

Oxfordshire Drama Network



Newsletter

APRIL 2023

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

There's a lot to see over the next few months, including a few Drama Festivals around the county. ODN festival entry forms are now available online. Results of the Winter Festival will be at the AGM on 14th April 8pm at Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall. Hope to see you all there. Oh and we still need a Treasurer!

Mike Davies.



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

After a bit of a slow start, it seems that Spring has finally sprung and despite the somewhat changeable weather. I can see from the ODN website that many of you are in the middle of rehearsing for Spring shows and one act plays (many of which I hope to see at this year's forthcoming festival season in Henley, Abingdon and Wallingford). Please do take a moment to have a look at the website to see if there is something going on near you and support if you can. Don't forget to promote your show on our Facebook page.



I was saddened recently to read that this might be the last Henley Drama Festival due to the spiralling costs of the hire of the Kenton Theatre. Unfortunately, this isn't uncommon with many festivals around the country closing. I encourage you all to try and support as many festivals as you can – if not as a participating team, then as an audience member. They are an invaluable training ground for all aspects of community theatre – where else can you get valuable professional feedback for new directors, actors, and technicians for £20-£30?? Not forgetting the opportunity to work in different spaces, try out new material and meet other like-minded people. I very much hope that if Henley, and indeed all our local festivals, are well supported then it will ensure their future for us and our future members.

Our AGM is set for Friday 14th April, 8pm at Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall, where we will be announcing the results of the Winter Festival. Apologies for the change of date as originally advertised in the last newsletter, this was due to a clash of dates. All member groups should send a representative in order to facilitate a discussion on the future of the organisation. We also are looking for people to join the committee. We meet on Zoom around 5 or 6 times per year so it is not particularly onerous and if you think you can spare some time, then please contact info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org or make yourself known at the AGM.

Hope to see you there

Karen Carey (Chair)

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

APRIL

- 5-8 M.Y.C.O. *The Addams Family*
11-15 Abingdon Operatic Society *Carousel*
20-22 Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group *Cheshire Cats*
26-29 Henley A.O.D.S. *OUR HOUSE*
28+29 Under Chippy Woods & the Nortonians -
Under Milk Wood,

MAY

- 2-6 Henley Drama Festival at The Kenton Theatre
9-13 Compton Players *Mrs Wilson*
11-13+ Jigsaw Stage Productions
17-20 Guys & Dolls - The Musical
17-20 Bartholomew Players *"A Bunch of Amateurs"*
17-20 Dorchester ADS *One Man, Two Guvvors*
24-27 Buttercross Theatre Productions & Balancing Act -
The Murmuration of Starlings

JUNE

- 1-3 Bicester Choral & Op. Soc. *The Addams Family*
1-3 Wychwood Players *Canary Cage & Women Only*
5-10 ODN Festival of One Act Plays
10-11 OxOps *On The Steps Of The Palace*
16,17 Wantage Sings -
23,24 The 90's - A Concert.
19-24 Wallingford One-Act Drama Festival

JULY

- 12-15 Banbury Cross Players *Things I Know to be True*
19-22 Blewbury Players *Shakespeare In Love.*
22 Bicester Choral & Op. Soc. *Twist & Shout*

AUGUST

- 3-5 AmEgos Theatre *Young Frankenstein*

Page	INSIDE THIS ISSUE
1	Chairman's Letter
2	ODN Drama Festival – entries open
2-3	Acting Skills "How to be Original"
3-4	Review
5-10	Forthcoming Events
10	ODN committee NDFA Festival

ODN AGM

Friday 14th April, 8pm

Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall

ODN Festival of One Act Plays

5 - 10 June - Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

Adjudicator:
Nancy Heath



We are now inviting entries for our annual summer drama festival of one act plays. We again return to the unique Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon, which is truly stunning in the summer months and a perfect venue for our friendly festival with it's unique workshop adjudication.

As usual, plays should be between 20-50 mins and either licensed to perform or permission obtained by the playwright. The tech rehearsal will take place on Sunday 4th June where each team will have 45 mins to discuss technical requirements and assess the stage area.

The Entry forms are now available to download from our website.

www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/444

Or here:-

[Click here to download an entry form](#) (Word Doc).

