

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



DECEMBER 2020

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

'Tis the season to be jolly, even though it's Covid time! Hopefully things will improve rapidly with Vaccinations available soon (it's just a little prick - Oh No it Isn't!!)



If you're missing the real theatre, I've added a few of the local professional events which are actually taking place in December & January, albeit with social distancing & masks etc.

A Merry Lockdown Christmas and a Happy Thespian new year to all!

Mike Davies

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

What's On-Line – New and Old

What's On Stage (Covid Permitting!)

Jan or Oct	Thame Players Babes in the Wood
13-17Apr	Abingdon Operatic Society All Shook Up
28April 1 May	Compton Players Beyond A Joke
5-8 May 20-22 May	Jigsaw Stage Productions The Sound of Music"
1-5 June	Oxford Operatic Society' My Fair Lady
20-23 Oct	The Henley Players Saturday Sunday Monday

Page **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

1-2	Chairman's Letter
2-4	Group's activities
4	Costume Sale at Thame Players
5-6	Christmas Greetings from groups
7-8	ODN Winter Virtual Festival
8-9	Professional Theatrical events
9	What's On-Line
9-11	Forthcoming Events
11	Your ODN committee

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Season's Greetings Everyone and welcome to the final edition of the ODN newsletter for 2020.



I have often felt over the years that as people have gotten busier and busier with work/family commitments, community spirit has often been lacking with everyone rushing around and not having the time or energy to support or get involved in local community events. And now as I reflect back on the craziest year we've ever known, the one thing that stands out for me is how that community spirit seems to have been re-discovered with many acts of kindness and support shown.

For me, never is this more evident than in the local drama community. I have seen that many of our member groups moved some of their activities online (thoroughly enjoyed OTG's play readings and Bartholomew Players "Second Wave" on YouTube - links repeated in the this newsletter if you missed them) – and I know this interaction, certainly in my own group, has often been a lifeline for those who have been shielding or feeling especially vulnerable.

I do hope that many of you will get involved with the Winter Festival – it would be lovely to see entries from all over our drama community and, judging by some of the ideas that you have come up with so far, it's going to be a cracking event. Anyone can get involved from our member groups and we can offer some technical assistance if needed. The deadline is 31st December so there is still time to get your thinking caps on – monologues, poetry readings, sketches, short plays, musical interludes, designs and animation – all acceptable entries and don't forget, it's not about being judged it's more about celebrating the talents of our member groups, and I for one can't wait to see the entries.

Here's to 2021 and getting back into the rehearsal room, putting on shows and enjoying each other's company once more!

Karen Carey



News from our Groups

To celebrate the end (hopefully) of a truly awful year for the arts, we invite you all to get creative and participate in our Virtual Winter Festival.

Normally this time of year we would be making plans for the Pantomime/Christmas play festival, however, due to the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19, we have decided instead to encourage all our member groups to submit a virtual creative piece – or pieces – either a filmed entry or an image. We are not restricting it to a panto or Christmas theme just looking for as many members to engage with this as possible and get creative.

I know some of you have put some material on your social media sites already – songs/plays/reading etc. so, why not enter one of those?? Or maybe a montage of archive footage/photos from previous shows mashed together in a creative way? We want all different types of entries from one act plays to artwork (scenery/costume designs etc) encompassing not just our brilliant actors but also our wonderful creatives behind the scenes. We particularly welcome Youth entries – they have missed so many opportunities this year, both at school and in our groups, so please encourage your younger members to get involved, it would be so nice to showcase our up and coming talented members.

All the entries will be uploaded to a new ODN YouTube channel for everyone to watch, enjoy and vote for their favourites. All the Youth entries will be 'unlisted' and only viewable via links shared by email to member groups. Any groups who would prefer not to have their entry made public can also be unlisted (just check the box on the entry form).

We would like this to be an inclusive event and not restricted to the more 'tech-savvy' amongst us. Members shouldn't be put off if they find the technical aspects daunting. We can offer help and technical assistance just email us on oxforddramanetwork@gmail.com.

The Wychwood Players are currently holding 'Zoom' rehearsals of the exciting murder mystery radio play 'Resting' which has been adapted by Anthony Gofton.

If the current lockdown rules are relaxed in early December the intention is to record this and upload

the play to YouTube and also to our brand new improved website, so keep an eye out for it there.

