

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter

JUNE 2019

### EDITOR'S BULLETIN

We have a great line-up of plays for this year's Drama Festival which start this week. A total mixture of genres with 2 plays every night (3 on Saturday), with groups from 4 corners of the county – Banbury, Faringdon Henley, Wychwood and others!

I have enjoyed organising the Festival this year, and I am grateful to all those who have joined the committee to help too.

*Mike Davies*

### Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

For everybody that was at the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, thank you for attending. It was a lively meeting, but for all the right reasons. I was voted in as the new Chairman, alongside some old and new faces on the Committee. I am very pleased to announce that Mike Davies, who as previous Chairman, steadied the ship after the sad death of Deidre Jones, is staying on as a valued Committee member. Please note that we also have some new Committee Members whom I am really looking forward to working with.

Our annual ODN Festival is upon us next week (3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June inclusive) and I am really looking forward to meeting the groups and seeing all the entries. As members, please come along and support the groups during the week and the Gala Night on Saturday, where you will also have a chance of meeting our Adjudicator Nick Wilkes.

Moving forward, following the Member Survey, the results were produced at the AGM and are repeated in this Newsletter. The Committee will be working hard on your behalf to implement changes to the Pantomime Competition and also organising trips and workshops through the year. Watch this space.

I am hoping to visit all the groups throughout the year to introduce myself personally and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like the Committee to assist you.

Onwards and upwards

*Pam Aird*

ODN Chairman

The deadline for the August issue is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Contributions to [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

Email: [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

### WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

#### MAY

30May  
-1Jun

*Bicester Choral & Operatic Society*  
**Evita**

31May  
1 Jun

*Oxford Operatic Society*  
**The Trials of Love!**

#### JUNE

3-8

**ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays**

12-14

**Wallingford Drama Festival**

19-22

*Dorchester A.D.S.*

**Sex Please We're Sixty**

26-29

*Abingdon Drama Club*  
**'Allo 'Allo**

#### JULY

9-20

*Oxford Theatre Guild*  
**Merchant of Venice**

9-13

*Thame Players*  
**Cut!**

10-13

*Banbury Cross Players*  
**Ghosts**

12-13

*St Peter's Player*  
**"Flowers to Flares"**

17-20

*Blewbury Players*  
**The Crucible**

17-20

*Sinodun Players*  
**Private Lives**

#### AUGUST

16-17

*Youth of Banbury Operatic*  
**42nd Street**

#### OCTOBER

22-26

*Abingdon Operatic Society*  
**Evita**

23-26

*Kidlington A.O.S.*  
**'Kiss me Kate'**

#### Page

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	Drama Festivals, National Drama Festival Association
3-4	ODN Members Survey
4	Casting news
5-7	Reviews
7-9	Forthcoming Events
10	ODN Groups
10	Committee Members.

# ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

of 1 Act Plays **Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Unicorn Theatre,**  
Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3HZ

Tickets Mon - Fri £8 (£6 concs)  
Season Ticket: Mon-Fri £30 (£26 conc)  
Saturday Gala Night tickets £12.50

Tickets from, the Bookstore the precinct Abingdon  
Email: [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)  
Or call 01235 821351



## Monday 3th June, 7.30 start

'*Salad Day*' By Deirdre Kinehan  
Performed by Oxford Theatre Guild

'*Hole*' By Joanna Matthews  
Performed by Oxford Theatre Guild

## Tuesday 4th June, 7.30 start

'*Contractions*' By Mike Bartlett - Performed by  
Banbury Cross Players

'*Another Fine Mess*' By Gillian Plowman -  
Performed by Wychwood Players

## Wednesday 5th June, 7.30 start

'*Shakers*' By John Godber - Performed by  
Faringdon Dramatic Society

'*The Way we are Now, an Old Story*' by Laurence  
Brockliss - Performed by The Wootton Players

## Thursday 6th June, 7.30 start

'*Supersnout*' By Jane Cafarella - Performed by  
Sinodun Players

'*The Rose & Crown*' By J.B.Priestley  
Performed by Henley Players

## Friday 7th June, 7.30 start

'*Bankers Gone Bonkers*' By Sue Hadley -  
Performed by Drayton Players

'*Bells (BlackAdder)*' by Richard Curtis & Ben Elton  
Performed by Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society

## Saturday 8th June, 7.30 start Gala Night

3 plays from the week, will be recalled by the  
adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, to repeat their performances.  
Followed by a Gala Night buffet in the Long Gallery  
for all performers & crew from the week

**Awards** to be presented Saturday night are:-

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

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

# Wallingford Corn Exchange One Act Drama Festival

Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th June 7.30pm

The adjudicator will  
be David Henson.



Tickets £5 from

Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000 or  
online: [www.cornexchange.org.uk/book-now](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk/book-now)

## Wednesday 12th June

Oxford Theatre Guild – *Salad Day*  
Oxford Theatre Guild – *Hole*

## Thursday 13th June

Sinodun Players – *Supersnout*  
Henley A.O.D.S. – *Blackadder*  
The Henley Players– *The Rose and Crown*

## Friday 14th June

Drayton Players – *Bankers Gone Bonkers*  
Faringdon Dramatic Society – *Shakers*

The following awards will be presented on Friday:-

Overall Production

The Commended Award

The Harris & Jones Salver (for best actor)

The Punters' Prize

The Susan North Trophy (for memorable moment)

Website: [www.cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk/drama-festival)

email: [dramafestival@cornexchange.org.uk](mailto:dramafestival@cornexchange.org.uk)

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford, OX10 0EG

## National Drama Festival Association

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.

### NDFA Award for New Playwriting

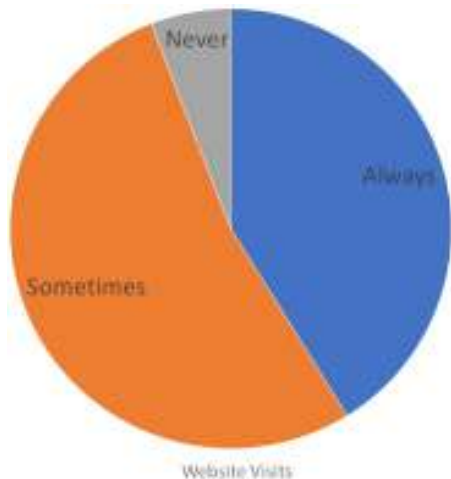
The "NDFA Derek Jakobi Award" for new playwriting  
is open to plays entered into NDFA drama festivals if  
approved by the adjudicator. The winner will receive a  
new stylised trophy; £250. and a publishing contract  
for their work with STAGESCRIPTS

Website - [www.NDFA.co.uk](http://www.NDFA.co.uk)

## RESULTS OF ODN MEMBER SURVEY

1. There were a total of 17 responses. The Groups that supplied most of the responses were Kennington (4), Didcot Phoenix (3) Abingdon Drama Club and Kingston Bagpuize (2). 4 Other member groups had one response.

2. Regarding how often the respondents visited the **ODN Website** 6% never visited the Website, 53% visited sometimes, but only when they wanted to add forthcoming productions and add events. 41%



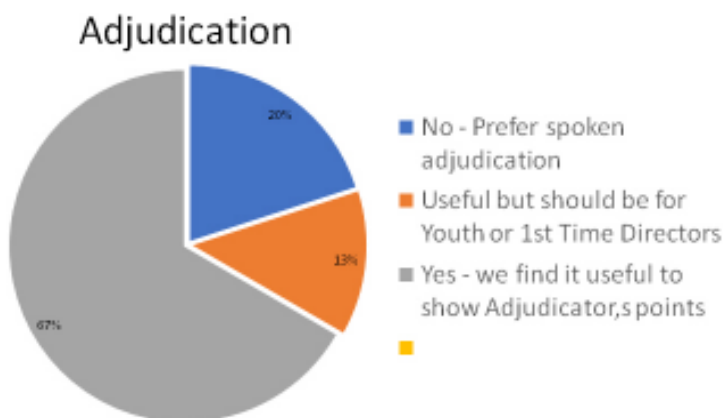
3. In relation to the **Newsletter**, there were various suggestions of what the Members would like to see included. A few of these suggestions are listed below. On the whole, the Responders seemed happy with the Newsletter, and the suggestions can easily be taken up by the new Committee and Newsletter Editor:

- A succinct calendar display of the coming few months. it would be useful to help avoid neighbouring groups' events/dates.
- Maybe more news from the wider amateur drama community - ie results from other festivals, info/news from drama organisations such as GoDA, NoDA, NDFA etc
- It would be good to include reviews of Theatrical Hire Companies along with various new products that can enhance a performance
- More images of productions

4. In Relation to Q4 about whether the **ODN Drama Festival** should remain as it is, or become more competitive. The graph below shows. As you will see there is a split as to whether groups wish the Festival should remain non-competitive. This would need to be discussed with all the member groups.