[Click here to download an entry form](#) (pdf to print)

(Groups must be paid up ODN member groups)

A COLLECTION OF SCRIPTS FREE



Available now - a **Large number of play scripts** mostly single but some sets or partial sets. They would need to be collected from Hanney and the whole collection taken in one go. No charge to the collector, although a small donation to the ODN coffers would be much appreciated if you'd like.

These scripts belonged to the Domino Players, who are sadly disbanding, and are being passed on by founding member Jean Sutherland so that they may still get some use. Please call Jean on 01235868396 for details or to arrange collection from her.

Teaching Your Actors to Be Originals

By Christina Hamlett

Some of the best acting advice I think I ever heard was at musical theatre tryouts many years ago. A young woman around my age had chosen "People" from Funny Girl as her audition piece. With eyes closed, body swaying and wistfully twisting her hands, there's no question who she was trying to channel. So much so that the director stopped her in mid-lyric to ask, "Why are you singing it like that?"

She defended her song-styling with the reply, "It's the way Barbra did it in the movie."

"And why do you think that's the right way?" he challenged her.

She was flummoxed by this and cited Streisand's depiction of Fanny Brice as a box office success. "Why shouldn't I copy her?"

Without missing a beat he told her that once upon a time not even Streisand sounded like Streisand. "It took years of training and discipline to hone her craft and develop a unique voice all her own. As should you."



Too often actors fall into the habit of parroting what they have observed in the performances of others rather than doing a deep dive and finding fresh interpretations of the roles in which they have been cast. Movie adaptations of stage musicals (or vice versa) such as Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, Hairspray, Annie, The Lion King, Les Miserables, and Sound of Music can force impressionable actors into copycat versions which, by comparison, are almost always cringeworthy. At the other end of the spectrum are directors who focus so much attention on the memorization of lines that the result is little more than a flat-line delivery devoid of authentic emotion.

The following are a few fun exercises to get your actors primed in rehearsal to see the show — and their characters — from unexpectedly different angles.



Quiet on the set

What if the play you're producing had a cast of mimes? Put your actors through their paces by having them do selected scenes without any spoken words. How much can be conveyed relying only on body language, facial expressions and the timing of actions/reactions?

But what are they really saying?

Subtext is a crucial element in any type of performance art. Yes, we know what the dialogue tells us about relationships, but what does it communicate indirectly about the players' true

feelings and intentions? Subtext reflects a character's fear of expressing oneself openly through such techniques as changing the subject, answering questions with more questions, getting physical, masking sensitive emotions through humor or sarcasm, etc. Without reciting any actual lines from the play, have your actors speak only in subtext to one another. This is a useful device to test their understanding of what's really going on beneath the surface.

Speed-speak

Prior to rehearsal, I used to gather my cast in an informal circle and have them run lines as quickly as they could. If anyone faltered, we began again from the beginning. This definitely put everyone at the top of their game.

That's my cue

Again standing in an informal circle, have an actor say a line — any line in the script — which is someone else's cue to respond. Go around the circle, with each actor starting with one of their lines. Since no one knows what line will be coming up next, they need to stay on their toes.

One line, 10 different ways

Choose any short line from the play. Each actor — regardless of his or her role — needs to deliver that line with a different emotion and word emphasis than has been used previously; i.e., sad, angry, happy, hysterical, cynical, bragging, etc. A variation on this involves quirky parentheticals (aka wrylies) which playwrights often insert to suggest how a line should be spoken. In my work as a script consultant, I have seen no shortage of weirdness and have saved some of the best for this exercise. It makes a fun theatre game to see how your actors would interpret the following stage directions:

- sniffing furtively
- laughing satirically
- smiling aggressively
- whistling angrily
- glaring impassively
- chuckling wistfully
- shouting hesitantly
- smiling soberly
- staring wildly
- yawning cavernously



Brits for the day

I have yet to meet an actor of any age who doesn't enjoy laying on a snappy British accent. Spend part of rehearsal in which everyone does this. For variation, try southern genteel, country western, or even cartoon characters.

Trading places

If you've employed the wisdom of instructing your actors to learn their fellow players' lines and blocking in case of an unforeseen emergency, rehearsal is a great time to put what they have learned to the test.

