

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



DECEMBER 2022
& JANUARY 2023

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Pantomime season is here at last. Aladdin seems popular this year, but all are different versions. Good news for Drama Festival lovers is that the Wallingford Festival is back on this year from Mon 19th to Sat 24th June.

Looking for a new play? We have a list of publishers, and a list of local Festivals on the ODN website.

Have a festive Christmas. *Mike Davies*



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Seasons Greetings!

This year has been a funny old year. After the stress of 2020/21 with the pandemic, people have slowly emerged back into the social world – some faster than others – and after a faltering start to the year which saw pantos and productions being delayed or postponed, theatre productions have slowly but surely come back to life. It has not been an easy journey, however, with rehearsals still interrupted and productions delayed with cast members still going off sick with Covid symptoms, or still shielding, I applaud you all for making it through. Hopefully now it's onwards and upwards and I'm looking forward to what next year brings.

I caught the first night of Kingston Bagpuize's wonderful pantomime, Aladdin, a couple of weeks ago and it was a joy to be back in a packed house with an audience who were clearly enjoying themselves as much as the people on stage. This is why we do this strange and wonderful hobby and why the last couple of years have been particularly hard for us.

I look forward to seeing many more pantomimes and seasonal shows over the coming weeks as I have teamed up with Nigel James to adjudicate this year's ODN Winter Festival. If you haven't entered yet then it's not too late – entry forms can be completed online [here](#) or downloaded from our website.

Talking of festivals – calls for entry to the spring/summer festivals season will be coming out soon and, as most of you know, I am a strong advocate of festivals as they are a great training ground for new directors – and we could all do with some more of them. If you haven't considered entering a festival before, then I would really recommend them, they can be a fantastic learning experience for both cast and crew. I'm happy to chat with anyone if they would like more information or advice.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Karen Carey (Chair)



WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

30Nov Bartholomew Players

-3Dec

Rutherford and Son

DECEMBER

1-3 Wychwood Players

Ghost Train

2-11 Thame Players

Jack and the Beanstalk

3-11 Jigsaw Stage Productions

Aladdin

3,4 A.C.T.S.

Who killed the secret agent?

15-31 Buttercross Theatre Productions

Aladdin

16,17 B.O.D.S.

A Christmas Carol

17 Bicester Choral & Operatic

Sleigh Bells Ring!

JANUARY

23-28 Oxford Operatic Society

Evita

27-4Feb Faringdon Dramatic Society

Sleeping Beauty

27-4Feb Kennington A.D.S.

Aladdin.

FEBRUARY

9-11 Hanney D.G.

Who Framed the Easter Bunny?

15-18 Launton Village Players

Hickory Dickory Dock

MARCH

7-11 Thame Players

A Bunch of Amateurs

21-25 Oxford Theatre Guild

Nell Gwynn

APRIL

5-8 M.Y.C.O.

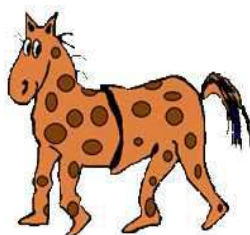
The Addams Family

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OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK PANTO/WINTER PRODUCTION FESTIVAL 2022/2023



It is not too late to enter our Winter Competition for pantomimes, Seasonal Plays, and Musicals etc. Below is a list of some of the awards that we will be presenting next year at our AGM.

To enter your production into the Festival either fill in our on-line entry form, - see our top of front page article on our website, or download a printable form from there.

AWARDS

The following are typical of the awards which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting next year.

- The All-Round Production .
- Rising Star Award for Under 18's
- Musical Award – this can include any incidental music, song, live performance.
- Best Costume
- Chorus Award
- Best Baddie
- Best Cameo
- Best Front of House experience
- Best Tech – this will include special effects, lighting, sound
- Magic Moment
- Best Comedy Performance



REVIEWS

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB.

'Abandonment' by Kate Atkinson

23rd -26th November 2022

Elizabeth (Laura King), the main character in the play was very strong and feisty opposite her overbearing sister, Kitty (Rachel Morris) She had just moved into her new flat, with the help of her sister, who was constantly angry and jealous of Elizabeth together with her best friend, Susie (Maria Crocker), who was Elizabeth's confidante and very relaxed. She was awaiting news of a pregnancy with her lesbian

partner. Elizabeth and Kitty's mother, Ina, beautifully played by Jennifer Cowling, related how Elizabeth was adopted after being found abandoned in a public toilet, which was the cause of the bitterness on the part of Kitty.



