen for years" booming out of the speakers as the MCs mic had been left on... or when I was about eight as I was tapping my way through Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree the poppers on my gingham cropped top all pinged off, leaving me tapping away half naked.

If you had 24 hours before the world combusted, what would you do?

Get in my car with Will, my husband, and drive up north via Hertfordshire to hug my family and his for one last time.

It's our round, what are you having?

A crisp Sauvignon Blanc or a well made G&T.



One food you couldn't live without?

Chocolate (but not with my Sauvignon Blanc).

Name the first and last show you ever saw and were they any good?

First that I remember is Evita when I was about 14. I remember being mesmerised — I'd never been to London or a big theatre before so the whole experience was incredible. The last one was The Scottboro Boys — an amazing piece of theatre that makes you grin from cheek to cheek and feel uneasy all at once.

Have you ever won anything in a competition?

I won the North Wales Disco Dancing Competition — I think about three of us entered, it took place in Deeside Leisure Centre Car Park and was broadcast on radio. I can't remember winning anything in a raffle, but that's perhaps more to do with my memory than bad luck

Finish the sentence: a good production begins with?

An amazing vision

And ends with?

Money in the bank!

Sedos 2013 season wordsearch

To celebrate our 2013 season coming to an end, see if you can complete this wordsearch. The words to find are the surnames of our 2013

directors — there are eight. Well, seven and a bonus ball... Good luck! Let us know if you found them all: grapevine@sedos.co.uk

Y	F	Q	N	S	Y	A	M	E	T	K	C	B	H	G
D	A	M	E	P	U	F	H	F	V	U	H	Z	I	O
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Z	C	D	N	Q	M	D	E	A	Z	I	F	R	E	L
T	J	Q	U	G	R	Z	U	S	K	Z	R	W	V	D
I	Z	M	A	R	C	H	A	N	T	Q	Q	X	Y	A
J	A	B	D	T	D	A	U	L	V	Z	T	Q	L	O
B	U	R	F	R	F	F	K	O	S	O	Z	Q	I	W
B	I	F	A	I	N	E	R	V	S	I	T	E	K	I
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J	A	C	O	B	S	C	A	J	X	K	M	Z	C	M
K	T	U	G	J	D	U	D	E	C	N	S	Y	Y	T