

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter

JUNE 2022

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the June issue. We have several items of interest, including a Directing Workshop thanks to Thame Players. I hope to see you all at our annual Drama Festival soon.

There are many plays & musicals coming up. We saw an excellent Agatha Christie, it had many twists & turns right up to the end, very enjoyable, well done Banbury Cross Players.

*Mike Davies*



### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear all,

It was nice to see some of you at the recent AGM and myself and the committee look forward to working on some of the ideas that came out of the discussions over the next year. Of course, we welcome ideas for improving the organisation at any time of the year, so you don't have to wait until the next AGM on **21<sup>st</sup> April 2023** to send them to us! Alas we are still without a Treasurer so if there is anyone out there who would like to take on this vital but not too onerous role then we would love to hear from you.



This month marks the return of the ODN festival – the first one in 3 years – and I do hope that you can spare the time to come along and support the groups who have worked hard to bring their plays to the wonderful Unicorn Theatre. Our adjudicator, Louise Manders, is very much looking forward to meeting the groups and I know (being an ex-drama teacher) she will relish the workshop adjudications and hopefully we will all come away with a few tips and tricks. We are still looking for people to help on front of house so if you can spare some time please get in touch.

I will be attending the National Drama Festival in Coventry in July (and expect to see a lot of plugs on the Facebook page over the next few weeks!) and will be looking forward to seeing some of the best amateur theatre festival performances from around the country. Do check out the information later in this newsletter edition and keep an eye on the NDFA website for the confirmed line-up. Unfortunately, as our festival is later this year, we will miss the deadline to be automatically included, but the NDFA committee have advised me that if our adjudicator thinks that one of our performing groups is of the standard required then we may be squeezed in if that group is able to perform again during the week 17-23<sup>rd</sup> July and would like to be considered.

If you have summer shows coming up then don't forget to plug them on the website and Facebook pages – I hope to get round to a few this Summer.

Karen Carey

Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

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

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork](http://www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork)

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

#### JUNE

- 2-4 B.C.O.S. *Little Shop of Horrors*  
8-11 Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays  
15-18 ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays  
23,24 Buttercross Theatre Productions  
30,1Jul A Midsummer Night's Dream  
24-26 Kennington A.D.C. *Thank You for the Music!*  
24,25 Sinodun - Encore *Shakespeare shake-up*  
24,25 Wantage Sings *Concert of Colours.*

#### JULY

- 8,9 St Peter's Players **Annual SUPPER SHOW**  
11-16 Oxford Operatic Society *Calendar Girls*  
12-16 Sinodun Players *Bedroom Farce*  
14 Compton Players *In Her Defence*  
16-17 Launton Village Players  
**"A Musical Jubilee" Summer Variety Show:**  
19-30 Oxford Theatre Guild *The Tempest*  
20-23 Banbury Cross Players *The Girl on the Train*  
20-23 Blewbury Players *Much Ado About Nothing*  
21-23 Dorchester ADS *Mansfield Park & Ride*  
4-6 Aug Dorchester ADS *Mansfield Park & Ride*

### Page INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chairman's Letter  
2 Winter Festival Awards  
2 ODN Drama Festival  
3 Winter Festival Awards photos  
4 Directing Workshop. Lighthorne Festival  
5 National Drama Conference & Festival  
6 Working with Actors: Vacillation  
7-8 Reviews Auditions  
8-11 Forthcoming Events  
12 About ODN The ODN committee

# Pantomime / Winter Festival results 2021/22



The Groups who entered the Winter Festival were:-

**Didcot Phoenix**  
**Kennington ADS**  
**Launton Village Players**  
**Sinodun Players**  
**Wychwood Players**

## AWARDS

- Best All-Round Production** Wychwood Players - King Arthur a Pantomime  
**Second** Kennington ADS – Rapunzel  
**Third** Sinodun Players - Sleeping Beauty  
**Up and coming rising star** Elwood Smith - Didcot Phoenix - Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
**Best live Music award** Launton Village Players - Dick Wittington  
**Best costumes** Kennington ADS – Rapunzel  
**Best Chorus award** Sinodun Players - Sleeping Beauty  
**Best Baddie** Barry Winsper - Didcot Phoenix - Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
**Best Tech** Wychwood Players - King Arthur a Pantomime  
**Best cameo** David Cooke - Didcot Phoenix Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
**Magic moment** Launton Village Players - Dick Wittington - children's chorus for the feet-stamping rats routine  
**Best Comedy performance** Fiona Huntingford-Ledger and Tom Mackriell Sinodun Players - Sleeping Beauty  
**Best Dame** James Dixon - Wychwood Players - King Arthur a Pantomime

Awards Presentation took place at the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> May – see page 3 for photos of Mike Lacey (one of the Judges) presenting the awards.

