

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2019

EDITOR / CHAIRMAN'S BULLETIN

Happy new year to all our readers.

Just one review this time as we are now in the middle of the pantomime season.

Most of those entered in the ODN Pantomime competition have now been seen by our panel of judges. The reviews for these will be published in our next issue (after all the entries have performed).

We have a busy amateur drama season coming up, with 18 Plays, 7 Pantomimes & 3 Musicals on our list for the next few months.

Our AGM is coming up in May so if anyone knows of someone who would like to join the committee, especially as treasurer, please let us know. At the AGM we will also be forming a Drama Festival sub-committee to help run the festival in June.

Mike Davies

ODN Chairman



WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

FEBRUARY

- 18 Jan- Sinodun Players.
- 2 Feb "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves"
- 25-31 Jan Kennington ADS
- 1-2 Feb "Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates"
- 2,3 Woodcote A.D.S. "Cinderella"
- 7-9 ACTS "Happy Families"
- 7-9 Hanney Drama Group "Aladdin and the Wishing Tree"
- 13-16 Banbury Cross Players "GamePlan"
- 20-23 Witney D. S. Jack and the Beanstalk
- 20-23 Henley A.O.D.S. "Blackadder"
- 21-23 The Launton Village Players "Sleeping Beauty, but not that one"
- 28 Feb Stanton Harcourt D.G.
- 2 Mar "FRANKENSTAIN"

MARCH

- 5-9 Thame Players "Two"
- 12-16 Oxford Theatre Guild "Chariots of Fire"
- 13-16 Abingdon Drama Club "Black Comedy"
- 14-16 Chiltern Players "Building Bridges"
- 20 Hagbourne A.M.S.
- 22,23 Our Town
- 20-23 Goring Gap Players "LOOT"
- 20-23 Henley Players "Love in Idleness"

APRIL

- 4-6 Jigsaw Stage Productions
- 11-13 "The King and I"
- 9-13 Abingdon Operatic Society "My Fair Lady"
- 9-13 MYCO "The Wedding Singer"
- 10-13 AmEgos "The 39 Steps"
- 10-13 Compton Players "The Ladykillers"
- 10-13 Sinodun Players "Dead Funny"
- 10-13 St Peter's Players "Merely Uniforms"

MAY

- 1-4 Henley A.O.D.S. "Half a Sixpence"
- 15-18 Bartholomew Players "And Then There Were None"
- 18 Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group A Murder Mystery Evening

JUNE

- 3-8 ODN Drama Festival
- 10-14 Wallingford Drama Festival
- 19-22 Dorchester A.D.S. "Sex Please We're Sixty"

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The ODN AGM will be on 3rd May at Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton, Nr Abingdon, OX14 4LG at 7.30 for drinks, 8pm start.

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

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Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

ENTRIES NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Now is the time to choose your play to enter into the ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays at the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

Entries before 1st May please.

**Festival dates are
Mon 3rd - Sat 8th June**

Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

N.B. Tech day is Sunday 2nd June.

Plays should be between 25mins and 55mins long, but 1 Hour max is allowed, including set & strike. Entries cost £20 per play (max 2 plays per group). 3 plays will be picked to replay on Sat 8th so please endeavour to ensure all cast can do that evening.

Awards presented are :-

Colin Dexter Rose-bowl for a special moment
Punters Prize chosen by our season ticket holders

N.B. Groups must be paid up ODN members (joining details are on our 'Downloads' page).

See ODN website to download Festival Entry form & rules

The ODN Drama Festival is a member of the
National Drama Festival Association

After the ODN festival, the adjudicator's marking for each play will be sent to that group only, but all the marks will be passed on to the NDFA so they can consider the plays to compete in the NDFA's "British All Winners final" this year to be held in Woking on 14th to 21st July.

Wallingford Corn Exchange One Act Drama Festival

Monday 10th to Friday 14th June 2019,

The adjudicator will be David Henson.

Entries are now being taken.

More information can be found at:-
www.CornExchange.org.uk/drama-festival
or email DramaFestival@CornExchange.org.uk

Voice Coaching & Piano Lessons

Jim Mitchell of Opera Unmasked offers both voice and piano lessons. If your next production involves singing, learn how you can make the most of your voice and banish your vocal collywobblers!



Contact Jim Mitchell, Opera Unmasked
01235 767975 or JamesMitchellOneVoice@sky.com

National Drama Festival Association

The Derek Jacobi Award for

New Playwriting

New plays are an important part of the national One Act Festival year. They offer a competitive challenge for the writer, the director and the actors. Over the years the NDFA has encouraged new play-writing through the annual George Taylor Award.

The NDFA's Patron Sir Derek Jacobi has very kindly agreed to lend his name to a new styled version of this important part of the NDFA's commitment to One Act Festivals and working association with our sponsor StageScripts the inaugural DEREK JACOBI AWARD will be presented in 2019 at the **British All Winners Festival**.

The winner of the Award will be presented with a new stylised trophy; will be featured in all publicity and will receive a publishing contract for their work with STAGESCRIPTS together with a cheque for £250.

It is our hope that these changes will promote new authors to enter their work at NDFA affiliated Festivals and on the recommendation of the Festival Adjudicator the new writing will be submitted to the Award's reading committee. It is important to note the Award is about writing and the new play will be judged on this rather than a performance in a Festival Setting.

Full details about THE DEREK JACOBI AWARD FOR NEW PLAY-WRITING telling you how to enter, eligibility and STAGESCRIPTS can be found in the relevant page on the NDFA Website - www.NDFA.co.uk

The 2019 **NDFA British All Winners Festival** will be held in Woking from 14th to 21st July, at Rhoda McGraw Theatre, Woking.

The All Winners Festival was inaugurated in 1974 in Stoke on Trent. The festival is an opportunity to celebrate the 'Best of the Best' by inviting the winners of NDFA festivals around the country to come together competitively for one last time at the end of the festival season.

It now includes a youth section for groups who have won youth festivals or youth sections.

"School Space"

Are you currently looking for new venues for your rehearsals or workshops etc?

I work with many schools in the Oxfordshire area, so phone me or go online to find space available for hire at a school near you.

Brandon Bennett,
Community Partnership Executive, School Space
01865 575 678
07946 749222
www.school-space.org

Company No: 10257561
Registered Office: 45 Flanders Close, Bicester, Oxon,
OX26 6FY

OBITUARY



John Bradford

It is with deep regret that we mourn the loss of John Bradford who died in December after suffering from dementia for the last year or so.

He was a member of Old Gaol Theatre Company for many years, and ran the lighting for them and other local drama groups over the years including Abingdon Drama Club, BreakaLeg Productions and Drayton Players.

But for ODN, he was the technical director of the ODN Drama Festival for longer than we can remember, probably from its inception over 30 years ago. He calmly organised the lights and sound for each of the visiting groups every year until 2017.

His technical skills enabled him to make all sorts of special effects, but one I particularly remember was an exploding goldfish bowl, triggered by the sound of a gun firing. He showed me a video of his first experiment, where it was a typical Michael Caine "Only supposed to blow the Bloody doors off" moment, with the whole thing disintegrating around his garage. Needless to say when I saw the actual performance it broke perfectly when shot.

Here are a few quotes from his Old Gaol friends:-

"John was a nice guy, exceptionally bright but also hilarious." Jim Killeen.

"John was a lovely guy, and will be very much missed." Julie Kedward.

"So sad at this, John was lovely. I remember how amazing his chocolate mouse used to be at OGTC parties." Christine Price.

"Such sad news, especially for somebody with such a brilliant mind to be affected by dementia." Simon Coates.

"What a talented, funny and lovely man he was." Amy Scott.

"What a great and generous guy, you don't find them every day." Jenni Mackenzie.

"I have such fond memories of John, his dry quick wit and quiet but cheeky manner are enduring memories of my time with OGTC." Julie Bryant.

Mike Davies

CASTING

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS "The King & I"

By Rodgers and Hammerstein



Jigsaw Stage Productions need men, and dancers for their forthcoming production of the King and I. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons in the Wantage area.

Performances will be at The Beacon Wantage Thurs 4th to Sat 6th April 7.30pm + Sat matinee 2.30pm

AND

Cornerstone Didcot Thurs 11th April to Sat 13th April + Sat matinee 2.30pm

Please email:-

RosemaryStickland@Hotmail.co.uk or ring 01235 200266 if you are interested.

REVIEWS

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS "Dangerous Corner" by J B Priestley

28th December – 1st December 2018

What a tangled web this play presents. All but one of the characters, have an entanglement with someone else. This gradually unravels to reveal the extent of the confusion, triggered by the theft of £500 from the publishing house in which everyone is mutually involved,

The set was good and portrayed the Caplan's house in the 1930s, as did the opening music.

Freda Caplan was expertly played by Gillian Somerscales who maintained matriarchal control of the evolving situation with unflappable ease and whose appetite for sherry seemed unstoppable. The author Maud Mockridge (Liz Hutchinson) who was one of the dinner guests was waspish in her perception of the situation, even though she did not witness the revelations to come, which would shatter the 'cosy group' domestic set-up.

Betty Whitehouse was very perky, yet claimed an ensuing headache when facts were emerging regarding inter-relations within the group – and later hers. Betty's husband Gordon Whitehouse (Ianto Wain) was suitably pompous, even when revealing that although married to Betty, had feelings for

Robert's late brother, Martin, who also had dalliances with other members of the group.

Fellow employee and accuser Olwen Peel was played confidently and elegantly by Elaine Leggett, with good interaction between her and Robert Caplan (Nick Smith), when they were all trying to extract the truth about who did what and with whom and who killed Martin. It was a shame that Olwen was masked for some time in the window seat, by the male actors conversing in front of her.



Charles Stanton (Gareth Hammond) expertly handled the mainstay in all of the counter accusations on the money-theft and the death of Martin. He maintained his

dignity when the truth emerged regarding who stole the money and why, and that Martin's death was accidental during a drug-fuelled struggle between Martin and Olwen.

All of this left Freda and Robert to sort out their failing relationship, with Robert getting into a complete frenzy and storming off.

The last scene was a nice touch, which was a re-run of the first scene, where it is realised that perceptive hints and intimations were made of the turmoil to come.

Although this was a short play, it was fast moving and held the interest.

Congratulations to all on another splendid production and we look forward to more of Joe O'Connor's directions in the future.

Nigel James

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SINODUN PLAYERS.

“Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves”

The story of Ali baba and how he cleverly thwarts a bunch of gangsters to keep a hidden treasure.

All the usual elements will be there with music, dance, glamour and of course Fiona Huntingford-Ledger as the idiot.

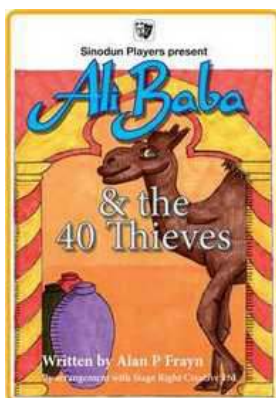
When: January 18th–
February 2nd 2019

Where: Corn Exchange,
Wallingford

Box Office: 01491 825000

The box office is open evenings 7pm to 8pm &
Fri & Sat 10am to 2pm.

or see www.cornexchange.org.uk



KENNINGTON ADS

Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates

by Alan P Frayn.



A nautical family pantomime with all the wonderful things you have come to know and love with our productions, with feel-good fun guaranteed.

When:-

Friday 25th January 2019 - 7.30pm

Saturday 26th - 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 27th - 12pm & 4pm

Thursday 31st Jan - 7.30pm

Friday 1st February - 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd - 2pm & 7.30pm

Where: Kennington Village Centre,
Kennington Rd, Kennington, Oxford, OX1 5PG

Tickets: call 01865 739025 or email
boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk.

Ticket £10 adults/£8 concessions/£30 family of
four (under 5s go free on laps).

Website: www.KenningtonADS.co.uk

FaceBook: facebook.com/KenningtonADS

KADS continues to support **Ronald McDonald House Oxford**, a fantastic cause for families, and a collection will be taken at each performance.

WOODCOTE A.D.S.

“Cinderella”

by David Swan

The traditional fairy tale Cinderella but with a difference - the essence of Halloween with the sounds of the 60s!

As is the norm, there are lots of colourful characters, fun jokes and laughter for all the family – the question is will good win over evil?



Children are encouraged to dress for the ball - prizes available for the best dressed boy and girl at all matinee performances.

When:

• Saturday 26 January 2.15 pm and 7.30 pm

• Sunday 27 January 2.15 pm

• Saturday 2 February 2.15 pm and 7.30 pm

• Sunday 3 February 2.15 pm

Where: Woodcote Village Hall, Reading Road,
Woodcote Oxfordshire RG8 0QY

Tickets £8 Adults & £5 Children (Prices held same as last year!)

Telephone 07956 136 750 or

Online at www.woodcotedrama.co.uk

ACTS

Happy Families

By John Godber

ACTS once more return to a play by Yorkshire playwright, John Godber, who wrote "Up N'Under" which we enjoyed performing in 2008. 'Happy Families' is said to be autobiographical.

John, our hero, as a young adult reflects back on his life from nine years old and his relationship with his family members. They are cake baker and ardent knitter, Auntie Doris, who adores him; his posh Auntie Edna, mother of his near perfect, clever and insufferable cousin, Rebecca; his soft hearted Dad, Vic and his Mum, Dot who advocates a good belt round the ear for every misdemeanour, but never carries out the threat because she loves him so much and his much loved grandparents, Liz and Jack, who are backbone of the close knit family.

Often funny, sometimes sad, they squabble, fall out, and in again at the drop of hat, boast, cry, sing and dance. At the heart of the play is John, eleven plus failure, aspiring actor and occasional rugby player, growing up and finally doing something with his life and making his family proud.

When: Thu 7th – Sat 9th Feb 2019 - 7:30pm

Where: Aston Village Hall, ASTON, Nr Bampton, OX18 2DU.

Tickets: £8 from Aston Stores, Aston or Hoskinsnick@aol.com



Forget Brexit, the whole family will know which side to be on here!

When: Thu 7th Feb & Fri 8th Feb at 7.30pm + Sat 9th Feb 2.30 & 7.30pm

Where: Hanney War Memorial Hall

Tickets: £9 (£7 for Saturday matinee) available from Karon Gray 01235 868780 or Email: karongray99@yahoo.com

or from Hanney Community Shop

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

GamePlan

by Alan Ayckbourn

This contemporary comedy-drama is part of the Damsels in Distress trilogy first presented at the Stephen Joseph theatre in 2001.

Set in a riverside apartment in London's Docklands, Lynette finds herself a single parent with a dwindling lifestyle when her internet business collapses and her husband disappears into the blue. She reckons without teenage daughter Sorrel's last ditch attempt to save them both - aided and abetted by her less than worldly wise school friend, Kelly. Troubles follow a-plenty for Sorrel and Kelly with their first client. Will her 'gameplan' plunge her and Lynette into even greater trouble?

Prostitution, police questioning and media intrusion. This action-packed comedy full of dark humour is awash with twists, turns and surprises.

When: 13-16 February at 7.30pm

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

Tickets: online from The Mill Box office www.themillartscentre.co.uk

or by calling 01295 279002.



WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

"Jack and the Beanstalk"

A pantomime by Nigel Holmes

Bringing pantomime back to Witney!

Join Jack and the gang on their adventure in this classic fairy tale with a twist!

So, come along and cheer, boo and clap at our show packed with entertainment, laughs and plain silliness for the whole family to enjoy

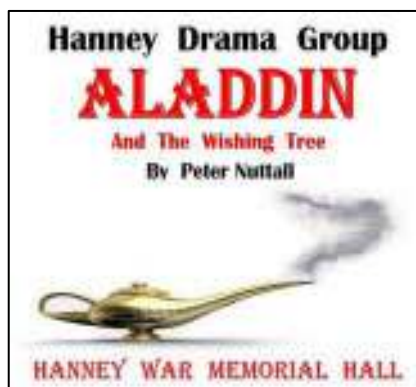


HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

Aladdin and the Wishing Tree

by Peter Nuttallip

Do you know the secret of the wishing tree? Do you know where it is? Aladdin and his intrepid team battle against evil Abanazer to get there first. Set in China, we travel to The Himalayas for a happy ending.



When: 20th to 23rd February - 7.30pm
Matinée 23rd February - 2.30pm

Where: Witney Methodist Church, 40 High St,
Witney OX28 6HG

Tickets: £10 and £8 Concessions (Children under 16
& seniors over 65) available from January 2019.
Group enquiries welcome.

HENLEY A.O.D.S. "Blackadder"

by Richard Curtis & Ben Elton

A Dinner Theatre
Production

Bar available

When: 20-23 Feb
Doors 6.30, Dinner 7pm

Matinee 23 Feb
Doors 1pm Lunch 1.30pm

Where: HAODS Studio - New St, Henley, RG9 2BP

Tickets £25 Includes Elizabethan Banquet
from www.TicketSource.co.uk/HenleyOperatic

A donation from this production will be made to
Comic Relief



THE LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

Sleeping Beauty, but not that one

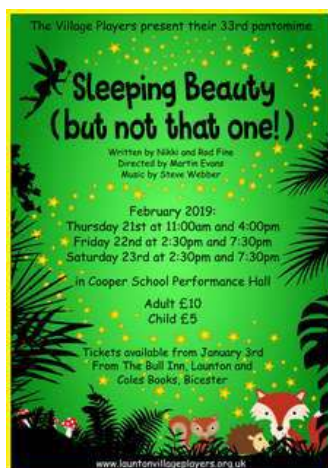
by Nikki & Rob Fine

The story of "Sleeping Beauty but not that one" revolves around twin sisters who are reaching their 21st birthdays. Beauty is the eldest (by 20 minutes) and is not a very nice person. The only magic she can do is to put people to sleep and when they wake up they are little furry animals, and she does this with anyone who upsets her!

Her sister Aurora is very good and tries to help the little animals. The Fairy Council are concerned as they see Beauty being unpleasant and worry that when she receives her full magic powers on her 21st birthday she may cause unhappiness. The fairies decide to go to the princesses' birthday party to keep an eye on things.

Meanwhile 2 princes, Glorious and Steadfast (Eddie), and their cousin Duke Willaim arrive in the kingdom. Glorious is convinced he will kiss the

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org



sleeping Beauty and marry her. Of course things turn out somewhat differently.

This is a family show full of magic and music and laughter and all our profits go to local and national charities.

When: Thur Feb 21st at 11am and 4pm +
Friday 22nd & Sat 23rd Feb at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

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

Tickets: £10 adult and £5 child, available from
The Bull Inn, Launton or Coles Books, Bicester.

Website: www.LauntonVillagePlayers.org.uk

STANTON HARCOURT D.G. FRANKENSTAIN

A new
pantomime
by Steve Tuck &
Eleanor Tuck



Professor Frankenstein and his assistants Ygor & iGor are busy in the laboratory building a robot that should be indistinguishable from a human being thanks to artificial intelligence, but the wicked Donna Donaldo and her gang have other ideas. Can Freda, the professor's daughter save the village of Stanton von Harcourt from the mobsters?

A brand new pantomime full of laughs, action and original songs for all the family to enjoy.

When: 28th February - 2nd March 7:30pm plus
Saturday Matinee 2pm

Where: Stanton Harcourt Village Hall, Blackditch,
Stanton Harcourt, Witney OX29 5SB

Tickets: £8 (children 12 & under £4 for Saturday
Matinee). Thursday special - all tickets £6.
Email tickets@stantonharcourtdrama.com

THAME PLAYERS

1 night down the pub, 14 very different characters...



...but just 2 extraordinary actors

Two

by Jim Cartwright

Jim Cartwright's 3rd play in 1989 was originally conceived as a vehicle for John McArdle and Sue Johnston, who were famous at the time for

portraying lovers Billy Corkhill and Sheila Grant in Merseyside soap opera Brookside.

All the characters can be said to be travelling somewhere, even if it is just coming to the pub, lingering a while and then going on their way again, gently inviting us to share their wide-ranging emotions as our paths cross. The visceral sorrow of a child separated from his parents, comic banter across the bar, even the gentle good-naturedness of Fred and Alice, the odd couple who find happiness despite their idiosyncrasies, all draw us inexorably

in a direction and propel us from our origin toward its ending. Not to be missed so book now.

When: 5th – 9th March 2019 at 745pm

Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson St, Thame, OX9 2DP

Tickets: Tue & Wed All £8,
Thu to Sat £10 (£9 concessions)

From: www.ticketsource.co.uk/thametheatre

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Chariots of Fire

Stage
adaptation by
Mike Bartlett



1924. The Paris Olympic Games. A devout Scottish Christian runs for the glory of God. The son of a Jewish immigrant runs to overcome prejudice. Two young track athletes who live for the beautiful purity of running and who prevail in the face of overwhelming odds.

Based on the extraordinary true story of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, Chariots of Fire is a timeless tale of hope, honour and belief. Adapted from Colin Welland's Oscar-winning original screenplay, Mike Bartlett's script brings one of the most thrilling Olympic stories to life with a unique fusion of theatre and live athletics.

Oxford Theatre Guild is transforming the Playhouse auditorium into its very own stadium giving an immersive experience that evokes the 1924 Paris Olympics, complete with the iconic Vangelis score.

The production is dedicated to the memory of another great athlete and Oxford legend - Sir Roger Bannister.

When: 12 - 16 March - 7:30pm

Where: Oxford Playhouse

Tickets: <https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/whats-on/all-shows/chariots-of-fire/11890#tickets>

On stage seats:

<https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/whats-on/all-shows/chariots-of-fire-onstage-seats/11891>

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

Black Comedy

by Peter Shaffer

A CRAZY FARCE,
WHERE LIGHT IS
DARK AND DARK IS
LIGHT!



The first show of our 75th anniversary year!

When: Weds 13 to Sat 16 March, curtain up at 8pm

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions

Box office 0845 4636638 - orders available now

Online www.abingdon-drama-club.com from mid February

In person at The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct from the middle of February

CHILTERN PLAYERS

"Building Bridges"

by Colin Calvert

Building Bridges is a contemporary, full length, comedy with an environmental theme. It's nerdy Clive's first time with The Ferrets - a group of environmental volunteers under the management of Trish. Today they're building a boardwalk over some boggy ground.

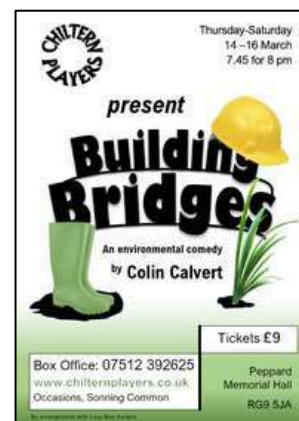
What will Clive make of officious Bob, strident Beryl and "Criminal Behaviour Order" Mandy? And what's so special about Molly's culinary offerings?

When: Thursday 14, to Saturday 16 March at 8pm.

Where: Peppard Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road, Peppard Common, RG9 5JA on

Tickets: £9 from www.chilternplayers.co.uk
or from Occasions in Sonning Common.

information from 0751 239 2625

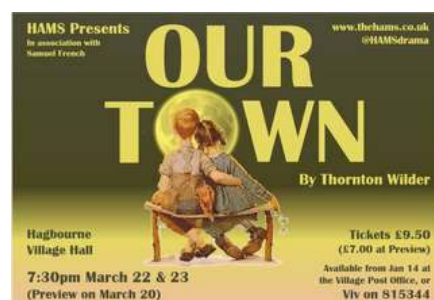


HAGBOURNE A.M.S.

Our Town

by Thornton
Wilder

"Nice town,
y'know what I
mean?"



Hagbourne Village Hall will be lovingly transformed into Small-town New Hampshire, and we all drift back to life as it was in the early years of the last century.

You won't hear American accents but you WILL witness a homely tale of love, life and beyond in a community which, although distant in time and place, remains endearingly familiar.

It is 100 years since the famous three-act play *Our Town* was first presented in the United States. Its ground-breaking style and staging has kept it relevant and performed almost continuously in the USA ever since, and it remains a favourite of US drama societies, large and small.

In comparison, *Our Town* is seldom staged in the UK, so HAMS are particularly proud to present it as our 10th annual production.

When: March 20th, 22nd and 23rd

Bar opens 6:45pm, curtain-up at 7:30pm

N.B. There are three acts/two intervals).

Where: Hagbourne Village Hall

Box Office: 01235 815344 or online via the HAMS Facebook page (search HAMSdrama)

Preview performance on Wednesday 20th March (reduced price).

Age note: There is no age limit, but *Our Town* may not be fully appreciated by young children.

Presented in Association with Samuel French, London.

GORING GAP PLAYERS

LOOT

By Joe Orton

Joe Orton's *Loot*, first performed in 1966, is a fast moving farce, highly indelicate and

outrageously funny, which revolves around the proceeds of a bank robbery – the loot in question. There is also the forthcoming funeral of a wife and mother which is disrupted by the son, Hal, and his accomplice, Dennis, who utilise the coffin for more than the body.

Into this maelstrom steps Truscott, a police officer of uncertain probity, insisting he is from the Water Board as the Water Board doesn't need a warrant to search people's homes.

Loot will bring a taste of the swinging 60s to Goring and Streatley. A world which was discovering a lack of respect for authority, new ways of seeing opportunities – and discovering freedoms to do so many more things. Most of which are explored in *Loot*.

Is Goring and Streatley ready for all this yet?

When: Wed 20th to Sat 23th March at 8:00pm

Where: Goring Village Hall

Tickets: see www.GoringGapPlayers.co.uk or Tel 01491 873530



HENLEY PLAYERS Love in Idleness

by Terence Rattigan

Young Michael returns from his evacuation to Canada bursting with left-wing ideals, only to discover that his widowed mother is enjoying a liaison with a wealthy Tory industrialist and member of the War Cabinet, a representative of all that Michael opposes: a tug-of-war comedy, with echoes of *Hamlet*, ensues, as Olivia is torn between her callous offspring and her devotion to Sir John, whose ghastly wife gives him little to turn to.

When: 20-23 March 7:30 pm; Sat Matinee 2:30 pm

Where: Kenton Theatre, Henley

Tickets: £13-£15 Box office: 01491 575 698

www.kentontheatre.co.uk

www.henleyplayers.com

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

"The King and I"

A musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein

Set against a foreign backdrop "The King and I" is the moving story of Anna, an English governess, who



arrives with her son Louis in Bangkok, capital of the kingdom of Siam to teach the King's children. It is set in the early 1860's and shows how the governess tries to help an Eastern king come to terms with the modern world, but he is unable to resist the forces of ancient customs. The actual conflict between Eastern and Western cultures inspired this well-loved musical, which is always a firm favourite with the public especially the King's many children.

The score includes "I Whistle A Happy Tune", "Hello Young Lovers", "Getting To Know You", "Something Wonderful" and "Shall We Dance?".

Music by Richard Rodgers, book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Based on "Anna and the King of Siam" by Margaret Landon

When & Where:-

The Beacon Wantage

Thurs 4th to Sat 6th April 7.30pm + Sat at 2.30pm

Tickets from The Beacon, Bretts Chemist Grove, or Tel 01235 200266

AND

Cornerstone Didcot

Thurs 11th to Sat 13th April 7.45pm + Sat at 2.30pm

Tickets from Cornerstone Box Office:

www.cornerstone-arts.org or Tel 01235-515144

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

My Fair Lady

book and lyrics
by Alan Jay Lerner
and music
by Frederick Loewe

My Fair Lady made its debut on Broadway in 1956, with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews in the lead roles.



