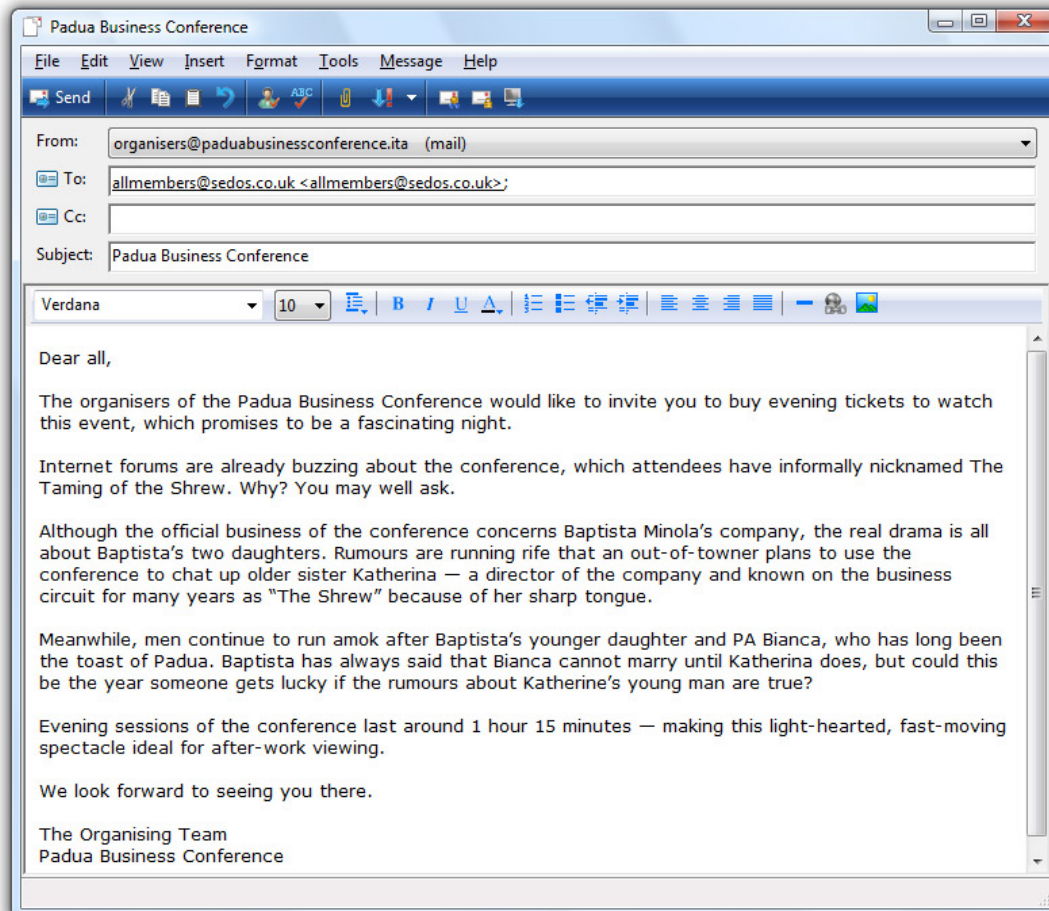


Taming the Shrew - 2010 style

Sedos's Shakespeare in the City tour comes early this year. By the time you read this, Luke Simonds's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* will be showing in offices all over London. Read on for more about his modern take on this popular comedy and when you can see it next week



Public performances of
Sedos's 2010 Shakespeare in the City

The Taming of the Shrew

Tuesday 4 May - 7.30pm, London Stock Exchange EC4M 7LS

Wednesday 5 May - 7pm, Sainsbury's Head Office EC1N 2HT

Buy tickets at
www.sedos.co.uk

If you weren't one of the 27 keen beans who attended Sedos's AGM on Tuesday, 20 April, here's a rundown of the news

New committee

Outgoing Sedos chairman Will Harrison-Wallace thanked those committee members who are standing down, Amy Daw, Becs Weymouth and Karen Lister.