Our vastly expanded website now has a wealth of material about our group including videos, photos and lots of information about our past productions. Why not take a look!

www.wychwoodplayers.com

Ralph Wears Wychwood Players

KINGSTON BAGUIZE DRAMA GROUP

The Drama Group's performance of the virtual pantomime 'Mirror Mirror' will be available for viewing during panto season from week commencing January 16th until the end of February / beginning of March. Our audience will be able to watch the production from the comfort of their own homes at a time that suits them.

We will post the video on YouTube where we will also provide a link directly to the 'Playhouse Plays On' funding campaign so if our audience would like to show their individual appreciation of the work, they can do so by donating after the performance - directly to the Oxford Playhouse website.

Once the theatrical performance has gone live and is available to watch we will post details in KBS online www.kbsonline.org.uk, on our website <https://kbgshow.com/> and also via the various village Facebook groups. and the ODN website www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org

'Mirror, Mirror' is a virtual fractured fairy tale stuffed with well-known pantomime characters such as Snow White, The Ugly Sisters, Prince Dashing and many, many more. The production will be suitable for both young and old alike.

Although the audience will be watching on a screen from the comfort of their own homes the production is still designed to be a theatrical performance rather than a script read or attempt to make a movie.

We look forward to performing again for the village in 2021, fingers crossed - perhaps live as well as virtually.

DORCHESTER ADS

Weekly fun during Lockdown with DADS

I started hosting play readings for DADS in Dorchester Village Hall in early 2019 with the aim of giving members a means of keeping involved when they were not involved in productions and to potentially attract some new members. They were well received and they became established as monthly events.

After a brief hiatus when we went into Lockdown, I moved the play readings online, not really knowing

what to expect. Like everyone else I was new to Zoom and was a little nervous as to how it might work. In the event, it has proven to be ideal for play readings, and the readings became so popular that they quickly became more frequent and we now meet nearly every Monday evening. This is partly because we all treat them as being just for fun. Everyone is welcome, whether you would like to read or just want to listen. You don't have to have any previous acting experience nor do you need to be a member of DADS.

Since going online we have read a wide variety of plays and uncovered some gems. Although it isn't the primary intent, no doubt one or two will be considered for future DADS productions, especially some of the pantos. Along the way, we have read plays from well-known authors such as A. A. Milne, Noel Coward, Jerome K. Jerome, and J. M. Barrie as well as plays from relative unknowns, both old and contemporary. We have also read some movie and radio scripts too.

Unlike some other groups, we do not cast the play in a conventional way. The play is split into roughly equal sections and the roles are rotated. In this way, everyone who wishes to read gets a fair opportunity to do so. After all, some roles only speak a few lines. This takes a bit of preparation so, I ask participants to register by the Sunday evening prior to each reading.

The play for the following week is published on our Facebook page, @DorchesterAmDramSocietyDADS and website dads.org.uk and these include a link to register to participate.

Mark Wilkin

The Bartholomew Players have continued to keep busy during the 2nd lockdown and are keeping our spirits high!

Over two nights in early November, we read "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas via Zoom – Directed by Debi Lisburne-Diacon- which was a great opportunity for us all to practice our Welsh accents in this interesting "play for voices".

Following on from this, we read "Noises off" by Michael Frayn via Zoom over two nights in mid-November – Directed by Steve Ashcroft. This was quite a challenging play to read since it is such a visual performance, but after watching an excellent performance of the play on YouTube, we were able to visualise all the action as we were reading it.

Since we are unable to have our Christmas Party this year, we have decided to have a "virtual" party instead on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December by reading Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious comedy "Season's Greetings" over Zoom. Everyone

taking part will have the chance to read several different roles during the two evenings.

Following on from the great success of the previous two Zoom Plays for Lockdown written by Marie-Jose Zuurbier and Tess Townsend, in which we acted and recorded via Zoom, we are delighted to be acting and recording the 3rd play in this series in early December – "Zoom Christmas Special: Herd Ingenuity". Watch out for this latest instalment on the Bartholomew Players website later in December.

The Sherlock Holmes murder mystery digital performances are continuing to progress well and we have now had our first enquiry for a show which we hope to have finished by the end of February 2021! John Grant-Casey has been busy coaching us and recording our voices and Sally Firth is working tirelessly to adapt the script for recording.

We are still planning to produce Table Manners in May 2021 in the hope that most people will have received a vaccine by then, but we will make a final decision early in the New Year.

