



| January / February 2007

Volume 1, Issue 5 – sample

Applause, Applause

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Remembering Dick Williams—A Tribute

Richard Lassetter Williams

known to us all as

Dick Williams

29th Jan 1916—18th Feb 2007

The following article was written for our last edition of Applause Applause but we thought it would be fitting to repeat it as a tribute.

Dick Williams, affectionately known in drama circles as the Little Man with the Big Voice, still takes a great interest in the theatre and currently attends a History of Theatre class in Orford Road where he is studying Jacobean Revenge Tragedy! Nor is he the only 90 year old in the class.

But he can look back on many years of comedy and tragedy in his many years as director and actor in Walthamstow, Bow and London. He loved large scale productions with huge crowd scenes and lavish costumes, live music (often provided by his music students) and stunning effects. In an early *Midsummer Night's Dream* Theseus and Hippolyta, were preceded on to the stage by a dozen Great Danes. Many a member of the audience was amazed to see his dog on stage for the opening crowd scene at the cottage, and donkeys, goats and horses often livened up the action.

Many of Dick's big productions were written or adapted by members of the cast, so when you joined a class at Greenleaf Road, you might end up as a writer or a musician or an artist painting the set or making fabulous props, costumes or head dresses. The *Bluebird of Happiness* was set in China, so not only was the script rewritten, but five groups of artists designed, painted and created masks, musical instruments and wonderful costumes. Nancy Kuo, an ethereal Chinese dancer helped with make-up and movement and I don't think anyone who ever saw it will ever forget this beautiful show.



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Issue four will be published in October.

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