



ABINGDON

18 November 2011

To all parents

Cabaret

“What good is sitting alone in your room, come hear the music play. Life is a cabaret old chum. Come to the cabaret”

Cabaret is a musical based on John Van Druten’s 1951 play *I am a Camera* which was in turn adapted from Christopher Isherwood’s novel *Goodbye to Berlin*. The music is by John Kander and the lyrics are by Fred Ebb.

A young American writer, Clifford Bradshaw, arrives in Berlin in 1929 and falls in love with ‘the toast of Mayfair’ Sally Bowles at the decadent Kit Kat Club. As the Third Reich emerges, Cliff unwittingly gets entangled in Nazi activity and the tenuous political state threatens to destroy many people’s lives. Overseeing the action is the Emcee, the Master of Ceremonies, who begins by asking you to ‘leave your troubles outside’ but soon makes it clear that there is no escape.

This is a bold production about an important moment in time. The music is wonderful; the Kit Kat dancers are alluring and entertaining. The Club is dark and increasingly unsettling. As the mask slips, gritty anti-Semitic reality is exposed and the grim historical truth leaves an atmosphere of unease and disquiet.

This St Helen’s and Abingdon joint production is rated PG due to its adult issues. It is suitable for third year students and above, and is left to parental discretion in the lower years. To that effect, please use the booking form to secure tickets, as that requires a parental signature and enables the cost of tickets to be added to the School Bill if required.

Performances are on Wednesday 7, Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December at 7.00pm in the YPH at St Helen’s School. Tickets are £9 (adult) and £7 (concession), available with a booking form from the St Helen’s School Office on 01235 520173. Further copies of the form are available from Mrs Hart, the Arts Centre Secretary at Abingdon. However, please note that tickets for the production are only issued by St Helen’s.

Yours sincerely

Abingdon and St Helen’s Drama Departments

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk