

PRESS RELEASE

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Yeovil College Performing Arts Students Present...

‘TOAD OF TOAD HALL’

Thursday 13 to Friday 14 May 2010 at Yeovil College
Doors Open 7.30 pm. Tickets: £4 (Concessions £3). Box Office: 01935 845563.

Monday 17 May 2010 at The Powell Theatre, Sherborne
Doors Open 7.30 pm. Tickets: £6 (Concessions £5). Box Office: 01935 810579.

COLLEGE ANNOUNCES WARTS AND ALL END-OF-YEAR SHOW...

Yeovil College is delighted to announce that its 2010 end-of-year show is ‘**Toad of Toad Hall**’. This is the farewell show for year two students studying for the BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts.

Based upon the classic story ‘Wind in the Willows’ by Kenneth Grahame and originally adapted by A. A. Milne, creator of Winnie the Pooh, ‘**Toad of Toad Hall**’ is a comedy romp for children of all ages. It follows the adventures and misadventures of Toad (Sian Doble) as he flits from obsession to obsession, leaving a trail of destruction in his wake. Disaster is only averted thanks to the quick thinking and common sense of his friends, Mr Badger (Matt Palmer), Ratty (Tom Wilkins) and Mole (Hayleigh Barrington).

Former Gryphon School pupil Sian Doble (19) of Yetminster is playing the title role of Toad. She appeared as Chiffon in this year’s highly successful College production of ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ and in Yeovil Youth Theatre’s ‘West Side Story’. Sian said “*When I told people that I’d got the role of Toad, the thing most people said to me was that you don’t normally think of Toad being a girl! I like to think that I’ll bring something different to the character and really make him an individual. Toad is a pompous, arrogant character and people get very frustrated with him, but he’s really good fun to play. I’m really enjoying the chance to be over the top for a good reason!*”

Mole is played by Hayleigh Barrington (18) of Yeovil. The former Westfield Community School pupil played Joan in last year’s production of ‘Vinegar Tom’ and was Assistant Stage Manager for ‘Little Shop of Horrors’. Hayleigh said “*It’s quite ironic that I’m playing this role really because I’m scared of moles! Mole is a very likeable character though. He’s very naïve and friendly and tends to think the best of everyone. The story begins with him emerging from his underground home and, as he learns more about the outside world, he gets more courageous and makes friends.*”

Mole’s first new friend is Ratty the water rat, played by Tom Wilkins (18) of Yeovil. He said “*Ratty is a stiff, proper character who likes things the way they are and thinks they should stay that way. Fortunately I’m a bit more relaxed than he is! ‘Toad of Toad Hall’ is a great show for families because it’s well written and funny. It’s got slapstick in it, but it also has deeper meanings, so there’s something for everyone to enjoy.*” Tom is a former Stanchester School student who appeared in last year’s ‘Vinegar Tom’ as Jack.

Mr Badger is played by Matt Palmer (18) of Yeovil, a former Buckler's Mead Community School pupil. He has appeared in the Yeovil Youth Theatre production of 'Footloose', as well as the College's version of 'Vinegar Tom'. Matt said "*Badger is the oldest and wisest of the principal characters, but he's also very grumpy! I've done a lot of research for the role and drawn on performances such as Buster Merryfield's Uncle Albert in 'Only Fools and Horses' and Stephen Fry's Lord Melchett in 'Blackadder'. I even looked at Prince Philip for authority! Mr Badger has a very different relationship with Toad than the other characters. He knew his uncle and father, but Toad is very different to the rest of the family. Badger still cares about him, even though he disapproves of his behaviour, and even tries to put Toad through a sort of rehab to deal with one of his obsessions. But you'll have to see the play to find out if it works!*"

This is the farewell performance for second year students on the BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts course and is expected to be an entertaining and highly enjoyable show. Director and Performing Arts lecturer Ben Woof said "*The students have worked really hard on this show and really want to go out on a high. They deliberately chose a more light-hearted piece, which is not only funny, but challenges them to combine everything they've learnt over the last two years. The play includes songs, music and physical theatre and, as always, the students are also responsible for the backstage work, including costume, lighting and set design. The students are definitely rising to the challenge of the show and we encourage everyone to come along and enjoy the results.*"

'**Toad of Toad Hall**' will be on in the Main Hall of Yeovil College on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 May 2010 and at the Powell Theatre, Sherborne, on Monday 17 May 2010. Tickets for Yeovil College are £4 (£3 concessions) and £6 (£5 concessions) for the Powell Theatre. Both shows start at 7.30 pm. For more information, visit www.yeovil.ac.uk or telephone 01935 845563.

... ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Cast List

Toad	Sian Doble
Mole	Hayleigh Barrington
Ratty	Tom Wilkins
Mr Badger	Matt Palmer
Alfred/Turkey/Barge Woman	Kayleigh Kaur
Chief Ferret/Court Usher/Harold Rabbit	Adam Ridout
Chief Weasel/Fox	Stella Bartle
Chief Stoat/Gaoler/White Rabbit	Alex Dickinson
First Field Mouse/Aunt/Washerwoman	Poppy Rendell
Second Field Mouse/Duck/Mamma Rabbit	Katie Koziel
Police Officer	Poppy Brolly
Judge	Lorna Hinton
Phoebe/Lucy Rabbit	Gemma McQueen