

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

By Dale Wasserman

Street Theatre at Strode Theatre

November 2009

In November, Street Theatre will be presenting – for the first time at Strode Theatre – Dale Wasserman's version of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, based on the now classic book by Ken Kesey. It will be directed by Peter Wintle, assisted by Nicki Hunt-Davison, and produced by Karen Trevis. Production dates are 19th to 21st November.

Although this modern classic was, of course, made spectacularly famous by Jack Nicholson's performance in the five-times Academy Award winning film of the same name, Kesey claimed never to have seen it because, amongst other things, he disagreed with the casting and had objections to the way in which the film version of the story would be told. In this respect, the stage play sticks much more closely to the original novel.

The play demands a sizeable cast of 12 men and 4 women and includes a wide variety of characters, so Street Theatre is encouraging everyone who might like to be involved to register their interest **now**. There's no commitment to take a part by registering but of course we hope to encourage as many people as possible to come along to the auditions which will be held at the United Reformed Church Hall in Street (this is also our usual rehearsal venue) at 7.30pm on both Tuesday 18th and Thursday 27th August. You don't have to be a paid up member to audition for Street Theatre productions, although if you do get a part we ask you to join as a member for the princely sum of £12 a year.

For those who don't know the story, there are opportunities for actors to play the following roles in an American psychiatric hospital setting:

- A six-foot plus, well-built Native American Indian (*or at least as close as we can get!*)
- Two male hospital orderlies (*played by black actors in the film and, we hope, in this production, too.*)
- A night watchman.
- A head nurse ("Nurse Ratched") described as having a "*ripe and womanly body, her age hard to tell*".
- A junior female nurse (a "*nervous, vapid girl*").
- Two "cheap whores"!
- A male doctor.
- The outgoing Randall Patrick McMurphy (*the male lead and the part played by Jack Nicholson in the film version*).
- A whole host of male patients with a variety of neuroses and nervous afflictions.

Even those male characters with only a few lines can expect to be on stage for the majority of the play since there is often a requirement to have action in the background. Easy, huh?! For more information, or to request a loan script, register your interest or even to tell us about someone else who might be interested, please send an email to CuckoosNest.2009@btinternet.com or call one of us on the numbers below – we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Thanks for reading this far and even if you don't get involved, do come and see the show if you can.

Contact numbers:

Peter Wintle: 01458 841552 or 07759 730355

Nicki Hunt-Davison: 01458 210867 or 07905 356231

Karen Trevis: 01458 223745 or 07834 471686