The floor repair man, Callum (Leon Witcomb) falls prey to Kitty, [who has also slept with Elizabeth's former partner]. Kitty also arranges for photographer Alec (Arthur Blake) to attend to take publicity shots for Elizabeth, which grows into an amorous affair with her; only to be seduced by Kitty, thus causing a break-up.

The other half of this play also revolves around the 19th century former occupants of the house. One of whom, Agnes, frequently makes her presence felt disturbing Elizabeth. Agnes, the governess, (Sara Phoenix) is seen playing the piano and wandering through the house, creating an eerie atmosphere. All is uncovered when the secrets of the Victorian family are revealed. The master of the house Merric, played menacingly by Adam Blake has a penchant for seducing every female in sight. This includes the maid, Gertie (Emma Judge) and the Governess. All this is in the knowledge of his wife, Laetitia who was domineering and vicious towards the female staff. She was being influenced by frequent visitor, Rev Scobie (Chris Bedford), who was not all that he seemed and was dabbling in the dark arts. Merric's mother, Lavender (Barbara Denton) although confused, was not beyond straight talking to Laetitia about the state of her household. Upon threatening to expose Merric to his wife, Agnes meets a sticky end from Laetitia and is buried under the floorboards, only to re-visit the current occupiers, until Callum disturbs her resting place, breaking the spell.

The play was brilliantly directed by Susi Dalton, who created just the right balance and atmosphere between the two sets of occupants. The acting was faultless and the sound and lighting was very good, as were the costumes.

If there was one criticism it was that the play was far too long at 2 hours 50 minutes and could have done with some judicious editing.

Nigel James

Building Acting Skills

Games to practice the building blocks of acting

Before I go into the exercises I use and why I use them, I first want to iterate how important it is for you to find some help. This is not a one-person job, believe me! Ideally, have one adult for every half dozen kids. If you can't get adults, there are probably teens who would love to help and learn to lead. Just make sure that you have some help — the last thing you want is to be drowning in (or drowned out by) kids.

Introducing theatre to kids is fun but challenging. You'll find kids who are very shy, some who are very loud, some who won't stop moving, and some who can't get along. It's important that you allow them to express themselves, but in a constructive way. Hopefully these exercises will help kids be themselves while learning how to use their body, face, and voice. Along the way, they'll hopefully also learn how to be a member of an ensemble.

Feel a Colour

This exercise helps kids think about other feelings other than the "big seven" (happy, surprise, bad, afraid, angry, disgust, and sad). For example, tell your student, "I want you to feel pink." Then, show them that "pink" could mean feeling bashful, embarrassed, playful, or even dizzy. Make them think of other things that a color could mean. For instance, instead of anger, red could be pressure, exhaustion, or even love. This exercise helps a child expand their knowledge of emotions that they possess by attributing them to colors they can physically see.

Emotion Bus

This exercise helps establish the golden rule of acting: for every action there is a reaction. To start, make two lines of chairs, like seats on a bus, and have an adult be the driver. Pretend to drive the bus to its next stop. Then, have one passenger board with an emotion of their choice. Everyone on the bus must take on that emotion. The driver repeats this until the bus is full, with everyone on the bus experiencing a new emotion every time someone new boards the bus. This helps teach kids to react spontaneously, to be aware of their emotions, and to react appropriately.

Story Circle

In this exercise, sit in a circle small enough that all can be heard. Have a young player start a story with a single sentence, then pass the story to the person on their left. That person then continues the story with one sentence of their own and passes it on to their left. This goes on until it comes back around to the first player, who ends the story. This exercise can help excite the imagination and show that individuals drive the bigger story. Everyone is important to the story being told, and without them, the story would not be complete.

Pass the Clap (or Snap)

This exercise encourages focus, eye contact, and synchrony with fellow actors. Again, form a circle and choose a "starter," who will turn to their left and make eye contact with the actor next to them. Then they both must clap (or snap) at the same time, effectively "passing" to the next person. That actor then turns to their left and repeats the exercise. This continues around the circle, getting faster and faster as connections start to build! Remember, eye contact is a must and that the clap/snap cannot be passed on if it's not in sync with the other actor.

Telephone

We all know this game — whisper a message in someone's ear and have them pass on what they heard to the next person, who passes it on to the next, and so on. This one's an oldie but a goodie, helping kids work on enunciation, clear communication, focus, and memorization.