## ODN Group Membership Renewal

If your group has not yet joined or renewed its ODN membership, please download the application form to join (£20) or renew (£15) your ODN, group membership :-

Click link to Download ODN group application/renewal form (Postal):-

[www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/GroupMembershipForm.pdf](http://www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/GroupMembershipForm.pdf)

OR: email [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org) for a Bax (on-line) version of this form (Word Doc).

## ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays

Wed 15th to Sat 18th June

Unicorn Theatre,  
Checker Walk,  
Abingdon, OX14 3HZ



Plays for the week are:-

Wednesday 15th June, 7.30 start

**'Not a Cream Cracker'** by Geraldine Rouse  
Performed by *Didcot Phoenix*

**'In Her Defence'** by Helen Saxton  
Performed by *Compton Players*

Thursday 16th June, 7.30 start

**'The Proposal'** by Anton Chekov  
Performed by *Oxford Theatre Guild*

**'The Road Less Travelled'** by Janet Bolam  
Performed by *Oxford Theatre Guild*

Friday 17th June, 7.30 start

**'Pathway'** by Tasha Moar  
Performed by *Didcot Phoenix DG*

**'The Devil & the Dove'** by Piers Burnell  
Performed by *Henley A.O.D.S*

Saturday 18th June, 7.30 start  
**Gala Night**

3 plays from the week, will be recalled by the adjudicator Louise Manders, to repeat their performances.

Followed by a Gala Night party for *all* performers & crew from the week, to be held in the Long Gallery - hope you can all come!

N.B. The running order of plays may have to change (see website for details)

Tickets Wed-Fri £10 (£8 conc <18 or >65)  
Sat £12 (£10 conc <18 or >65) From  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/Oxfordshire-Drama-Network](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Oxfordshire-Drama-Network)

or The Bookstore in the precinct, Abingdon  
or Tel 01235 821351

Special offer:-

3 nights Wed-Fri for £25 (£20 conc)  
(Season ticket holders also get to vote for the Punters' Prize!)

Unicorn Theatre, Chequer Walk, Abingdon,  
OX14 3HZ. A map of how to find the Unicorn  
Theatre can be found here ->

[www.abingdonabbey-unicorntheatre.org.uk/findus.html](http://www.abingdonabbey-unicorntheatre.org.uk/findus.html)

# ODN Winter Festival - Awards - 13th May 2022



Wychwood Players - All-Round Production



Kennington - All-Round - Runner-up



Wychwood - Best Dame



Wychwood - Best Tech



Kennington - Best Costume



Launton - Best Live Music



Launton - Magic Moment



Didcot - Best Cameo



Didcot - Best Baddie



Didcot - Best Rising Star

The Director's Chair  
Wed 15th June at The Players Theatre  
Bar opens at 7:30pm for an 8pm start



**Would you like to find out what a director does and how to direct a show?**

**Have you ever thought to yourself, "I could do that"?**

Some of our existing directors, backstage crew and committee members will be ready to answer these questions and more. It's a great opportunity to chat to other members about your ideas. Before you know it, you could have a team of people wanting to help you achieve your dream!

Whether it be a musical, a pantomime, a drama or a comedy – we won't throw you in at the deep end. You'll receive lots of help and support from the team at Thame Players. Our theatre has been putting on successful shows for a long time – who knows, a future show could be yours?



If you're interested, please contact us at [training@thameplayers.co.uk](mailto:training@thameplayers.co.uk) or just turn up on Wednesday 15th June

As an organisation run entirely by volunteers, we are committed to training so if you'd like to get involved or learn about a specific subject, please get in touch with training liaison Wayne Gibson - [training@thameplayers.co.uk](mailto:training@thameplayers.co.uk)  
[thameplayers.co.uk](http://thameplayers.co.uk) Registered Charity No 1092559

## Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays

Wed 8 to Sat June 11 at 7 or 7.30pm

Village Hall, Lighthorne, Warwickshire, CV35 0BX

After an enforced absence of two years, the Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays returns this year with a top quality programme featuring groups from across the Midlands and beyond.

Nine groups will perform ten plays – two or three plays per night – over four nights. The Running Order is below.

We will run on Wednesday June 8, Thursday June 9, Friday June 10 and Saturday June 11, 2022 (there will be no Thursday night off, as has been done in recent years).

The Festival Box Office opens on Monday May 2 to the general public for season ticket sales only, priced at £55 for four nights, to include performances and supper. Individual tickets go on general sale on Monday May 9, priced at £15.00 per night and including a meal.

