

The RISFA Players
present

BACK TO RIVETS

also known as
(Mik Ado About Nothing)

A Fannish Operetta

*Based rather loosely on the Savoy Operas
by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan*

*BOOK = Sue Anderson
Mark M. Keller*

LYRICS = Sue Anderson

DIRECTORS = S. Anderson and M. M. Keller

TECHNICAL AND MUSICAL DIRECTION = Chip Hitchcock

ACCOMPANIST = Clark Jarvis

World Première — BOSKONE XIV • 19 February 1977

At the Sheraton-Boston Hotel

THE CAST

(in approximate order of appearance)

Dr. Fred.....George Flynn
Chairfan.....Elliot Kay Shorter
Seymour from under the Swamp.....Paul Di Filippo
Fay, the SCA lady.....Faye Ringel
Louise, the trekkie.....Nancy Hussar
Completist.....Morris M. Keesan
Forrest J. Tucker, the neofan.....Mike Blake
Ted Huxter.....Mark M. Keller
Mad Madam Mimeo.....Sheila G. D'Ammassa
Richard Deadwood.....Richard Harter
Mr. Deadwood's entourage:
 Mongo (bodyguard).....Rick Katze/Robert Benson
 Rufus T. Firefly (lawyer)...A. Joseph Ross, Esq.
 Clarabelle (Punchinello Books
 representative).....Mike Saler
 O'Shaughnessy Slush (artist).....Rick Sternbach
Paul Allan Sheffield, the
 would-be writer.....Topher Cooper
Elsie Smith.....Judith E. Schrier
James Treetop Jr.....Krissy
Barry Herovit.....William H. Desmond
Delany fan.....Chip Hitchcock
Larry Nuthven.....(An)drew (Adams) Whyte
Slans.....Jim Mann, Laurie Trask
Tree.....Debbie Newton
Sun.....Seymour
Lazarus Long.....Clarabelle
the Society for Creative Anachronism:
 Herald.....Paul Mulvaney
 Fighters.....Danamas Icarus, Evan Schrier
 Ladies.....Ris  Cartabiano, Marya Schrier
Chorus of fans, trufans, fanzine fans, wives,
~~sisters, cousins, aunts:~~
Robert Benson, Mike Blake, Jacob Bloom, Topher Cooper,
Sheila G. D'Ammassa, Chip Hitchcock, Nancy Hussar,
Morris M. Keesan, Anne McCaffrey, Lori Meltser,
Judith E. Schrier, Krissy

SYNOPSIS

At the 38th World Science Fiction Convention (Procon 1, 1980, SEYMOUR the trufan is trying to find allies in his struggle against RICHARD DEADWOOD, megalomaniac editor and would-be czar of SF publishing. Seymour meets FAY, a lover of medievalism and member of the SCA who lives in a world where "it is 1183 and we are all barbarians." But she's at the con by mistake---she doesn't like "sci-fi" at all. A trekkie comes by but is also of no help (they seldom are). The hucksters are busy selling wargames to the neofans, the completists are searching for that one last copy of Comet Stories, the fanac fans are immersed in typing and mimeographing to the exclusion of all else. Nobody will help Seymour.

Deadwood enters in a blaze of glory, preceded by fanfares, acolytes scattering roses in his path, lawyer, and bodyguard. His company, Zap-Gun Books, based in Canada and with access to unlimited supplies of cheap pulp paper, is rising to dominate the SF field. Hungry writers and would-be editors are falling at deadwood's feet. His house artist is turning out a hundred and fifty covers a year. His house lawyer, who bears a surprising resemblance to Groucho Marx, has a briefcase full of contracts. Things look grim for the trufans, since Deadwood's version of SF is the worst kind of old-fashioned 1930's space opera: lots of gadgets, lots of cardboard characters, lots of unoriginal plots.

Will the fans ever get it together enough to try to stop Deadwood? Can they stop Deadwood? Can the would-be writer get his abominable novel published by Zap-Gun Books? Can the neofan get out of the hucksters" room with any spare change? Will the psychiatrist lurking in the wings publish his book proving SF is a menace to mental health? NOW REVEALED: the secret machinations behind a great metropolitan science fiction convention. Back to Rivets tells all, sings all, even dances a little bit.

(synopsis by Mark M. Keller)

STAFF

Design.....Chip Hitchcock
Properties.....Jacob Bloom, Lori Meltzer
Sound.....William H. Desmond, Guy Harris,
Nick Nussbaum
Makeup.....Richard Harter
Rehearsal Accompanists.....Morris M. Keesan
Faye Ringel

The directors would like to thank the following people for loan of props, rehearsal space, moral support, and other aid above and beyond the call...

Risè Cartabiano, Judith E. Schrier, Sheila G. D'Ammasa, Bonnie Dalzell, MIT Student Center Committee, Joe Ross, Mike Saler, Lori Meltzer, Drew Whyte, Morris Keesan, Jill Eastlake, Jim Hudson, John Spert, Nick Nussbaum.

The above are in no particular order; thanks to all of them and apologies to anyone left out.

For notes about the show, please see the Boskone Program book pp. 16-17. Illustrated, profusely annotated scripts are available at the NESFA table in the hucksters' room.

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