Hailed by critics and audiences for its heart and its wit, My Fair Lady is a beautiful musical about transformation, patronage, gender politics and class, based on George Bernard Shaw's play, Pygmalion.

Packed with hit songs, including 'Wouldn't It Be Lovely', 'I Could Have Danced All Night' and 'Get Me To The Church On Time', this Learner and Loewe classic will give delight to both members and audience alike.

Acclaimed Professor (and confirmed bachelor) Henry Higgins makes a wager with his linguistic colleague Colonel Pickering that in six months he can pass off "gutter snipe" Eliza Doolittle as a duchess at an embassy ball.

Through arduous training, day and night, Eliza learns how to speak English "properly," and transforms into a lady, respected and adored by all classes.

Along the way she bewitches young Freddy Einsford-Hill into falling in love with her and convinces a supposed linguistics expert, Zoltan Karpathy, that she is royalty.

When: 9 – 13 April

Where: The Amey Theatre in Abingdon School.

Tickets: See www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

MYCO (Music Youth Company of Oxford)

The Wedding Singer

music by Matthew Sklar,
lyrics by Chad Beguelin,
book by Beguelin and Tim
Herlihy

Set in 1985, Adam Sandler plays a nice guy with a broken heart who's stuck in one of the most romantic jobs in the world, a wedding singer. He loses all hope when he is abandoned at the altar by his fiancé. He meets a young woman named Julia (Drew Barrymore), who enlists his help to plan her wedding. He falls in love with her and must win her over before she gets married.

When: Tue 9th to Sat 13th April 7.30pm
+ Sat matinee 2.30pm

Where: Headington Theatre, Oxford, OX3 7TD

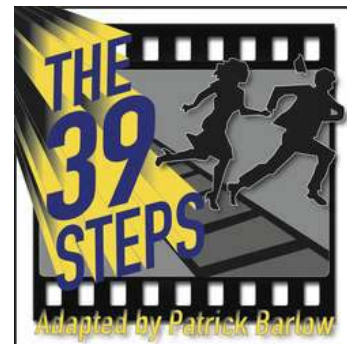
Tickets: see www.myco.org.uk or Tel 01865 686481



AMEGOS

The 39 Steps

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have The 39 Steps, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This award-winning treat is



packed with nonstop laughs, over 30 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented small cast), an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some good old-fashioned romance!

In The 39 Steps, a man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. When he takes her home, she is murdered.

Soon, a mysterious organisation called "The 39 Steps" is hot on the man's trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a (nearly) death-defying finale!

The 39 Steps amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure!

When: 10th - 13th April 7.30pm

Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Portway, Wantage

Tickets: from www.AmEgosTheatre.com

COMPTON PLAYERS

The Ladykillers

By Graham Linehan.

The Ladykillers is a classic black comedy;

A sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang

of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing. Posing as amateur musicians, Professor Marcus and his gang rent rooms in the lopsided house of sweet but strict Mrs Wilberforce. The villains plot to involve her, unwittingly, in Marcus's brilliantly conceived heist job.

The police are left stumped but Mrs Wilberforce becomes wise to their ruse and Marcus concludes that there is only one way to keep the old lady quiet.

With only her parrot, General Gordon, to help her, Mrs Wilberforce is alone with five desperate men. But who will be forced to face the music?

When: 10th to 13th April, 7:30pm

Where: The Village Hall, Compton (10 miles north of Newbury).

Tickets: Online via www.ComptonPlayers.co.uk (no booking fee)



SINODUN PLAYERS

Dead Funny

a comic play by Terry Johnson

When the members of the Dead Funny Society learn that Benny Hill has died, they decide to honour him with a memorial get together. Set in 1990s London, an hilarious and poignant comedy about morality and marriage. Expect some nudity, marital disharmony and custard pies.

Warning: Adults only - scenes of a sexual nature and some strong language.

When: 10th–13th April 7.45

Where: Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Tickets: Corn Exchange Box Office, 01491 825000
www.cornexchange.org.uk

ST PETER'S PLAYERS

"Merely Uniforms"

by Will Hazell

The play is a satirical look at the second world war - the tensions between individuals and the grand sweep of history.

We think of the country being united in fighting the Nazis, but here the characters are distracted by petty local concerns whilst the actual war itself seems to fall by the wayside, and the only character who thinks much about it feels completely out of place and lost.

When: 10th to 13th April 7.30pm

Where: Wolvercote Village Hall

Further details on the St Peter's Players

Website: www.StPetersPlayers.co.uk

HENLEY A.O.D.S.

Half a Sixpence

When: Wed 1st to Sat 4th May 7.45 + 2.30 Sat

Where: The Kenton Theatre, New Street, Henley, RG9 2JP

Tickets: Kenton Theatre box office

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

"And Then There Were None"

by Agatha Christie

Ten strangers, each hiding a dark secret, are summoned to an unknown house on the uninhabited, totally isolated, "Soldier Island" by an unknown U.N.Owen. During their first evening, a recorded message accuses each of them of a heinous crime. One by one, they begin to die, rather alarmingly, according to the fate described in a well



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

known rhyme posted on the wall of their bedrooms. One amongst the ten must be the killer. But who is it?

Director Denise Santilli, says "Agatha Christie wrote this best selling crime novel of all time in 1943 and has created a plot so effectively that at every step the audience suspects every other individual as the killer. Christie had been pleased with the book which was very well received upon publication, and dramatised it herself because she relished the challenge. I have also relished the challenge of "killing off" 10 actors each night, only to have them reappear, thankfully intact, the following night!"

As usual, we are partnering with a local group for our Charity Supper Show who will assist us in organising the evening in return for a share of the profits. We look forward to seeing you!

When: Wed 15th, to Sat 18th May (times below)

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

Tickets: for **Wed, Thurs and Saturday** nights

Doors open: 7.00pm, Performance: 7.30pm

Price: £10.00 (concessions £9.00)

Available: from Denise Santilli, 07721 744020,

bart.players@gmail.com, ONLINE:-

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bartholomewplayers

from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham or on the door

Tickets: for **FRIDAY** 17th May – **MUST be purchased in advance** by 13th May

Doors open: 6.10pm, 2-course supper served:

6.30pm – 7.30pm, Performance: 7.30pm

Advance Tickets only: £20.00

Available: in advance from Denise Santilli, 07721

744020, bart.players@gmail.com

(not available online)

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP

A Murder Mystery Evening

With a Hog Roast,

Part of KBDG's 70th anniversary celebrations - The evening will include the world premiere of Sarah Curran's murder mystery play, Deadly Encounter.

Come along and see if you can work out who has done the deadly deed! Make up a team and win a prize if you get it right.

The play is set in 1949 (the year the Drama Group was formed) so if you wish to come in period costume we would be delighted.

When: Saturday 18 May Doors open 6:30pm, curtain up at 7:30pm

Where: Southmoor Village Hall, Draycott Road, Southmoor.

See our **website**, for a booking form.
www.kbdgshow.com,

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays

Drama societies from all over Oxfordshire and nearby are sending their very different plays to make an exciting, fun week of top class theatre.



There will be two plays every night and a prestigious Gala evening with 3 plays called back on the Saturday.

Guild of Drama Adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, will run a short workshop at the end of each play which is a unique feature of the ODN Festival.

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

Where: Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

Wallingford Corn Exchange One Act Drama Festival

The adjudicator will be David Henson.

When: Monday 10th to Friday 14th June 2019,

Where: The Corn Exchange, Wallingford

More information can be found at:-
www.CornExchange.org.uk/drama-festival
 or email DramaFestival@CornExchange.org.uk

DORCHESTER A.D.S.

Sex Please We're Sixty

by Michael
and Susan
Parker

A typical Parker farce with lots of sexual innuendo and menopausal jokes.



"Bud the Stud" is a member of the senior set who has sex drive of a teenager. Mrs. Stancliffe, the owner of the B&B is tolerant and believes in absolute punctuality.

Bring in a persistent suitor who has developed a female version of Viagra, a friend who is willing to try the product, a frustrated menopausal romantic novelist and a southern belle with an overactive libido.

Dialogue is fun, people go in and out of doors at a typical Parker pace

When: 19th to 22nd June

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

Tickets: See www.dads.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK COMMITTEE 2018-2019

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Committee Member	Mike Lacey	01865 736913	michael1944lacey@gmail.com

ODN GROUPS & CONTACTS

ODN member groups are listed on the 'GROUPS' page of the ODN website. Most have links to their own websites where they will have contact details.

DON'T FORGET

Events: We inform all our readers of Festivals & Events – so send your information in.

Auditions: Newsletter notifies all our members of auditions locally – so send us your requests.

Reviews: Fancy sending in your own review??? (Up to 500 words please)

What you think and feel about the play or musical you've just seen is valuable to us.

We have a **LETTERS** section for Views & Comments. (up to 200 words each item)

Send News & Reviews to the editor at info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org