

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



AUGUST 2019

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely summer? One good thing about the weather is that it has been great for all the outdoor productions. We went along to see "The Crucible" performed by Blewbury Players. This is always an outside garden performance in Blewbury. What a brilliant rendition of a classic, with the garden providing wonderful lighting to great effect. Even lighting up the three nooses hanging in the trees! Oops, bit macabre but well done them. We hope to see lots more plays and to compose and edit this fine newsletter for the rest of this year so without adieu happy holidaying, or maybe you really are missing the theatre's fun like me.

Mike Davies

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

Where have the last few months gone?

I have been lucky enough to go and visit Banbury Cross Players' production of Henrik Ibsen's "Ghost" at The Mill in Banbury. On a very hot evening, this was an excellent production, both on the stage and with the Front of House Staff being warm and friendly. I had been in London earlier that week to see a professional production of Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" but I have to say that Banbury's production was much more enjoyable.

Congratulations also need to be passed on to Abingdon Drama Club, for their recent production of TV's "Allo Allo". The show played to full houses for most of the performances, and I know that everybody who went to see it enjoyed it and came out laughing.

Good luck to all the Drama Groups and Societies who are currently in rehearsal for their next productions. I am really looking forward to travelling around the County to watch them.

We had a very successful ODN Festival at the beginning of June. But more of that later in this Newsletter.

In our Members' Survey sent out last year, some of our members indicated that they would like Behind the Scenes Tours of theatres. I am currently in discussions with some theatres in London, including the London Palladium and The Coliseum to arrange a Tour. It would be extremely helpful if any members of any group, who are interested in such a visit, could please contact any member of the Committee or myself, as the sooner we know the amount of people who are interested in such a visit, the sooner we can confirm some dates. The London Palladium have indicated to me that it may be possible for a tour to be arranged whilst their Summer production Joseph is on. It is hoped that the trip to the Coliseum could be whilst Hairspray is on. I will continue to work hard on this.

Break a Leg

Pam Aird - Chairman

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

AUGUST

16-17 Youth of Banbury Operatic
42nd Street

SEPTEMBER

10-14 Thame Players 'Little Voice'

13,14 Didcot Phoenix

20,21 The Bold, the Young and the Murdered

14 Nortonians
Murder mystery evening

20-21 DIY Theatre Twelfth Night

OCTOBER

1-5 Oxford Theatre Guild
Handbagged

16-19 Henley Players
Dangeous Corner

17-19 Sinodun Players
Blood Wedding

22-26 Abingdon Operatic Society
Evita

23-26 Kidlington A.O.S.
'Kiss me Kate'

31Oct Amegos
-2Nov Guys & Dolls

NOVEMBER

20-23 Compton Players
Bothered and Bewildered

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The deadline for the October issue is 20th Sept 2019
Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to everybody involved in this year's Festival, from the Volunteers who helped run Front of House every night to all the groups that participated.



As a result, this year's Festival:-

1st – "Shakers"

– performed by Faringdon Dramatic Society. We were very pleased to see a repeat performance on the Gala Evening.



2nd – "Contractions" – performed by Banbury Cross Players. More about that below.

3rd - "Hole" Performed by Oxford Theatre Guild.

A huge congratulations must go to Banbury Cross Players. Unfortunately, Banbury were unable to return on the Gala Night as they were performing at the Lighthorne Festival. As some of you may know (if you keep up with our Facebook Page), Banbury went on to win Lighthorne and were then invited to perform at the British All Winners Festival in Woking. Although they did not win the main prize, they did pick up 2 awards on the Final night. This is the 2nd time in 3 years, that an ODN Member group have won Lighthorne and then picking up awards at the British All Winners. Didcot Phoenix paved the way in 2017 with their successful "The Lesson" where they won the Festival.



Pam Aird

AWARDS

The "David Coates - Punter's prize award" (chosen by our Season Ticket holders) went to: **"Shakers"** by John Godber - performed by *Faringdon Dramatic Society*

Runner up was:-

"Contractions" by Mike Bartlett

- performed by *Banbury Cross Players*

In Third place was:-

"Hole" by Joanna Matthews - performed by *Oxford Theatre Guild*

"Colin Dexter Rose Bowl Award" for a special moment went to:-

"The Rose and Crown" by J.B.Priestley- performed by *Henley Players* - for the entrance of the Stranger



The 3 plays from the week chosen by the adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, to repeat their performances on the Gala night were

'Shakers' By John Godber
Performed by *Faringdon Dramatic Society*

'The Rose & Crown' By J.B.Priestley
Performed by *Henley Players*

'Bells (BlackAdder)' By Richard Curtis & Ben Elton
Performed by *Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society*

Wallingford Corn Exchange One Act Drama Festival

AWARDS



The winners were:-

Overall Production:

Henley Players (The Rose and Crown)

The Commended Award:

Faringdon Dramatic Society (Shakers)

The Harris & Jones Salver (for best actor):

Rowena Sterry, Henley Players (Rose and Crown)

The Punters' Prize:

Faringdon Dramatic Society (Shakers)

The Susan North Memorial Trophy (for memorable moment): **Henley Players (The Rose and Crown)**

NATIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (NDFa)

I recently attended the NDFa (National Drama Festivals Association AGM) held during the British All Winners Festival in Woking earlier this month. For me personally, it was a very enjoyable learning curve, and during the Forum following the formal part of the AGM, it was interesting to find out that other Festivals do have similar difficulties in attempting to move their Festivals forward. Although, the ODN Festival is a non-competitive I was pleased to have confirmed, that if our Adjudicators believe that a newly written play is eligible to be put forward for the Derek Jacobi New Playwriting Award, then that entry can be put forward to the next level. So come on all you budding playwrighters... this could be of interest to you for the British All Winners Festival in 2020 is being held on the beautiful Isle of Man from the 18th to 24th July. I know where I am having a holiday next year!!!

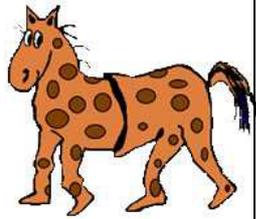
It has also been confirmed that the 2021 Finals will be held at the Albany Theatre in Coventry from 17th to 24th July.

Pam Aird

PANTO COMPETITION



One of the most important aspects of the Members Survey last year, and at this year's AGM was Panto Competition.



At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that the way the Panto Competition has been run has caused lots of problems and that the Competition needs to be totally revamped. After a long discussion and listening to what the members had said at the AGM, we have decided to stop having a Competition and having a Pantomime Festival. It has been noticed over the last few years that the number of entrants for the competition have fallen quite dramatically and we think it is time to overhaul this and make it into a Festival. It is hoped that more groups will enter into the Festival and we will also invite Member Groups that previously entered, to re-enter.

To overhaul this, we really need your input. We understand and realise that the member groups have lost confidence in the Committee, but we now have a hard working Committee who want to change the way the ODN works, but we cannot do this unless there is a two-way dialogue between the Members and the Committee.

As we believe this is an extremely important step to take, our next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 9th September and will be completely devoted to looking into ways to improve everything, and ensure that our first Panto Festival will be successful and be a stepping stone to future Festivals. We therefore invite any ideas to be sent to the Committee for us to discuss and (hopefully!) implement as early as this year.

If you have any ideas that you wish us to discuss on your behalf, please contact either your ODN Rep or email any of the Committee and these will be taken into consideration. I am happy for you to email me directly at pamaird@hotmail.co.uk

PATRON

As you will all be aware, the late Colin Dexter was our Patron for some years, until his demise. The Committee are now seeking to find a new Patron for the ODN. We have decided to open this search to our member groups. Firstly, do any member groups have anybody in their area that you think we could approach to become Patron. A few suggestions of people we were thinking of approaching have been included Philip Pullman and Helena Bonham Carter. As the ODN covers a large area, the Committee are sure that our member groups will come up with some wonderful ideas.

CASTING

HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

We are making plans for our Jan 2020 Panto

THE GOOD, THE BAD

AND THE UGLY SISTERS

This panto is set in the wild west, so plenty of opportunity for rootin' tootin' foot stamping fun!

We will be holding a talk in/reading/casting call one afternoon in October.

If you are interested in joining us, on or off stage, please come along to Hanney War Memorial Hall on Sunday October 6th at 2.30pm.

For further info please email lyndahart1@hotmail.com

We would love to see you there as we put on a jolly good panto.

OH YES WE DO!

REVIEWS

KINGSTON BAGUIZE DRAMA GROUP

Murder Mystery play

The Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group was formed in 1949 so to celebrate their 70th anniversary they sought a Murder Mystery play set in that year. Unable to find one, group member Sarah Curran offered to write one her own. The end product and indeed World Premiere of 'Deadly Encounter' was performed in Southmoor Village Hall on May 18th to an impressive hall filled audience of 96.

The plot is built around Bunty Parlington-Dormer who has left the bright lights of London to open a theatre in the countryside, a village strangely called Kingston Bagpuize. This is much to the chagrin of her husband Robert who is more concerned with financial implications rather than the perilous state of his marriage. Bunty's best friend Nancy is all behind her in her venture and helps her audition some aspiring actors for her first production.

These included the young Joan Smith and local yokel George. So the scene is set with housekeeper Betty Buckland flitting in and out and not being too positive with what was going on.

So the scene is set. The audience then partook of the very fine Hog Roast that accompanied the show and then settled down to Act 2 to find Bunty had been bumped off, we know not how, or why or with what and by whom.

Ms Curran had cleverly interwoven in her plot to include many famous sayings from classic films and part of the evening was to identify these. Also with a nod to the game of Cluedo, the weapons from that board game were also included in the script with lead

piping, gun, knife, candlestick all making an appearance.

Emily Eastham played Bunty. She portrayed the part so well as the glamorous impresario strutting the stage broadcasting her ideas for her theatre. Andrea Spencer played Nancy again with the authority and confidence of an experienced am dram actor. Mary Elizabeth Shewry played the stage well as Betty Buckland and Mike Lacey was Robert Parlington-Dormer.

The young Fiona Eaton was impressive in the part of Joan Smith and Jack Marsh played George. The whole production was most enjoyable from the homespun script to the ad-libbed answers to questions put by the audience prior to the murderer being identified.

Director Rebecca Bellis is a young talented actor I have seen in several performances by KBDG, Deadly Encounter shows she has an equal talent in directing.

The whole piece was held together by Master of Ceremonies Rob Bateman who did a sterling job as intermediary between cast and audience.

So who did kill Bunty? Well our party nearly got it spot on except for the fact we had the wrong person with the wrong weapon for the wrong reason but hey, that's the fun of amateur dramatics.

Well done KBDG, congratulations on a worthy production to mark 70 years of entertaining the village.

Lance Bassett

expressions and was very Robin Willaims-esque in his mannerisms. His portrayal of the ageing lothario was brilliant, including when things go wrong with a mix-up in his Viagra pills. Things take an unexpected turn when another neighbour, Henry Mitchell, a retired chemist shows him "Venusia", an un-tested new pill, which he has developed to increase the libido of menopausal women. Henry, convincingly under-played by Ian Brace, has his sights on Buttercup Stancliffe and appears with a different bunch of flowers of increasing size on a daily basis, only to have his advances and proposals constantly spurned.

The three female guests: firstly, writer Victoria Ambrose is the first to succumb to Bud's charms. Rosemary Mills was elegant and played the part strongly and was very believable suffering from 'writer's block' and looking for romantic ideas to finish her latest novel. Secondly, Hilary Hudson, a former colleague of Henry's, whom he has invited to road-test his new pills. Hilary was played confidently and bubbly by Christine Jones.

The third female guest, a returning guest, Charmaine Beauregard, (Rachel Winslet-Morris) was brassy in appearance and gave a delightfully over-the-top performance in her seduction of Bud and was a good foil to the other two females



There were some hilarious moments when all three women discover that Bud is seducing the other two guests and all plot revenge. This involves swapping his Viagra for the new 'Venusia' pills, which both men end up taking. One of the side-effects of 'Venusia' is to mimic the symptoms of the menopause, which results in the two men sitting in the centre of this vast stage having a series of hot flushes, sobbing and mood-swings. The resultant effect is the curbing of Bud's performance ability, much to the delight of the ladies, who exacerbate the situation by all trying to seduce the failing Bud. All is not lost, however, for Henry, as his coaching by Victoria, wins over Buttercup.

This farce was well received by the packed audience, although some of the American humour was lost in translation for a UK audience. The director, Mark Wilkin, is to be congratulated on his use of the wide span of the stage and all those doors. The pace was well maintained and left us all exhausted by the speed of the entrances, none of which were missed by a second. Accents were good and well maintained by all throughout, not easy.

Congratulations to all.

Nigel James

DORCHESTER AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Sex Please, We're Sixty

by Michael & Susan Parker 19th – 22 June 2019

Michael and Susan Parker have written many successful American farces.

The challenges that this play presents, were evident when the audience is greeted by a set which ran the whole length of the hall, with six doors and two other entrances. This brought the audience very close to the action, but this did not phase the competent cast.



This farce is set in Rose Cottage, Bed & Breakfast run by the strait-laced Mrs Stancliffe played very firmly and fiercely by Sue Kitson. Her next-door neighbour, Bud Davis, ("Bud the Stud") awaits the arrival of three female guests which present the opportunity for seduction. Bud, played exhaustingly by Mark Williams had a brilliant collection of facial

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

Allo Allo

Watching a good play is always a delight on a June summer evening, and last night my partner and I visited Unicorn Theatre which was packed with keen theatre goers to be swept back in time to France during World War II. We listened with glee to the fabulous French music and saw that Rene Artois ran a small café where Resistance fighters, Gestapo men, German Army officers and escaped Allied POWs interacted daily, they were ignorant of one another's true identity or presence, thus exasperating Rene.

We watched as the characters emerged to entertain us in style, admittedly as the director says the style of humour was indeed Xenophobic, and often degrading to women and slightly homophobic. But nevertheless, we all enjoyed being taken back in time to the madness of Rene's café there in Abingdon. Where we often heard the famous line of "Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once!" and we proceeded to follow the disappearing portrait of the fallen Madonna.

We liked the set as we felt there was a good use of a white curtain to change scene, and clever using of the lighting when Rene spoke to the audience directly as the story unfolded. It then began to get very hectic and we were not sure who, if anyone had eaten the portrait of the fallen Madonna with the big boobies. It's difficult to copy a TV series that ran for many years because we all have our own ideas of the characters and their accents good or bad. But fair play this was very entertaining and dare I say it - word perfect?

The plot was funny, nicely paced, and the characters were well dressed. This is a play that involves a very large cast and the actors were very good at manoeuvring around the set so we saw no clashes.

Edith was excellently bad singing her opening song but Captain Bertorelli seemed to enjoy it most of all, and we knew when he was arriving as we could hear him very loud and clear. I loved his hat, and also enjoyed the bad Hitler wig of Colonel Kurt Von Strohm, those two acted well together and were believable.

Herr Otto Flick was scary and very convincing when he played the violin, - good use of sound effects there. Only when we were driving home did we discuss that someone also played the piano which seemed real too, but hey that was impossible because the airmen were inside the piano, he he!!!



Rene was very impressive and Michael Ward carried this character off very well. We loved his relaxed

believable rendition of Rene. It's a good part because he gets to enjoy the embraces of nearly all the women on set.

The play seemed well rehearsed and the dance sequence of Mimi and Michelle was good, and they did play the bored mistresses in true style.

In fact, all movements and dances seemed well choreographed and were slick. I really enjoyed "The Tango" of Herr Otto Flick in Rene's Café when he performed for Helga and the customers in true Gestapo panache.

Good use of lovely French music used throughout the play.

Le Clerc was very true to character and we really laughed when the parrots appeared on his head, not the usual place on his shoulder. We were equally amused at his chef's hat when it wobbled on top of his head as he departed through the bar.

Edith, Rene's long-suffering wife was very convincing as a character; the love shone through for Rene even though she caught him reviving his fainting waitress, or was he?

The arrival and style of Lieutenant Gruber was a nice contrast as his voice was soft and seemed delightfully camp and under played but that really worked well, we felt.

Good use of the French Quotes on the white screen above the stage too.

A well-staged rendition of Allo Allo and long may this standard continue.

So, may I say all in all it was Tres Bien!!

LE FIN ...the End

By Sue Hadley Author/Writer

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen

The Mill, Banbury 10th-13th July 2019

The final production of BCP's 2019 season was Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts", directed by John McCormick.

This cracker of a play opens on a functional and simple set designed by Richard Ashby, all very Nordic I thought. There is also little action in this work, it mainly consists of a series of two hander conversations within the cast of five.

The action opens with Regina Engstrand reluctantly admitting her father into the house on a dark and stormy night where she works as companion, maid. gopher whatever.

Her father seemed a rather unpleasant sort at first, threatening and coarse, but Regina has no truck with him when he demands she leaves her job and work for him in his new 'sailor's mission' he intends to open.

Katy Roberts coasted along as Regina but came into her own later in the production when she has an animated altercation with her employer Helen Alving.

Enter Pastor Manders. The good Pastor was played by Phillip Croxson, and although his performance was a tad stilted in parts early in the play, I was most impressed with the delivery of his lines, of which there

must have been thousands and the lack of prompts on this the first night of the run.

I must insert a small criticism here regarding the bad weather constantly mentioned in the plot, but never seen. When a character enters shaking his coat and umbrella saying how wet it is outside, to have a bone dry coat and broolly rather seems to suspend belief.

I digress. Hilary Beaton gave a most impressive performance as the widow Helen, head of the house and whose husband had apparently been a bit of a lad in the past. When his son Oswald takes a shine to Regina, it's revealed he was also her father. Oh dear.

Ben Harwood gave a masterly and animated performance as the troubled artist Oswald who had come home due to his artistic block and now not getting much help from Helen, who is all over him like a rash much to his chagrin.

The Pastor and Helen plan to open an orphanage in her dead husband's name but that dream ends when it is destroyed by fire.

Chief suspect turns out to be Regina's father Jacob (remember him) played by Anthony Collier who revealed, in his scene with the Pastor, a delightful sense of comedy timing. A wonderful piece of dialogue from Ibsen and superbly delivered by Mr Collier. Move over Al Murray, there's a new comic in town.

Shame the theatre was less than half full, the good people of Banbury missed a most enjoyable production from Mr McCormick and team. As a play 'Ghosts' has everything, a good story, comedy, tragedy and no shortage of surprises. A fitting end to BCP's drama season which has featured an eclectic choice of plays for 2019, roll on 2020.

Lance Bassett

When: Fri 16 Aug 7:30pm + Sat 17 Aug 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Where: Wykham Theatre, Wykham Park Academy, Banbury, OX16 9HY

Tickets: £10 (£8 under 16s)

from www.yobos.co.uk/tickets OR

from Edd Frost & Daughters, Timms Rd, OX16 9DN

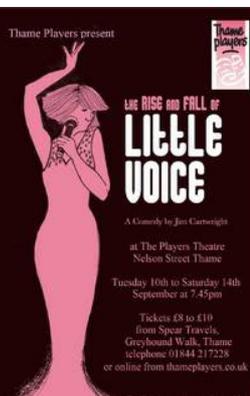
Website: www.yobos.co.uk

THAME PLAYERS

'Little Voice'

by Jim Cartwright

'Little Voice' lives with her mother, Mari, whose sole purpose in life is to find another man. Mari's imposing personality has driven her daughter into a life of seclusion, listening to her late father's records. Mari's latest 'catch', the small-time impresario, Ray Say, hears



Little Voice's faultless impersonations of famous singers and determines to exploit her talent. First performed at the National Theatre in 1992 The Rise and Fall of Little Voice is funny, sentimental and savage in equal measure – British drama at its best.

When: 10th - 14th Sept at 7.45pm

Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame

Tickets: Tue & Wed £8, Thu to Sat £10 (£9 concs).

Online from www.thameplayers.co.uk

or from Spear Travels on 01844 217228

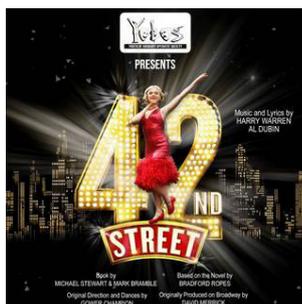
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH OF BANBURY OPERATIC

42nd Street

by Harry Warren & Al Dubin

YOBOS are renowned for our ability to put on a fully staged musical in just one week during the summer, YOBOS is an award winning, non-profit making, group created



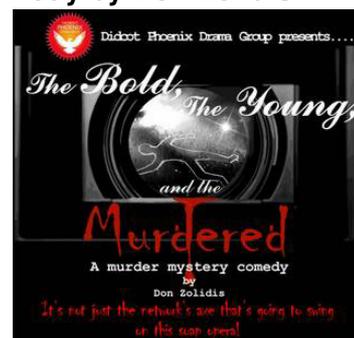
in 2003, as an exciting musical theatre project giving 11 to 19 year olds in the Banbury and North Oxfordshire area a taste of what it takes to be in a musical production. YOBOS high quality productions have resulted in the group gaining national recognition, winning awards as well as being asked to perform in the West End as part of a showcase of the country's talented young performers on numerous occasions. The YOBOS performances are fully costumed, with professional quality lighting and sound, along with a live orchestra. Our previous productions were met with rave reviews,!

DIDCOT PHOENIX

The Bold, the Young and the Murdered

A Murder Mystery Comedy by Don Zolidis

The long-running soap opera The Bold and the Young is in its last days: its hunky hero has self-esteem issues, its villainous old man is more interested in soup, and its heroines are slightly psychopathic. The executive producer gives



the squabbling cast an ultimatum: Complete one episode overnight or the show dies. But when the director ends up murdered, and other cast members start dropping like flies, it seems like his threat might actually come true. Can these misfits discover the murderer before the show is literally killed off?

When & Where - starts 7:30pm

Performing in and around the Didcot area -

13th September - Harwell Village Hall

14th September - East Hagbourne Village Hall

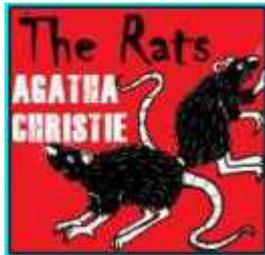
20th September - St Blaise Church, Milton

21st September - Northbourne Centre, Didcot
Tickets: £10/£8 available online via our website:
www.didcotphoenixdrama.co.uk
or email didcotphoenixdrama@hotmail.co.uk to reserve

NORTONIANS

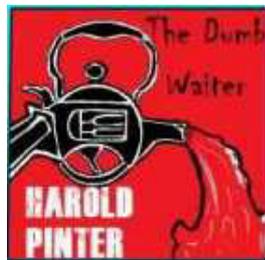
Murder mystery evening

The Nortonians present two one act plays. A night of surprise awaits with two plays where simple beginnings transform into conflict, drama and tension.



In **"The Rats"** by **Agatha Christie** an adulterous couple meet for drinks in a friend's flat. How will their relationship hold together when subjected to a sinister plot. Will the relationship grow closer or be split in fragments?

"The Dumb Waiter" by **Harold Pinter** has two men waiting for their job to start. What is it they are preparing to do and will the edgy Gus stop his mindless questions? Over time the tension between the two increases. Is this a test by their boss or just another working day?



Together the plays show how apparently ordinary people react in extraordinary circumstances.

When: Saturday 14th September at 2:30 and 7:30.

Where: The Parish Rooms, Chipping Norton (near St Mary's Church), OX7 5NT.

Tickets: £5 minimum donation, reserve tickets by calling David Simkin on 07579 050390

DIY THEATRE Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

Take a journey with us into the weird and wonderful world of Shakespeare for an evening full of fun and laughter.

When: 20 September 2019 - 6:00pm - 21 September 2019 - 6:00pm

Where: set in the woods of Bayworth

Address: 2 Woodlands Cottage, Bayworth Lane, OX1 5DF. park at the top of the hill then follow the lanterns to the woods

Tickets from: www.wegotickets.com/event/475401 or On The Door



OXFORD THEATRE GUILD Handbagged

by **Moira Buffini**

Handbagged is a play by the British playwright Moira Buffini, examining the relationship



handbagged
by moira buffini

between Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister from 1979 to 1990. The title derives from the verb coined early in Margaret Thatcher's term to evoke the effects emanating from her personal handbag as it became an emphatic political prop and visible symbol of her power.

The play received positive reviews, with one commentator describing it as 'very funny...if occasionally overstretched', and that the play had a 'buoyant, meta-theatrical playfulness' due to its repeated breaking of the fourth wall.

When: 1-5 October 2019

Where: Wesley Memorial Church, New Hall Inn Street.

Tickets: see www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

HENLEY PLAYERS Dangeous Corner by JB Priestley

Henley Players present JB Priestley's well-crafted story. A thriller of truth, secrets and lies, where one loose word leads to an explosive combination of suspicions and emotions.

The examination and exposure of the relationships of dinner party guests leads to a series of revelations with sinister possibilities building towards a gripping climax, a classic thriller.

When: Wed 16 - Sat 19 Oct, 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat

Where: Kenton Theatre, 19 New Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BP

Tickets: £13-£15 (Conc avail) from www.kentontheatre.co.uk

Website: www.henleyplayers.com

SINODUN PLAYERS Blood Wedding

by Federico Garcia Lorca.

Lorca's 1932 emotional tale of family animosity.

Blood Wedding is based on the true story of a passionate and repressed love affair, where the concept of human fatality is inevitable.

"Knives, knives. Cursed be all knives and the scoundrel who invented them."

It is a tragedy that plays out the conflict between individual wishes and societal decrees and laws; The

play focuses on a woman and the two men who love her - their tragedy is the tragedy of love missed.

It examines the societal norms that keep her from being with the man she loves. It explores the behaviour that drives our humanity by exposing a love that was denied yet never forgotten and the consequences of society, social standing, repression, desire, betrayal and loss.

When: 17th – 19th October at 7.45pm

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

Tickets: £12 from Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000 or

www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/blood-wedding

Website: www.sinodunplayers.org.uk

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Evita

by Andrew Lloyd
Webber and Tim
Rice



Set in Argentina between 1934 and 1952, Evita tells the story of a woman who would not let anything or anyone stop her from reaching the summit of power, becoming the mother of her country and receiving the adoration of the masses. Eva Duarte travels from her provincial home town, flitting from man to man, until she meets an aspiring politician, Colonel Juan Domingo Perón. They each realise that in the other they have found the perfect foil for their ambitions.

Evita includes the hits singles 'Don't Cry For Me, Argentina', 'Oh What A Circus', and 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall', along with great tunes such as 'High-Flying Adored', 'Rainbow High', and 'On This Night Of A Thousand Stars'.

When: Tue 22nd - Sat 26th October at 7.30pm (plus a 2.30pm matinee on Sat 26th October)

Where: Amey Theatre at Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE

Tickets: Online at www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk or enquire at: tickets@abingdonoperatic.co.uk

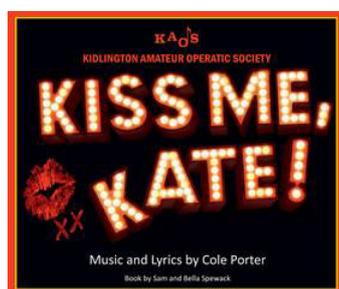
by phone: 0333 666 3366

Buy balcony seats at Newbury Building Society, Abingdon

KIDLINGTON A.O.S.

'Kiss me Kate'

by Samuel and Bella
Spewack, with music
and lyrics by Cole Porter
Kidlington Amateur
Operatic Society (KAOS)
will be performing the
West End and Broadway
classic 'Kiss me Kate' this
October.



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

When: Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 October 2019
Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 pm

Where: Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 2NT

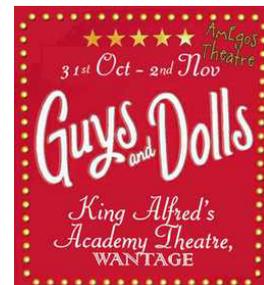
Tickets: £13 (£8 for children and full-time students)

online at www.kaos.news or by phoning

Box Office 01865 375613 also from

Alison's Animals; Garden City; Anemone Florists, Kidlington Centre; Building Supplies, High Street.

AMEGOS Guys & Dolls



Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, Guys And Dolls is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan

Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend, nightclub performer Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for 14 years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler Sky Masterson for the dough, but Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown. Guys And Dolls takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.

Frank Loesser's brassy, immortal score makes Guys And Dolls a crowd pleaser.

When: Thur 31st Oct - Sat 2nd Nov

Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage

Tickets: see www.amegostheatre.com

COMPTON PLAYERS Bothered and Bewildered By Gail Young

This is a comedy drama about one woman's struggle with Alzheimer's.

The play follows Irene and her two daughters Louise and Beth as the girls lose their mum in spirit but not in body. As her family struggle to come to terms with her Alzheimer's, Irene's past passion for romantic literature blurs with reality. She spends hours discussing how best to write her 'memory book' with her imaginary friend and favourite author Barbara Cartland (the deceased world famous romantic novelist), disclosing long kept family secrets that she would never divulge to her daughters.

This tragi-comedy is about memory, loss, secrets and, above all, love.

When: 20th to 23rd November, 7:30pm

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

Website: and tickets: www.comptonplayers.co.uk

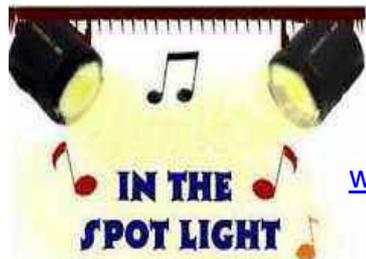
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- **Props:** Do you need a particular prop?
Get in touch with us we may be able to help you.
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plus we are planning on our own events soon
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info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