Synonym Telephone

Unlike regular "Telephone," this exercise is said aloud. The first person could say to the next the word "apple," to which the next person might say a related word like "fruit," and the next could say "food," and so on. This exercise helps simulate the train of thought that goes into conversation.

Megaphone

For this exercise, have actors come to the front of the stage while you and your helpers sit in the back of the audience. Have the children introduce themselves — first whispering, then yelling, and then projecting. Be sure to show actors what it means to project and show them the difference between projecting and yelling. This exercise helps them learn to project while releasing pent-up energy by "yelling it out."

The Knot

This final exercise is a favorite among kids! Make a circle and have actors put their hands in the middle. Then, everyone grabs the hand of someone else — anyone else — that is not standing next to them. Once everyone has a hand to hold, start untangling! The goal is to get untangled and back into a full circle, but the trick is you cannot let go of each others' hands. This will encourage teamwork, listening, and leadership. Plus, it's a great way to get out the wiggles!

Using these exercises will help your young actors start understanding the many facets of acting beyond memorizing a character's lines. And coming from experience, teaching young actors how to express themselves will impact their lives positively even outside of the world of theatre.

**By Grey Pratt, Customer Service Rep,
Pioneer Drama Service**
www.PioneerDrama.com



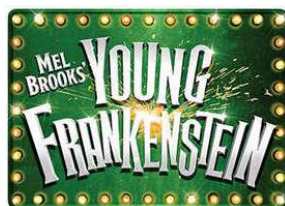


AMEGOS THEATRE

We are so excited to be staging the hilarious Mel Brooks musical

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

in Wantage in August 2024.



A musical of such MONSTER proportions will take a lot of work, and so we are starting early with our preparations..

Do come and join us on stage, or backstage, for a bit of Transylvania Mania!

Email AmEgos.Theatre@gmail.com to register your interest for any of these events.

Dance workshop on 11th December, 2 - 5pm. Come and have some fun working on two of the big numbers from the show ... and get an early heads-up for the audition dance with our fabulous choreographer Gracie.

Show talk-in on 8th Jan, 2pm. Our director Nick will talk about the show, the characters, the staging etc and we will give out audition pieces.

Auditions 22nd Jan 2pm.

Rehearsals start Sun 5th Feb 1 - 5pm and continue with weekly Sunday rehearsals and Wednesday rehearsals from 7 - 10pm.

Show dates are: Wantage 3rd - 5th August.

Young Frankenstein is the monster musical comedy from the creators of "The Producers".

Here's a brief synopsis to keep you going until 11th December.

The grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick, Igor, and a leggy lab assistant, Inga, Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. "It's alive!" he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfather's. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds.

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

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

BLEWBURY PLAYERS Shakespeare In Love AUDITIONS

Based on the Academy Award-winning movie and adapted for the stage by Lee Hall (Billy Elliot, The Pitmen Painters), this hilarious, romantic play finds William Shakespeare struggling to write Romeo and Juliet.

For those who love Shakespeare, this play is for you.

For those who hate Shakespeare, this play is for you too, written in English you can understand with lots of jokes.

Directed by Steve White, Shakespeare in Love will bring Elizabethan London and its theatre back to life in Orchard Dene, with love, death, music, dance, cross-dressing...and a dog.

Auditions will take place on 11-12 February and with a cast of up to 23 individuals, singers and musicians, we're looking forward to a good response. Some of the roles originally written for men may be played by women. Please contact us at BlewburyPlayers@gmail.com if you would like to book an audition. (If you would like to audition but are unavailable on these dates - please do still get in touch).

Performances will be from 19th to 22nd July

For further ideas about taking part in one of our summer productions you may like to watch 'A little bit about Blewbury Players' and 'The Making of Romeo and Juliet' videos on our website www.blewburyplayers.co.uk. We also have an extensive gallery of photos from previous productions at Orchard Dene Garden Theatre on the site.

WANTAGE SINGS New members welcome

from Wednesday 11th January and every subsequent Wednesday
Methodist Church Hall,
Newbury Street, Wantage,
OX12 8DE. from 7:30 to 10pm



No auditions to join and you don't need to read music. (Over 16s only)

Our next performance will be Wantage Sings: The 1990s

Concert Dates are June 16, 17, 23, 24th 2023

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

Rutherford and Son

by Githa
Sowerby

John Rutherford, is the patriarchal owner of a northern glassworks whose world is crumbling.

By ruling both factory and family with an iron will, he succeeds in alienating his family and they turn against him.

Sowerby's great gift was for capturing a world in transition. Rutherford's domestic tyranny is challenged just as in society the idea of a predominantly male suffrage was under threat and feminism was emerging. By the end, it is two of the female characters who stand up to Rutherford and manage to forge their own path away from domestic oppression towards a more enlightened future.

When: Wed 30th Nov to Sat 3rd Dec

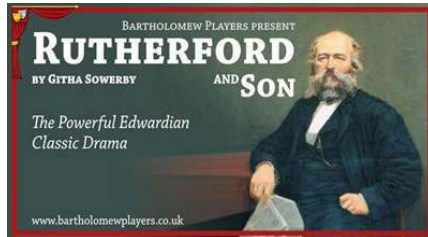
Doors open: 7.00pm, Performance: 7.30pm

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

Tickets: £10.00 (no concessions) online from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bartholomewplayers

in advance from Denise Santilli, 07721 744020,
email bart.players@gmail.com,
from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham
or on the door.

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

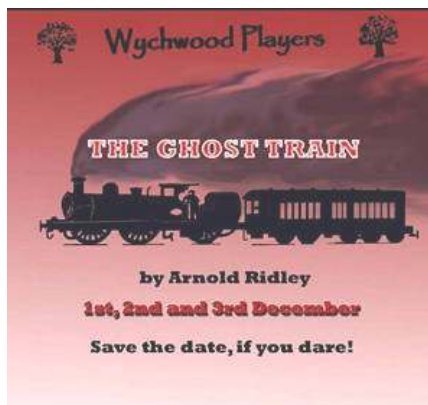


WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

Ghost Train

by Arnold Ridley

The action takes place in a train station in the remote countryside where a varied group of travellers are stranded. They learn of a local legend where a phantom train runs through the station in the early hours carrying ghosts from a train crash some years ago. Can they, between them, solve the mystery of The Ghost Train?



Arnold Ridley was best known for playing Private Godfrey in the long-running BBC series 'Dad's Army'. He was also a successful playwright with over 30 plays to his name. The Ghost Train was Ridley's first play, written almost a hundred years ago.

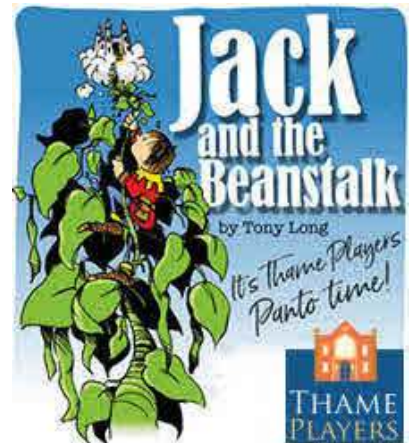
When: Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd Dec at 7.30pm

Where: at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood OX7 6BQ.

Tickets: from our website:-
www.wychwoodplayers.com

THAME PLAYERS Jack and the Beanstalk

In Thame Players' version of this well-known fairy tale, the hero is Jack, a poor country boy, who trades the family's cow for magic beans. The beans grow into a towering beanstalk. When Jack climbs the beanstalk, he finds himself in the



castle of an unfriendly Ogre. Jack is hopelessly in love with the Princess, and determined to defeat the Ogre, who is huge and threatening and wants to eat humans for breakfast, assisted by his henchman Stinkweed. Of course, Jack outwits the Ogre, assisted by Sweet Pea, the fairy, and various other characters including Robin Hood and some of his Merry Men – and even the Brothers Grimm of fairy-tale fame!

It all adds up to great family entertainment and audiences are guaranteed to have a brilliant time. – oh, yes, they will!

Tickets are selling fast, so if you want to see Jack and the Beanstalk, act now to be sure of a seat – oh, yes, you should!

When: Fri 2 to Sun 4 & Wed 7 to Sun 11 Dec

Weekday evenings at 7.45 pm,

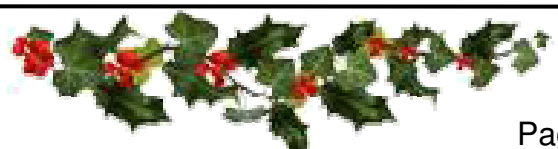
Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm & 5.30pm.

Where: The Players Theatre, Thame OX9 2DP.

Tickets: £10 and £9 from the Information Centre at Thame Town Hall

call on 01844 212833 or

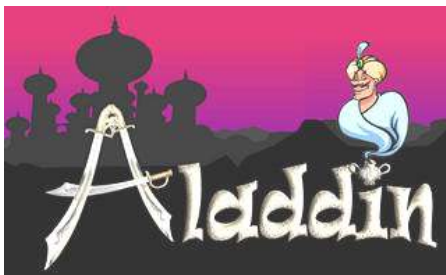
Online at: www.thameplayers.co.uk



JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Aladdin by Ben Crocker

Join Aladdin for a fun-filled magical adventure from Old Peking to the desert sands of Arabia as he bids to save the beautiful Princess Jasmine from the clutches of the wicked Abanazar.



The poor Emperor hasn't a clue what is going on with his hapless police force Sergeant Ping and PC Pong. The Genie of the Ring and Genie of the Lamp bring a touch of magic and mayhem to the story.

Expect all the traditional panto ingredients - toe tapping tunes, a laundry-full of laughs with Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, loads of audience participation - and a very, very badly behaved panda! It's a genie-us of a pantomime!

This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with plenty of hearty laughs to lighten anyone's winter evenings.

Ben Crocker's traditional pantomime is based on the original Arabian Nights tale that has been lovingly re-invented by one of the wittiest and most inventive writers working in pantomime today.

Tickets: £10, (£7 conc).

Family ticket £30 (2 Adults + 2 children)

Available from Local Outlets (see website), or via our website: www.draytonplayers.org.uk

Dates & Venues

Sat 3rd Dec, Harwell Village Hall, High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX, **starting at 5pm**

Sun 4th Dec, Harwell Village Hall, High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX, **starting at 2pm**

Fri 9th Dec, Hagbourne Village Hall, 53 Main Rd, East Hagbourne, Didcot OX11 9LR, **starting at 7pm**

Sat 10th Dec, Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, OX13 6RR, **starting at 5pm**

Sun 11th Dec, Old Mill Hall, School Ln, Grove, Wantage OX12 7LB **starting at 5pm**

An amateur production by arrangement with Ben Crocker Pantomimes

ACTS

Who killed the secret agent?

A James Bond Spoof by Chris Martin

An evening of murder and mystery!

With Bar - Quiz - Raffle - Prizes.

Who
killed
the
secret
agent



When: Sat 3rd Dec: Evening with supper
Sun 4th Dec: Afternoon with tea

Where: Aston & Cote Village Hall, Cote Rd, Aston, Bampton OX18 2FS

Tickets: etc. see ODN Facebook page

BUTTERCROSS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Aladdin

by Joe Graham

Don't miss your chance to join us for this year's magical pantomime, Aladdin!

Dates & Times:-

Thu 15th Dec 7.30pm

Fri 16th Dec 1.30pm & 7.30pm

Sat 17th Dec 1.45pm & 7.30pm

Sun 18th Dec 1.45pm & 7.30pm

Thu 22nd Dec 7.30pm

Fri 23rd Dec 7.30pm

Sat 24th Dec 1.30pm

Thu 29th Dec 7.30pm

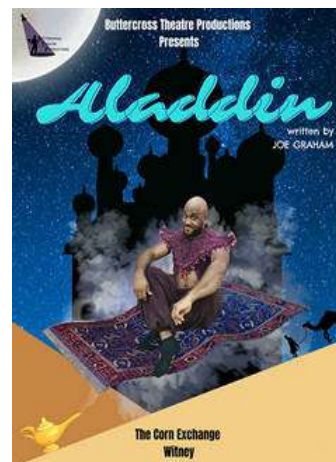
Fri 30th Dec 7.30pm

Sat 31st Dec 1.30pm

Where: The Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney OX28 6AB

Tickets: £12 (£7 under 14s) see website:-

www.ButtercrossTheatreProductions.co.uk



BODS (Branching out drama Society)

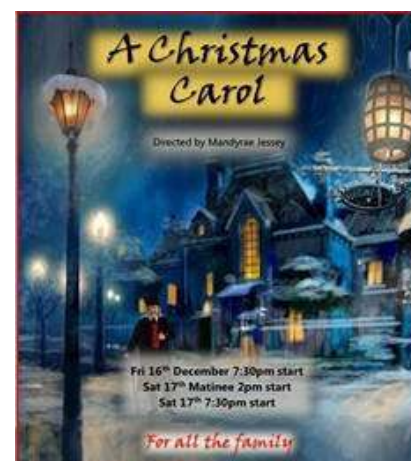
A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Adapted by John Mortimer

No one is born bad! we follow the life of Scrooge and discover why he has become so bitter and wrapped up in his own world and thoughts.