Run scenes in which your understudy/alternates get to play the lead roles. Although there may be some stumbles and fumbled lines, they might also bring a perspective which you or the actor actually playing the role hadn't considered.

All soaped up

Two of the common denominators of television soap operas are: (1) everyone speaks slowly and with perfect diction, and (2) crucial bits of information are often reiterated just to make sure audiences don't miss anything. For this exercise, turn your practice scenes into soap operas. Deliveries should be over-the-top dramatic, stylized, and contain at least one line (no matter how silly) which is repeated for emphasis.

Do I hear a song?

Whether they have musical talents or not, put your actors through a rehearsal in which they must sing every line. Allow them the freedom to either use an existing melody or just make something up that's spontaneous. Laughs are sure to ensue... and isn't having fun what this entire creative process is about?

Former actress and director **Christina Hamlett** is an award-winning author whose credits to date include 48 books, 266 stage plays and squillions of articles on the performing arts.

www.authorhamlett.com

from www.pioneerdrama.com

REVIEWS

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

The Mill, Banbury, 15th - 18th March 2023

Banbury Cross Players' production of Romeo & Juliet was a ground breaker for me. I'd read the play was a modern take on the story, so was looking forward to BCP's interpretation of this infamous tale.

Fair enough, the set was certainly modern with just a balcony running the width of the stage and a bed.

So off we go. The players began to appear all dressed in modern apparel, jeans trainers, hoodies, you know the sort of thing. Then the dialogue. I was expecting 'yoof' speak, but no this was as Shakespeare had written it.

This threw me for several minutes, until brain connected with ear to accept what was going on.

By this time I had not fully taken in the entrance of BCP favourites John McCormick and Jed

Turner as roughians Sampson & Gregory gesticulating and generally upsetting the toffs in this opening scene.

This play, the second in BCP's 2022/2023 season, opens with Romeo & Juliet's death scene. It's no spoiler to remark on the incredible performances from protagonists Alex King as Romeo and Sophie Jasmin Bird as Juliet.

The pair throughout the production delivered strong performances interpreting their huge parts as good as ever I have seen on the professional stage.

They delivered their words which included some massive monologues as far as I could make out prompt free, this also being the case for the other cast members.

This was the first night of the run so one could forgive the odd pieces of dialogue that went astray. Whether through lack of projection or speaking a little too quickly, but never enough to affect the enjoyment of the play.

This production of Romeo & Juliet marked the directorial debut of Katy Roberts who states in her programme notes that she hopes this play surprises the audience in ways they weren't expecting, well it certainly did that for me.

There was action aplenty too. More knife fights than a Saturday night in Kabul plus creative stage management with the one prop, the bed, travelling more around the stage than Michael Palin on holiday.



The plot of course is renowned but in a nutshell the Capulet and Montague families don't see eye to eye. Romeo is a Montague who falls for Juliet a Capulet. As an aside it was a real joy to witness the interplay between these two in the famous 'Where for art thou Romeo...' balcony scene.

So, having agreed to wed, Romeo goes off to see the Friar (Bruce Walton) to arrange the union.

Romeo's mates Mercutio and Benvolio turn up as does Tybalt (an outstanding performance from Justin Clinch) with his henchmen and takes offence at the sight of his families (the Capulets) enemies and gets in a fight with Mercutio and stabs him to death. Romeo now takes the hump and kills Tybalt.

Mercutio was played with great gusto by Lizzie Forward and Zac Lacey-Rousou was Benvolio. Sadly Benvolio's voice was lost on several occasions simply because he didn't speak loud enough but it was the first night. Several characters' diction improved during the performance, I guess down to gaining confidence.

Helen Williams was Juliet's nurse, who gave a confident spirited rendition in this vital role especially providing support to Juliet when she hears Romeo has been banished from Verona for killing Tybalt.

Now Lady Capulet (Kate Groves), Juliet's mother, insists her daughter marries Paris (Chris Brant) a young nobleman of her acquaintance this coming Thursday.

It's safe to say things don't work out well. Juliet fakes her death to get her out of her forthcoming nuptials with Paris, Romeo discovers her and thinks she's dead and kills himself. Juliet wakes up, sees Romeo's corpse and so poisons herself.

A touching finale, very well acted by all concerned but medals to Alex and Sophie as Romeo & Juliet especially.