Happy Christmas to all – keep acting, keep talking, keep sane!!

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Didcot Phoenix Drama.Group.

Along with many groups, Didcot Phoenix has been struggling to come to grips with the restrictions that 2020 has imposed on us, but again, in common with many other groups, it has been the community of our group that, via the medium of Zoom, has kept us all sane. Well, no less sane than we already were.



One of our members wrote a piece earlier in the year specifically for performing on Zoom and we entered it into a Virtual Drama Festival which we were very pleased to be declared as runners up in. Encouraged by this, we wondered what we could do about panto, traditionally our main show of the year, and how this could be adapted to the online medium.

We were again very lucky that another of our members, *Malcom Thick*, had written a panto a few years previously that we had not yet had the opportunity to perform. He dusted it off and he set about it in an attempt to convert it to a Zoomtomime

or Pantozoom (both words have been banded about).

We are pleased to announce that we are now part way through filming Dick Whittington, the virtual panto, which we hope to be releasing early in the new year with any profits generated going towards the Didcot Food Bank. The challenges of a virtual pantomime, where no one is allowed to congregate for rehearsals or recording or even costume or make-up, have been huge, but we are undaunted. We've utilized the talents of the group from medieval street cries to video editing and everything in between. Scenery has to be virtual and costumes have had to be sourced either personally or via clandestine drop offs in car parks all whilst observing social distancing.

The end result is, well we don't know yet as it's not finished, but hopefully it will bring a smile to everyone's face and it has certainly kept the group laughing and 'meeting up' even though it has frayed the odd nerve ending here and there, like all shows do.

I hope you will all find a chance to view it when we get round to releasing it. We may even live-stream it where you will be able to chat to the cast and crew afterwards. We are nothing if not imaginative in embracing the technology. Now I just need to find my raven so I can get this sent off to the Editor.

David - Chair (Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)

Thame Players Stage High-Fashion Sale

Unique opportunity to acquire classic high-fashion pieces including designer labels and vintage items



Thame Players have been making the best use of lockdown by undertaking a major review of their costume store. Over the years, they have accumulated in the region of 2,000 costumes and items of clothing. It was impossible to store these in the limited space at the theatre in Nelson Street, Thame, and for some years most of the costumes have been stored at a barn in a nearby village. But storage capacity at the barn had got to the point where there was no room for more costumes to be stored and the question of finding alternative premises was considered. However, given the financial constraints of lockdown, with no income being received from putting on shows, the committee decided it was time to review the number of costumes stored, with a view to selling to the public a number of clothing items unlikely to be used in future productions.

This work is being carried out over a period of weeks by Thame Players' members and volunteers and is

already resulting in a stylish array of high-fashion clothing items which are either as new or in good condition. In the collection are designer labels such as Frank Usher, Gina Bacconi, Karen Millen and Laura Phillips, including vintage wedding dresses, elegant cocktail and evening wear, plus gents' DJs, waistcoats, tailcoats and wing-collar shirts. There are also classics from the 60s and 70s such as Carnaby Street jackets and Laura Ashley dresses, and there's even vintage underwear and linen.

Thame Players are planning to sell many of these items to the public on ebay, with offers invited on prices from £5 up to around £450 per item. If you're reading this and would like more information about a unique opportunity to buy high-fashion items in excellent condition please get in touch with Colleen Tudway at colleentudway@btinternet.com.

Illustrated:-



- Red evening gown with ruched bodice, full net underskirt. Back detail includes fabric taffeta bow with diamanté trim. Possibly designer-made, second-hand, as new condition. Bust 37", waist 29", waist to hem 42". Price £99 – offers accepted
- Kati at Laura Phillips, evening/day dress, empire line, multi-coloured chiffon. Three-quarter length frilled sleeves. Second-hand, as new condition. Bust 36", Nape to hem 53". Price £90 – offers accepted.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

from our Member Groups

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and lots of luck for productions in 2020!



Lark Rise 2018, Blewbury Players

Banbury Cross Players wish all ODN members a Happy Christmas & Covid free 2021 (here's hoping!)