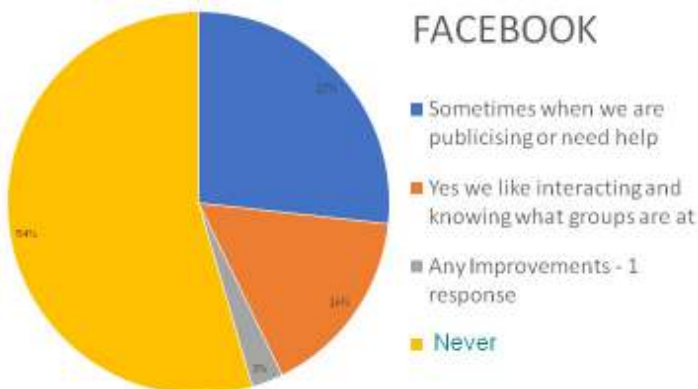


5. **Festival Adjudication** – As the chart shows, of the 15 people who answered this question, the general consensus was that groups find the workshop adjudication very helpful.



6. In relation to **member groups helping out at the ODN Festival**, the answers were very wide, but it seemed that there were no member groups who would outwardly put themselves forward to help with Front of House/Refreshments. This topic may need to be discussed when a new Committee has been voted in.

7. When looking at the 2 **Facebook pages**, as you will see from the chart, most members use the private page, and there is a suggestion about using the public page more. This needs to be discussed as the public page will only work if member groups post items on it.



### 8. The **Pantomime Competition.**

There has been a huge response to how this should be run. The topic was discussed fully at the AGM in May.

9. The response for **social events** was extremely encouraging and ranged from events that have happened in the past to new ideas. Some of the most popular events are:-

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Directing Workshop         | 53% |
| • Musical Workshop           | 24% |
| • Acting Workshop            | 35% |
| • Technical – Lighting/Sound | 41% |
| • ODN Drama Quiz             | 47% |
| • Hair/Make-up               | 29% |
| • Backstage Theatre/tours    | 52% |
| • Theatre Trips              | 35% |

10. Any **other suggestions** going forward. There seems to be a general feeling from the members that the Committee do not fully engage with its members. Other comments also included:-

- More information elements, What is safeguarding, What sort of insurance, Do we need risk assessments, What are the health and safety implications with minors etc
- A list of useful resources for props, costumes, scenery, lights etc.
- Engaging with the groups, maybe coming along to a rehearsal, make yourself known to members of groups, be open to suggestion, don't limit yourself to just watching pantos that are in the competition
- Committee should be more visible at county events, local events, visit as many group plays as possible over the year

There were also responses saying that we do a good job.

The Committee would like to thank the members for engaging and taking part in this survey.

The results will help the incoming Committee to start moving forward.

## CASTING

### AMEGOS THEATRE GUYS AND DOLLS.

We've got the show right here ....Come and join AmEgos for their next musical, the boat-rocking, dice-shaking, bell-ringing GUYS AND DOLLS!



We always welcome new AmEgos and would love to see you at the audition; we'd particularly love to welcome new 'guys' to make up the chorus of New York small-time shady dealers.

If you can sing and dance, great! If you don't think you can ... then come along and try, you will have the best time seeing how much fun it is to be in a musical company.

#### TALK IN AND AUDITIONS

1pm on Sunday 30th June

Childrey Village Hall (OX12 9UE)

Rehearsals start on 9th July and the show is on in Wantage 31st October to 2nd November.

Email Lesley to get details of the short song and simple dance for the audition.

Call it dumb, call it clever, Ah, but you can get odds forever, That AmEgos' next show will be Guys and Dolls!

Contact Lesley on: amegos.theatre@gmail.com

### DORCHESTER AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (DADS)

## Treasure Island

**Read-Through/Singalong:** Mon 1 July, 7.30pm  
: Thur 4 July 7.30pm

Dorchester Village Hall, Queen St, OX10 7HR

Performances: 20-23 November

Email: PantoTreasure@gmail.com

### KIDLINGTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY (KAOS)

Will be performing 'Kiss me Kate' at Gosford Hill School Kidlington on 23 to 26 October 2019.

We expect to have cast principal parts by the time of issue of this Newsletter but still need chorus members, both men and women. Indeed if you would like to become involved in the production in any way please contact our director Andrew Churchill-Stone at churchillstone27@gmail.com.

# REVIEWS

## SINODUN PLAYERS

### Dead Funny

by Terry Johnson 11-13th April 2019



A brilliant and stylish set established high hopes high for the performance and we were not disappointed. This very funny play is set in the home of consultant surgeon gynaecologist, Richard, and his college lecturer wife, Eleanor, who are having marital difficulties with intimacy. They are following a course of therapy in intimate relations, which requires gradual weekly practice. This involved Richard stripping off (completely) and a sensual massage applied by Eleanor, only to be interrupted by the arrival of Brian, one of the members of the Dead Funny Society, which exists to perpetuate the memory of comedians who have passed on. Although Richard is not able to respond to his wife's advances, he has no problem when their two friends and fellow society members, Nick and Lisa, appear. They gather to celebrate the passing of comedian Benny Hill. With Eleanor at college lecturing, and Lisa's husband, Nick, out at the off licence buying booze, Richard wastes no time in 'taking' Lisa, across the back of the sofa, being caught 'in the act' by Brian.

Eleanor becomes more and more maternal, having looked after Nick and Lisa's baby. Nick confesses to Richard that he has a nil sperm count and is unable to father children, and yet Lisa became pregnant and all the signs point to Richard.

Eleanor, played beautifully by Rebecca Lee, became more and more assertive when dealing with her unfaithful husband and giving him an ultimatum to go to bed with her, or leave. Richard played convincingly by Johnny Cornelius takes the latter option and packs his bag to go, leaving Eleanor to console Brian, who has just confessed to the company that he is gay. Brian, (Kevin Goodfellow) was played sensitively and awkward, yet philosophical in his dealings with the complex situations.

Nick (Joel Webster) after a great entrance of throwing himself headlong over the sofa, showed a whole raft of emotions particularly during his heart-to heart with Richard and then great anger towards him when he realises that he is the father of 'his' baby, throwing the contents of the buffet table at Richard. Lisa, played convincingly by Nikki Godding, managed, to make

wrong comments at the wrong time, did not help matters.

This play, with all its twists and turns was hilarious, whilst at times displaying tenderness and pathos. These were all borne out well by a very competent cast who each gave a highly polished and almost professional performance. The flow of comedic quotes and tributes to Benny Hill were good and handled well by all. The pace was fast moving throughout.

A superb production and congratulations must go to Erica Harley the director, along with the rest of the production crew.

Nigel James

---

## COMPTON PLAYERS

### The Lady-killers

by Graham Linehan 11th–14th April 2019

The set was ingenious and worked well, if a little cramped on the upper level.

Mrs Wilberforce (Liz Saxton) was beautifully played and totally believable as the landlady, whose credibility is questioned following an unfounded report to the police concerning the local shop owner. Her obsequiousness towards those with a 'title' was a sight to behold. PC McDonald although only a small part, was played very sympathetically by Lauren Eeley. Mrs Wilberforce is totally conned by Professor Marcus, (Paul Shave) was gentle and convincingly played. Wishing to rent her spare room to plan a heist on a cash delivery lorry, Marcus imports the rest of his gang. There were some nice touches with Marcus's long scarf and attempted straightening of the picture.

The gang, gradually appear and, unaware of their given aliases, swiftly assume the fake roles and the pretence of being a string quintet. Harry, (George Buckland), the wide-boy was slick and confident displaying comedic confusion when details were queried. Major Courtney, (Andrew Alexander) appeared stressed and nervous throughout as a result of purported PTSD, although his passion for female clothing was well expressed. Lawson [One Round] (Cameron Pearce) was not the brightest gang member and carried this off very well, being finished off by a stabbing to the head which was said to have 'missed his brain'. Louis (Chris Kendrick) was frightening in his appearance and stature, with a good Romanian accent, maintained his threatening manner throughout.

The comedy was brought out well by the cast and the 'concert' by the quintet was a triumph. Mrs Tromleyton, (Ann Griffiths) wowed us all by her expressions of appreciation to the cacophony along with her troupe of extras.

Mrs Wilberforce insists on informing the police of the robbery and Marcus decides that she must be killed, but are pre-empted by what they think is her demise, only to be foiled, as she is asleep. The Major's confidence blossomed in the handling of the situation. As one by one the entire gang are eliminated she is left with the cash. However, having been previously discredited by the police they are convinced it is a figment of her imagination and tell her to forget the whole thing.

Mention must be made of 'General Gordon', the unseen ailing cockatoo, who was ably voiced by Naomi Read and the excellent sound effects and choice of music, which really set the atmosphere.

A well performed play, enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience, despite a couple of technical hiccups. Congratulations to all.

Nigel James

---

## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

### Death Knell

by James Cawood

The Mill, Banbury, 1st-4th May 2019

The storyline of James Cawood's Death Knell has more twists and turns than a helter skelter. Set in an isolated former hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands beware anyone in the audience who fails to concentrate on this fast paced seat edge psychological thriller.

The set designed by Chris Garrett together with John Hicks' lighting plan dovetail beautifully to provide an atmospheric scene on Scottish winter's night, complete with flicking log fire.

Congratulations also to sound maestro Robin Williams who's off stage gravel crunching footsteps and cars driving off added to the mood. The flickering TV set in a side room was also a nice touch.

So, enter Evelyn Roth admirably played by Fiona Mikel. She is half of an unhappy marriage to Henry, a one-hit wonder playwright still trying to replicate his success with an earlier work some twenty years ago.



Andy Parsons plays Henry, and he has his work cut out I can tell you. Not only does his mammoth role have more lines than Clapham Junction but also he has to remember his moves and to keep limping throughout the production. And they say men can't multitask.

Andy copes well with this huge undertaking and it would be churlish to point out the few times he looked less than confident with his lines on this the first night of the run.

Fiona Mikel was totally convincing as Evelyn, the less than faithful wife of horrid Henry. She had all our sympathy being married to this flawed man who kept her short of money and was a bit of a control freak, but then she was responsible for the poor guy's limp.

The couple await the arrival of Henry's latest muse, Jack Willoughby, a young actor he had seen at the Royal Court theatre and wanted for a role in his new play.

To say all is not as it seems is putting it mildly for Death Knell. Without giving away the plot, which would be

unfair, it's sufficient to say I wouldn't want to play the author at Chess.

Steve Ramsden played Jack and a more professional performance could not have been expected. He had us as putty in his hands. His nervous and excited demeanour when introduced to his theatrical hero Henry metamorphosed into a totally different Jack as his stay unfolds.

The second act finds Met policeman DCI Lazan on the trail of a reputed serial killer calling at the lodge having had reports of the murderer being seen in the area. Again we are led up various dead end



garden paths with bodies littering the stage and our understanding of what we think is going on blown apart.

Sam Brassington as DCI Lazan could have a career in the police with his dogged style of questioning of the increasingly infuriated Roths. We again take everything at face value and fall accordingly as Mr Cawood's script takes us on yet another voyage of discovery.

Directed by BCP stalwart Linda Shaw, Death Knell is a cracker of a play and though I wondered momentarily during the first ten minutes of the production where it was all going, pretty soon it was shut the doors, ring the bell and hold on tight for an unforgettable theatrical ride. Catch it if you can.

Lance Bassett

---

## BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

### And Then There Were None

by Agatha Christie 15th – 18th May 2019

The set portrayed very well the up-market only house on the remote Soldier Island, off the Devon Coast. The music was good and very atmospheric.

The play opened, with the butler, Tom Rogers, solidly played by Steve Ashcroft, with a delightful west-country accent and his wife, Ethel, the stalwart cook, played with a slightly haughty and rebellious air by Lesley Robinson.

Gradually the guests arrive to be greeted by Vera Claythorne, ((Elaine Leggett) the pleasant and reliable secretary to the absent owner Mrs Owen. First to arrive was Philip Lombard (Rory Phillips) a slightly over-bearing ex- army officer, trying constantly to get off with Miss Claythorne. Both of these gave robust performances and made it to the last remaining three guests.

Next to arrive was Anthony Marston, a playboy, with a love for speed and fast cars, played suitably vacuously

by Ed Miller. This was followed by General Mackenzie, portrayed with old-world bluff and bluster by Ianto Wain and William Blore (or was he?) under an assumed name and a false South African accent, who turned out to be a private detective, with cockney accent, played confusingly by Nick Smith. Emily Brent a termagant, was played humour-less, with an acerbic tongue effectively by Liz Hutchinson. Sir Lawrence Wargrave, a retired judge projected a stately manner by Gareth Hammond, a forte of his, which we have come to expect. Dr Armstrong (Rob Wondrak) was convincing in his portrayal of the hapless doctor.

All of the characters have knowledge of or connection to the putative owner of the house, Mr Owen. As the play progresses the characters are eliminated in accordance with the framed rhyme of 'Ten Little Soldier Boys', which hangs on the chimney breast and the ten little figures on the mantelpiece. They are all mustered, when the disembodied voice of Mr Owens recounts the heinous crimes of each of the guests and so starts the elimination. There were good reactions to each accusation followed by a good build up to Marston's demise. This set the pattern for the remainder, who were finished off in various ways, leaving the last one (I will not say who), who in a manic change of character managed to shoot himself.

In the programme we were warned of loud noises, and prepared for gunshots, however the seagulls took us completely by surprise and perhaps could have been faded in.

The play, although a little long, was excellently directed by Denise Santilli. The cast gelled well together and there were some brilliant moments which shone through. Congratulations to all for an enjoyable production.

Nigel James

## OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY The Trials of Love!

Meet Angela & Nick, two angels embroiled in an exciting board game. As the two play, the game comes to life and reveals the story of four couples.



Including musical numbers from The Phantom of the Opera, La Traviata, West Side Story and The Merry Widow; The Trials of Love will take audiences on a turbulent journey featuring wonderful company numbers along the way!

Music from popular musicals and operettas with original dialogue by Nia Williams.

**When:** Fri 31st May & Sat 1st June at 7:30pm and 2:30pm Sat mat.

**Where:** SJE Arts, St John the Evangelist church, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1EH.

**Tickets:** £10 - £18 See [www.oxfordoperatic.org.uk](http://www.oxfordoperatic.org.uk)

## ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

### ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays

#### Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

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.

During the week our adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, will run a short workshop at the end of each play which is a unique feature of the ODN Festival.

#### See Page 2 for full details

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

**Where:** Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

**Tickets:** Mon - Fri £8 each (£6 concs)

Season Ticket: 5 nights Mon-Fri £30 (£26 conc)

Saturday Gala Night tickets £12.50

from, the Bookstore, the precinct Abingdon

Email: [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

Or call 01235 821351

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

#### Evita

You know the music but do you know the story!?

The tale of the most adored and hated woman in Argentina!

**When:** 30th May - 1st June 7.30pm nightly

**Where:** The Cooper School - Bicester, Oxfordshire

**Tickets:** from Coles Books, Bicester or

**online:** [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcos](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bcos)



## Wallingford Corn Exchange One Act Drama Festival

The adjudicator  
will be David  
Henson.



**See Page 2 for full details**

**When:** Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th June

**Where:** The Corn Exchange, Wallingford

More information can be found at:-  
[www.CornExchange.org.uk/drama-festival](http://www.CornExchange.org.uk/drama-festival)  
or email [DramaFestival@CornExchange.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.dads.org.uk)

## ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB 'Allo 'Allo

by Jeremy Lloyd & David  
Croft

Based on the original BBC  
comedy from the 1980's it  
follows the trials and  
tribulations of Rene Artois a café owner in the town  
of Nouvion, France, and his attempts to negotiate  
safely the war and German occupation.

**When:** Wed 26th to Sat 29th at June 7.30pm

**Where:** The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk,  
Abingdon, OX14 3HZ



## OXFORD THEATRE GUILD Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare  
at University Parks

We are pleased to announce that OTG will be  
performing Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice  
for two weeks between 9th-20th July at a new venue,  
the picturesque University Parks.

Full details about the production and how to buy  
tickets will be available on our website shortly;

**When:** 9th-20th July nightly at 7pm (not Sunday) and  
matinee on Saturday 13th.

**Website:** [www.oxfordtheatreguild.com](http://www.oxfordtheatreguild.com)

## THAME PLAYERS Cut!

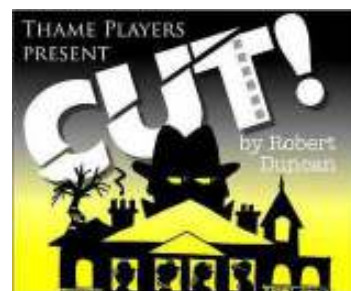
by Robert Duncan

The year is 1935 and the  
famous American film  
producer Otto  
Steinburger has  
arranged a dinner party  
to introduce the cast and crew to the location of his  
new blockbuster movie - his home. But murder wasn't  
quite what he planned...

**Tue 9th - Sat 13th July 7.45pm**

**Tickets:** £10 (£9 concessions), £8 Tues/Wed

online from [www.thameplayers.co.uk](http://www.thameplayers.co.uk)



## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS Ghosts

by Henrik Ibsen  
adapted by Mike  
Poulton

Ghosts is a great drama, a  
classic. It's about the  
relationship between  
Helen Alving and her son  
Oswald. It's about the  
relationship between  
Regina and her father,  
Engstrand, and between Helen and Pastor Manders,  
who have been close acquaintances for a long time. It's  
also about all of their relationships with Captain Alving  
who doesn't even appear in the play but casts a long  
shadow over it.

All of these relationships have had actions within them  
long ago that have consequences. Violence, betrayal,  
deceit. They create ghosts and those ghosts from the  
past have a significant impact over all of the characters  
now.

Ghosts is a powerful, shocking drama, even more so  
given that fact that it was written in the 1880s. Ibsen is  
the Godfather of the great Norse dramatic storytelling





line that continues today with the modern BBC4 Nordic drama phenomena. Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts – the original Scandi-noir.

**Where:** The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Banbury, OX16 5QE

**When:** 10-13 July at 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £13 (£12 conc) from The Mill Box Office - [www.themillartscentre.co.uk/book-online](http://www.themillartscentre.co.uk/book-online)

## ST PETER'S PLAYER present their 2019 Supper Show

### "Flowers to Flares"

A nostalgic trip back to the 60s and 70s.

Fish and Chip Supper and licensed bar.

**Where:** Wolvercote Village Hall, OX2 8AB

**When:** Friday 12th & Saturday 13th July at 7:30pm

**Tickets:** from: 01865 556120 / 516054

## BLEWBURY PLAYERS

### The Crucible

By Arthur Miller

An outdoor production

Based on the Salem witch trials of 1693, and an allegory of the House Un-American Activities hunt for reds under the bed, the Crucible is one of the most powerful plays of the Twentieth Century.

It is Arthur Miller's version of the mediaeval witch test. If she drowns she is innocent, if she floats she is guilty and is condemned to death. In Miller's theocratic community, you betray or are betrayed by your neighbour, whose testimony is enough to convict you and your plea of innocence is itself evidence of guilt. Be vigilant. The Players first performed the Crucible in 1979 but it is not the sort of play with which they have been associated more recently. It is raw drama, serious stuff with strong characters raising questions about the sort of society we want to live in and the sort of people we want to be. An unforgettable play for our times.

**When:** 17th-20th July 2019.

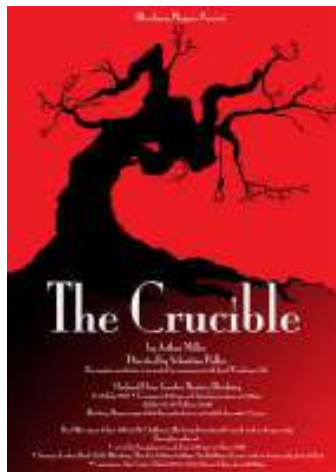
**Where:** Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury

**Tickets:** On-line from 2 pm Saturday 8th June

**Website:** [www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk). or  
Savages Box Office from Monday 10th June  
(cash or cheque only) or

Cornerstone Box Office from 10 am Tuesday 11th June 01235 515144

See website for details of the usual offers.



