

Here are some contributions. Thanks so much to all who have sent some memories through! Please keep them coming for next month!!

From Sandy (Capelin):-

Well I loved being in the chorus for all the musical shows that my society produced and helping with all the productions that my dancing daughter and acting son performed in, not to mention all the concerts that my singing sister has done. But I think my favourite has to be **Summer Song** which is a musical about the composer Anton Dvorak when he visited the USA and all the music is based on his New World Symphony. It certainly isn't famous but I would recommend it to anyone, although it is rarely performed now.

We also enjoyed an outdoor production of **William Tell** when we were in Switzerland that was performed in a forest complete with galloping horses and other live stock like goats and cows complete with bells, all of which paraded passed our hotel on their way to the theatre and back each evening. It was fantastic.

We have also been lucky enough to see the **Passion play in Oberammagau**, which was another amazing experience as the whole village becomes involved and the men all grow their hair and beards for the part so you can spot them as you go around sight seeing. The whole event lasts all day so the 4,500 audience is all bused out to houses for a meal during the 3 hour intermission and then back for the second half, which all worked like clockwork with military precision. Another awesome, event especially as it was part of a trip around the Austrian Tyrol including the Salzkammergut where we visited The White Horse Inn, another show that I had been in that had great music.

From Brian (Ford):-

Brian's view! **Passion Play at Oberammergau** - September 2000

In 1633, devastated by the plague, the people of Oberammergau vowed to hold a passion play every ten years as a sign of their repentance. They kept their promise and the play has been performed every ten years since.

In 2000 we were able to combine a visit to the play as part of a coach trip in Austria.

Oberammergau is a small town in a remote Alpine valley in Germany. The Passion Play starts from scratch every ten years and is a huge community effort. Half of the population are involved. Some 1000 adults and over 500 children take part in the performance and many more are involved in preparing scenery and costumes.

It is an all-day performance, so it requires a stop of at least one, usually two nights.

The performance was very professional. I found myself drawn in, as if as a spectator to a real situation, as events progressed through the trial, torment and

brutal execution played in full and realistic detail. It left a chill, inside, to match the falling temperature of late September in the semi-open auditorium. An experience rather than entertainment.

Also from Brian:

**Film - Les Diaboliques** circa 1955

This was one of the French films produced in the 1950's, in black and white, with subtitles, they displayed a realism that pre-dated the glamour of Hollywood and Cinemascope.

Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, it is a chilling suspense film

The wife and mistress of a tyrannical headmaster at a boarding school plan to murder him as he maltreats them both. They drown him in a bath and dump his body in the school swimming pool. But when the pool is later drained, there is no body! Then his suit is returned cleaned and dry. Is he still alive? Tension and suspense continue to a frightening, unforgettable, climax.

Sometimes said that this was Hitchcock's inspiration for Psycho