Lance Bassett
March 2023

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

M.Y.C.O. **The Addams Family** A new musical comedy

Book by Marshall
Brickman and Rick Elice

Music and Lyrics by
Andrew Lippa

Based on Characters Created
by Charles Addams

The eccentrically macabre
Addams family are about to
find life at their spooky mansion turned upside down by
the nightmare that besets all parents of a teenager. As
their daughter Wednesday reaches that special age,
she has just one thing on her mind. Is it homicide? No!
It's love - with a boy from an all-American family.

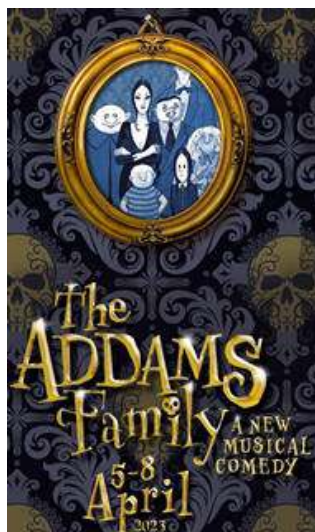
Andrew Lippa's quirky musical take on the Addams
family first premiered on Broadway in 2010 where it was
nominated for two Tonys and eight Drama Desk
awards.

Sure to shoot your socks off (with a crossbow!), The
Addams Family is certain to captivate with the
spellbinding talent of the award-winning Musical Youth
Company of Oxford, as they let their inner goth loose!

When: Wed 5th - Sat 8th April 2023. 7.30pm
Matinee: 2.30 Saturday 8th.

Where: Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street,
Oxford, OX1 2LW

Tickets: from www.oxfordplayhouse.com
or Call: (01865) 305305



A secondary plot line deals with millworker Carrie
Pipperidge and her romance with ambitious
fisherman Enoch Snow. The show includes the
well-known songs 'If I Loved You', 'June Is Bustin'
Out All Over' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.
Richard Rodgers later wrote that Carousel was the
favourite of all his musicals.

When: Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th April 2023
at 7.30pm + Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

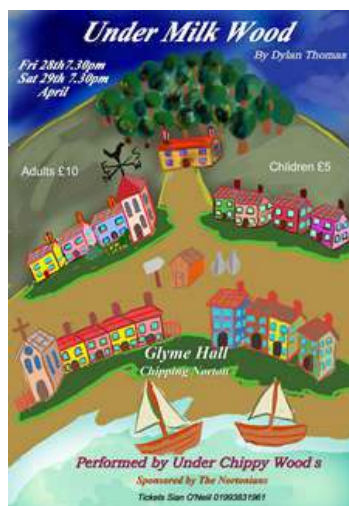
Where: Amey Theatre, Park Rd,
Abingdon School, OX14 1DE.

Tickets via our website:

www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk/index.php/tickets

UNDER CHIPPY WOODS & THE NORTONIANS **Under Milk Wood,** by Dylan Thomas.

Under Milk Wood written by Dylan Thomas for radio,
is a tale of a fishing village or small town, Llareggub
(Bugger all) in South
West Wales. Focusing on
various characters, their
thoughts, actions and
way of life. Very
entertaining, with
beautifully delivered
language, comical in
parts and poignant. The
Under Chippy Woods are
well into rehearsals and
producing some real
magic moments.



When: Fri 28th & Sat
29th April at 7:30pm

Where: Glyme Hall, Chipping Norton,

Tickets: £10 Adults and £5 Children.

Contact: Siân O'Neill on 01993 831962.

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY **'Carousel'** by Rodgers and Hammerstein



The show's story revolves around carousel barker
Billy Bigelow, whose romance with millworker Julie
Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. He
participates in a robbery to provide for Julie and
their unborn child; and then, after it goes tragically
wrong, he is given a chance to make things right.

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP **'Cheshire Cats'** by Gail Young

Follow the antics of a
group of friends as they
aim to stride across the
capital in record time in
their decorated bras
and new trainers, but
the problem is that one
of the team doesn't seem to meet the physical
criteria!

This London Moonwalk adventure is a cross
between a girls' night out and a real mission to
support a cause (breast cancer) so close to
many hearts, with plenty of laughs and a few



tears along the way. So come and enjoy a good night out!

