

Oxfordshire Drama Network



Newsletter

APRIL 2024

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 available on our website.

Results of the Winter Festival will be announced at our AGM on 19th April (see below).

For your group to add events to our website, email us for a group Username & Password.

Mike Davies.



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello members!

I had a fantastic time visiting many pantomimes and winter plays over the last few months and thank you all for the warm welcome myself and fellow judges received - we really appreciated it was great to see so much enthusiasm from the cast and crews on display. We will be announcing the results of the winter festival as usual at our AGM on Friday 19th April please do join us.

Break a leg to all the groups who have spring shows coming up and there are quite a few - do check the website for details of upcoming productions and don't forget to add yours if you haven't already. Applications for Wallingford and ODN festivals are now open and if you're really quick you might be lucky to slot into Henley which starts at the beginning of May.

I would also like to pass on huge congratulations to Launton Players who raised a whopping 11K for their chosen charity through their pantomime production of Rapunzel - well done Launton!!

Karen Carey (Chair)



WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

APRIL

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|---|
| 3-6 | Music Youth of Oxford | Me and My Girl |
| 4-6 | AmEgos Theatre | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
| 9-13 | Abingdon Operatic Society | 9 to 5 - The Musical |
| 16-20 | Oxford Theatre Guild | The Importance of being Earnest |
| 17-20 | Abingdon Drama Club | Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead |
| 17-20 | Goring Gap Players | Charley's Aunt |
| 18-20 | Buttercross Theatre Productions | AVENUE Q |
| 18-20 | Kingston Bagpuize D.G. | Behind Closed Doors - Four One Act Plays |
| 25-27 | Compton Players | Wind in the Willows |
| 25-27 | Dorchester A.D.S. | Surprise Surprise! |
| 25-27 | Wychwood Players | Arsenic & Old Lace |

MAY

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7-11 | Thame Players | Twelfth Night |
| 7-11 | The Henley Drama Festival | |
| 15-18 | Bartholomew Players | A Pack of Lies |
| 15-18 | Faringdon Dramatic Society | Enchanted April |
| 16-18 | Chipping Norton A.O.S. | Evita, The Musical |
| 16-18 | Jigsaw Stage Productions | |
| 22-25 | Disney's Beauty and the Beast | |
| 21-25 | The Sinodun Players | The Invisible Man |
| 30-1Jun | Henley A.O.D.S. | Woyzeck |

JUNE

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|
| 1-8 | Didcot Phoenix Drama Group | I Hear You |
| 3-8 | ODN Drama Festival Abingdon | |
| 10-15 | Wallingford One-Act Play Festival | |

ODN AGM
with ODN Winter Festival awards
Friday 19th April 7.30 for 8pm
Northcourt Centre, Abingdon.
Northcourt Road, OX14 1NS

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Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork

Oxfordshire Drama Network

One Act Play Festival

We are delighted to announce that Martin Parr will be adjudicating the Oxfordshire Drama Network Festival in June. Martin is new to The Guild of Drama Adjudicators but has been working as an actor and director for years.

Martin originally trained and worked as an actor, working at most theatres in the UK as well as on tour in the US. He later made the natural transition to directing; initially in opera, and then plays, musical theatre, staged oratorios and cabaret as well as new, site specific work.

Alongside this work, Martin frequently directs in UK drama schools; most recently Mountview, Central, RADA, LIPA and BADA.

Martin sits on the audition panel for the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the Association of English Singers and Speakers. He is an Associate member of GODA.

Martin is really looking forward to working with us particularly in regard to the workshop aspect of our festival which he considers very innovative.

We like to encourage particularly new directors, writers and actors to take. Applications are now open – to download the form see the Festival article at the top of the ODN website.



great ad-lib that gets you great laughs... for the moment. But the playwright is building momentum for an arc resulting in a denouement that is both hilarious and satisfying. An off-track gag for laughs can derail that momentum. If your script does not have the humour you are looking for, then buy a different script. Stay true to the script you've got.

Pacing. One of my favorite movies of all time is His Girl Friday. The pacing is crisp, and the repartee is quick without seeming to be rushed. The shorthand that I use in rehearsals is a snapping of my fingers to get the pace going, which irritates my actors, but gets the message across. In order to have this kind of delivery, the actors have to have their lines down cold. We did this once with a spoof on Shakespeare in which the actors went back and forth on all the many, many, MANY ways that characters died in Shakespeare. These two actors had to run their lines over and over again to get the crisp, quick pace. But when they performed it, they brought the house down. So, keeping the pace is important, BUT...



Do not step on the laughter. Give the audience permission to laugh. Actors tend to step on the laughter during the first performance because 1) they are anxious to deliver their lines right after their cue, 2) they have a conditioned fear of me snapping my fingers when they slow the pace, even during a performance, and 3) they didn't have laughter during rehearsal, so they don't expect it. If you plow on to your next line during laughter, the audience will not laugh at the next bit because they are afraid that they will miss dialogue. You are basically training your audience not to laugh. Don't be afraid to pause. Even milk the laughter a bit with body language and facial expressions.

You should start delivering lines again when the laughter dies down enough for the next line to be heard. However, this is not a hard and fast rule. I've had actors who had such great comic timing and feel for the audience that with a look or a gesture they were able to keep the audience in rolling laughter. But you really cannot teach that.



The straight person is the most important actor in a comedy. It can be a real bummer to be the straight person. You are setting up the comic actor and — bam! — they deliver the line or action that gets the laughs. Naturally, all actors want some glory. But the straight person is the audience's representative on stage. They are the person the audience identifies with in all the craziness on stage. You cannot have comedy without the straight person.

As actor Edmund Gwenn said on his deathbed, "Dying is easy. Comedy is hard." It is so very hard to do comedy well, but the good news is, when you do it right, you get instant feedback from the audience. Not only that, but studies in Japan and Norway have concluded that laughter helps people live longer, more stress-free lives. So perform a public service. Do some comedy acting!

From www.pioneerdrama.com

Five Keys to Comedy Acting

By Jim and Jane Jeffries

You are on a team. If someone tells you after a show that you were hilarious but the play itself wasn't that funny, you've got a problem. Your goal is to work with your fellow actors to create an experience that informs and delights the audience. Once we had a performance where, just before an outdoor show, the lead actor went down with heatstroke. They asked me to step in since they thought I would know his lines, having written the play and all. I didn't know the lines. So I just improvised the entire show. I got a lot of laughs, my fellow actors were in a constant state of terror, and the play lost all meaning. Granted, this was a desperate situation, but when an actor goes off script for laughs at the expense of other actors, it never ends well.



Respect the script. As playwrights, we are particularly sensitive about this. Maybe you've got a

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Bartholomew Players donate to Motor Neurone Disease Oxford

Bartholomew Players broke the audience record previously held by Calendar Girls in 2013 with their recent sell-out production of "Silver Lining" by Sandi Toksvig, welcoming a staggering 444 people over four nights.

The witty story of five old women trapped in a retirement home by rising flood waters and their ingenious, if not a little wacky, solution to build a raft using tables and water bottles to sail to safety raised huge peals of laughter from the audience. The witty one-liners from these octogenarians certainly resonated with the crowd who recognised many of the tribulations of dealing with old age!

The entire proceeds from the raffle at this production went to the Motor Neurone Disease Oxfordshire Branch in memory of our own very talented actor Gillian Somerscales who died this year from this awful disease at the age of just 64.

Encouraged by the very generous raffle prizes on offer, we are delighted to be able to donate £1000 to the MND and hope that this money will help local families affected by this debilitating disease.

A BIG thank you to our audience and sponsors for supporting the Bartholomew Players – without you, we would not be able to contribute so much to our local community. We look forward to seeing you at future productions.

REVIEW

THAME PLAYERS

Aladdin By Ben Crocker

The panto is always a popular part of Thame Players' calendar and December 2023's Aladdin was no exception with every night and matinee of the run sold out. And with good reason.

Ably directed by Robbie Wratten and Anne Lankester, the cast were superb, with ages ranging from 7 to 79. Stand-out performances came from Warren Palmer as Abanazar, the wicked 'uncle', who commanded the stage and was suitably booed and hissed at whenever he appeared; Tom Honey and Tom Moorwood as the comic duo of Sergeant Ping and PC Pong; Luke Hanratty as the Genie of the Lamp, appearing as if by magic whenever the lamp was rubbed; Ellie Parker as Nobby the Panda, who survived both being put in the washing machine and being dried off in the tumble drier; Steve Lambell, as the magisterial Emperor of China, resplendent in his gorgeously exotic robe; and, of course, we can't fail to mention Tony Long as Widow Twankey and Robbie Wratten as her son, WisheeWashee. What a team! The Thame Players' panto would not be complete without this pair, who exude the spirit of pantomime – and get lots of laughs while they're ducking and diving between the laundry in Old

Peking, Aladdin's vanishing Palace, the desert and elsewhere. Laura Bennett (Aladdin) and Izzy McGarry (Princess Jasmine) as romantic leads also never failed to impress. Not only can they act, these two can sing!

The wardrobe team must be warmly congratulated on creating the wonderful costumes, from the delicate pink fairy outfit worn by Ella Clempson as Genie of the Ring to the many outrageous gowns worn by Tony Long as the Dame. Tony as a Belly Dancer, in the truest sense of the word, is a sight that can never be unseen.

The actors are of course what the audience sees, but the panto would not be the success it is without the brilliant production team, who apply their skills and hard work behind the scenes, from stage management (Mike Chester, Gemma Swaisland-Kemp), set construction (Hugh Sharrard, Linda Smith, Steve Lambell and Mike Chester), choreography (Carolyn Kendall, Lauren Kendall), wardrobe (Colleen Tudway and her team of four sewing bees), sound (Wayne Gibson), lighting (Phil Holland, Nick Rees, Mandy Wakelin), and back projection (Frances Lord), to the superbly attired front of house team led by Janine Thomas – they were the welcoming faces that greeted excited audiences on arrival at evening performances and at two matinee performances each day on two weekends.

I am sure we can speak for everyone when we give a huge thank you from all 1,500 people who saw this year's pantomime. In fact, we have a sneaking suspicion the adults enjoyed it as much as the kids. Can Thame Players do it again? Of course they can, and I can barely wait until it's panto time again in just 11 months from now (oh, yes, it is!).

AUDITIONS

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

Calendar Girls by Tim Fith

Casting

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

The following are dates for casting our Summer 2024 show

Thursday 25th and Thursday 30th April
7:30pm at the ADC Clubhouse - 6 Marcham Road, Abingdon, OX14 1AA

Performance dates are:

Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th July - 7:30pm
+ Matinee Saturday at 2:30pm

At the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Music Youth of Oxford

Me and My Girl

The aristocratic Hareford family are seeking the legitimate heir to the family title. This turns out to be Bill, a cockney from Lambeth who loves nothing more than some rhyming slang and a party, preferably with his girl, Sally. He does his best to learn the art of being posh, but will the family ever accept him? As they try to separate him from Sally, the result can only be described as comical chaos. With hilarious characters, witty one liners and marvellous music (including Me and My Girl, The Sun Has Got His Hat On, Lambeth Walk and Leaning On A Lamp Post), this is a treat for all those who love musical comedy. As audiences have come to expect from this award winning group, the Musical Youth Company of Oxford (MYCO) bring us a fresh new take on this classic musical.

When: 3rd to 6th April, at 7.30pm
+ matinee Saturday at 2.30pm

Where: the Oxford Playhouse,
Beaumont St, Oxford, OX1 2LW

Tickets: £14-£29 from Oxford Playhouse Box Office
or see www.myco.org.uk



AmEgos Theatre

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

By Alan Menken & Stephen Schwarz

What makes a monster and what makes a man?

The Hunchback of Notre Dame tells the story of Quasimodo, who

has been kept within the bell tower of Notre Dame for his whole life, but longs to be 'Out There' as part of the outside world.

A sweeping score and powerful story make The Hunchback of Notre Dame an instant classic. Using the magnificent surroundings of the medieval Wantage Parish Church as a backdrop to the story, audiences will be swept away by the magic of this truly unforgettable musical.

AmEgos Theatre is proud to be the first company in Oxfordshire to stage this magnificent musical.

With some adult themes, unlike the animated film, this is not a show for very young children

When: Thu 4th to Sat 6th April at 7:30pm
+ Saturday matinee at 2.30pm



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Where: Wantage Parish Church, Church Street,
Wantage OX12 8AQ

Bar opens at 6.45pm (and 1.45pm)

Tickets: www.AmEgosTheatre.com

Seating is unreserved, and on church pews, so please bring cushions or blankets if required for your comfort.

Abingdon Operatic Society

9 to 5 - The Musical by Dolly Parton



Based on the 1980 movie of the same name, that starred Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, 9 to 5: The Musical premiered in Los Angeles in 2008, with all music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. In April 2009 it opened on Broadway, followed by a West End opening in 2012.

Reviewing the West End production, Ed Pilkington of The Guardian called the stage adaptation "a triumph" and praised Parton, describing her as "the real star of the show" and adding, "She is not on stage, but her presence fills it. She has composed a set of songs, accompanied with her own lyrics, that complement the original song. The greatest triumph of the night was that the film has been reinvented as a musical so successfully. It seemed improbable, given the cult status of the movie, but the stage show has met it and raised it, rather than being its pale imitation."

When: Tue 9th - Saturday 13th April at 7.30pm
plus 2.30pm Saturday matinee

Where: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, OX14 1DE

Tickets: from www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

Oxford Theatre Guild

The Importance of being Earnest The classic comedy by Oscar Wilde

"The truth is rarely pure
and never simple..."

Best friends and fashionable
young men, Algernon

Moncrieff and Jack Worthing, seem to have hit upon the perfect ruse to escape their social responsibilities. They lead double lives – one in the city and one in the country. But when love is thrown into the mix and the formidable Lady Bracknell comes on to the scene, confusion reigns.

Updated to the roaring 1920s, this most enduringly popular of Oscar Wilde's plays features some of his



best-loved characters, including Lady Bracknell, Miss Prism, Jack Worthing and Gwendolen Fairfax. This razor-sharp satire of snobbery and class distinctions makes for a hilarious evening of caustic wit and endless misunderstandings.

When: Tuesday 16th - Saturday 20th April
7.30pm (8pm Friday)

Plus Saturday matinee 2.30pm

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

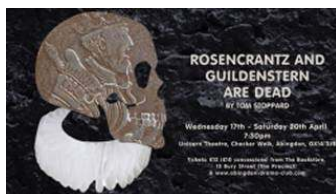
Tickets: www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Tel: 01865 305305

Website: www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

Abingdon Drama Club

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead By Tom Stoppard



Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead is Tom Stoppard's witty and exhilarating contemporary classic that finds both humour and poignancy in the situation of Hamlet's ill-fated attendant lords. This year ADC is celebrating its 80th year.

When: Wed 17th - Sat 20th April at 7:30pm
+ Matinee Sat 20th April at 2:00pm

Where: The Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon,
Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3JB

Tickets: from www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Goring Gap Players 'Charley's Aunt'

by Brandon
Thomas

Set in Oxford University in 1890s, Jack and Charley are both in love and plan to propose to their respective girlfriends, Kitty and Amy. They invite the girls over to meet Charley's millionaire aunt, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez of Brazil, who is about to visit Charley for the first time.

Chaperones for single girls were essential in the Victorian era, so when the aunt cancels at the last minute, the boys enlist feckless friend, Fancourt 'Babbs' Babberly, dressed in costume as a woman for an amateur play, to impersonate Charley's aunt and clear the way for the boys' marriage proposals.



However, Babbs, as Charley's aunt, finds himself dealing with fawning admirers and fortune-driven advances of two would-be suitors. Then the real Donna Lucia turns up - incognito.....

When: Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th April

Doors Open: 7.30pm Curtain Up: 8.00pm

Where: Goring Village Hall, High Street, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9AG

Tickets: £12.50 per person

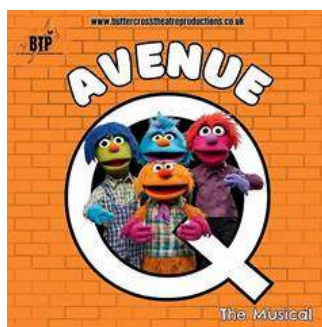
From: 'Inspiration', The Arcade, Goring-on-Thames

or Jean Betteridge 01491 873530

or www.trybooking.com/uk/DFSO

Website: www.goringgapplayers.co.uk

Buttercross Theatre Productions AVENUE Q



Join us this April as we find our Purpose on the eclectic Avenue Q, where puppetry meets Broadway magic in a dazzling performance that

will leave you laughing, singing, and tapping your toes!

The laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it's clear that this is not your ordinary neighbourhood. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

Our talented cast of puppet and human characters will have you hooked from the first note to the final curtain call.

This show contains adult themes, so parental discretion is advised. Minimum age 16, 16-18 year olds to be accompanied by someone 18+.

When: 18th – 20th April 2024

Where: Corn Exchange, Witney, Oxfordshire.

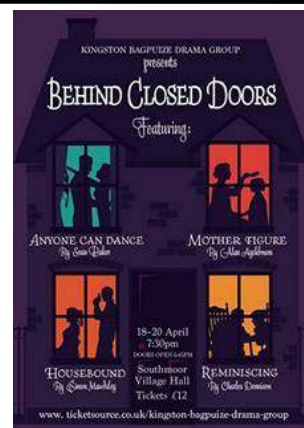
Tickets: from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/buttercross-theatre-productions

Kingston Bagpuize D.G. Behind Closed Doors Four One Act Plays

1. Mother Figure
by Alan Ayckbourn
(one of the Confusions series).

Lucy, a stay at home mother of three, has been looking after the children alone for so



long (whilst absent father Harry is away with 'work') that she has forgotten what adult company is like. When Rosemary and Terry from next door come to check on her, we explore the theory that if you treat someone like a child eventually they will start to behave like one!

2 Housebound by Simon Mawdsley.

This play explores what happens when Bone, an inept criminal who is about as far from a mastermind as you can get, takes the agoraphobia, and ever so slightly highly strung Fiona, hostage in her own home. Neither of them want to be there but neither of them can leave. Neither of them like wasps either. A black comedy that offers an insight into two very different people, from very different worlds, but who perhaps aren't as different as they, or we, might think.

3. Reminiscing by Charles Dennison.

James and his wife Jenifer reminisce over their many years together, the trials and tribulations of having a family, the difficult and emotional moments and the ones too funny to forget.

4. Anyone Can Dance by Sean Baker

In this funny and touching play we meet Joe and Samantha who have been together for 6 months. Through a series of fictional flashbacks we ponder whether falling in love just depends on meeting the right person or whether timing is also everything!

When: 18 to 20 April. Curtain up at 7.30pm.

Where: Southmoor Village Hall, Draycott Rd, OX13 5BY,

Free parking, and we will have a bar.

Tickets:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingston-bagpuize-drama-group

Compton Players Wind in the Willows

From the book by
Kenneth Grahame

Meet the well-loved characters of Toad, Mole, Ratty and Badger in this adaptation by John Morley who has woven their exploits into an exciting adventure story for all the family.

When: 25th – 27th
April 2024

(including a Saturday matinee)

Where: Compton Village Hall, Burrell Rd,
Compton, Nr Newbury, RG20 6NP

Tickets: from www.comptonplayers.co.uk



Dorchester A.D.S.

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

A comedy by
Philippa Smith

Jess's son has arranged a weekend getaway in a Derbyshire cottage for her 70th birthday, with surprise guests in attendance. The

problem is, neither her husband nor the son have bothered to turn up themselves, and the guests he's randomly picked from her contacts aren't the ones she'd have chosen to spend her special day with.

When: 25th to 27th April 2024

Where: Dorchester on Thames Village Hall

Tickets (£12) available from
www.Ticketsource.co.uk/DADS

Or by phoning the Ticketsource box office
number 0333 666 3366

Website: <http://www.dads.org.uk>



Wychwood Players Arsenic & Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring.

A clever combination of the farcical and the macabre, centres on two elderly sisters who are famous in their Brooklyn neighborhood for their numerous acts of charity.

Unfortunately, however, their charity includes poisoning lonely old men who come to their home looking for lodging.

When: 25-27 April at 7:30pm.

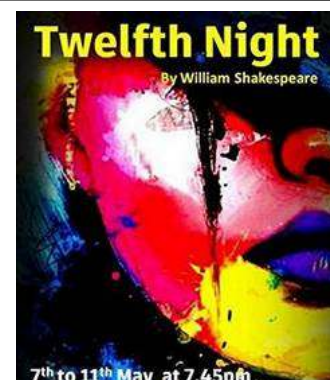
Venue: New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Tickets £12, from our website
www.wychwoodplayers.com



Thame Players Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

"Don't you want me Baby?" Duke Orsino croons to the lamplight in a Soho alleyway, and that much is true. Olivia doesn't want him. She



instead falls for the beautiful young man Duke Orsino sends with words of love to woo her. Unfortunately for Olivia, the young man, Cesario, is not only a refugee fleeing his homeland, 'he' is also a 'she' called Viola. Confused? But she's crazy for you. And has lost that loving feeling for Duke Orsino's tainted love.

Meanwhile the Rt Hon. Saotobia Belch is having wild days and wilder nights with her dear old friend Fabian who idolises Franky Howard, and her beautiful young assistant Maria. All the drinks are paid for by Sir Andrew, the stupidest boy in the class - but oh so rich. Malvolio the Steward scowls on.

Set in New Romantic Soho this production features several of the youngest members of Thame Players to reflect the impetuosity and bravery of the youthful lovers. It uses modern costumes and settings to illuminate the wonders of this brilliant Shakespeare comedy about despair, hope and love at first sight.

The text shines through this fast-paced romp, giving us some of the greatest poetry and most hilarious comic moments ever seen on the English stage. It is a joy from the first chord to the last kiss.

When: 7th-11th May at 7.45pm.

Where: The Players Theatre, Thame OX9 2DP

Tickets: £10 - £12. From www.thameplayers.co.uk

from the Information Centre at Thame Town Hall (check Thame Town Hall for opening times) or call them on 01844 212833.

The Henley Drama Festival

at the lovely old Kenton Theatre in Henley on Thames the fourth oldest working theatre in the country.

When: Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th of May

The shows start at 7.30pm, **Saturday at 7pm**
Details & booking on www.KentonTheatre.co.uk

Website: www.HenleyDramaFestival.co.uk

Email: HenleyDramaFestival@gmail.com

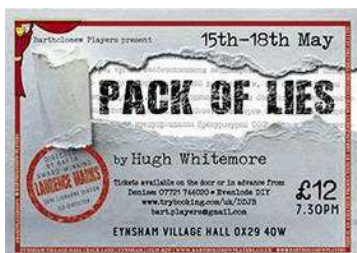
Bartholomew Players

A Pack of Lies

by Hugh Whitmore,
A cold war thriller set in suburban London in 1960-61

This tense drama is based on the real-life story of the Kroger's who were KGB agents hidden in plain sight living a routine life in suburban London until their arrest and conviction for spying in 1961.

The impact of the deceit and lies surrounding their friendship with their innocent neighbours had devastating consequences.....



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

This play was not only recommended to us by one of our Patrons, Laurence Marks (of "Birds of a Feather" fame amongst other popular TV dramas) but we are honoured and delighted that Laurence will be Directing the production with Debi Lisburne-Diacon as his Co-Director.

When: Weds 15th – Sat 18th May 2024

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

Tickets: from: Denise Santilli 07721 744020

Email: bart.players@gmail.com

www.trybooking.co.uk

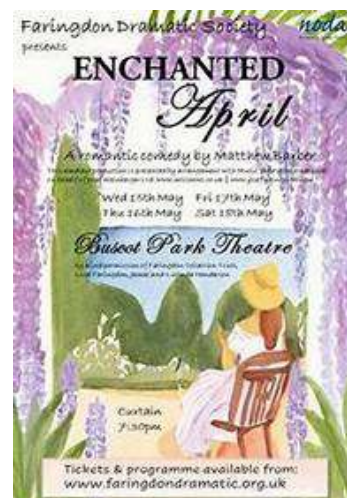
or Evenlode DIY in Eynsham

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Enchanted

April

A romantic comedy
by Matthew Barber.



Enchanted April takes you on a magical, theatrical holiday to a small castle on the Mediterranean, Northern Italy.

When: Wednesday 15 May 2024 - Saturday 18 May 2024

Where: Buscot Park Theatre, Lechlade Road, Buscot SN7 8BU

Tickets: from our website only.

Website: www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Chipping Norton A.O.S.

Evita,

The Musical

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber & lyrics by Tim Rice

As Eva Duarte, a child born into poverty, she followed her dreams of becoming an actress. As Eva Perón, she captured the hearts of Argentina's working classes and became one of the most powerful women in the world.

Including some of the most well-known songs written for the theatre such as Oh What A Circus and Don't Cry For Me Argentina, Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS)



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celebrate 50 years since their first production with their biggest undertaking yet!

When: Thu 16 May to Sat 18 May 7:30pm

+ Matinee Sat 18th 2.30pm

Where: Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring St, OX7 5NL

Tickets: £19 evenings, £17 Matinee. from:-

www.ChippingNortonTheatre.com/events/chaos-evita

Jigsaw Stage Productions

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Bonjour!

J.S.P. proudly invites you to 'Be Our Guest' for probably the most enchanted musical of all time.

This beloved 'tale as old as time' has been brought to life on stage with all the charm and elegance audiences expect from Belle and her Beast with his servants all turned into clocks, teapots, candles, wardrobes or cutlery by the witches spell!

25 years after its Olivier Award-winning West End debut, Jigsaw Stage Productions present this new production featuring all of the spellbinding songs of Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice including Belle, Gaston, Be Our Guest and, of course, Beauty and the Beast.

This is not a pantomime, but a full blown musical, with all the usual conflict, pathos, romance and fighting etc. Don't believe me? Ask the dishes!

Venues and Dates:-

The Beacon Wantage

Thu 16 to Sat 18 May at 7.30pm

+ Matinee Sat at 2.30pm

Tickets: £16 Adults or £14.50 under 14 year olds from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DBGD> or the Beacon Wantage

Cornerstone Didcot

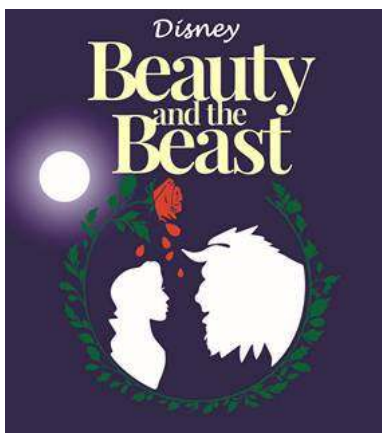
Wed 22 to Sat 25 May at 7.45pm

+ Matinee Sat at 2.30pm

Tickets £16 Adults or £14.50 Under 14s from Cornerstone Theatre, Didcot:

www.cornerstone-arts.org

or Tel 01235 515144



The Sinodun Players The Invisible Man

by H. G. Wells, adapted
by Derek Webb

Illusion Magic or Science?
Come and see The
Invisible Man as you've
never seen him before!

The Sinodun Players
present The Invisible Man
from the Father of Science

Fiction, H. G. Wells. This timeless, classic story
is warm, witty and fast-paced.

The thought of invisibility – and the advantages it
could bring to someone – is one which has
captured the imagination of millions since the
classic HG Wells' story was first published in
1897

Derek Webb's adaptation remains faithful to the
original novel and is a warning of the dangers of
modern science and technology, which in the
wrong hands is sadly still relevant today!

When: Tue 21 to Sat 25 May at 7.30pm

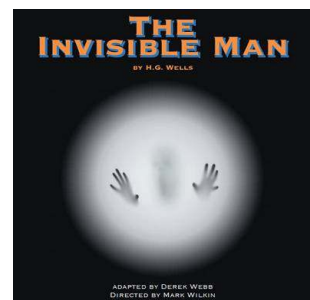
+ Matinee Saturday 25 May at 2.30pm

Where: The Corn Exchange, Market Place,
Wallingford OX10 0EG

Tickets: Adults £15 Opening Night £12.00

Book now at www.cornexchange.org.uk

Website: <https://sinodunplayers.org.uk>



Henley A.O.D.S.

Studio Fringe Production

Woyzeck

by Georg
Büchner

Woyzeck is
the tragic tale
of a military
barber named
Woyzeck, who
stabs to death
his beloved

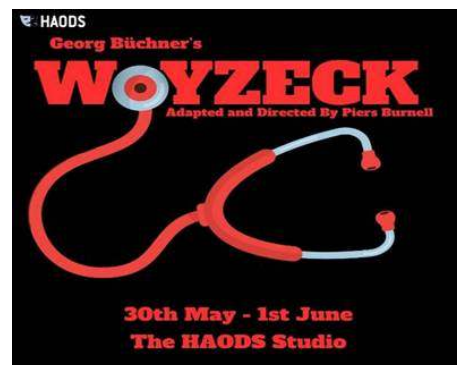
common-law wife, Marie, for her infidelity with a
Drum Major. Woyzeck's mind is probed and his
hallucinations come to life. He enters a plea of
insanity to the court - but does it work?

When: 30th May to 1st June at 7.30pm

Where: the HAODS Studio, Behind the Kenton
Theatre Henley-on-Thames

There is a licensed bar.

Tickets from Studio Productions Box Office
www.ticketsource.co.uk/haodshenley



Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

'I Hear You'

by Emma Gardner

'I Hear You' is a comedy drama that takes a humorous look at situations that can happen to anyone, and asks who is listening and who is not listening. It is full of characters who listen and don't listen in different ways.



It's a new play written by local playwright Emma Gardner for Didcot Phoenix Drama Group. Her previous play 'No Prime Minister' won 'Best Original Play' at the 2023 Henley Drama Festival.

Sarah Medley, playing the part of Alice said "Often in life you can feel like you're saying something loud and clear and yet people still aren't listening".

Venues and Dates:-

Saturday 1st June at 2pm,
Hagbourne Village Hall
(53 Main Rd, East Hagbourne, Didcot OX11 9LR)

Wednesday 5th June at 7:30pm,
Northbourne Centre Community Centre
(Church St, **Didcot** OX11 8EQ)

Saturday 8th June at 7:30pm,
Harwell Village Hall
(High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX)

Tickets: £12 (£10 for concessions)
See: www.DidcotPhoenixDrama.co.uk

ODN Drama Festival Abingdon

We have 2 one act plays per evening Tue-Fri, 3 plays called back for Saturday Gala night.

A rare feature of the ODN drama festival is that after each adjudication there is also a short workshop with the cast.

The adjudicator for 2024 will be Martin Parr (Associate member of GODA)

Application form is on our website – top article.

When: Mon 3rd June - Sat 8th June at 7.30pm

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3HZ.



Wallingford One-Act Play Festival

The adjudicator for 2024 will be Nancy Heath (GODA).

See website for application

When: Mon 10+ 12 to Sat 15th June at 7.30pm

Where: Corn Exchange Wallingford.

Website: cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival

Email: DramaFestival@CornExchange.org.uk



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
Membership Secretary	Jess Ebberson (Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)

General members

Mike Lacey	(Kingston Bagpuize)
Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players & Jigsaw Stage Productions)
Mandyrae Jessey	(BODS of Wychwood)

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork

N.B. For your group to add events to our website, email us for a group Username & Password.

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org