The new committee was voted in in:

Chris de Pury (chairman)
 Craig Topp (treasurer)
 Chloë Faine (secretary)
 Matt Gould
 Will Harrison-Wallace
 Deborah Lean
 Matt Prince
 Becky Smith
 Chris Warner



From left to right: Becky Smith, Matt Prince, Craig Topp, Chris Warner, Deborah Lean, Chris de Pury, Will Harrison-Wallace, Matt Gould, Chloë Faine

Quick bites

- Half Moon, which provides theatrical opportunities for disadvantaged young people, remains Sedos's charity for the next year. Members are encouraged to attend a Half Moon performance and "engage" with its work.
- A presentation was made to Will Harrison-Wallace, who is standing down after five years as Sedos chairman. "My change in career [to go to drama school] has made chairing the committee impossible," said Will, who remains on the committee. New chairman Chris de Pury offered Will a magnum of champagne if he could name 30 of the 37 Sedos shows put on during his tenure - he did so successfully.
- There will be an announcement soon about the autumn musical.
- Negotiations with the Bridewell with regard to Sedos making a capital investment in the theatre have been suspended for now. Dates have been agreed with the theatre for 2011 and 2012.
- If you have any questions about the AGM email admin@sedos.co.uk.

Sedos's new home

New chairman Chris de Pury shared great news which means Sedos will enjoy free rehearsal and storage space, plus an income of around £45,000 a year.

The building is Ocean House, just minutes from the Bridewell near Queen's Bridge House, which the society used in the latter end of 2009. The company which owns Ocean House would have to pay rates of around £120,000 per year if the building stood empty. But, if Sedos uses it, we benefit from paying charity rates of £20,000. The owner has agreed to split the money saved, so Sedos will receive

around £45,000 per year to use the space. Yes, you heard that right, we are being paid to use a rehearsal space! Either party can break the contract every three months, but the arrangement is likely to continue for at least two years, probably longer.

We have use of four floors - one for storage of costumes and props and three for rehearsing. Unlike QBH, it is warm, carpeted and has all the mod cons (flowing water and flushing loos).

This is not a place for set-building, although we do have use of the



Ocean House (above). An Ocean House, just not our Ocean House

parking lots, where some construction may be able to take place.

"We have always aspired to have the benefits of our own venue, somewhere to build an esprit de corps," said Chris. "This relieves us of the burden of paying for rehearsal space and gives us the opportunity to have a home."

A committee is being formed to look after Ocean House, but in the meantime the message is: **turn off the lights, throw your rubbish away and please look after Sedos's new home!**

Show us the money



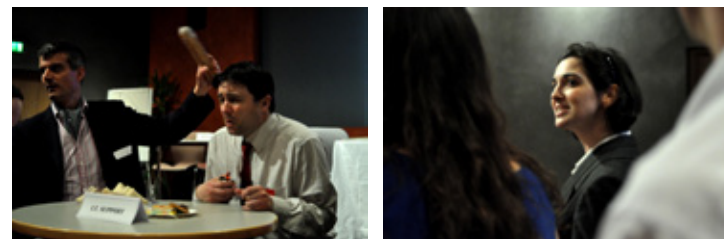
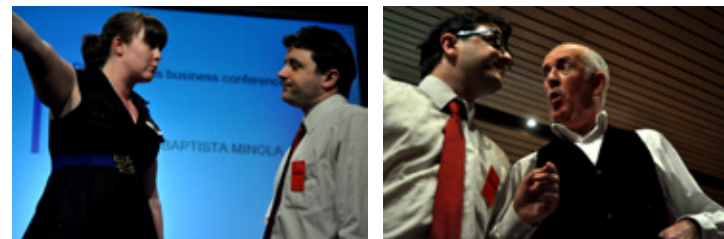
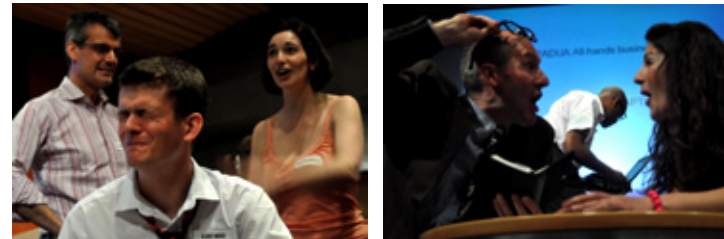
Treasurer Craig Topp gave a side-splittingly hilarious rundown of the society's annual accounts. In summary:

- In 2009, Sedos made a net loss of £1,341 (compared to £588 profit in 2008), subject to change after confirmation of Parade's accounts.
- The difference is largely due to lower interest rates in 2009 (£116 in interest in 2009, compared to £4,770 in 2008). In both years, the shows and membership made a loss - of £1,055 in 2009 and £3,509 in 2008.
- 2009 turnover was around £60,000, compared to £75,000 in 2008. This is due to doing six shows in 2009, compared to nine in 2008. Eleven shows are planned for 2010.
- 2009's shows sold more tickets per performance than 2008 - an average of 85 in 2009, compared to 83 in 2008.
- The most profitable shows of 2009 were Festen (£1,549) and One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest (£1,736).
- Sedos donated £2,785 to Half Moon, our charity of the year, in 2009.
- The Libertine, the first show of 2010, has made a profit of around £2,500.
- Sedos's funds stand at £165,648.
- And finally, Craig's favourite statistic: for every ticket sold, Sedos takes 35p in programme revenue.

Shrew'd observations

Yes, ok, it's a terrible pun, but we're sure that Taming of the Shrew will be quite a bit better. See front page for details of this next production

(photos courtesy of Sedos member Bronia Kupczyk)



Dates for the Diary

4 and 5 May:

The Taming of the Shrew performances

9 May:

Taking Steps auditions

12 May:

Too Darn Hot workshop

19/22/24 May:

The Tragedy of the Prince of Denmark workshop/auditions/recalls

23 May:

Directors' workshop

5 June/12 June:

Too Darn Hot auditions/recalls

16-26 June:

Hair performances

13-17 July:

Taking Steps performances

25-29 July:

Putting It Together performances

Contacts: Grapevine team

(supposedly) In Charge
Pippa Roome

Makes it Look Nice and Stuff
Nick Chronnell

General Good Egg and Helper
Rebecca Weymouth

Idea Bouncer-Off
Stephen Beeny

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Sedos website:
www.sedos.co.uk

Find us at:
www.facebook.com/sedostheatre

Contact the committee at:
admin@sedos.co.uk

Let The Sunshine In

Hair cast member Stephen Beeny introduces The Tribe and gives us an update on how preparations are going for Sedos's summer musical

The "Age of Aquarius" has dawned and a soon to be shaggy bunch has let their locks down in preparation for the summer production of the tribal love-rock musical Hair.

When anyone - professional or amateur - is involved with Hair they always talk about the empowering emotions of being part of "The Tribe", effectively the ensemble of the show. Gavin Creel, who leads the current West End version, calls it a "joyful, expressive, creative" and "really freeing" experience. Me, being an old cynic, thought that sounded like forced joviality, but I'm happy to report I was wrong. As Creel himself says, "It's more than a musical to me, it's an experience," and it's one that I'm relishing being part of.

At the soul of Hair is an explosion of love, energy, rebellion and hope

Out of a cast of 26 only four have performed with Sedos before, but it already feels like we are one big family with a common goal: to create a unique production of this ground-breaking musical that has 59 named characters - everyone from a 1,000-year-old monk to Scarlett O'Hara!

What's more, they're also a hugely talented and varied bunch. Among our numbers we have a criminal barrister, a handful of ex-pro stage managers, countless drama degrees, an ex-pro Irish dancer, a

music teacher, a clinical psychologist, a guy who makes film trailers and a production assistant who calls herself the Ugly Betty of the West End!

Tradition has it that the cast "names" The Tribe and after some rowdy discussion we've called ourselves the Drop City Tribe, which was an artists' colony in Southern Colorado that became known as the first hippie commune. You can't say we haven't done our research!

We've even started a weekly vlog - thanks to Fran Rafferty - to share our journey from page to stage so that you can get to know us a little better before you see us and start now to share in the spirit of this life-affirming piece. And, with elections looming next week, the show is still as pertinent as ever as it's about freedom and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

At the soul of Hair is an explosion of love, energy, rebellion and hope - a hope that the actions of people can make a difference, and I think if we ever lose that hope it will be a sad day. That is what Hair celebrates, that hope never dies! Go on. Share the love.

**Hair is on at the Bridewell Theatre
16-26 June 2010**

For more visit:

<http://www.sedos.co.uk/2010/hair.htm>

View the Drop City Tribe's vlogs at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SedosVideo>

Stop press: Putting It Together auditions took place as this Grapevine

went to press. Check www.sedos.co.uk for the cast list very soon