When: 20-22 April, curtain up at 7.30pm.

Doors open 7pm

Where: Southmoor Village Hall,

Tickets: £10 Adults (under 16s £6) suitable for 12+ from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingston-bagpuize-drama-group>

HENLEY A.O.D.S. OUR HOUSE

by Tim Firth
Music and lyrics by Madness

Based in 1980s Camden Town, Our House tells the story of London lad Joe Casey, who, on the night of his sixteenth birthday, takes Sarah, the girl of his dreams, out on their first date. In an effort to impress her with bravado, he breaks into a building site overlooking his home on Casey Street, which is owned by Mister Pressman, a high-end property developer. The police turn up, at which point Joe's life splits into two: the Good Joe, who stays to help, and Bad Joe, who flees.

Featuring a collection of Madness hits including House of Fun, Baggy Trousers, Driving in my Car, It Must Be Love and of course Our House, the show was a huge hit in the west end and we are sure you will love it. So put your fez on, and come along and join us for a night to remember!

When: Weds 26th - Sat 29th April at 7.45pm
+ matinee Sat 29th at 2.30pm

Where: The Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-

Tickets: Adult £20 Concessions £18
Saturday Matinee - Pay What You Want
Online Booking: www.kentontheatre.co.uk

Henley Drama Festival at The Kenton Theatre

The venue is the lovely old Kenton Theatre in Henley on Thames the fourth oldest working theatre in the country. The festival will be held as always in the first May bank holiday week

Four classes: 1. Open,
2. All Women/Men,
3 Best Youth, 4. Best Original Play.

When: Tue 2nd to Sat 6th of May 2023

The shows start at 7.30pm, Saturday at 7pm

Details & booking on www.KentonTheatre.co.uk

Email: HenleyDramaFestival@gmail.com

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/henleydramafestival



COMPTON PLAYERS

Mrs Wilson
by H Connolly

Another Premier for our
Spring production



We are pleased to announce that we'll be performing a brand-new play 'Mrs Wilson' by our very own playwright H Connolly in the spring.

When: Tues 9th + Thurs 11th to Sat 13th May at 7.30pm (No performance Wed 10th)

Where: Compton Village Hall

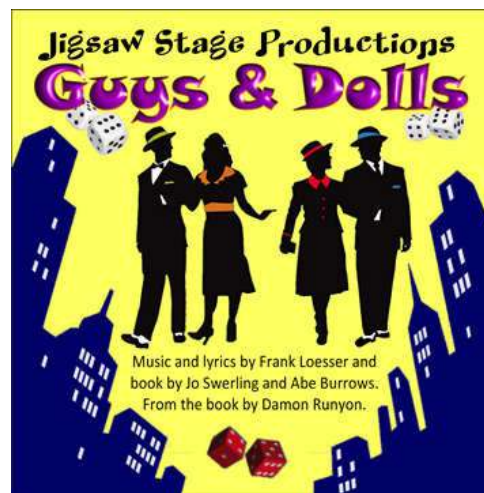
Tickets: £9 (£8 conc) Online from 14th March at www.comptonplayers.co.uk

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS Guys & Dolls - The Musical

Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
From the book by Damon Runyon

"The musical comedy about rolling the dice and falling in love!"

Gambler
Nathan Detroit
Needs \$1,000
to pay a garage
owner to host
his Crap game.
So Nathan bets
Sky Masterson,
a high roller,
\$1,000 that he



cannot get virtuous Sarah Brown out on a date.

Set in Manhattan this very funny musical has the lot, with songs such as "Luck be a Lady tonight", "Sit down you're rocking the Boat", and many more.

Venues:

The Beacon, Wantage, Thu 11th to Sat 13th May at 7.30pm + matinee Sat 13th at 2.30pm

Tickets: £15 (£13 conc) online via www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk

AND

Cornerstone, Didcot, Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.45pm + matinee Sat 20th 2.30pm

Tickets: £15 (£13 conc) from Cornerstone, www.cornerstone-arts.org or Tel 01235 515144

For more details see:

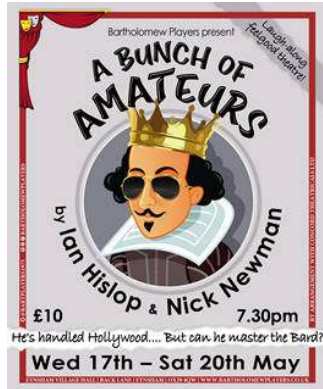
www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

"A Bunch of Amateurs"

by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of



Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians.