## SINODUN PLAYERS

### Private Lives

by Noel Coward



A divorced couple who, while honeymooning with their new spouses, discover that they are staying in adjacent rooms at the same hotel. Despite a perpetually stormy relationship, they realise

that they still have feelings for each other.

**When:** 17th–20th July 2019

**Where:** Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford, OX10 0EG

## YOUTH OF BANBURY OPERATIC 42nd Street

YOBOS presents the hit musical, 42nd Street, after staging the show in just one week.

42nd Street

Fri 16 Aug 7:30pm +

Sat 17 Aug 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Where: Wykham Theatre at Wykham Park Academy, Banbury

Tickets: [www.yobos.co.uk/tickets](http://www.yobos.co.uk/tickets)

## ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

### Evita

by Andrew Lloyd

Webber and Tim Rice

Set in Argentina between

1934 and 1952, Evita tells

the story of Eva Perón a woman who would not let anything or anyone stop her from reaching the summit of power, becoming the mother of her country and receiving the adoration of the masses. Eva Duarte travels from her provincial home town, flitting from man to man, until she meets an aspiring politician, Colonel Juan Domingo Perón. They each realise that in the other they have found the perfect foil for their ambitions.

Evita includes the hits singles 'Don't Cry For Me, Argentina', 'Oh What A Circus', and 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall', along with great tunes such as 'High-Flying Adored', 'Rainbow High', and 'On This Night Of A Thousand Stars'.

**When:** 22 – 26 October 2019!

**Where:** Amey Theatre at Abingdon School, Park Rd.



## KIDLINGTON A.O.S.

### 'Kiss me Kate'

by Samuel and Bella Spewack, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter

**When:** 23 to 26 October 2019.

**Where:** Gosford Hill School, Kidlington

## ODN MEMBER GROUPS

Abingdon Drama Club  
 Abingdon Operatic Society  
 ACTS (Aston & Cote Thespian Society)  
 AmEgos Theatre  
 Balancing Act  
 Banbury Cross Players  
 Banbury Operatic Society  
 Bartholomew Players  
 Bicester Choral & Operatic Society (BCOS)  
 Blewbury Players  
 Chiltern Players  
 Compton Players  
 Didcot Phoenix Drama Group  
 DIY Theatre  
 Domino Players  
 Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society  
 Drayton Players  
 Faringdon Dramatic Society  
 Goring Gap Players  
 HAMS (East Hagbourne)  
 Hanborough Players (Long Hanborough)  
 Hanney Drama Group  
 Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society  
 Henley Players  
 Jigsaw Stage Productions

Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society  
 Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society  
 Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group  
 Launton Village Players  
 Look Theatre  
 Middle Barton Drama Group  
 Musical Youth Company of Oxford  
 Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society (Chipping Norton)  
 Opera Unmasked  
 Oxford Operatic Society  
 Oxford Theatre Guild  
 Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe  
 Sinodun Players  
 Standlake Players  
 Stanton Harcourt Drama Group  
 Stonesfield Players  
 St Peter's Players  
 Thame Players  
 Wantage Stage Musical Company  
 Witney Dramatic Society  
 Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society  
 Wootton Players  
 WOPA (West Oxford Pantomime Association)  
 Wychwood Players

## OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Chairman	Pam Aird	01235 230657	PamAird@Hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Sue Tibbles	01865 277209	odnmembsec@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Williams	01865 862965	4 Kenilworth Rd, Cumnor, OX2 9QP
Asstnt Treasurer	Teresa Miller		
Membership Secretary	Sue Tibbles	01865 277209	odnmembsec@gmail.com
Newsletter & Editor	Mike Davies	01235 821351	info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org
Website Editor	Mike Davies	01235 821351	info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org
Committee Member	Mike Lacey	01865 736913	michael1944lacey@gmail.com
Committee Member	Sue Hadley	01235 834690	hadleyhadleysue@yahoo.co.uk
Committee Member	Sarah Ellner		
Committee Member	Karen Carey		
Committee Member	Jess Ebberson		

### 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:** Ask us if you would like a review of your next Play or Musical  
 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 important to us.  
 We can have a **LETTERS** section for Views & Comments. (up to 200 words each item)  
 Send News & Reviews to the editor at **info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org**