To contact the Festival box office, either email: [lighthornefestival@gmail.com](mailto:lighthornefestival@gmail.com) - telephone: 07823 538637

or use the contact form on the Festival website – [lighthornefestival.org.uk](http://lighthornefestival.org.uk)

Please note, in particular, that this year, performances will begin EITHER at 7pm or 7.30 pm, depending on whether it is a two-play or three-play night. To ensure a prompt start, all audience members should be in their places in Lighthorne Village Hall at least 10 minutes before curtain up.

Finally, as in all previous years, the Lighthorne winner will qualify for consideration for the NDFA National Drama Festival (formerly the British All-Winners) which returns to the Albany Theatre in Coventry this year, from Sunday July 17 to Saturday July 23 with a Conference on Inclusion and Diversity in British Amateur Theatre during the Saturday daytime in the on-site Albany Studio.

Since the Lighthorne Festival launched in 2013, its winners and nominees have won places in every NDFA Final and picked up every national award open to them, including best production, best new script, best actor and the backstage award.

We are thrilled to be back in business again and all of us are immensely looking forward to welcoming you to Lighthorne in June for what promises to be a great Festival – exciting, challenging, thought-provoking and funny – just as it should be.

Festival box office, either email: [lighthornefestival@gmail.com](mailto:lighthornefestival@gmail.com) or telephone: 07823 538637 or see website

For list of plays & running order see:-

**Website:** [www.lighthornefestival.org.uk](http://www.lighthornefestival.org.uk)

## The National Drama Conference

Saturday 23rd July 2022  
Albany Theatre, Coventry



For 2022, the National Drama Conference will focus on Inclusion and Diversity in British Amateur Theatre. It is a must-attend event for anyone who has the future of theatre in the British Isles at heart.

It will consider the vital question of why our shared passion for theatrical performance is becoming more and more markedly unrepresentative of the countries and communities in which we live and perform.

More importantly still, the one-day Conference will consider what can be done to effect change, and it will hear from practitioners from the worlds of professional and amateur theatre who have already made a difference.

It is open to all – individuals, theatre groups, Festival organisers and any interested parties – and will be held in the Albany Theatre Studio in Coventry on Saturday July 23, 2022 – the concluding day of this year's NDFa National Drama Festival which is taking place in the Albany's Main House.

The Conference will be jointly curated by Penny Amis, Chair of the Side By Side Theatre Company of Leamington Spa, and Anne-Marie Greene (pictured right), who is professor of Diversity and Work at the University of York as well as being Artistic Director of the Criterion Theatre, Coventry, which has put Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the heart of everything they do.



The Conference is supported by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre of Stratford-on-Avon and their Participation Producer, Ian Wainwright, will be attending.

Actors involved in recent Criterion productions of *Queers – The Monologues*, curated by Mark Gatiss, and *The Gift*, by Janice Okoh, have also been invited to take part.

Conference tickets, priced £12 each, will be available via the Albany Theatre Box Office very soon.

## The National Drama Festival

17th – 23rd July 2022  
Albany Theatre Coventry



The National Drama Festival is the place to see the cream of British amateur theatre. Groups from across the country (and abroad), bring their best work in friendly competition with the aim of winning awards and becoming national champions. It is one of the prestige annual events in this country's amateur theatre calendar.

Groups will be competing for prizes in three sections - Youth, Full-Length and One-Act - and the title of British champions.

Top-quality groups from Cheshire to Guernsey have already applied to take part. The Festival will be overseen by Jan Palmer Sayer, GoDA, a former chair of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, who will give a critique each evening of the plays she has just seen, and name the winners on the closing Saturday night.

A recent first run-out of 'Twinkle' in which Phil Reynolds (pictured right) plays the lead part in the eponymous



play, directed by Stephen Duckham, rightly received a standing ovation. It is the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth's wildcard entry in our week-long Festival's opening night on Sunday July 17. Details of it and some of the other plays scheduled so far can be seen here - <https://ndfa.co.uk/the-running-order>. The final running order will be confirmed once the regional festival season has concluded in mid-June, whereby any group scoring 80 points or more can apply.

The National Drama Festival first came to the Albany in 2021, attracted by Coventry's City of Culture status, and organisers were so impressed by what they found that they decided to return. It is the first time in its 60+-year history that the Festival has ever been to the same venue in back-to-back years.

Rod Chaytor, acting chair of the National Drama Festivals Association, which organises the event, said: 'What we found was a beautiful art deco theatre with a wonderfully welcoming and efficient staff, close to unsurpassable transport links. It felt like we had found our natural home.'

Tickets priced at £12 each both for each evening's Festival and the one-day Conference, will be available via the Albany website.

[www.albanytheatre.co.uk/shows/national-drama-festival-2022](http://www.albanytheatre.co.uk/shows/national-drama-festival-2022)



## Working with Actors

### Vacillation on Stage

### *How to Make It Look Like You're Not Acting*

By Jon Jory

If I had a film of you making breakfast, there would be some... vacillation. That is,

for instance, you would start for the fridge, decide you want to put the coffee on first, but on the way to the stove, you see grains of rice on the floor, pick them up, and put them in the garbage, and then start getting the coffee out, but remember you've left your favorite mug in the breakfast room and go get that.

Why is it, do you think, that we see so little vacillation on stage? Instead, the actor does this, then they do that, then they do the other things, all with no hesitation. They're masters of efficiency!

A little vacillation invites reality to the stage. An actress who has been sitting on the sofa rises, picks up her car keys, and starts for the door. A realization strikes her like a freight train, and she stops dead on the way out: she wants a divorce. Having ingested the thought, she exits. One beat. Then, she reopens the door for a last look at this room that has been part of her life, and then exits again, closing the door behind her with authority. We might just call that "using the exit" or we might call it vacillation.

I've seen whole plays and musicals where no one ever vacillates. Oh, that I might live in such a clearly intentional world! The reason we don't see it on stage is that — shhh! — the actor isn't thinking and their performance is rote. Is this a problem? Uh-huh.

Rote performance is a dead man walking. A play might be everything we could hope for... except thought process. Thought process is like a ball in an indoor handball court, bouncing around everywhere. You hit the ball. It hits the left wall, angles up off the ceiling, hits the right wall, then dribbles off at an angle. Sure, there are moments when we go straight to the door and exit, but not every time! Why is it then that on stage we so seldom see a person start to say something, stop, then start again and, after saying it, shake their head because they've realized it was stupid to have said it? I do that every Tuesday. Wouldn't it make the play more realistic to see hesitation or an interrupted thought process on stage? The actor might

even do it physically while talking quite rationally or vacillate in their speech while moving confidently.

I often explain to actors that I hope to see significant vacillation used in each performance. I'll also tell them if they're doing too much of it. For instance, there is one example of vacillation that is used far too much, though it's sometimes the only bit of vacillation I see in an entire performance. Someone starts to exit, stops dead just before they reach the door, stands with their back to us, then turns back to tell us some deep, dark secret. They look at the person they've spoken to in silence before exiting, slamming the door on the way out. I rarely ever see a movie where this isn't used! Poor old boring vacillation! There are other ways, you know?

If all actors were really thinking on stage, it would be a festival of vacillation. Vacillation adds a little excitement to "crossing left." It also reflects how we actually behave and brings a moment or line to life.

At the heart of vacillation, your brain is having its way with your body and/or your speech. The latter might also involve movement, but it could happen even when you're standing dead still. You're in the middle of a sentence when you stop because it has occurred to you it isn't wise to say it, but then choose to go on because it must be said. Explain to your actors that when we talk, we don't always know where we're going with the thought, and it often changes direction or tone in the middle of a speech or bit of dialogue. Again, think of that ball in the handball court.

I often tell actors that they should spend an hour sitting quietly in the green room listening to the twists and turns of speech. Many times, you say the line, "Look, I just want to tell you I love you" straight, but sometimes you say, "Look, I just want to tell you... (two-beat pause) ...I love you." Because you know your life will change when you say it. That pause could happen after any word in the sentence and could be a split second or two seconds or you might just say the line straight through.

Vacillation is, in fact, a tool every actor has in their toolkit. Use it.

Jon Jory is the author of six plays with Pioneer Drama Service. He also has written two textbooks of tips for actors and directors, respectively. [www.pioneerdrama.com](http://www.pioneerdrama.com)

## REVIEWS

### **KINGSTON BAGPUIZE D.G. A BUNCH OF AMATEURS**

by Ian Hyslop and Nick Newman

24th April 2022

This play revolves around a struggling amdram group who are trying to save their Barn Theatre. They bring in a guest star Jefferson Steele who is a faded Hollywood actor, to play the lead in their production of King Lear to bolster publicity and audience numbers. Dorothy (Claire Wheeler) was well cast as the producer. She was long suffering and brimming with confidence trying to contain Jefferson. She was an excellent foil for him and the chemistry between them was good.

Nigel Dewbury (Mike Lacey) was ponderous in his peevish approach to Jefferson as he felt that he should have had the part of Lear. This culminated in him passing the story to the national press regarding Jefferson's perceived dalliances with Lauren, wife of the sponsor. Although, as usual, he had the wrong end of the stick. His perceived dalliances supposedly happened at his theatrical lodgings run by cast member Mary Plunkett, (Mary-Elizabeth Shewry) who was infatuated with Jefferson and played her part delightfully twittery and managed to fall to pieces in his presence. The handyman and fellow cast member Dennis Dobbins (Rob Bateman) had a convincing Suffolk accent and was expertly played, becoming Jefferson's minder.

Rob Hall, as Jefferson really looked the part with appropriate gestures and maintained his American accent convincingly throughout as he portrayed the clueless and demanding fading Hollywood star. He kept up the arrogance brilliantly, of the Hollywood aura throughout. The whole cast gelled well together. The physio scene with Lauren (Taty Junquiera) was excellent and convincing. Although English was not her first language, she did a marvellous job of the part. Jessica, Jefferson's daughter was played well by youthful newcomer Abigail Morgan. It was a wise decision for her not to have an accent as no accent is better than a bad American accent. The use of the stage and apron was good with effective use of flats and curtains. The use of the invalid motorised scooter through the auditorium was a stroke of genius.

The lighting and effects were good and enhanced the performances.

Congratulations to all.

Nigel James

## **BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS**

### **Ladies' Day**

by Amanda Whittington

18th - 21st May 2022

What a gem of a play this is! Amanda Whittington's witty dialogue was brilliantly delivered by the very competent cast and skilfully directed by Debi Lisburn Diakon.



The cast of ladies, who work in a fish packing factory, in Hull gelled beautifully, with a mix of characters and emotions. Their trip to Ascot, in the year it was held in York, presented romantic opportunities for them, together with a change in fortunes for all of them. Jan (Navreet Dey) shone as the leader of the girls with superb comic timing and acting skills. Jan has her sights on Joe (Gareth Hammond) the foreman at the factory, but has never had the courage to approach him. She was wholly believable. Linda, the quieter one of the four was played very well by Liberty Foreman. She was oppressed by a demanding mother, but found her courage when swept off her feet by jockey, Patrick (Ianto Wain) fresh from Ireland with a very believable accent.

Shelley (Becca Howard) was well cast and has illusions of stardom, falling prey to TV presenter Jim McCormack who was convincingly played by Nick Smith. Pearl, whose impending birthday occasioned the trip to the races in the first place, was excellently played by doyen, Lesley Robinson, despite having her arm in a sling.

Pearl hid her secret affair and her disappointment at missing her paramour at the racecourse was tangible. Barry (Steve Ashcroft) did 'appear' eventually for one last dance to reassure Pearl of his intentions and that he had not survived a fall, which is why he had not turned up for their last couple of meetings. His final gift to her is to retrieve the discarded Tote ticket for her, which far from being worthless, turned out to be proof of their large win.

The accents were convincing and well maintained throughout. The scenery was well presented and slickly changed, transporting us from the fish-packing factory to the various areas of the racecourse with ease. The costume changes from factory overalls to racecourse finery was very superbly done, whilst the scene was being changed behind them

The dialogue throughout was very funny and well-delivered. The only slight difficulty was the factory noises sometimes overwhelmed Amanda Whittington's brilliant dialogue. Otherwise, the sound and lighting were excellent and appropriate.

The large first-night audience were very appreciative and rightly so.

Congratulations to director Debi Lisburn Diacon and all involved on another splendid production and we look forward to the next show

Nigel James

## Auditions

### The Sinodun Players, Wallingford, **CHESS**

#### AUDITION NOTICE

#### FOR MARCH 2023 PRODUCTION

Music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus  
Lyrics by Björn Ulvaeus and Tim Rice  
Crescendo in association with The Sinodun Players are auditioning for 7 principal roles, an ensemble of 12 to include supporting roles and a seated choir of 18 singers for their new full staged production of Chess. Chess is sung through with very little spoken dialogue. We will judge your acting ability through the song you choose. Whilst you don't need to be off-book for your audition, it would give you an advantage in being able to give the best example of you as a performer. Choir-only auditionees will be on-book for the show. You are not required to act. Chess requires a diverse cast who are strong singers and accomplished actors with good movement skills. A high level of dedication to the production and an ability to create and develop character is of particular importance. The production will be supported by high production values to produce a professional result.

#### AUDITION DATES & TIMES

Saturday 18th June: 10:30am - 3pm for Principals and Ensemble Choir 3.30pm - 5pm

#### RECALLS & WORKSHOPS

Sunday 19th June: 11am onwards

Auditions will be held at The Crowmarsh Pavilion  
Crowmarsh Recreation Ground Crowmarsh Gifford  
OX10 8EB

Audition materials are posted on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/chesscx](http://www.facebook.com/groups/chesscx) or emailed to you by request via the Facebook page.

Any questions you are invited to contact us on:  
chess@cornexchange.org.uk

Rob Alderton – Musical Director: 07739 709777  
Maz Leadbetter – Director: 07557 802231

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### B.C.O.S.

Bicester Choral and  
Operatic Society

### Little Shop of Horrors



Life isn't easy on Skid Row, but maybe things are going to turn around for florist's assistant Seymour. He's discovered a plant unlike any other and people are clamouring to get a look. Perhaps he will finally win the attention and affection of his co-worker, Audrey. But Seymour's appetite for fame and fortune is overmatched by the appetite of his new plant.

Will the killer potential of Seymour's new plant bring him everything he has ever wanted, or will the price be too high?

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror comedy rock musical, based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film of the same name.

The music, in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doowop and early Motown, includes several well-known tunes, such as "Somewhere That's Green", and "Suddenly, Seymour".

**When:** Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

**Where:** Cooper School, Bicester, OX26 4RS

**Tickets:** 0333 666 3366

or see [www.BcosWeSing.org.uk](http://www.BcosWeSing.org.uk)

### Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays

Wed 8 to Sat June 11 at 7 or 7.30pm

Website: [www.lighthornefestival.org.uk](http://www.lighthornefestival.org.uk)

### ODN Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays

Wed 15th to Sat 18th

June at 7.30pm

See page 2 for details



### BUTTERCROSS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Bring your own picnic and seating.  
Refreshments available.

**When:** Thu 23rd June & Fri 24th June +  
Thu 30th June & Fri 1st July

Doors open: 5:30pm - Curtain up: 6:30pm

**Venue:** Cogges Manor Farm, Witney, OX28  
3LA

**Tickets:** £12 (15yrs +) / £8 (under 15yrs) /  
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £36

To book tickets: [www.cogges.org.uk](http://www.cogges.org.uk)

## KENNINGTON A.D.C.

### Thank You for the Music!

A journey through musical numbers from past KADS shows with some other favourites thrown in for good measure. From Disney to the West End, there is something for everyone in this merry medley. Performing with the house band at Kennington Village Centre.

#### When:

Friday 24th June - 7.30pm

Saturday 25th June - 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 26th June - 2pm

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

**Tickets:** £10 - contact the Box Office to book by email, [boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk) or phone on 01865 739025.

Payment accepted by card, cash, cheque or BACS. There will also be a collection at each performance for Royal Papworth Hospital Charity.

See KADs Facebook page: @KenningtonADS for show updates and behind the scenes news.

## SINODUN - ENCORE

presents its end of year production with a cast of 37

### Shakespeare like you've never experienced it before!

Come and join our Footlights group (year 3-5),

Limelights (year 6-8) and

Spotlights (year 8-10)

Journey through forests, islands and royal households across five of Shakespeare's plays like you've never seen before!!

This is a colourful romp exploring abridged versions of Macbeth, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

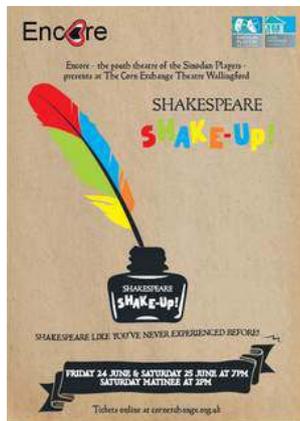
These five stories, from our youthful ensemble, Shake-Up Shakespeare's work through a fully staged production with highly colourful scenery, a magical light show, surround sound, magic, weddings, fights and...aliens!!

Supported by the designers, technicians, stage managers and crew of the Corn Exchange Theatre this production is suitable for all ages and not to be missed!!

**When:** Friday 24 June & Saturday 25 June at 7pm + Saturday Matinee at 2pm

**Where:** The Corn Exchange Theatre, Wallingford, Stage

**Tickets:** Under 18's £4.00 Adults £6.00 - Online at [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)



## WANTAGE SINGS

### Concert of Colours.

We are delighted to announce that the choir is back and will be performing our Concert this month. The theme is colours and the show features songs from the likes of Pink, Rainbow, Green Day and Maroon 5 as well as titles like Red, True Colours and We are Golden all lovingly arranged by our MD.

#### When & Where:

Friday 24 June - Steventon Village Hall

Saturday 25 June - Stanford-in-the-Vale Village Hall

Doors & bar open at 7pm show starts at 7:30pm.

**Tickets:** £8 (£6 for Concessions) from:

[www.WantageSings.co.uk](http://www.WantageSings.co.uk)



## ST PETER'S PLAYERS

### Annual SUPPER SHOW

Full of surprises

**When:** Friday 8th & Saturday 9th July 2022

**Where:** Wolvercote Village Hall.

**Tickets:** £15 - Fish and chips included.

Call 07398 270218 to book

**Website:** [www.stpetersplayers.co.uk](http://www.stpetersplayers.co.uk)

## OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

### Calendar Girls

#### A Musical by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth



The death of a much-loved husband prompts a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire village to do an extraordinary thing.

Blasting away all preconceptions of what it is to be in a women's institute, they decide to do an artistic nude calendar to raise money for charity. None of them expect the emotional and personal ramifications, but the making of the fabulous and funny calendar brings each woman unexpectedly into flower.

Based on the true story and the highly successful film, Calendar Girls is a story of wit, loss and bravery. With unforgettable songs written by Gary Barlow, this heart-warming musical proves that there is no such thing as an ordinary woman.

**When:** Mon 11 – Sat 16 Jul at 7.30pm + Matinee 2.30pm on Sat 16th July

**Venue:** Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford, United Kingdom, OX1 2LW

**Tickets:** £25 - £10 from [www.OxfordPlayhouse.com](http://www.OxfordPlayhouse.com)

box office 01865 305 305 or

email : [boxoffice@oxfordplayhouse.com](mailto:boxoffice@oxfordplayhouse.com)

This amateur production of CALENDAR GIRLS: THE MUSICAL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

## SINODUN PLAYERS

### Bedroom Farce

by Alan Ayckbourn

Alan Ayckbourn's play exposes a hilariously bleak view of middle-class relationships, illustrating the farcical nature of marriage and exploring the habits, routines, and short-cuts we create – some playful, some decidedly passive aggressive!



**When:** Tue 12 - Sat 16 July at 7.45pm

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

**Tickets:** from Corn Exchange Box Office:-

Tel: 01491 825000

Email: [info@cornexchange.org.uk](mailto:info@cornexchange.org.uk)

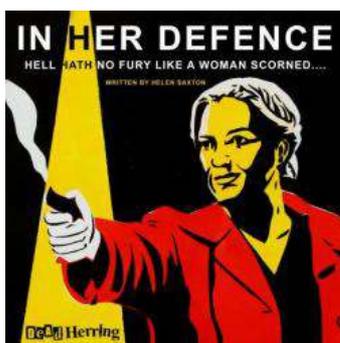
Online: [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)

## COMPTON PLAYERS

### In Her Defence

Compton Players and Dead Herring present an homage to Agatha Christie with a vintage twist in the tale.

This is a one-night-only preview of Dead Herring's Edinburgh Fringe production from 22nd to 27th August.



It's 1947 and Catherine has just shot dead her husband, Philip, in their Regent's Park flat.

So, what's the mystery? You may think you're sure what happened, and you may wonder how (and if) Catherine gets away with murder.

Through teasers of the Old Bailey trial and flashbacks witnessing the disintegration of their marriage, you'll reach the surprising conclusion.

**When:** 14 July 2022 - 7:30pm - 8:20pm

**Where:** Compton Village Hall

**Tickets:** £10 from [www.comptonplayers.co.uk](http://www.comptonplayers.co.uk) or [www.ComptonPlayers.co.uk/book-tickets](http://www.ComptonPlayers.co.uk/book-tickets)

## LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

### "A Musical Jubilee"

#### Summer Variety Show:



An outdoor family variety show celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will feature some of Her Majesty's favourite songs, music from West End musicals, poems and sketches relating to notable events during the Queen's reign and is a family friendly show and suitable for all ages.

**When:** 2:30pm on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July 2022.

**Where:** The Mayflower Garden Theatre at Hare Leys Farm, Launton, OX26 5AB (Just over a mile outside of Launton.)

There is plenty of parking and toilet facilities are available. Bring a chair or picnic blanket and come and enjoy an afternoon's entertainment in a beautiful garden! (We also have a wet weather back up plan!)

**Tickets:** £10 for Adults and £5 for Children.

from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp)

(credit and debit cards – booking fee applies), or 07864 715708 (cash and cheque purchases).

Every ticket includes a free Union Jack flag so you can join in with our "Last Night of the Proms" tribute!

Cream teas, strawberries and ice creams will be served along with drinks including tea, coffee, Prosecco or Pimms as well as fruit juice.

Refreshments can be pre-ordered when you purchase your tickets or can be bought on the day.

All profits will be donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine

## OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

### The Tempest

Twelve years ago, Prospera, formerly the Duchess of Milan, was usurped by Alonso, King of Naples, and Alonso's brother, Sebastian and cast adrift with her three-year-old daughter, Miranda. They now live on an island. Desiring revenge, Prospera uses her powerful magic to cause a great storm which shipwrecks her enemies.