When: Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.30pm.

Where: Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

Tickets: see website

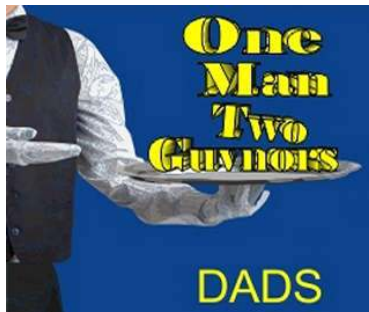
Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

DORCHESTER ADS

One Man, Two Guvnors

by Richard Bean

A farce where sex, food and money are high on the agenda. It follows Francis whose pursuit of food leads him to seek employment from two people. From there we get mobsters, letters, slapstick and the occasional audience 'volunteer' as we weave towards a conclusion where all's well that ends well.



When: Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.30pm.

Where: Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall, 7 Queen Street, OX10 7HR

Tickets: see website www.dads.org.uk

BUTTERCROSS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS & BALANCING ACT

The Murmuration of Starlings

By Joe Graham

A unique theatrical production that looks at Dementia and Alzheimer's from the inside out, in

a fascinating new play by the exciting local writer, Joe Graham.

It will be at times confusing, disturbing and provocative, but at the heart of it and in the end... it is a love story.

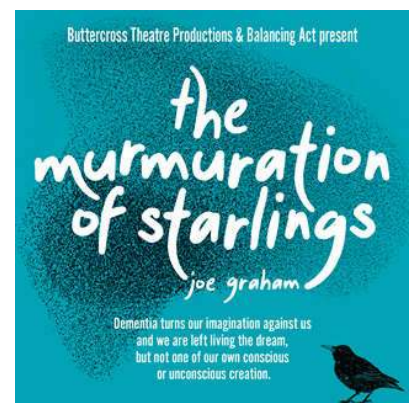
When: Wed 24th to Sat 27th May at 7.30pm

Where: Witney Corn Exchange

Tickets: £15 from :

www.buttercrosstheatreproductions.co.uk/shows

In aid of Alzhemier's Society



BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

The Addams Family

Based on the popular 1960s TV show we all loved.

This show won numerous awards on Broadway when it opened in 2010 - don't miss out!

When: Thurs 1st to Sat 3rd June at 7.30pm

Where: Cooper School, Churchill Rd, Bicester OX26 4RS

Tickets: £15/£7 online from www.bcoswesing.org.uk

See facebook.com/BicesterChoral



WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

'The Canary Cage' by Diana Raffle, and

'Women Only' by David Tristram

'The Canary Cage' - Three women are locked in a cellar. One of them is psychotic. Two are in danger. Only one survives. This play has the power to send shivers down the spines of the audience and keep them guessing until the end.

 Wychwood Players 



www.wychwoodplayers.com

This is followed by supper and then :

'Women Only' (World Premiere)- After a stressful year for both of them, divorcee Laura decides to take her recently widowed mother Ruth on a much needed holiday. A few gin and tonics later, Laura's whole world is turned upside down. But as the extraordinary revelations start to fly, will there be an unexpected twist?

This brand new comedy from the pen of popular playwright David Tristram is an absolute delight.

When: 1st, 2nd and 3rd June at 7.30pm

Where: New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood near Burford, Oxon. OX7 6BQ.

Tickets: Includes supper in the interval.

Website: www.wychwoodplayers.com

ODN Festival of One Act Plays

Mon 5th to Sat 10th June

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

2 one act plays per evening Monday to Friday. Three plays from the week are called back for Saturday Gala night.



This is a friendly festival and our main aim is to bring people together, both in a celebration of theatre and as a learning experience.

The adjudicator this year is Nancy Heath a GODA member. After each play (Mon-Fri), the adjudicator will give a short review and a workshop with the cast.

OXOPS

On The Steps Of The Palace

A concert celebrating all things royal.



"Once upon a time, there was a palace. And in that palace lived a king, a queen, a princess, and a prince. And also a cook, a ladies maid, a stable boy, and three very strong knights..."

