

# **The Theatre Company**

## **- Progress Report 2009**

We have invested in the following:

- 8 portable stage sections
- 2 sets of portable stage lights
- a tallscope and training to use it
- 2 stage braces
- make-up
- costumes and props
- advanced sewing machine

Work-shops have taken place with an outside speaker on applying stage make-up.

There have been visits from Scottish National Youth Theatre to take Drama workshops.

There was consultation about putting a second door on the stage - this was rejected as being too costly.

The following Drama events have taken place which have connections directly or indirectly with the theatre company:

Scottish One Act Festival 2008

Importance of Being Earnest 2008

School Drama Festival 2008

Around The world in 80 minutes 2008

Shakespeare Schools Festival - Hamlet 2008

Longer version of Hamlet 2009

Higher Drama evening 2009

The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil 2009

In the process of being rehearsed or organised:

Shakespeare Schools' festival 2009 - The Winter's Tale

Drama evening - October 2009 - including a showing of

The Winter's Tale

Christmas event (perhaps a pantomime) in association  
with Music Company

There have been theatre visits to Pitlochry, Dundee,  
Edinburgh (the Lyceum, the King's) and Musselburgh  
(the Brunton Theatre)

The funding has allowed the school to purchase items which have allowed for variety in the locations and methods of staging theatrical events. We have been able to take plays outside the school to church and village halls because we have portable lights and staging. This has meant more involvement for the pupils in the technical side – eg building stages and controlling lights - which has had a beneficial effect as it improves personal confidence, encourages teamwork and broadens the knowledge and experience of drama. This has had definite positive results in exams because many pupils have experience of the items about which they are answering questions. It is easier to answer a question on how you would like to light a scene if you have had some experience of stage lighting and its benefits.

The tallescope has allowed us to move the lights without having to hire outside equipment but can only be used by certificated members of staff.

Students have been encouraged to take ownership of certain performances; organising and running them with assistance from staff but not led by them. Outside experts have shown many pupils how to deal with staging and the theatre arts, such as costume and make-up. Although we have not been able to invite these experts into the school as much as we would like they have allowed us to film their work and use it as a teaching aid.

The great thing about acting is that anyone can do it if they choose to - it is not exclusive to a small group. As a result the current S4 contingent includes several pupils who have learning problems in other areas but who can perform at an adequate level in Drama.

Gordon Roberts