A merry Christmas & Happy Thespian new Year From Abingdon Operatic Society



My Fair Lady 2019

Jigsaw Stage Productions

We wish all ODN members



The King & I - 2019

a Merry Christmas and a Happy back-to-normal New Year

Best wishes for Xmas and the New Year from DADS



Treasure Island, 2019

Happy Christmas to all in ODN & Here's to 2021



Oxford Operatic – Crazy for You 2019

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From DRAYTON PLAYERS



Bankers Gone Bonkers: ODN Drama Festival 2019

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from The Sinodun Players



Robin Hood - January 2020

Waiting on a shelf for a fairy wish for a fantastic new year of the right kind of dramas!



Happy Christmas from The Wychwood Players

Wishing ODN members a safe and peaceful festive season, and better times in 2021 - **Kennington ADS**



Merry Christmas 2020
Love From HAMS
(The Hagbourne Amateurs)



Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group wish you all a Happy Christmas



May 2021 see us on stage entertaining audiences

Dick Whittington
A Virtual Fantomime



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at **Didcot Phoenix Drama Group**

Merry Christmas from the ODN Committee



Please end this lockdown soon, PM, & let us re-open!



Merry Christmas from All at **Thame Players**



Deadline for Entries: 31st December 2020

Deadline for Groups to submit their votes: 31 January 2021

Results announced: Gala Event on Friday 5th Feb 2021

What's it about?

An online festival whereby member groups can submit a short film or image of a creative piece of work which will then be uploaded to a YouTube channel to be viewed by the membership and show cased on our Facebook page. Members can choose whether their entry is public for all to see or just available to ODN members. Entry is free. Members will be able to vote for their favourite entries and the festival will culminate in an online gala evening on Friday 5th February, which will be live streamed to the Facebook group where there will be a number of awards made recognising all sorts of achievements.

Goals:

- To offer the chance for member groups to work on, and submit a creative piece of work whilst under local ongoing covid restrictions
- To celebrate and showcase the talents of the Oxfordshire Drama Network
- To encourage member groups to get together (virtually) to view and enjoy the work of other member groups
- Bring the membership together in a single online event to celebrate our creative achievements.
- Younger members should be encouraged to participate
- The event will be inclusive and the organisation will offer help and technical advice to any members who need it.

Who can enter?

Member groups of the Oxfordshire Drama Network. We particularly welcome entries from Youth members.

What Content are we looking for??

We would like entries for the following categories

- One act plays/pantomimes (20-50mins)
- Short sketches with 2 or more actors (up to 20 mins)
- Monologues/Readings (1 actor)

- Song/Musical act
- Choreography/Dance/Mime
- Animation/Puppetry
- Artistic work - Painting/hand drawn scenery design/Costume design/Prop/Model- to be submitted as a jpeg or pdf image - these will be added as a slide show presentation
- Retrospective - a montage of images/footage from previous shows (10 mins max)

All should be submitted as an mp4 or .mov film file, except for images of artistic works which should be in JPEG or PDF format. (If you need any technical help, then contact us - oxforddramanetwork@gmail.com)

Rules of Entry

All entries must conform to the following rules:

Videos must meet standard YouTube rules (see <https://www.youtube.com/howyoutubeworks/policies/community-guidelines/>)

All submissions must be either:

- All plays should be out of copyright/Copyright free/Licensed or supported by evidence that the copyright holder has given express permission for the material to be uploaded and viewed publicly.
- Performances must conform to current social distancing and safe practices guidelines in force at the time of the submission
- All individuals appearing in the video (either by intent or otherwise) must have given their permission for their image to be broadcast to the public

Any films containing younger members under the age of 16 should be noted on the entry form as they will be added to the YouTube site with 'unlisted' links circulated to ODN member groups only for viewing purposes and will not be made public.

Music is a tricky area - you should obtain copyright clearance whenever possible - but there are ways to legally use 'some' popular music content if it is not for profit (which this festival isn't) - take a look at the following website for guidance:-

- Can I use copyright music in YouTube Videos - <https://www.safemusiclist.com/can-use-copyrighted-music-youtube/>

If you are just after some incidental music, then the YouTube Audio Library has a good selection of copyright free tracks (or a credit may be needed)

- YouTube Audio Library for copyright free music - https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UC3Ze5zQEMGtwrbpuZ7Ngr5g/music?utm_campaign=upgrade&utm_medium=redirect&utm_source=%2Faudiolibrary%2Fmusic

The festival Committee reserve the right to withhold the submission of any entry if there are concerns that any of the above requirements have not been met

How do you enter?

