



WARDROBE NEWS

'GYPSY': the BIG production.....

It's sad but true that our amazing wardrobe team are often the unsung heroines of many a production at the Apollo. To give those of you who haven't had much contact with them, here's an idea of the demands a big show makes on the team.

When one production goes down there are usually five weeks to costume the next, but with a cast of 32 (some with up to 7 changes) an early start was needed on 'Gypsy'. In this case the team were able to start planning and sewing relatively early, as Mary Cody and Rosie Baker (a welcome newcomer to the costume team) took responsibility for dressing the previous show, 'The Children's Hour', leaving Liz and Peggy free to start on the 'Gypsy' costumes.

The show required the grand total of 93 costumes, 18 of which (strippers' and showgirls' outfits, the white tail-coats and some dresses) could be hired from Costume Workshop and our choreographer Alain was able to contribute one or two pieces. However, this still left a lot to do and as soon as 'The Children's Hour' went down Mary and Rosie joined the team to help, along with another new recruit, Libby, who helped as a dresser.



Freda took responsibility for hats, jewellery and alterations and some alterations were even sent home to Carol, who was resting after a knee operation - just to keep her from getting bored, of course! Meanwhile, Angela had eight wigs to style, dress and maintain.



With such a large cast there were inevitably last-minute changes, fittings and alterations, and Peggy unfortunately was scheduled for leg surgery the day before first dress. Liz and the team took over organising the finishing touches and the logistics of finding places for 32 actors backstage, including 12 children and their chaperone.

This is a good opportunity to ask any members who are interested in costumes if you would like to join our team. We don't necessarily need people to sew - lots of other jobs have to be done, including washing clothes after a show, re-hanging all the costumes in the right place in the roof, choosing shoes, hats, gloves, handbags etc. and dressing backstage during a show. If you would like to find out more, please contact Peggy Harcourt, Wardrobe Manager, on 882031 or come and watch the wardrobe team at work - it's quite an eye-opener!

Angela, our hairdresser, also needs help - she would be delighted to welcome members who would like to learn the art of styling and wig care.

'Gypsy' has been a huge commitment for the cast and all support teams and Peggy has been full of regrets that she was unable this time to be backstage enjoying the buzz of putting on a great show. The full houses are testament to the popularity of a good musical.