Join Oxford's premier musical theatre group as we come together for a concert to celebrate all things

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

royal! Featuring songs from Hamilton to Camelot, Anastasia to Gondoliers, and Shrek to Six, this specially designed production explores and celebrates royalty in all its many forms—including some you might not expect.

Nestled between King Charles' coronation and official birthday, OXOPS' fairy godmothers will whisk you away for a magical night of music and storytelling—so whether you're a dancing queen or a king of New York, just sit back and enjoy the ball!

When: Sat 10th & Sun 11th June at 7.30pm
+ matinee at 2.30pm on Sun 11th

Where: The Old Fire Station, 40 George St, Oxford OX1 2AQ

Tickets: oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/on-the-steps-of-the-palace

WANTAGE SINGS

The 90's A Concert.



Wantage Sings are back with another fabulous collection of songs - this time we'll be transporting you back to the 1990s ☐

We are performing the following **dates**:-

16th June 2023 Stanford in the Vale Village Hall

17th June 2023 Old Mill Hall, Grove

23rd June 2023 Steventon Village Hall

24th June 2023 Old Mill Hall, Grove

Doors and Bar opens at 7pm, show starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets: £10, Concession £8 from:-

Website: www.WantageSings.co.uk

Wallingford One-Act Drama Festival



The Corn Exchange Wallingford will host their One-Act Drama Festival between

Mon June 19 & Saturday June 24

This year's Festival will be adjudicated by **Cherry Stephenson**. (GoDA)

More information can be found at

www.cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival or if you have any additional questions, email:-

dramafestival@cornexchange.org.uk

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell

Things I Know to be True is a poignant, well-written family drama with powerful characters on a journey with an unexpected conclusion. The writing is beautiful and poetic.



The story of a marriage and a family is told through the eyes of four grown siblings who are struggling to define themselves beyond their parents' love and expectations. The parents think they have a strong family. The children are only doing what the parents want. All want to escape.

Things I Know to be True is a collaborative piece with all characters on-stage throughout and the picture of the family is drawn through movement and mime.

Age Recommendation – 14+

When: 12th to 15th July at 7:30pm

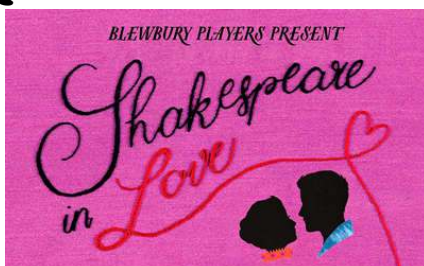
Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Rd, Banbury, OX16 5QE

Tickets: via www.themillartscentre.co.uk

Website: www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk

BLEWBURY PLAYERS, Shakespeare In Love.

Based on the Academy Award-winning movie and adapted for the stage by Lee Hall (Billy Elliot, The Pitmen Painters), this hilarious, romantic play finds



William Shakespeare struggling to write Romeo and Juliet. For those who love Shakespeare, this play is for you. For those who hate Shakespeare, this play is for you too, written in English you can understand with lots of jokes. Directed by Steve White, *Shakespeare in Love* will bring Elizabethan London and its theatre back to life in Orchard Dene, with love, death, music, dance, cross-dressing... and a dog.

When: 19 July to 22 July 2023 at 8:00pm

Where: Orchard Dene Garden Theatre

Tickets: Box-Office opens 1st June online from www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

Email: blewburyplayers@gmail.com for ticketing details.

BCOS (BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY)

Twist & Shout

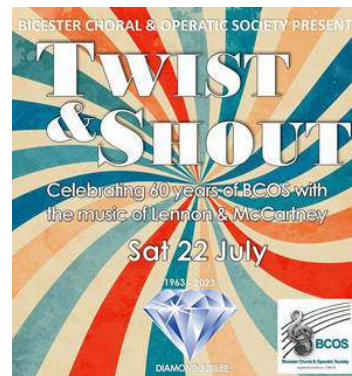
A concert

Taking us into the summer, come along and enjoy the music of Lennon & McCartney as we celebrate 60 years of BCOS

When: Jul 22 2023

Where: St Edburg's Church, Bicester

Tickets: www.bcoswesing.org.uk

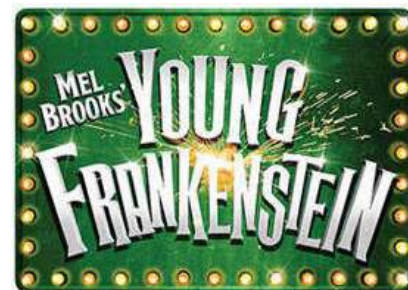


AMEGOS THEATRE

Young Frankenstein

The musical by Mel Brooks

The monster musical comedy from the creators of "The Producers"



Frederick Frankenstein, grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick, Igor, and a leggy lab assistant, Inga, Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors.

"It's alive!" he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfather's. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds.

Young Frankenstein has all of the panache of the screen sensation with an extra theatrical flair.

"If you want a bawdy, uproarious belly laugh that's done out of pure love for the genres that it parodies, this is a show that delivers in spades."

- *The Radio Times*.

Suitable for all ages,

(under 14s must be accompanied by an adult).

When: Wantage 3rd - 5th August at 7.30pm

+ Matinee Sat at 2.30pm

Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage, OX1??????

Tickets: via www.amegostheatre.com

Your ODN Committee

Officers

Chair	Karen Carey (Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)
Secretary	Becki Brewis (Wootton Players)
Newsletter/Website	Mike Davies (Drayton Players & Jigsaw Stage Productions)
Treasurer	Post unfilled – we are desperately in need of a volunteer
Membership Secretary	Sue Tibbles (Oxford Theatre Guild)

General members

Mike Lacey	(Kingston Bagpuize)
Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players & Buttercross Productions)
Jess Ebberson	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork



NATIONAL Drama FESTIVAL
THE CREAM OF AMATEUR THEATRE

FEATURING 14 OUTSTANDING PLAYS FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR THEATRE

★★★★★
National Drama Festivals Association (NDFA)

Come and watch the cream of amateur theatre in a competitive showcase over a long weekend presenting their award-winning performances of full-length and one-act plays.

20TH - 23RD JULY 2023
THE ALBANY THEATRE COVENTRY
SEE OVER FOR PRICING OPTIONS

THE NATIONAL Drama FESTIVAL celebrates the cream of amateur theatre. It's a competitive showcase: a weekend's worth of award-winning productions. Each production will have won awards on the festival circuit in the past few months, and deserves to be seen again! And what's more, they'll be adjudicated by a GoDA Adjudicator, so that you can appreciate why they ARE the best of the best.

Whether you're coming to watch the plays in one session, or the plays in all six sessions, we've put together a pricing structure we think you'll like!

THE SESSIONS

THURSDAY EVENING	2 or 3 plays: 7pm start	SATURDAY AFTERNOON	2 or 3 plays: 2pm start
FRIDAY AFTERNOON	2 or 3 plays: 2pm start	SATURDAY EVENING	2 or 3 plays: 7pm start
FRIDAY EVENING	2 or 3 plays: 7pm start	SUNDAY AFTERNOON	2 or 3 plays: 2pm start

* At the end of each session, the Adjudicator will assess the productions within that session.
** Information about the plays (and the Booking Order) will appear on the NDFA website from June.

YOUR TICKET OPTIONS

SINGLE-SESSION TICKET Watch all plays in any one session.	GROUP SINGLE-SESSION TICKET 10 people watch all plays in any one session. Group of 10 people: £96 (£9.60 per person)
DOUBLE-SESSION TICKET Watch all plays in any two sessions (15% discount)	GROUP DOUBLE-SESSION TICKET 10 people watch all plays in any two sessions. Group of 10 people: £150 (£15 per person)
FULL FESTIVAL TICKET Watch all plays in all six sessions (50% discount)	

Adult	£12
Concessions	£10
Students	£6

Adult	£20
Concessions	£17
Students	£10

Adult	£36
Concessions	£30
Students	£18

ACCOMMODATION
If you and your friends are coming from afar, you might want to stay the night. Or nights. We've identified local accommodation options to suit all budgets to help you plan your stay.

Go to www.ndfa.co.uk to find out everything you need to know about the National Drama Festival 2023 as it happens!



NATIONAL Drama FESTIVAL
THE ALBANY theatre