**When:** Tue 19th – Sat 30th July at 7pm + matinee Sat 23rd at 2.30pm

**Where:** Oxford University Parks (Picked Mead, Near Pond)

**Tickets:** [www.ticketsoxford.com/events/the-tempest](http://www.ticketsoxford.com/events/the-tempest)

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

# BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

## The Girl on the Train

by Rachel Wagstaff,  
Paula Hawkins and  
Duncan Abel

Rachel is a bit of a mess. She drinks heavily, has lost her job and her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day.

They are happy and in love – or so it appears. One morning, she sees something shocking. And then it all changes. When she discovers the woman she's been watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling mystery.

Her ex-husband (Tom) and his new wife (Anna) are friends with the perfect couple and all their lives become inter-twined as they face bigger revelations than they could have anticipated.

Staged on a composite set, the flashback scenes gradually reveal more about the characters and their collective relationships. They tease the audience by slowly uncovering the events of the fateful Saturday when Megan disappeared. They mirror Rachel's slowly recovering memory of that same night and her involvement in it. Although the reveal is gradual, that's not the pace of the play, which rattles along to its unexpected conclusion.

**When:** 20th to 23rd July at 7:30 pm -

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

**Tickets** from The Mill Box Office.  
[www.themillartscentre.co.uk](http://www.themillartscentre.co.uk)

Tel: 01295 279002 or

Email: [boxoffice@themillartscentre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@themillartscentre.co.uk)



## BLEWBURY PLAYERS

### Much Ado About Nothing

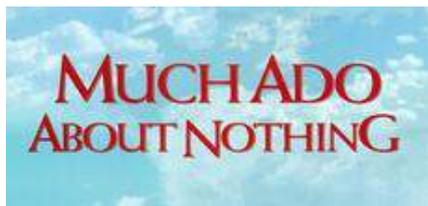
By William Shakespeare

This year's outdoor show will be Much Ado About Nothing directed by Blewbury's own Ed White.

This was the first Orchard Dene production he watched as a child, and is now returning as an experienced director and actor in the West End.

Orchard Dene Garden Theatre in Blewbury is a 200+ seated tiered auditorium, set in a beautiful village garden.

ODN website: [www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](http://www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)



Picnics welcome pre performance,  
Bar open prior to performance.

**When:** Wed 20th to Sat 23rd July at 8pm  
+ Matinee Sat at 3pm

**Where:** Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Watts Lane,  
Blewbury, OX11 9PS

**Tickets:** from our website:-  
[www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk)

## DORCHESTER ADS Mansfield Park & Ride

by Brendan Murray

An extremely funny Jane Austen spoof,  
Mansfield Park & Ride  
by Brendan Murray.

Originally written for  
Eastern Angles,  
Brendan Murray has

reset this new version of his acclaimed play here in South Oxfordshire. It is sure to delight and entertain, whether or not you are a fan of Jane Austen.

Will Mrs Bonnet see her daughters wed? Will the dashing Captain Knightly keep his shirt on?

This is an **outdoor event** and there is no seating provided. **Please bring your own low-backed chairs or rugs. Performances will continue in wet weather so please come prepared!**

**When:**

Thu 21 & Fri 22 July at 7pm

Sat 23 July at 6pm

**Where:** The Cloister Garden at Dorchester Abbey

**ALSO**

Thu 4 & Fri 5 August at 7pm +

Sat 6 August at 6pm

**Where:** Rupert House Playing Field, Fair Mile,  
Henley-on-Thames RG9 2JR

**Tickets:** from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads)

**Website:** [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)



# ***Oxfordshire Drama Network***

## ***Not just a network***



### ***HERE'S WHAT WE DO***

- **Annual Drama Festival of 1 Act Plays** in June each year
  - **Winter/Pantomime festival competition** – We nominate judges for your Pantos/plays
  - **Auditions:** Newsletter & Facebook can notify all our members of auditions locally
  - **Reviews:** We can do reviews of your play or musical or you send your own review (500 words max)
  - **Letters:** We carry a letters section for Views & Comments when you send them in! (200 words Max)
  - **Props:** Do you need a particular prop/scenery? Get in touch with us we may be able to help you.
  - **Events** We inform readers of events, plus we are planning our own events soon
  - **Website** Why not add your events to the ODN website and Facebook pages
- News & Reviews** should be sent to the editor at [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

Are you a new Drama or Musical Group? For just £20 (Then £15/Year) you can join us :-  
[www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/GroupMembershipForm.pdf](http://www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/GroupMembershipForm.pdf)

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

[www.Facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

## **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](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork](http://www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork)