

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2020

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

The evenings are getting lighter, the snowdrops have appeared and the Panto season is coming to a close.

We can now look forward to a plethora of plays & musicals coming up.



If you've seen the film *Cats*, in my view it was lacking, I expected a series of million dollar dance routines, but only found one really memorable one (the railway tap dance), however, Oxford Operatic's "*Crazy for You*" had a series of stunning dance routines, in fabulous costumes on a fraction of the budget. Well done OXOPS.

Don't forget to come to our AGM on 6th March, and hear the results of our Pantomime/Winter Festival – there are lots of awards this year.

Now is also the time to start thinking about plays to enter into the various Drama Festivals starting in March at Maidenhead! More details of all of the local ones are on the Drama Festivals page of the ODN website.

See you on stage

Mike Davies

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
 The **ODN AGM** will be on 6th March 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 2020
 Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

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Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

JANUARY

- 24 -1 Feb **Kennington ADS** **Cinderella**
- 29 to Witney Dramatic Society
- 1 Feb **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** The Pantomime
- 30 to Hanney Drama Group
- 1 Feb **The Good The Bad And The Ugly Sisters**

FEBRUARY

- 1 Didcot Phoenix Drama Group
Dracula – The Pantomime
- 7-8 The Stonesfield Players **Mother Goose**
- 12-15 Banbury Cross Players **Nell Gwynn**
- 20-22 The Launton Village Players
"The Snow Queen"
- 21-23 DIY Theatre Company
Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat

MARCH

- 6 The **ODN AGM**
- 10-14 Thame Players **Dial M for Murder**
- 11-14 **HAMS** **Our Day Out**
- 12-14 Middle Barton Drama Group
"The Naked Truth"
- 24-28 Maidenhead Drama Festival

APRIL

- 1-4 Sinodun Players A Daughter's A Daughter
- 1-4 St Peter's Players present
Ghosts at the Grange
- 1-4 The Henley Players
Saturday Sunday Monday
- 2-4 Jigsaw Stage Productions
"The Sound of Music"
- 8-11 M.Y.C.O. **Chess**
- 8-11 AmEgos Theatre **CHICAGO The Musical**
- 22-25 Abingdon Drama Club
Good & Faithful Servants

28-2 May Oxford Theatre Guild **The Cherry Orchard**

MAY

- 5-9 The Henley Drama Festival
- 13-16 Banbury Cross Players
The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband
- 13-16 Bartholomew Players "Table Manners"

JUNE

1-6 **ODN Drama Festival** – Abingdon

13-19 **Wallingford Drama Festival**

JULY

15-18 Banbury Cross Players
One Act Drama Festival

ODN Annual Subscriptions time

It is time to renew your group's ODN subscription, so if your group has not already paid then please get the renewal form from our website (Downloads page) and send it off. If you wish to pay by BACS please email us for a BACS version.

ODN AGM

6rd March 2020

Drayton Village Hall,

Lockway, Drayton, Nr Abingdon, OX14 4LG

Including the results of the
Pantomime Festival.

Hopefully we will also have some entertainment from our member groups during the break.

We are desperately in need of a new Treasurer as our current Treasurer is having to retire for health reasons.

We also need volunteers for committee members. Candidates should preferably be available for the duration of the drama festival from 1st – 7th June

Committee nomination forms were sent round on 4th January 2020.

N.O.D.A.

The **National Operatic and Dramatic Association** (NODA) membership brings with it a wide range of benefits for all its members. These include education and training, NODA Insurance, DBS, long service awards, conferences and networking opportunities, discounts and exclusive special offers, advice and representation, and access to over 150 exclusive pantomimes, musicals and play scripts.

NODA was founded in 1899 and is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of 2,500 amateur theatre groups staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues, from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges, NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of performers, and those involved backstage, front of house or in society administration.

Keep in touch with **Curtain Up!**
NODA London's e-newsletter.

NODA London Festival Weekend
13th & 14th June 2020

NODA Theatre Summer School
25th July– 1st August 2020

Facebook: @NODARegCounLondon

Twitter: @NODA_London

Website: www.noda.org.uk

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME

There is nothing like a Dame. But then, having played Dames in 27 pantomimes over the last 35 years, I suppose I would say that, wouldn't I? There is no doubt every year that it is my favourite role and, thankfully, enough people think I make a good Dame that they continue asking me to play the role. Now at the age of 75 I am getting close – but not too close, I hope – to hanging up my dresses, wigs and make-up for the last time. At the audition each year I think, "Is this the year someone will step in and take over?" So far so good, and I shall be auditioning for the role once again this year in the Thame Players' production of *Babes in the Wood*. I remain hopeful that I will be chosen once again.