What happened to him at certain stages in his life to make him so sad and mean?



What can change his Cold and broken heart? What will it take to turn him around and make him the man he should always have been?

The vision for A Christmas Carol is to bring this much loved Victorian Christmas story to us all and add a special twist with songs and set adding some modern ideas mixed in with the traditional so offering something for everyone.

The unique direction also includes taking the audience through a transformation just as Scrooge has to transform his life, using clever visuals, sound, lighting, set and costume design.

An element of humour and fun runs through the whole show but keeping it true to the darker side of the storyline throughout.

A Christmas Carol has a cast and crew of about 50 people from the age of six to over 80, bringing an amazing rich tapestry of talents and skills.

Front of house and the bar will be in costume serving mulled wine and mince pies at each performance.

When: Fri 16 & Sat 17 Dec at 7.30pm + Sat 2pm

Where: New Beaconsfield Hall,
Shipton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6BQ

Tickets: £12 (child £6) from
www.TicketSource.co.uk/BODS

BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sleigh Bells Ring!

Can you believe it will be 3 years since our last Christmas concert?

Tickets for last year's Covid-cancelled event sold out in less than 4 hours so keep close to your emails and social media so you don't miss out this time!

When: Dec 17th 2022 at 7.30pm

Where: St Edburg's Church, Old Place Yard, Bicester OX26 6AU

Tickets: online at
www.bcoswesing.org.uk/tickets

OR will soon be available from Cole's Books store in Crown Walk, Bicester

Website: www.bcoswesing.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/BicesterChoral



FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Sleeping Beauty

A pantomime by Ben Crocker

Sleeping Beauty is a classic fairy tale which involves a beautiful princess, a sleeping enchantment, and a handsome prince.

In this version of the story King Norbet and his wife Queen Dorothy finally are granted their wish of a daughter. When she is born, alas, they have not invited the bad fairy Carabosse to their celebration.

Annoyed that she, and her cat Spindleshanks, are not invited she curses the Princess Aurora to prick her finger on a spindle and die! Fortunately Fairy Peaceful had not granted her wish yet so is able to alter this to sleep for a hundred years instead, to be woken to the kiss of a true Prince.

When: Fri 27th to Sun 29th Jan &

Fri 3rd Feb to Sat 4th Feb

Performances 2:30 pm (Sat & Sun) + 7:30 pm.

Doors open 30 minutes earlier.

Performance lasts approximately 2½ hours.

Where: Faringdon Junior School, 26 Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7HY

Tickets: Adult £12. Child (under 16) £6.

available from our Online Box Office

Website: www.faringdondramatic.org.uk



OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

Evita

by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Evita brings to life the rags-to-riches rise of Eva Peron, the First Lady of Argentina and charts her meteoric rise to sainthood. Set in Argentina between 1934-1952, the Tony-winning musical follows Eva Duarte on her journey from poor, illegitimate child to ambitious actress to, as wife of military leader-turned-president Juan Peron, the most



powerful woman in Latin America, before her death from cancer at age 33.

The events in Evita's life are presented in song and commented on by the show's narrator, Che. Well-known numbers from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece include "Don't Cry for Me Argentina", "Oh What a Circus", "Buenos Aires" and "Another Suitcase in Another Hall".

When: 23-28th January at 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat

Where: Oxford Playhouse, George St, Oxford

Tickets: www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/evita

KENNINGTON A.D.S.

Aladdin.

by Tom Walley

Abanazar, an evil magician, has discovered the secret to becoming Master of the Universe.

All he needs is an enchanted oil lamp hidden away for many years in a lost cave but only the 'chosen one' is allowed to set foot inside. Meanwhile, Aladdin dreams of marrying the beautiful Princess Jasmine but a penniless laundry boy could never hope to have the love of a royal.

Could he be the chosen one?

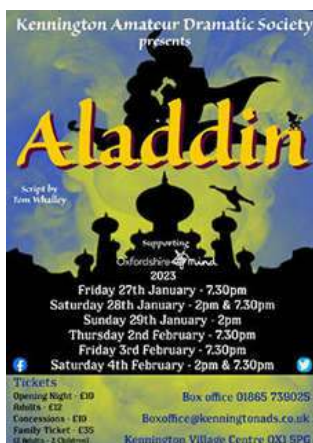
When: 27 Jan to 4 Feb at 7:30pm

Also 2pm Saturdays

Where: Kennington Centre

Tickets: boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk

or 01865 739025



HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

"Who Framed the Easter Bunny?"

an Interactive Family Adventure
by Warren McWilliams

The Easter Bunny is accused of stealing all the chocolate in Happy Kingdom by the evil Queen. With the help of the Tooth Fairy and the audience she sets off to prove her innocence.

When: Thur 9th, to Sat 11th February at 7.30pm
+ Matinee on Saturday

Where: Hanney Memorial Hall, Brookside,
East Hanney, OX12 0JL

Tickets: from Karon Gray 01235 868780

LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

"Hickory Dickory Dock"

Written by our members

Rod and Nikki Fine

music by Steve Webber

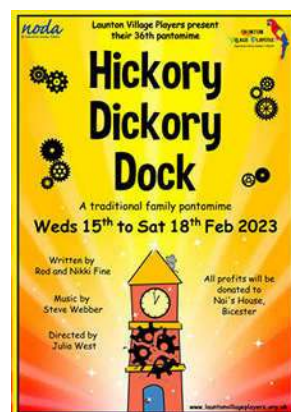
Hickory Dickory Dock is a less well known story, but includes all the usual pantomime elements. It is a family show and suitable for all ages, with plenty of magic, comedy and audience participation. Can the Pixie overcome the baddie and make the clock work again? Will Tom, the hero, manage to find all the missing parts?

Come and enjoy Bicester's biggest and most magical panto, also helping to raise funds for our chosen charity Nai's House in Bicester which aims to give all children and young adults access to appropriate and empowering mental health support.

When: Wed 15th to Sat 18th February

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

Tickets: from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp



THAME PLAYERS

A Bunch of Amateurs

By Ian Hislop & Nick Newman

A washed-up Hollywood star is flown to England to play the title role in King Lear at 'Stratford' believing he will be appearing onstage at the legendary Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Instead, he finds he has signed on with the 'Stratford Players' in the Suffolk village of Stratford St John. He goes to the United Kingdom with his career deteriorating and having problems with his daughter who is an aspiring actress on the fringes of the New York theatre. The local villagers are somewhat of a motley crew and are naturally delighted to have such an - albeit unsuccessful - star playing with them

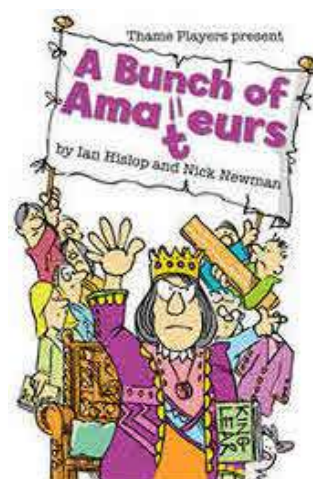
When: Tue 7th to Sat 11th March at 7.45 pm,

Where: The Players Theatre, Thame, OX9 2DP.

Tickets: £8 to £10 from the Information Centre
at Thame Town Hall

call on 01844 212833 or

Online at: www.thameplayers.co.uk



OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swales

It's Charles II's London – and after years of Puritan gloom, the King wants life to be exuberant, sexy and fun. He's reopened the theatres – and for the first time ever, they're letting women on the stage...



In Drury Lane, spirited and charming Nell Gwynn is selling oranges. Rising from the backstreets of London to become a star of the burgeoning West End, she wins the adoration of the public – and the heart of the King.

A funny and heart-warming tale of a woman who triumphed against all the odds, set in the riotous and vibrant world of Restoration England, Nell Gwynn is a joyful story of love, friendship, theatre and family.

When: 21st - 25th March 2023. 7.30 (8.00 on Friday).

Matinee: 2.30 Saturday.

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

Tickets: Tickets: £10, £15.50, £19.50, £22.50 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/nell-gwynn or Call: (01865) 305305

Website: www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

MYCO

The Addams Family

A new musical comedy

Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams



The eccentrically macabre Addams family are about to find

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

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

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

When: Wed 5th to Sat 8th April 7.30 + 2.30 Sat

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

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

Your ODN Committee

Officers

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

General members

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Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players & Buttercross Productions)
Sarah Ellner	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
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