Download the form from the link at the end of this document and submit it along with a link to a downloadable film or with attached images to

oxforddramanetwork@gmail.com by 31st December. Each group can enter as many times as they like but should complete a form for each entry. If anyone needs any help with this process, please contact us.

Voting

Once the deadline has passed, the entries will be checked by the committee and uploaded to the ODN YouTube channel and the link shared to members. We encourage all groups to get together virtually and watch the entries if possible or, in the event that we have a huge amount of entries, watch individually where you can and come together collectively to discuss the entries and vote for your favourites. It will be a bit like Eurovision style voting - there will be one voting sheet per group - where you will vote for your favourites in each category but, just like Eurovision, you will be unable to vote for your own entry/entries (Sorry!)

The membership will be voting for their favourites in each category, but the committee will bestow certificates for a number of achievements depending on the entries we get but could include things like a 'comedy moment', characterisation, technical presentation, originality and Youth awards. However, it should be said that this is less about awards but more about getting creative and having a go and celebrating what hopefully will be the end of a very difficult time with a video wall of artistic ventures by our talented members.

Votes should be submitted by 31st January 2021

How do you watch the entries as a group?

There are a few ways you can watch the entries as a group - either via a virtual conferencing system like Zoom, Teams or Skype etc where one person can share their screen and play through the YouTube channel entries. Or you can set up a "Watch Party" and sign up to a free service such as "Watch2gether" (<https://w2g.tv>) - whereby you set up your own room, copy and paste the YouTube links and invite your members to watch with you and you can communicate with each other via a chat box.

All are very simple to use, though bear in mind that if you are using the free version of Zoom then you have a limit of 40 mins so may have to organise a few sessions. Again, if you have any difficulties then please get in touch and we will try and help set something up for you.

Gala Night - Friday 5th February

Once the votes have been cast the committee will collate the results and a montage of extracts from all the entries will be put together, The Gala will be live-streamed via Zoom to the YouTube channel, where we hope that you will all join us (wearing your posh frocks or dress suits with a bottle of champagne on ice!!) as we toast the end of a terrible year and enjoy a reflection of the entries and awards in the style of the Oscars. We also hope to have an invited guest along but will confirm this nearer the time.

The entry form can be downloaded as a WORD document from ([.docx](#)):-

To Download the Entry FORM, Click Here

Or from our website (.doc) :-

www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org/files/WinterFestEntry.doc

Fill the form in and email to:-

OxfordDramaNetwork@gmail.com

Professional Theatre

**Just a few places we can still enjoy theatre.
All socially distanced with Covid precautions.**

Chipping Norton Theatre A Christmas Carol

Adapted by Simon Callow from the novel by Charles Dickens - *Even Scrooge can't cancel Christmas!*

Starring David Bradley

3rd - 24th December

www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Corn Exchange Newbury Aladdin 2020

Friday 4th Dec 2020 — Sunday 3rd Jan 2021,

Taking you on a magic carpet ride adventure this Christmas to far off lands, with Aladdin and his friends, as they discover treasures beyond their wildest dreams..

Box Office 0845 5218 218

<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/aladdin-2020>

The North Wall, The Show That Must Not Be Named by Jericho Comedy

10 December - 12 December 2020

A Harry Potter parody like no other. Based on your suggestions, our magical creatures will create a brand new story set in the famous world of magic and spells, with more magic than you could shake a wand at!

www.thenorthwall.com

Corn Exchange Wallingford A Christmas Carol

Saturday December 12th 7:45pm

Theatre Tours International in association with Maverick Theatre Company

Dicken's Mystical Christmas fable brought to life - A perfect Christmas treat!
Famed for bringing multiple characters to vivid life, Guy Masterson recreates Scrooge, Marley, the Fezziwigs, Tiny Tim et al in an enchanting, performance that will dazzle and linger long in the memory.

For further details contact :
John Evans, Marketing Director
email: marketingdirector@cornexchange.org.uk
tel: 07785367512
www.cornexchange.org.uk

The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham Tweedy's Reduced Pantomime

Fri 4th Dec - Sun 3rd Jan

Experience all your favourite pantomime moments in one hilariously reduced production. Will Tweedy take on King Rat, conquer the Evil Queen, outsmart Abanazar or cut the giant down to size? Find out in Tweedy's REDUCED Pantomime - Guaranteed to have more laughs than cast!

www.everymantheatre.org.uk

WHAT'S ON-LINE

PREVIOUS LINKS:

Oxford Operatic Society
CLIMBING EVERY MOUNTAIN!
[OXOPS in Lockdown](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B1q2RbHV70)

Oxford Theatre Guild
The Recruiting Officer
<https://youtu.be/CXnLXY4SPMY>

Didcot Phoenix On-Line!

Shakespeare Play Reading
<https://youtu.be/2B1q2RbHV70> or
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B1q2RbHV70

You are not alone
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATIOA_xwDK0

The Bartholomew Players
"The Second Wave"
on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/twhp9VjLnzs>

NEW LINKS:

The Wychwood Players murder mystery radio play 'Resting' adapted by Anthony Gofton. Recording in Early December so keep an eye out for it our new website www.wychwoodplayers.com

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

KINGSTON BAGUIZE DRAMA GROUP

A virtual pantomime 'Mirror Mirror' will be available for viewing during panto season from week commencing January 16th until the end of February / beginning of March. details in will be posted on KBS online www.kbsonline.org.uk, and on our website <https://kbdgshow.com> when the performance is available to watch

The Bartholomew Players "Zoom Christmas Special: Herd Ingenuity"

Watch out for this latest play on the Bartholomew Players website later in December
www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Didcot Phoenix Drama.Group.

Dick Whittington, the virtual panto, (Pantozoom?) which we hope to be releasing early in the new year. Watch our website for updates & details.

<https://didcotphoenixdrama.co.uk>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Covid permitting

THAME PLAYERS

Babes in the Wood,

Will Our Babes in the Wood Be Saved? Oh, Yes, They Will!



The story of two young children (the Babes), who, after their father dies, are abandoned deep in the forest by their wicked uncle and left to die, so that he can inherit the fortune their father left them. But his plot is foiled when Robin Hood and his Merry Men rescue them and, with Maid Marion, they return to the castle. The uncle is unmasked as the villain and the Babes get their rightful inheritance – oh, yes, they do!!

With all the ingredients you'd expect in a Thame Players' panto, with plenty of fun and jokes, music, singing and dancing, for all the family.

10 performances in January - **Covid permitting!**
If not it will be performed in December 2021.

New members are always welcome, email:-
membership@thameplayers.co.uk for details.

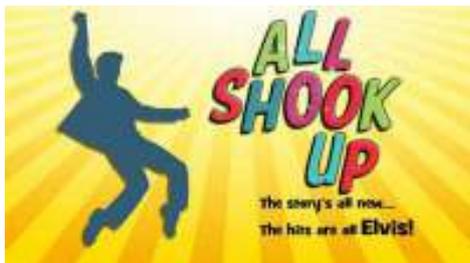
Website www.thameplayers.co.uk

Twitter.com/thametheatre,
Facebook.com/thametheatre
Instagram.com/thameplayers

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

All Shook Up

The music of Elvis Presley comes alive in All Shook Up and we're bringing it to the stage of the



Amey Theatre in April 2021. This show was originally scheduled for April 2020

Inspired by Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, All Shook Up takes us to a small Midwestern town that is thrown into a frenzy with the arrival of Chad, fresh out of prison, a good-looking, motorcycle-riding roustabout, who travels the open roads with a guitar on his back, blue suede shoes on his feet, and a song in his heart.

Repressed by their conservative mayor, the town begins to come alive once more under Chad's influence. Lovers meet, woo, pursue, and more, all in one zany night that will change the town forever.

All Shook Up is a rocking, heartwarming tale about following dreams, opening up to love, and the power of music, featuring a whole host of hit songs from the Elvis songbook, including *Jailhouse Rock*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Love Me Tender*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *A Little Less Conversation*, and many more.

When: 13th -17th April 2021

Where: Amey Theatre at Abingdon School

Website: www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

COMPTON PLAYERS

Beyond A Joke

By Derek Benfield

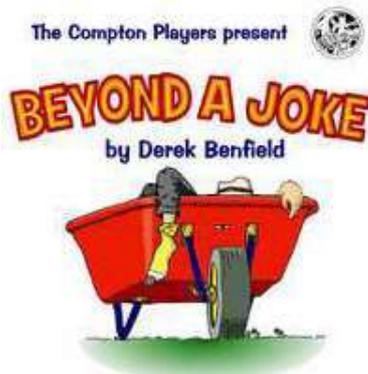
Jane and Andrew's pleasant country house is accident prone. Six people have already died there in unfortunate and embarrassing accidents. When daughter Sally's young man Geoff arrives for the weekend unaware of the house's reputation, he mistakenly deduces from conversational confusion that the deaths were due to sinister circumstances.

When: 28th April - 1st May 2021 at 7.30pm

Where: Compton Village Hall RG20 6NP

Tickets: £9, (£8 Conc) online from:-

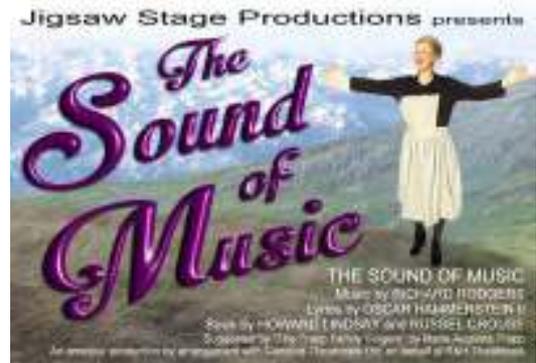
www.ComptonPlayers.co.uk or Tel 07554 842207



JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

"The Sound of Music"

by Rodgers and Hammerstein.



The story of Maria and the Von Trapp family will delight you with it's award winning score, including, 'My Favourite Things', 'Do-Re-Mi', 'Climb Every Mountain', and 'Edelweiss'.

It tells the true tale of the world-famous singing family, from their romantic beginnings and search for happiness to their thrilling escape to freedom as Austria becomes part of the Third Reich at the start of WWII.

VENUES:-

The Beacon, Wantage, Wed 5th to Sat 8th May 2021
at 7.45pm + Matinee Sat 8th May at 2.30pm

Tickets £15 (£13 conc) from The Beacon:-

www.beaconwantage.co.uk or tel 01235 763456

AND

Cornerstone Didcot, 20th to 22nd May 2021

at 7.45pm + Matinee Sat 22nd May at 2.30pm

Tickets £15 (£13 conc) from Cornerstone:-

www.cornerstone-arts.org or Tel 01235 515144

OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

My Fair Lady

This adored musical, set in Edwardian London, tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young working-class Cockney flower seller. She is taken under the wing of Henry Higgins, a phonetics & linguistics professor who is determined to win a bet to transform her into a successful and respected 'lady of society'. But who will really be transformed once the bet is won?

When: Tue 1st Jun - Sat 5th Jun 2021.

Where: The New Theatre, George St, Oxford.

Tickets: on sale now! From:-

www.atgtickets.com/shows/oxops-my-fair-lady/new-theatre-oxford



THE HENLEY PLAYERS Saturday Sunday Monday

by Eduardo de Filippo

Marital misunderstandings, a lover's quarrel, and generational conflict escalate as passions flare during the traditional Sunday



dinner with family and friends. Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall adapted Eduardo de Filippo's sparkling contemporary Italian commedia dell'arte, which looks at the trial and tribulations of a well-off family in Naples in 1959.

When: 20th -23rd Oct 2021, 7.30pm + Sat 2.30pm

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

Tickets: will be from the Kenton Box Office 01491 575698 or online at www.kentontheatre.co.uk

Website: www.henleyplayers.com

A Covid Poem by Kay Card of Kennington



**For the first time in 41 years,
There'll be no laughs, there'll be no cheers.**

**No Panto, no Dame, no Principal boy,
No comical duo, no girl being coy.
No costumes to make, no music to play,
No scenery to paint, no lines to say.
No sound of children having fun.
Our hearts are sad, we're feeling glum.**

**But never fear when the time is right,
We will be back with an opening night,
The curtains will rise, the lights will shine,
Our hearts will be pumping
And all will be fine!!**

by Kay Card

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	Peter Brazier	(Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)
Membership Secretary	Sue Tibbles	(Oxford Theatre Guild)

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Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players)
Sarah Ellner	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
Jess Ebberson	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
Teresa Miller	(Wootton Players)

N.B. We have held the AGM in Drayton for a few years now and would really like to move it around the county so that other groups don't have to travel so far. We would really like to encourage one of our member groups to host next year's AGM – the ODN will cover any hall hire expenses – so please email us if this is something you would like to do.

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork