

Oxfordshire Drama Network



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It's high season for amateur theatre now, with many plays & musicals to choose from over the next few months.

We have 3 reviews, a bit of acting advice, and details of 3 Drama Festivals in June/July. So get writing or choosing your 1 Act plays and enter them.

It was great to see OxOps on top form last week with Evita, well done especially the singing and the choreography - a well deserved standing ovation on the last night.

Mike Davies



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As this is the first newsletter of the year - Happy New Year to all of you!

Pantomime season is slowly drawing to a close (there are still a few more I know this month.... oh yes there are ...) and I've had the pleasure of attending a few of them around the county. The standard this season has been incredibly high, and I have been so impressed with the energy and enthusiasm I've seen both on stage, backstage and from your audiences.

We will soon be into festival season, and I was so pleased to hear that the Corn Exchange Drama Festival will be back in June after a short break. Please support all the festivals in the area if you can - whether performing or as part of the audience. We are lucky enough to have 3 fantastic festivals in this region - Henley (2-6 May), ODN (5-10 June), Wallingford (19-24 June). Festivals are so important and one of the few opportunities we get to learn and understand from a qualified adjudicator - I know I have learnt everything I know from practising my directing on small festival plays before tackling major productions for my own group, and then watching other festival plays to see how other groups work. It is also great to meet other groups and perform in different spaces.

Both Henley and Wallingford have already sent out information about their festivals - please check their websites for more details and ODN will be open for applications from this month. More details later in this newsletter.

Our AGM will be held on Friday 21st April - venue to be confirmed - please hold the date, it would be lovely to see as many of our member groups represented as possible. We are here to support your groups in any way we can, but can only do this if we know what you want and what is important for our members. The AGM is your opportunity to meet other groups and discuss any issues you have that the committee or any fellow members may be able to help you with. The more representation we have at the AGM the better we can all collaborate and help each other - which is why this organisation was initially founded in the 80's. We are here to support each other. In the meantime, keep plugging your shows on the ODN website and Facebook page and maybe go and watch a play or musical from a group you've never seen before - that is certainly my new year's resolution!

Karen (Chair)



WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

FEBRUARY

- 3-4 Faringdon Dramatic Society *The Sleeping Beauty*
2-4 Kennington A.D.S. *Aladdin*
9-11 Hanney Drama Group
Who Framed the Easter Bunny?
14-18 Banbury Operatic Society *Ghost The Musical*
15-18 Launton Village Players *Hickory Dickory Dock*
16-18 Witney Dramatic Society *Goldilocks & 3 Bears*

MARCH

- 7-11 Thame Players *A Bunch of Amateurs*
15-18 Banbury Cross Players *Romeo & Juliet*
21-25 Oxford Theatre Guild *Nell Gwynn*
22-25 Abingdon Drama Club *The Cassandra Files*
22-25 Henley Players *The Philadelphia Story*
21-25 MYCO *The Addams Family*

APRIL

- 11-15 Abingdon Operatic Society *Carousel*
28-29 *Under Chippy & Nortonians* *Under Milk Wood*

MAY

- 9-13 Compton Players *Mrs Wilson*
11-13+17-20 *Jigsaw Stage P. Guys & Dolls - The Musical*
17-20 Bartholomew Players *A Bunch of Amateurs*
17-20 *Dorchester ADS One Man, Two Guvnors*
24-27 BTP & Balancing Act *Murmuration of Starlings*

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ODN Festival of One Act Plays

5- 10 June - Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon



Adjudicator:
Nancy Heath

We are now inviting entries for our annual summer drama festival of one act plays. We

again return to the unique Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon, which is truly stunning in the summer months and a perfect venue for our friendly festival with it's unique workshop adjudication.

As usual, plays should be between 20-50 mins and either licensed to perform or permission obtained by the playwright. The tech rehearsal will take place on Sunday 4th June where each team will have 45 mins to discuss technical requirements and assess the stage area.

Entry forms will soon be available to download on our website.

Our adjudicator this year is **Nancy Heath**. Nancy has both a BA and MA in Theatre Arts and Media Production and has over 30 years experience working in both amateur and professional drama. As well as being an award



winning Actress and Director, she is also an experienced technician and stage manager and has been a well-respected GoDA adjudicator since 2014. She has recently adjudicated the Cambridge Drama Festival and will be kicking off the first round of the All England Theatre Festival Competition by adjudicating the Worcester Festival 4-5 March.

Wallingford One-Act Drama Festival



The Corn Exchange Wallingford will host their One-Act Drama Festival between Monday June 19 & Saturday June 24

This year's Festival will be adjudicated by **Cherry Stephenson**. (GoDA)

There are awards for the following categories:-

- Best Overall Production
- The Commended Award
- Best Junior Production
- The Harris & Jones Salver (for best actor)
- The Punter's Prize
- The Susan North Memorial Trophy (for memorable moment)

The deadline for entries is 1 May 2023.

More information can be found at www.cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival or if you have any additional questions, email:-

dramafestival@cornexchange.org.uk



The National Drama Festivals Association (NDFA) would like to wish the very best of luck to all groups within ODN who are participating in upcoming theatre festivals.

Any production from an NDFA-affiliated festival that scores over 90 points will be eligible to compete in the National Drama Festival run by the NDFA between 20th – 23rd July in Coventry, where the 'cream of amateur theatre' will be showcased.

Any production scoring over 80 points will be invited to apply.

For the first time ever, the festival will be held over a long weekend. Plus, we've put together a range of ticket pricing options which we think you'll like, and we're also looking into accommodation for you to choose from.

Please go to www.ndfa.co.uk to make sure you're kept up-to-date with the latest news about the National Drama Festival as the festival season gets underway.

Three Simple Rules to Acting

By Jon Jory

Jon Jory is the author of six plays with Pioneer Drama Service.

Today's article from theatre legend Jon Jory reflects largely on stories about his father, Victor Jory, and his mother, Jean Inness, both actors of considerable repute.



Dear Actors,

We learn from our mistakes, but it's easier to learn from other people's mistakes! Please, if you want to succeed as an actor, follow these three simple rules to theatre:

Learn the lines early.

My father and mother were both actors who went into the first rehearsal with their lines learned. Dad put it quite simply, "You really don't get much done until you know the lines, so you're putting off the actual acting and just wasting time."

Despite this acknowledgment of what had to be done, he hated learning lines. Maybe you do, too. He was usually in a foul mood when he was doing it. As it was my job to cue him, it was sort of a battlefield experience for me. He told me to be tough, though, because he was always determined to be "word perfect." Other actors who weren't "word perfect" were subjected to his glare, and his glare was memorable. He had distinctive, dark eyes and a stern stare that had often led him to being typecast as a villain. You definitely didn't want those dark eyes boring down on you.

And as Dad landed roles on endless television shows and 130 movies, I guess it worked out for him. How'd he do it? How'd he learn his lines? Well, sort of... exponentially.

He'd memorize the first line in the script, I'd cue him, and he'd say it. Then, he'd learn the second sentence, I'd give the cue, and he'd deliver both the first and second sentences of dialogue. It's effective, if not necessarily easy. And it's better than being on the receiving end of your director's cold glare.

Write your blocking into the script.

Don't say you'll "remember it," because you won't. My father hated actors who didn't write down blocking notes. Remember that stare? Those coal-black eyes? Look at them! You did not want that glare!

Learning your lines ahead of time and writing down blocking notes were what my father called "professionalism." But you and I know it's just common sense. We never, ever have enough rehearsal time, and we really, deeply don't want to disappoint our director or the other actors. Right?

Don't hide from the acting.

Act full-out all the time. My father said that when an actor goes all-out all the time, they make their mistakes early and have time to correct them. And, he would add, it's impossible to do good work without making mistakes.

And here's a bonus lesson for you since you're paying attention:

Always be on time.

If you think my father's glare was intimidating, I'm not even going to tell you how sharp-tongued he could be with actors who were late to rehearsal. Let's just say they didn't enjoy it. Again, it's all about the professionalism. When it comes to call time for any audition, rehearsal, or performance, if you're early you're on time. If you're on time you're late.

Putting on a successful production is a feeling like no other, but first you have to spend time on a lot of tedious and seemingly boring steps. Avoiding these steps or taking shortcuts is a mistake.

www.pioneerdrama.com

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,

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

Rutherford & Son

by Githa Sowerby

30 Nov – 3rd Dec 2022

Set in a northern town in 1912, this play revolves around the fortunes of the Rutherford family and their glass works. Although written in 1912, it has stood the test of time and its challenges can easily be related to the present day.



The Master (Rutherford) rules his factory and household with a rod of iron. He has no appreciation of his workers, or women. Rutherford was superbly played by the excellently cast John Casey, who maintained his overpowering character and accent throughout.

His sister, Ann, (Elaine Leggett) was equally bitter in her dealings with the Rutherford offspring, a stance which continued for the whole play. Obviously, a family trait. She gave a hard time to Mary, (Kate O'Connor) wife of her nephew, John, particularly as Mary was from London and a complete outsider. Rutherford's sons were well played and a contrast to Rutherford. John, (Joe O'Connor) and Richard (Ed Miller), both suffered the wrath of Rutherford. Richard for taking the 'easy' option and becoming a curate and John, for wanting to patent his new invention for glass making and trying to get his father to pay for it. The factory foreman Martin (Ianto Wain) who was in on John's secret glass formula is bullied into divulging it to Rutherford, breaking his loyalty to John. It is further complicated with Martin having a liaison with Rutherford's daughter, Janet, beautifully played by Libby Foreman, who

befriended the beleaguered Mary. The loss of his invention results in John stealing the petty cash and leaving the area and his wife. Rutherford demands that Janet leave the house because of the disgrace it would bring on him (it's all about him). Rutherford is later confronted by a robust Mrs Henderson (Jo Burns), mother of one of his ex-employees who had also previously pilfered cash from the company, pleading for another chance for her son, which fell on deaf ears. Now, with her husband gone, in similar circumstances, Rutherford orders Mary out of the house with her son, where Kate's performance really shone, as she offers a deal to Rutherford that they should stay and be maintained by him and in return, he may have control of his grandson in ten year's time and teach him the business then she will leave. To which he reluctantly agrees.



The whole play was expertly directed by Gareth Hammond and the parts all played well, although some of the male accents wandered a little. There was an epidemic of table-banging to emphasise points, which got a little excessive. The set, lighting, costumes and sound were all very good and appropriate, creating a good atmosphere. There was some confusion regarding use of the curtains, which could have been a first night hiccup. But congratulations to all.

I look forward to Bartholomew's production in May of 'A Bunch of Amateurs'

Nigel James

DORCHESTER ADS:

A Fete Worse than Death

a comedy whodunit by **Richard James**

What a lovely entertaining, warm evening we had in December at Dorchester-on-Thames watching "A Fete Worse than Death"

The play opened with a backdrop of the village, and a large white marquee with red bunting and

two red tables with produce on. So, it was indeed the Thornton's Village Fete where the competition was high around the marrows and lovely cakes too, but we were soon to discover this may reach a frenzied pitch. Even infidelity and marrow envy may ensue.

Well every murder mystery must have a murder - after all a dead body is essential. But as an audience we were so busy getting to like all the villagers that to be honest I did not want one of them to get killed.

I loved Mark Wilkin who was dressed as a Viking - very funny... He seemed so innocent, just a British eccentric who loved being a Viking and re-enacting battles with his only friend - Great Yorkshire accent. But



he was secretly having an affair with Bunny played by Carol-Anne Tilley, (love motive I thought). She was already married to Malcolm played by Alastair Trickett. Very enthusiastic marrow grower and quite new to acting I hear. Even Father Mike depicted by Ryan Fannin was very believable, but he was a bit smarmy and a bit spiteful smearing coffee on his competitor's marrow. Most people either commit a crime, I hear, for love or money and that statement was true this time.

In the break we were asked to complete a little slip each, a sort of Can you solve the crime? Which I think is a nice touch as it gives the audience a chance to discuss the first half and work it all out.

Did several of them stab Malcolm in the back through the curtain? Right between the shoulder blades ouch! Could it have been the cake slicer? Not even a struggle, slick and a believable death. Each of the villager characters seemed to have a motive. Trish played by Lucinda Kenrick, even wanted to be the chairman of the committee. Great actress, strong presence, played realistically.

Having a make believe celebrity there in the village "Inspector Brady" from the TV series to help was funny. Stephan Eyre who played "Ray Martin" seemed annoyed at being asked to solve the crime. After all he only played a detective, he was not one in real life. Miss Parmenter adored him and believed in him anyway. Sally Bell who played "Miss Parmenter" was excellent in this whodunit - very articulate and believable - some

professional acting there. She seemed able to solve it all. She examined the dead body and worked out how and where he was stabbed, plus who did the crime.

I know it's a spoiler but they were all involved (group killing) so do they all go to court I asked myself as we made our way home.

Well done Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society.

By Sue Hadley



BLEWBURY PLAYERS Shakespeare In Love

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.

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

AUDITIONS - "

Getting Dark" by Joe Graham

Date: 8 & 9 March 2023 - 7:30pm

"Getting Dark is BCP's entry into the Lighthorne and Oxford Drama Network 2023 One Act Festivals, directed by Terry Gallager.

An award-winning dramatisation of the true story of The Ribbon of Truth by Kal Gibson, Joe Graham's play is a moving and dark exploration of a young girl's descent into blindness.

For six-year old Karen, the world is gradually shrinking and getting dark. Colours that meant so much to her are slowly ebbing away. She needs artificial light all day and all through the night. Mum and Dad love her but have a new baby and are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with their daughter's condition. They make a life-changing decision.

Roles available

- Karen (plays adult and 6 year old self)
- Mother/Troll Woman (doubled)
- Dad/Mr Marks (doubled)

There will be a Read through of the play on 2 March 2023 at The Mill Arts Centre, 7.30pm. Auditions are also at The Mill Arts Centre. Everyone welcome. You do not need to be a member to come to the read through or audition.

See BCP website –

www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk/getting-dark

If you have any questions, email us on

contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

AUDITIONS for their July 2023 production of

Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell

The simple story about a family and the cycle of life. The play is about love and identity. Each of the children are trying to work out who they are rather than who their parents expect them to be.

Read through on Thursday 9th February and auditions 15th and 16th February all at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, at 7.30pm.

The audition will be run with all auditionees in the room. You may audition for multiple roles. It is not necessary to learn the audition pieces but movement will be expected whilst auditioning. There will be no improvisation.

Rehearsals will run from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, starting 12th April

plus some Sunday afternoon rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule will be available.

You do not need to be a member to audition, but will need to become a member if cast. Copies of the script will be available at the read through.

Performance dates are 12-15 July 2023. You will need to be available 9-11 July 2023 for Technical and Dress rehearsals.

If you have any questions, please contact director Chrissie Garrett on 01295 810412.

Full Details on www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/1471

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Auditions

The Recruiting Officer

by George Farquhar
Directed by Ruth Readshaw

Auditions:-

Thursday 2 February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, at
URC Hall, Summertown

Saturday 4 February, 2pm – 4pm, at
Saint Margaret's Institute Hall

Wednesday 8 February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, at
The Old Schoolhouse, Hertford Street

Recalls by invitation

Saturday 11 February, 2pm – 4pm, at
Saint Margaret's Institute Hall

We are looking for a diverse cast for this comedy performance of The Recruiting Officer. All roles apart from the 'breeches' part of Sylvia can be played by any gender. Music will play a big part in the show with singing and a live band.

Rehearsals will commence on Sunday 16 April, and weekly thereafter on Monday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. We will introduce another evening rehearsal outdoors in June.

The play was first performed at Drury Lane Theatre, and went on to be the most performed play after Hamlet in 18th century England and was the first play to be performed in the new penal colony of Australia, as well as the first commercial play to be performed in America. It is the 'play within a play' in Our Country's Good.

There will be 12 performances in the middle two weeks of July 2023 at Trinity College Gardens, Oxford.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 3rd Feb & Sat 4th Feb

Performances 7:30 pm + matinee 2:30 pm Sat.

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



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: Thu 2nd to Sat 4th Feb at 7:30pm
Also matinee 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

BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY

Ghost The Musical

Ghost the Musical tells the story of Sam and Molly, and of how their love transcends the boundaries of life itself. While walking back to their apartment late one night, a tragic encounter sees Sam murdered and his beloved girlfriend, Molly, alone and utterly lost in despair. Trapped between this world and the next, Sam enlists the help of a dubious storefront psychic, Oda Mae, to help him to communicate with Molly in the hope of saving her from grave danger.



The show is based on the 1990 Oscar-winning movie 'Ghost', starring the late Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg, which has proven to be one of cinema's biggest all-time hits. Ghost the Musical has book and lyrics by Bruce Joel Rubin (who wrote the original film), with music and lyrics by Dave Stewart (Eurythmics) and Glen Ballard, and features the timeless 'Unchained Melody' by The Righteous Brothers.

Re-live the iconic and magical moments from the Oscar-winning movie as we follow the musical's tale of everlasting love.

On Wednesday 15th February, our fantastic understudy cast will be leading the production.

When: Tue 14th to Sat 18th February at 7.30pm
+ 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 18th Feb.

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

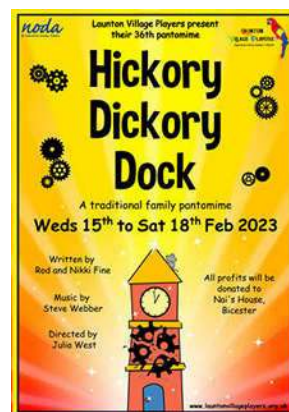
Tickets: £16 (conc £14) from
www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk/tickets

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

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

A Pantomime by Nigel Holmes

A modern take on the traditional story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, with the evil Count Nastnic trying to capture the three bears to put them in a band, and make him rich.

Baby Bear, a rapper and DJ, is befriended by Goldilocks, who attempts to thwart Count Nastnic's plans, along with her mother, Dame Daphne Delicious, and Elmeena, Queen of the Woodland folk.

This is a great family show, with jokes, laughter and audience participation, with some great songs thrown in.

When: Thu 16th to Sat 18th February at 7.30pm
+ Matinée Saturday 18th February at 2.30pm.

Where: Witney Methodist Church,
40 High Street, Witney, OX28 6HG.

Tickets: £12 for adults and £8 for children which includes interval refreshments. from:-

Truck (formerly Rapture Entertainment),
Woolgate Centre, Witney.

- Securely online at:-

www.ticketsource.co.uk/witney-dramatic-society

- On the door.

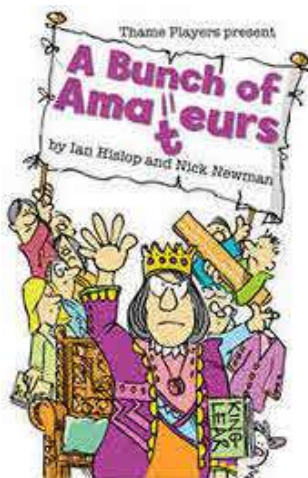
Website: www.witneydrama.co.uk

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

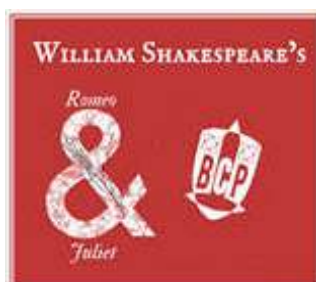
BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Director Katy Roberts says the most important aspect of BCP's forthcoming production of Romeo & Juliet is chemistry. Whether

between the actors, particularly in the more intimate moments, or within the production team



or, ultimately, with the audience, it is one of the key elements in this new telling of a very familiar tale. The production promises to be stripped back, shocking and emotionally raw in a modern, other worldly setting.

When: 15th March until 18th March at 7.30pm.

Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury,

Tickets: from The Mill Arts Centre on
01295 279002 or online:-

www.themillartscentre.co.uk/shows/bcp-romeo-juliet

Discounted tickets are available via our Gold Card scheme: 6 tickets for £48.

Website : www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk

or email: jeremyt774@aol.com

Age recommendation 14+

Late-comers will not be admitted until the interval.

Meet the cast on Saturday 18 March, 4pm - 5pm
at The Mill Arts Centre.

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 to 25th March at 7.30 (8pm Friday).
+ Matinee: 2.30 Saturday.

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

Tickets: £10, £15.50, £19.50, £22.50 from
www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/nell-gwynn

or Call: (01865) 305305

Website: www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

The Cassandra Files

a new play by Tony Green

Killers always have a story. Linked to their crimes might be tales of anger, of greed, of betrayal, or revenge. There might be justification, or remorse or pride. Sometimes they will be told eagerly, sometimes they will be held as unuttered secrets. But they always have a story.

These stories are special ones. Like the prophecies of the mythological Kassandra, these stories are in fact warnings - and we ignore them at our peril. DS Crozier is the Keeper of the Cassandra Files and he will be sharing three such tales with you.

When: Weds 22nd to Sat 25th March at 7.30pm.

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, OX14 3HZ

Tickets: £12, £10 conc (60+, under 19, students, ADC/ODN members)

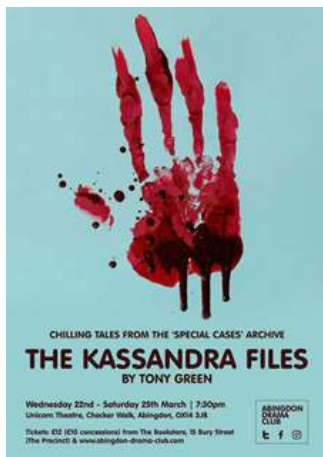
from www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Group Bookings of 10 & over £10 (£10.60 booked online - select concession ticket & choose how many)

Unreserved seating. Our Front of House team will do their very best to seat people together but please arrive in good time or this may not be possible.

Tickets are also available from:

The Bookstore, Abingdon precinct (15 Bury St)



HENLEY PLAYERS

The Philadelphia Story

A comedy by Philip Barry
Philip Barry's sparkling comedy, *The Philadelphia Story*, is a compelling mixture of wit, satire and romance which explores family relationships, class prejudice and human weakness.

Wealthy, proud and beautiful, Tracy Lord is about to get married for the second time to her stuffy fiancé George Kittredge. But she hasn't counted on Mike Connor, a principled reporter reluctantly working for a gossip weekly who has been sent to cover her wedding, and her quick thinking, roguish first husband C. K. Dexter Haven.

The presence of both men at her pre-nuptial party, a drunken midnight swim and champagne-addled



declarations, forces Tracy to learn some painful lessons which knock her off her pedestal.

The *Philadelphia Story* was memorably filmed in 1940, with James Stewart and Cary Grant starring alongside Katherine Hepburn. The musical version by Cole Porter, was filmed as *High Society*, had Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra in the leading roles.

When: Wed 22nd to Sat 25th March at 7:30 pm
+ Matinee 25th March at 2:30 pm

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

Tickets: Wed 22 & Thu 23 Adults £18; Concessions £17

Fri 24th & Sat 25th Evenings All tickets £20

Sat 25th Matinee All tickets £18

Prices include Booking fee + theatre restoration levy. Concessions for Senior Citizens, students & 'Friends of the Kenton Theatre'.

Group discount: Buy 10 tickets, get the 11th free

Box office: www.kentontheatre.co.uk
01491 575698

Website: www.HenleyPlayers.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: 21st - 25th March at 7.30pm (8pm Fri).
Matinee: 2.30 Saturday.

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

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

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

'Carousel'

by Rodgers and Hammerstein

The show's story revolves around carousel barker Billy Bigelow, whose romance with millworker Julie Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. He participates in a robbery to provide for Julie and their unborn child; and then, after it goes tragically wrong, he is given a chance to make things right.



A secondary plot line deals with millworker Carrie Pipperidge and her romance with ambitious fisherman Enoch Snow. The show includes the well-known songs 'If I Loved You', 'June Is Bustin' Out All Over' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. Richard Rodgers later wrote that Carousel was the favourite of all his musicals.

When: Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th April 2023
at 7.30pm + Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Where: Amey Theatre, Park Rd,
Abingdon School, OX14 1DE.

Tickets via our website:

www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk/index.php/tickets

UNDER CHIPPY WOODS & THE NORTONIANS

Under Milk Wood, by Dylan Thomas.

Under Milk Wood written by Dylan Thomas for radio, is a tale of a fishing village or small town, Llareggub (Bugger all) in South West Wales. Focusing on various characters, their thoughts, actions and way of life. Very entertaining, with beautifully delivered language, comical in parts and poignant. The Under Chippy Woods are well into rehearsals and producing some real magic moments.



When: Fri 28th & Sat 29th April at 7:30pm

Where: Glyme Hall, Chipping Norton,

Tickets: £10 Adults and £5 Children.

Contact: Siân O'Neill on 01993 831962.

COMPTON PLAYERS

Mrs Wilson

by H Connolly

Another Premier for our Spring production



We are pleased to announce that we'll be performing a brand-new play 'Mrs Wilson' by our very own playwright H Connolly in the spring.

When: Tues 9th + Thurs 11th to Sat 13th May at 7.30pm (No performance Wed 10th)

Where: Compton Village Hall

Tickets: £9 (£8 conc) Online from 14th March at www.comptonplayers.co.uk

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

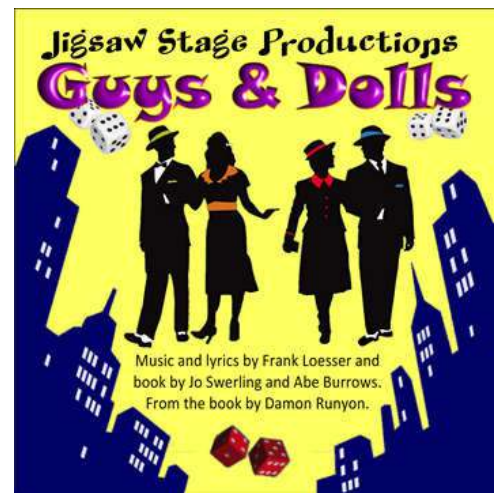
Guys & Dolls - The Musical

Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
From the book by Damon Runyon

"The musical comedy about rolling the dice and falling in love!"

Gambler

Nathan Detroit Needs \$1,000 to pay a garage owner to host his Crap game. So Nathan bets Sky Masterson, a high roller, \$1,000 that he



cannot get virtuous Sarah Brown out on a date.

Set in Manhattan this very funny musical has the lot, with songs such as "Luck be a Lady tonight", "Sit down you're rocking the Boat", and many more.

Venues:

The Beacon, Wantage, Thu 11th to Sat 13th May at 7.30pm + matinee Sat 13th at 2.30pm

Tickets: £15 (£13 conc) online via www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk

AND

Cornerstone, Didcot, Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.45pm + matinee Sat 20th 2.30pm

Tickets: £15 (£13 conc) from Cornerstone, www.cornerstone-arts.org or Tel 01235 515144

For more details see:

www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

"A Bunch of Amateurs"

by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians.

When: Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.30pm.

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

Tickets: see website

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

DORCHESTER ADS

One Man, Two Guvnors

by Richard Bean

A farce where sex, food and money are high on the agenda. It follows Francis whose pursuit of food leads him to seek employment from two people. From there we get mobsters, letters, slapstick and the occasional audience 'volunteer' as we weave towards a conclusion where all's well that ends well.

When: Wed 17th to Sat 20th May at 7.30pm.

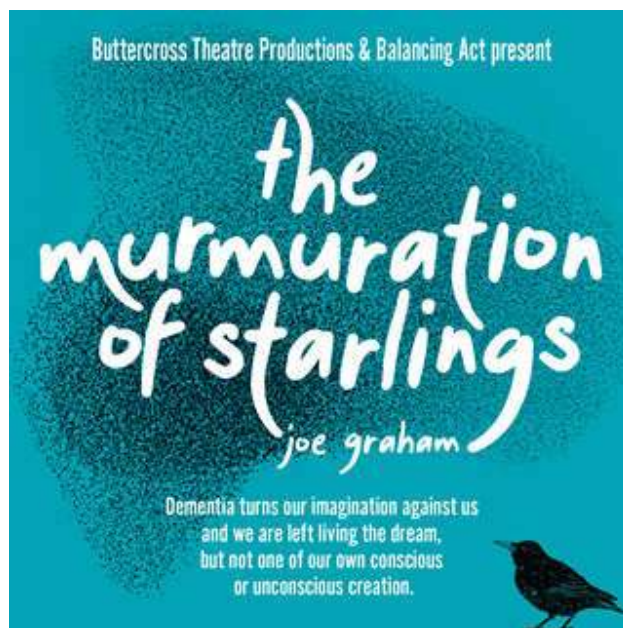
Where: Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall, 7 Queen Street, OX10 7HR

Tickets: see website www.dads.org.uk

BUTTERCROSS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS & BALANCING ACT

The Murmuration of Starlings

By Joe Graham



A unique theatrical production that looks at Dementia and Alzheimer's from the inside out, in a fascinating new play by the exciting local writer, Joe Graham.

It will be at times confusing, disturbing and provocative, but at the heart of it and in the end... it is a love story.

When: Wed 24th to Sat 27th May at 7.30pm

Where: Witney Corn Exchange

Tickets: £15 from :

www.buttercrosstheatreproductions.co.uk/shows

In aid of Alzheimer's Society

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

Mike Lacey	(Kingston Bagpuize)
Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players & Buttercross Productions)
Sarah Ellner	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
Jess Ebberson	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork

HOSTED BY
**THAME PLAYERS
ACTORS**

**NO EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED**

FREE DRAMA WORKSHOPS

LEARN HOW TO

Move on Stage
Portray Heroes & Villians
Use Your Voice
Improvise

3-WEEK COURSE

15th March
22nd March
29th March

WHERE?

Thame Library
Upper floor
3 North Street
Thame OX9 3BH

HAVE FUN HAVE A GO!

INCLUDES

A guided tour of
Thame Players Theatre
Go behind-the-scenes
Step on stage



YOUNG ADULTS
(15 - 19 years) - 5pm



Each session
runs 1.5 hours



ALL AGES
(15 & over) - 7pm

Register you & your friends at: backdrop@thameplayers.co.uk
Or register on the night! For details phone: 07950 388 544