I am often asked, 'What makes a good Dame'? Well, this is inevitably a matter of opinion but, as far as I am concerned, the Dame should definitely be a man, the audience should know that she's a



man, and the kids in the audience should know she's a man.

A Dame must appeal to all age groups and every section of the audience. The Dame must appeal to men as much as to women. If men in the audience are made to feel uncomfortable, then the Dame has failed. The audience must accept the Dame as a woman, whilst knowing perfectly well that 'she' is a man. The Dame does not send women up, she fights for women's causes, and everything she says is as a woman. The Dame is most definitely not a female impersonator. The Dame is allowed to get away with absolutely anything. As a woman, she is motherly, kind, foolish, fallible, flirtatious, disciplined, silly and strong. A Dame is outrageous, never really offends anybody, and should be vulgar, beautifully vulgar. The Dame goes to the heart of what pantomime is. She has a special relationship with the audience.

She is ridiculous, absurd, vain, subversive and rude, but she's always game and she's always warm, and she's always uniquely British. And,

without doubt, our world would be so much poorer without her.

But the greatest quality anyone playing the Dame can have, in my view, is the ability to connect with the audience. The Dame must be able to get the audience eating out of her hands. She must be able to rouse them up, calm them down, get them to respond to her every command and make them leave the theatre thinking what a wonderful character she is.

The history of the Pantomime Dame goes back centuries, but the role of the Dame, as we think of her today, was undoubtedly created by the great music hall star, Dan Leno, towards the end of the Victorian era. He danced, he sang, he told jokes. He had the most remarkable eyes – looking as though the world had beaten him down but he was still there, indomitable. Leno would come on stage – small, dainty, diminutive – doing it all with his eyes and little movements. He was the ‘put upon’ woman. He would come on stage, playing any one of several great Dame characters he portrayed, and suddenly he became a housewife, a mother, a cook or a nanny, perhaps wearing a long frock, apron and wig - all highly exaggerated. For anyone playing a Dame in pantomime today, without doubt Dan Leno made them what they are. Dan Leno is the Dame’s Dame and should be



revered by all who followed in his footsteps.

Pantomime is a peculiarly British phenomenon. It is hardly seen anywhere else in the world, other than by expat audiences. And the Dame is the lynchpin that holds the whole show together - long may it be so. There is, indeed, nothing like a Dame. But then, I would say that, wouldn't I?

Written by **Tony Long**,

Thame Players Theatre Company,
The Players Theatre, Thame
www.thameplayers.co.uk

REVIEWS

PLEASE NOTE

Reviews of Pantomime/Winter Festival entries will all be in the April edition of the ODN newsletter.

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY 'Our Country's Good'

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

7th November 2019

Thanks for the kind invitation from Chairman Gary Field to attend the latest production from Faringdon Dramatic Society the thought-provoking modern classic *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The company provided an enjoyable evening's entertainment telling the story of the



difficulties facing both the convicts and the officers in the first Australian penal colony established in 1789. The play is a powerful piece of drama depicting the attempts of The Governor to bring a

degree of civilisation to the colony through the vehicle of a play to be performed by some of the convicts under the direction of one of his junior officers.

This was very much an ensemble piece with most of the cast doubling as two characters with just a token change of costume indicating the character.



Directed by the talented and inventive Carolyn Taylor with assistance from Carole Tappenden the cast brought their various diverse characters very much to life. The pace was good and cues were largely picked up quickly. The performance being in the round meant that often characters were facing away from certain members of the audience

but projection and the clarity of dialogue was good. Also the scenes far from being static flowed well so as to keep the actors 'on the move' and thus engage with the audience effectively. I was impressed with the characterisations with many moments of pathos, comedy and great story telling.

This was a most interesting and entertaining evening of drama from this dedicated and resourceful company who had gone a little out of their comfort zone to produce a compelling and polished piece of theatre. Congratulations to all involved. I look forward to your next production with anticipation.

Rob Bertwistle

NODA Rep (Oxfordshire)

OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY Crazy for You

January 2020

Who says the world of razzmatazz is over?

We were entertained last week by a most amazing group of performers at The Oxford Playhouse when we saw Crazy For You.

The singing was tip-top throughout, a credit to Musical Director Chris Payne and the excellent orchestra he had assembled. Hits such as "I've Got Rhythm", "Slap that Bass" and "Someone to Watch Over Me" gave us who are a certain age a chance to sing-a-long!

It was a true classical style musical theatre. I said to my partner "Who needs to go to Broadway?"

Bobby Child, played superbly by Sam Foster is sent to Deadrock Nevada to foreclose on a property by his mother Lottie Child played realistically by Jo Lainchbury. She portrayed the rich frustrated mother so well, I loved her clothes. Also Bobby's long suffering girlfriend played a



great part with her high pitched American accent.

There were so many dance routines, all done brilliantly. The Follies Girls in particular were dazzling and exhausting to watch. But in most

numbers, the whole cast would be dancing, with different groups taking front stage with their own little routines.

I take my hat off to choreographer Joanne Cooke, who must have worked the cast so hard to get all routines so perfect. When speaking to Joanne that evening I learnt that it took over 20 hours of rehearsal time to learn to tap dance and to move in co-ordination with fellow dancers. Is it timing? I'm not sure but either way it was very impressive. The Cowboys in Nevada looked realistically lethargic and moved so well in their own dance routines, even though they had to change their lazy ways when Bobby decides to put on a show with the leading lady Polly Baker. My favourite dance was the drunken scene between the real Bela Zangler and Bobby disguised as him. Great mirror type imagery in their movements.

What a beautiful love story evolved with Polly played by Kerry Hudson singing so beautifully.

My own special moment was the ostrich feathers.



What fantastic costumes and headwear in white at the end of the show, surely this proved to us that this show by OxOp in 2020 proved they were "Crazy For Us" to enjoy it. My partner said he really liked the scenery and that special starlight curtain and the lighting effects. He loved the lighting and its change of colour when Bobby went into a dream dance sequence whilst being nagged by his Mother and his long suffering girlfriend.

Just goes to show that we all notice different things don't we?

I reckon that Director Gary Lewis and his team should be extremely proud of all they achieved.

Well done to all.

Sue Hadley



CASTING

BLEWBURY PLAYERS AUDITIONS for Romeo and Juliet

Blewbury Players are delighted to welcome back professional director Christopher Staines, who has previously directed our very popular productions of Cider With Rosie and A Servant to Two Masters in Blewbury's Orchard Dene Garden Theatre.

AUDITIONS will be held at Blewbury School on the weekend of 1st-2nd February.

Please e-mail blewburyplayers@gmail.com to book an audition or call Sheila on 01235 850537 for more information.

Please do still contact us if you are interested but not available to audition on those dates.

We are looking for a cast aged from 16 upwards.

Performance dates will be 15th-18th July 2019 at Blewbury's Orchard Dene Garden Theatre

Rehearsals will take place over weekends in June and July and possibly two individual weekend days before then.

For more details about Blewbury Players and photographs of previous productions visit www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS AUDITIONS

for Debbitt Isitt's dark, culinary comedy
The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband

This is relatively short for a full length play so there is no interval and, although food plays a major role in the development of the storyline, there is no actual food. In fact, there are no props at all, they are all mimed.

Roles available:-

Hilary (wife) – 40s-50s

Laura (mistress) - 20s-30s

Kenneth (husband) – 40s-50s

We would also love to have an "Elvis look/sound-alike" as part of the production. If you think you could be just what we're looking for, please come along or get in touch for further details.

Read Through Tue 4th February 2020 where you'll have the opportunity to learn more about the production and what to expect at auditions.

Open Audition 20 February 2020,

All at **The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, 7.30pm,**

Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a

member to audition but will be required to join if cast. Details of membership can be found on the Get Involved page of the BCP website.

The production runs 13-16 May 2020 at The Mill Arts Centre.

You will need to be available from Sunday 10 May for Technical and Dress rehearsals.

If you would like any further information about the auditions, please email us at:-

contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!

Chrissie Garrett, Director

Full details of the play are at:-

www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/1315

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DIDCOT PHOENIX DRAMA GROUP **Dracula – The Pantomime** by Limelight Scripts

Count Dracula has arrived in England in search of the key to his hoard of stolen treasure. Assuming the guise of property tycoon Major Artery, he crosses paths with Duffy the Vampire-slayer, whose mother, Dame Plasma, rents a house from him.

Dracula escapes back to Transylvania, but is pursued by Duffy and Inspector Ventricle and his sidekick, PC Platelet. Who in turn is followed by Dame Plasma, her friend Rema and Dr Paul Bearer.

A terrific gothic-style panto, which contains all the elements needed to keep the audience spellbound.

So come and join us in Didcot or Harwell for a bit of suspense, mock horror and heaps of tongue-in-cheek humour all wrapped up in traditional panto style!

When: Saturday 1st Feb 3.30pm

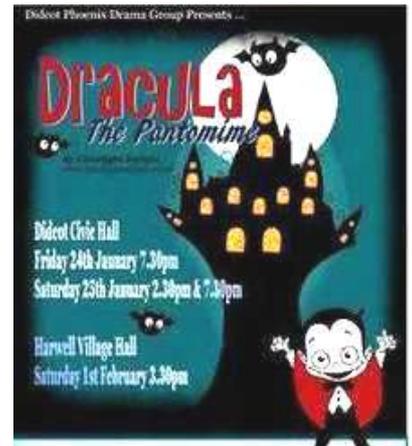
Where: Harwell Village Hall, High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX

Tickets - £10/£6

Family ticket (4 tickets – 2 adults max) - £26

10% Discount available for groups of 10 or more

See www.didcotphoenixdrama.co.uk for online booking or Tel 07813 831040 to reserve



KENNINGTON ADS

Cinderella

by Alan P Frayn

We're really looking forward to bringing this well-known tale to the stage for the fourth time in our 40 years! Tickets are on sale and are selling well, so it would be a good idea to get your tickets sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

When: Friday 24th January 7.30pm ~ all tickets £8
Saturday 25th 2pm and 7.30pm
Sunday 26th 12pm and 5pm
Thursday 30th 7.30pm
Friday 31st 7.30pm

Saturday 1st February 2pm and 7.30pm

Where: Kennington Village Centre:

Tickets: £8 for Fri 24th, then £10 adults, £8 conc, £30 for a family of four (under 5s go free on laps).

Box Office on 01865 739025

or email boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk

Payment in cash, by cheque or BACS.

Facebook: @KenningtonADS for latest news

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

The Pantomime

Adapted from the original book by L. Frank Baum

When: Wed 29th January to Sat 1st February 2020

Wedn, Thu & Fri at 7.30pm
Saturday 2pm Matinee and 6pm Evening

Where: Witney High St Methodist Church

Tickets: are £10, (£8 Concessions)

from: Rapture Music Store, Woolgate Centre, Witney
Or, Phone Margaret Hamm on 01993 704032

Or, on the door subject to availability

For Further information visit our website
www.witneydrama.co.uk



HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

The Good The Bad and The Ugly Sisters

a Pantomime

A routin' tootin' foot stampin' Wild West adventure.

When: Thur 30th Jan - Sat 1st Feb at 7.30pm

PLUS Matinee Sat 1st Feb at 2.00pm

Where: Hanney Village Hall, Brookside, East Hanney, Wantage, OX12 0JL

Tickets: £9 eves and £7 matinees

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

From Karon Gray 01235868780

karongray99@yahoo.com

Or Hanney Community Shop

THE STONESFIELD PLAYERS

Mother Goose

by Norman Robbins'

Following on from their successful production of Snow White in 2017, the Stonesfield Players are back in panto mode with The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose by Norman Robbins.



With creepy Clarence and his clueless sidekicks Sage and Onions out to get her, can Mother Goose avoid eviction? Will Priscilla's golden eggs save the day? How will Mother Goose cope with her new found wealth? Will goodness triumph?

We hope to answer these and many other questions on February 7th and 8th in Stonesfield Village Hall.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Where: Stonesfield Village Hall, OX29 8HA

When: Friday 7th February, 7.30pm

Saturday 8th February, 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets: £10 (£8 for 16s and under)

Box office: - andrew.tacon@outlook.com

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swale

The play charts the rise of Restoration heroine Nell Gwynn from her roots in Coal Yard Alley to becoming Britain's most

celebrated actress – winning the heart of King Charles II along the way.

Premiering in 2015 at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the play transferred to the West End in 2016 and won the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy.

It is a bawdy, raucous and warm homage to a woman truly ahead of her time – one of the first female actresses on the stage.

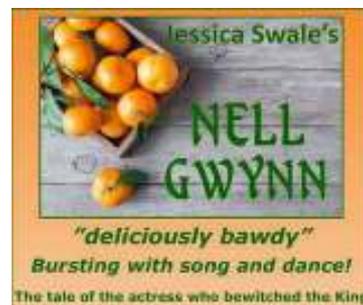
When: 12th until 15th February 2020. Curtain up is 7.30pm.

Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, OX16 5QE

Tickets: £13.50 (£12.50 conc Wed/Thu) from The Mill Box Office on 01295 279002 or

online: www.themillartscentre.co.uk/shows/nell-gwynn-by-jessica-swale

website: www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk for more details



THE LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

"The Snow Queen"

The classic story by Hans Christian Anderson.

Come and join us and see if Gerda can rescue her best friend Kai from the wicked Snow Queen.

With an original script packed with comedy, magic, audience participation and live music, this family friendly show is suitable for all ages, from 0 to 100!

All profits are given to local & national good causes.

When: Thursday 20th February at 10am and 2:30pm

Friday 21st February at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Saturday 22nd February at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

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

Tickets: Thursday £10 Adult (£5 Child)

Friday and Saturday £12 Adult (£6 Child)

Tickets available after 2nd January from -
The Bull Inn (Launton) and Coles Books (Bicester).



The ODN AGM

When: Friday 6rd March

Where: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton, Nr Abingdon, OX14 4LG

7.30 for drinks, 8pm start.

THAME PLAYERS Dial M for Murder,

by Frederick Knott



Tony Wendice has married his wife, Sheila, for her money and now plans to murder her for the same reason. He arranges the

perfect murder but unfortunately for him, things don't quite go to plan.

But things don't stop there. Tony still sees a way of getting himself out of this mess and getting rid of his wife at the same time. How can justice prevail? Will he succeed?

When: Tuesday 10th to Saturday 14th March 7.45pm

Where: The Players Theatre Nelson Street Thame Oxfordshire OX9 2DP

Tickets: £10, conc £9, from Thame Town Hall Information Centre, in person Mon-Fri (Mon & Weds 9-5; Thu 10-5; Fri: 9-4.30) or on 01844 212833, or from www.ThamePlayers.co.uk.

DIY THEATRE COMPANY Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat

by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd-Webber

Joseph, who is loved the most by his father Jacob who has eleven other sons, is given a multicoloured coat. This coat for some reason allows him to interpret dreams.

His brothers do not like this and plan to get rid of him. With adventures along the way for Joseph, meeting many different characters.

A wonderfully colourful show with the children from Sunningwell Primary School as our Children's Chorus. A must see for the whole family.

When: Friday 21 to Sunday 23 February

Fri & Sat eve at 7.30pm

Sat & Sun Matinee 2.30pm

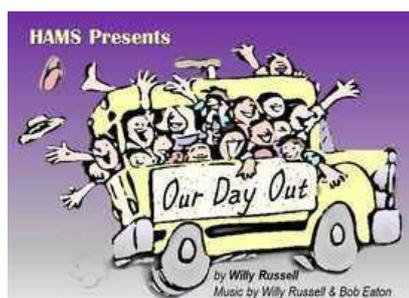
Where: AMEY Theatre, Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE

Tickets: £15 (£10 U18's, £5 U8's) from:
www.ameytheatre.co.uk



HAMS Our Day Out,

by Willy Russell



*The school misfits are on a bus trip;
what could possibly go wrong?*

Join well-meaning but inept teacher Mrs. Kay, and her remedial class students as they take a coach trip from their

disadvantaged inner-city school to visit a castle in the

country. Along the way they get side-tracked into some hilarious and chaotic events, and there are signs that the future may not be so bright for these less-than-bright kids.

When: Wed 11th, Fri 13th March at 7:30 pm

Saturday 14th March at 2:30pm & 7:30 pm

Where: Hagbourne Village Hall, 53 Main Rd, East Hagbourne, Didcot OX11 9LR

Tickets: Wed £7, Fri+Sat £10, (£6 for full-time students) from Hagbourne Community Shop (during Post Office Hours) or from:-

www.wegotickets.com/HAMS (booking fee applies)
Or via www.thehams.co.uk or
facebook.com/HAMSdrama
Viv on 01235 815344

MIDDLE BARTON DRAMA GROUP "The Naked Truth"

by Dave Simpson.

"The Naked Truth" is a play that genuinely has heart and soul, a play for women, about women, that men must absolutely see (if they dare!).

When: 12th -14th March 2020 -

Where: Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton

Tickets: £10 including a glass of fizz and donation to Breast Cancer charities,

from Middle Barton stores and members of the group

MAIDENHEAD DRAMA FESTIVAL

When: Tues 24th to Sat 28th March 2020.

Where: Norden Farm Centre, Altwood Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4PF.

Website: www.maidenhead-drama-festival.co.uk

SINODUN PLAYERS

A Daughter's A Daughter

by Agatha Christie



An intense family drama. Anne Prentice, a widow of 15 years and Sarah, her grown-up daughter, face the prospect of Anne wanting to remarry. The ensuing conflict and its bittersweet resolution highlight the limited choices an ordinary middle class woman felt she had at

that time for the pursuit of happiness and fulfilment. Written by Agatha Christie under the pen name of Mary Westmacott, and not a murder mystery.

When: 1st to the 4th of April

Where: The Wallingford Corn Exchange.

Tickets: from Corn Exchange, Wallingford

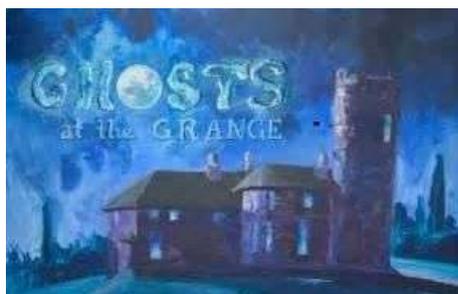
ST PETER'S PLAYERS PRESENT Ghosts at the Grange

by Karen Doling

A whodunnit with haunting.....

Lancelot and Guinevere are dead, and have been for a hundred years.

They haunt Arthur's house, and are the only



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

witnesses to his murder. But how can they let his family know who committed the foul deed?

When: Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th April at 7.30pm.

Where: Wolvercote Village Hall, 1 Wolvercote Green, OX2 8AB

Tickets: £9 available from 01865 556120

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 adapt 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: Wed 1st - Sat 4th April at 7.30 pm

PLUS matinee Sat 4th April at 2,30 p.m.

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

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

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

"The Sound of Music"

by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The story of Maria and the Von Trapp family will delight you with its 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 WW11.

VENUES:

The Beacon, Wantage, Thur 2nd to Sat 4th April

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

www.beaconwantage.co.uk or tel 01235 763456

AND

Cornerstone Didcot, Thur 23rd to Sat 25th April

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

www.cornerstone-arts.org or Tel 01235 515144



M.Y.C.O.

Chess

by Benny Andersson,
Tim Rice & Bjorn
Ulvaeus

Multi award-winning Musical Youth Company Of Oxford (MYCO) return to the Oxford Playhouse with their stylish re-imagining of the hit musical Chess.

Competitive gamesmanship, super power politics and passionate liaisons combine in a gripping story set against a background of the Cold War. An arrogant American and an earnest Russian meet at a high-stakes international championship in a show full of shadowy intrigue and romantic rivalries.

Considered by many to be one of the best musicals ever written, Chess is a powerful rock opera featuring lyrics by Tim Rice (Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita) and music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus from ABBA. Its dazzling score features well-known and much-loved hits including I Know Him So Well, One Night in Bangkok and Anthem.

Chess is a must-see for ABBA fans and musical theatre lovers everywhere.

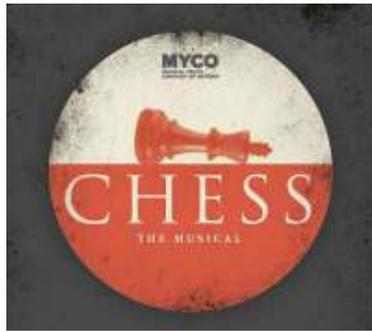
When: Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th April
at 7.30pm plus Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

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

Tickets: from the Oxford Playhouse box office Call
01865 305305.

or website www.OxfordPlayhouse.com

MYCO website : www.myco.org.uk



AMEGOS THEATRE CHICAGO The Musical

The award winning, scintillating Kander and Ebb musical.

Join us in roaring twenties Chicago, where aspiring singer Roxie Hart murders her lover. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie meets Velma Kelly and the two vie for the spotlight and the headlines, always in search of fame, fortune ... and acquittal.

This sharp edged satire features a dazzling score and stunning choreography.

When: Wed 8th - Sat 11th April

Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage

Tickets: see www.amegostheatre.com



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB Good & Faithful Servants

Written & Directed
by Tony Green.

Good and Faithful Servants is set in an alternative world where Hitler won the Second World War and Nazi Germany stands triumphant



as the conqueror of Europe. It is now 1964 and Berlin SS detectives March & Lartner are hunting a crazed killer who is stalking women in the back streets of the city at the very heart of Hitler's empire.

Set in the world of the Robert Harris novel "Fatherland", this tense police thriller takes place in the dark, almost unimaginable world of a victorious Reich.

When: Wed 22nd to Sat 25th April

Where: The Unicorn Theatre. Abingdon

Tickets: £10, £8 conc (unreserved seating) from:

The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St),
Abingdon

ADC info: email abingdondramaclub@gmail.com

ADC website: www.abingdon-drama-club.com

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekhov, Translated by Julius West

All Russia is our orchard. The land is great and beautiful, there are many marvellous places in it.



When Madame Ranevsky returns to her family estate after an absence of five years, the cherry orchard is as glorious as ever. But unpaid debts and family strife have brought her ancestral home to the brink of ruin. The tide of change is coming, and a civilised and complacent culture is on the brink of collapse.

The Cherry Orchard is the 60th play that Oxford Theatre Guild has presented at the Oxford Playhouse. This elegant production balances the wry humour and touching melancholy of Chekhov's bittersweet masterpiece which, more than a century after it was written, is as popular and pertinent as ever.

When: Tues 28 April to Sat 2 May

Tue-Thu & Sat Evenings 7.30pm Friday 8pm
+ Saturday Matinee 2.30pm

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

Tickets: £10 - £22 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com
or 01865 305305 Discounts Available

OTG website: www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

THE HENLEY DRAMA FESTIVAL

Tue 5th to Sat 9th May 2020

Kenton Theatre in Henley on Thames

Website: www.HenleyDramaFestival.co.uk

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband

Hilary and Kenneth have been married for nearly 20 years. As middle-age approaches, Kenneth finds himself in the arms of another woman. At first, Laura embodies all that is missing from his married life but



Kenneth's fling gets desperately out of hand and his world spirals into deceit and lies. Finally he is forced to leave Hilary. The only problem is that Laura can't cook and Kenneth mourns the loss of his Sunday roasts. He sneaks back to Hilary's house for her culinary delights. When Hilary invites them both for dinner, Kenneth has no idea what delicacies Hilary has planned

When: 13-16 May 2020

Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

"Table Manners"

by Alan Ayckbourn

Annie, bored with looking after her invalid mother, has rather unwisely agreed to go away for an illicit weekend with brother-in-law Norman. Brother Reg and his difficult wife Sarah arrive as relief carers, but when Sarah finds out about this plan, she calls Norman's wife, Ruth, to come and put a stop to his philandering. The situation is further complicated by the presence of Tom, Annie's slow-witted veterinary friend and would-be suitor.



When: Wed 13th, to Sat 16th May 2020

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

Tickets for Wed, Thurs and Sat: £10 (conc £9) 7.30 from 07721 744020, bart.players@gmail.com online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/bartholomewplayers or from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham or on the door

Tickets: for FRIDAY 15th May: inc 3 course supper £20 must be purchased in advance by 11th May from 07721 744020, bart.players@gmail.com (not online)

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

Mon 1st June - Sat 6th June 2020

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

Website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

WALLINGFORD DRAMA FESTIVAL

13th June - 19th June 2020

Corn Exchange Wallingford.

Website: www.cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

Wed 15th to Sat 18th July 2020

The Mill Arts Centre Banbury

Website: www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk

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SEPTEMBER 2020

Dates: Sunday 20th & 27th two half day workshops

Time: 10am- 2pm - buffet lunch included

Cost: Special Price "Oxfordshire Drama Network" Members" @ £125 includes Certificate/Video.

Venue: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton, Nr Abingdon, OX14 4 LG. Oxfordshire (TBC)

Tel: 07961 287775 or 01235 821351 to reserve your seat. Payment accepted on first workshop 19th Sept, cash, or cheque.

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