

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

Pumpkins and Halloween are upon us this Autumn, and soon we will be in the Pantomime season. We have re-branded the Panto Competition as a Pantomime Festival - and more - with lots of awards to win, see page 2 for more details. So please enter your pantomime or seasonal play/musical as soon as you can.

And do try to get to see as many of our other group's productions, then we'll boost each others audiences.

Mike Davies



Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

After a long and fruitful summer, it is great to know that all the groups have either started casting or rehearsing their Winter Productions, or are just about to.

That brings me to the big news for this year.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, and as a result of the long discussions about the Panto Competition at this year's AGM, the Committee engaged in a long but very fruitful Meeting on the 9th September. More about that later.

I was delighted to be invited to Banbury Cross Players Showcase this week, where not only was I able to watch a repeat performance of their award winning One Act production of 'Contractions', but also saw snippets of their 2019/2020 Season. A very enjoyable evening and I wish BCP great success with their forthcoming productions. I will be in attendance....

Last week, I also travelled to watch Didcot Phoenix 'on tour' at Blaise Church, Milton, with their murder/mystery. Again, this was an extremely well-produced and directed production and congratulations all involved. At the time of writing, Abingdon Drama Club are wowing their audiences with their production of Amadeus.

Where else can you watch such a variety of productions!!! My diary is filling up with all your group's productions.

Break a Leg

Pam Aird – Chairman

The deadline for the December issue is 20 Nov 2019
Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

OCTOBER

- 1-5 Oxford Theatre Guild **Handbagged**
10-12 Witney Dramatic Society
'Stop and Run' and 'Blue Suede Blues'
16-19 Henley Players **Dangerous Corner**
16-19 Sinodun Players **Blood Wedding**
17-19 Woodcote Dramatic Society **Murder Mystery**
17-19 Atomic Theatre Blackadder Goes Forth
22-26 Abingdon Operatic Society **Evita**
23-26 Kidlington A.O.S. **Kiss me Kate**
29Oct-2 Nov Banbury Operatic Society **Crazy for You**
31Oct-2 Nov Amegos **Guys & Dolls**

NOVEMBER

- 7-9 Chiltern Players D.G. **The Canterville Ghost**
7-9 Faringdon D. S. **Our Country's Good**
20-23 Goring Gap Players **Sense and Sensibility**
20-23 Banbury Cross Players **The Thrill of Love**
20-23 Compton Players **Bothered and Bewildered**
20-23 Dorchester A.D.S. **Treasure Island**
20-23 Henley AODS **Jesus Christ Superstar**
21-23 Kingston Bagpuize DG **Beauty and The Beast**
27-30 The Bartholomew Players **Abigail's Party**
28-30 The Wychwood Players **Laburnum Grove**
30Nov Jigsaw Stage Productions **Cinderella**
8,15Dec

DECEMBER

- 4-7 St Peter's Players **Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs**
6-15 Thame Players **Dick Whittington**

JANUARY

- 10-11 Abingdon Drama Club
16-18 **Snow White**
20-25 Oxford Operatic Society **Crazy For You**
24-26 Kennington ADS **Cinderella**
30-1Feb

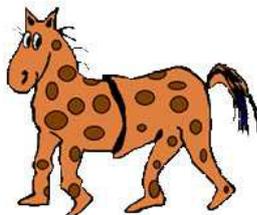
Page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Pantomime Festival update. AGM
3 Acting Workshop at Wallingford
3 Banbury Cross Players at the All Winners
4 Letters. Casting news
5-11 Forthcoming Events
11 Committee Members.

PANTO/WINTER FESTIVAL

As stated in the last Newsletter, the majority of the Committee met on 9th September, to discuss how we can move this forward.



I was sad to note that I personally only received one comment regarding the proposals for change. The Committee are trying to move the ODN forward and are reaching out to the member groups for their ideas and feedback to enable us to do this.

We cannot do it on our own – we really do need your ideas, feedback etc.

So...the main points from the Meeting are.... That we should open the Festival out to not just the groups performing pantos, but also groups that will be performing 'seasonal' plays. To this end we have discussed that instead of having First, Second, Third, that we have an overall winner that the Adjudicators felt met all the criteria, and then other awards as listed below. We feel that although the GODA Guidelines should be followed, there will be no marking as in previous years, but comments and notes from the Adjudicators.

In respect of Adjudicators, we feel that it is essential that the same Adjudicators watch all the productions. If any member groups know of someone that we can contact to invite them to Adjudicate this year, please do not hesitate to either contact your rep, or contact me directly at pamaird@hotmail.co.uk.

THIS CANNOT WORK UNLESS WE HAVE A TWO-WAY DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE MEMBER GROUPS AND THE COMMITTEE.

Please see below the Guidelines that the Committee have come up with, and we encourage you to feed back to us any amendments or ideas to improve the form before it is finalised. Also below is a list of some of the Awards that we will be presenting. This Festival is now going to be open to all groups performing Seasonal plays. Please note that all the awards are gender neutral.

PLEASE PASS ANY COMMENTS, AMENDMENTS OR IDEAS TO THE COMMITTEE BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER SO WE CAN DISCUSSES THEM AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING.

Pam Aird Chairman ODN

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The entry form to enter your Pantomime or Seasonal Production into the Festival will be available to download from our website in the very near future. (Editor)

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK PANTO/WINTER PRODUCTION FESTIVAL 2019/2020 GUIDE-LINES FOR JUDGING

ARRIVAL/FRONT OF HOUSE

(any comments appropriate)

STAGE PRESENTATION

(any comments regarding scenery, costume/make up/ tech)

PRODUCTION OR DIRECTION

(any comments appropriate, including Choreography and staging direction)

ON STAGE ACTION

(any comments in relation to acting, including chorus, main characters and musicality)

MAGIC MOMENT

(any comments appropriate)

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

AWARDS

From 2019/20, the ODN are rebranding the Panto Competition and introducing the following awards which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting each year.

- The All-Round Production – winner will be presented with the Deidre Jones Chalice.
- Rising Star Award for Under 18's
- Musical Award – this can include any incidental music, song, live performance.
- Best Costume
- Chorus Award
- Best Baddie
- Best Cameo
- Best Front of House experience
- Best Tech – this will include special effects, lighting, sound
- Magic Moment
- Best Comedy Performance

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/GALA

The 2020 **Annual General Meeting** and Gala Meeting will be held on **Friday 6th March at 7.30.**

We are inviting groups at the northern end of Oxfordshire to host the AGM. As you are all aware, for many years the AGM has been held in Drayton, but the Committee feel that the AGM should be moved around the County each year.

Please could representatives of the groups north of Oxford, contact a member of the Committee if they can help us.

Refreshments will be supplied by the ODN.

The AGM as can be seen above, will form part of the Gala Evening and presentation of the Winter Festival Awards.

Forthcoming Workshop with Michael Corbridge at The Corn Exchange Wallingford 1st – 3rd November 2019

We are enormously pleased to be able to offer ODN members the opportunity to take part in a weekend acting course with Michael Corbridge. Michael currently lectures in Acting, Performance, Voice and Classical Text at Rose Bruford College of the Arts across a wide variety of programs including 2 M.A. courses: Theatre for Young Audiences and Actor Musicianship. Also with American Theatre Arts BA, European Theatre Arts BA, Foundation and BA. He also guests at a number of UK establishments including: the Brit School. B.R.I.C.T.T. Brighton Institute for Contemporary Theatre Training, Central School. He is Senior Associate Practitioner with the Voice and Text department at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Senior Associate Education Practitioner with the Education Department.

Michael regularly works with NODA and the Little Theatre Guild and was one of the key people involved in Open Stages - the project to include amateurs in RSC productions around the UK - and therefore has a wealth of experience in how to get the best from amateur performers. His classes are enormous fun as well as highly informative and useful at a very practical level. Whilst he specialises in bring Shakespearean text to life, his workshops are of value to both actors and Directors in learning how to create performances that go way beyond learning the lines and not bumping into the furniture!

The cost will be £30 for the weekend (Friday evening – Sunday lunchtime) including buffet lunch on Saturday. This is being heavily subsidised by the Sinodun Players, so we would recommend that you book your place quickly. The workshop is limited to a maximum of 20 people. Minimum age of 16.

Finding, Freeing and Owning Your Effective Voice with Shakespeare's Text: Join Michael Corbridge, for some text play direct from the R.S.C.'s Rehearsal Room. This workshop will share with participants some of the essential skills and fundamental tool kit to explore:-

Voice and Text and its message actively.

Uniting Sound and Text in the Body:

This is a practical session to unlock a good, clear, natural, open and 'owned' voice, exploring:

How to discover your range and keep it flexible

Building awareness of vocal problems

Maintaining good vocal habits

Exploring the Text Tool Box

Text Detection

The Voice to Communicate

Understanding the muscularity of thought

How meaning can be sent clearly and effectively to the listener.

If you are interested in joining Michael's workshop weekend, 1 - 3 November, please contact Gloria Wright via chairman@drama.sinodunplayers.org.uk.

Banbury Cross Players

Banbury Young Homelessness Project have received a surprise donation of £500 from local theatre company Banbury Cross Players as a result of a win at the Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays.

BCP have taken part in the Festival since its inception in 2013 and, this year, were overall winners with their production of Mike Bartlett's Contractions. Mike Bartlett is a prolific, award-winning writer across many genres including Doctor Foster and King Charles III. Contractions started life as a radio play and was then transposed for stage. Director, Chrissie Garrett, says of the play "It's a dystopian piece, taking the audience through a roller coaster of a ride. It asks what lengths people will go to in order to conform. It demonstrates how big business could take over your life and, ultimately, be responsible for all decisions you make. I was convinced the first time I read the play it would a winner. I am delighted to have finally taken top honours at Lighthorne for BCP".

Director of the Festival, Rod Chaytor, says "Banbury Cross Players were the very first group to sign up to the idea of a Lighthorne Festival when we first began to canvass quality local theatre groups back in 2012, and we will always be grateful for that initial support. They are one of only three teams to have entered every year since its inception in 2013. It was an absolute delight to see them take the Trophy this year and with a production which merited it, one hundred percent. The two actors performed their roles brilliantly. It was a great show. We are thrilled BCP have been selected for the National Drama Festival Association's British All-Winners Finals and will be there to support them."

The Prize at the Lighthorne Festival is the largest in Amateur competition and is shared between the winning group and a charity of their choice. Director Chrissie Garrett says "I had no hesitation in choosing BYHP. Our decision to support this local charity was quickly and easily made as both director and actors have worked alongside the staff and young people that BYHP support. We are so impressed with the dedication and work of this local charity that we want to enable it to reach even more vulnerable local young people."

As a pre-cursor to the performance at Lighthorne (and also the Oxford Drama Network Festival in Abingdon), the cast and crew went to Adderbury Library where they performed a preview. "The play was very well received" says Chrissie, "and the audience engaged in a question and answer session afterwards. This proved very useful for the cast who were able to refine their performances in readiness for the two festivals". Profits from the Preview performance were donated to FOCAL (Friends of the Community of Adderbury Library).

Liz Wingrove, Chair of FOCAL said "Contractions was FANTASTIC. With around 30 guests watching the two female actors unravel their extremely dark story-line, we were all mesmerised, not knowing which way this extraordinary drama would play out! 45 minutes of suspense with the added bonus of being able to discuss with the cast and director what we had just witnessed. Brilliantly performed by the actors."

This wasn't quite the end of the story for BCP and their production of Contractions. As a result of the win at Lighthorne, they were invited to perform at the National Drama Festivals Association All-Winners Final on a much-larger professional stage at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre in

Woking, Surrey in July. Competing alongside 14 other winning companies from Drama Festivals nationally, BCP were delighted to come home with The Sydney Fisher Trophy – chosen by the backstage crew for the company they most enjoyed working with - as well as The Amateur Theatre Trophy Adjudicator's Award for cast members Nicola Dixon and Almira Brion. Adjudicator Jill Colby, a member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, said "They both had to be so different, but also a team, working off each other, which they did brilliantly. It was impossible to separate the two actors. It had to be a joint award." The awards were collected onstage on Saturday July 20 2019 by the play's technician, Robin Williams, from the hands of NDFA Patron and theatrical knight Sir Derek Jacobi.

LETTERS

Dear ODN

As you may know, since my daughter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, I have been writing stage plays to raise money for MS research. The plays have been doing well in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. I am now approaching the fifty thousand pounds mark - this money has been sent to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

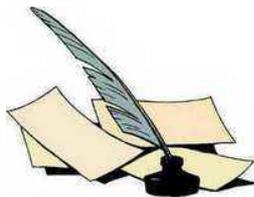
Here is the link to my page on their website:-

www.mssociety.org.uk/care-and-support/online-community/community-blog/raymond-hopkins-plays---raising-money-for-ms

RaymondHopkins

Raymond usually attends our AGM, and his plays (farical comedies!) can be found via the Publishers Page on the ODN website, or at:-

www.RaymondHopkins.com (Editor)



CASTING

HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

We are making plans for our Jan 2020 Panto

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly Sisters

This panto is set in the wild west, so plenty of opportunity for rootin' tootin' foot stamping fun!

We will be holding a talk in/reading/casting call one afternoon in October.

If you are interested in joining us, on or off stage, please come along to Hanney War Memorial Hall on Sunday October 6th at 2.30pm.

For further info please email

lyndahart1@hotmail.com

We would love to see you there as we put on a jolly good panto.

OH YES WE DO!

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

PANTO CASTING DATES!

Snow White by Richard Wilson

Wednesday 9th October

(first cast read through Thursday 10th October)

both at 7.30pm in the ADC clubhouse

We will be staging Snow White by ADC member Richard Wilson during the middle weeks of January 2020. The play reading went down really well the other night with those who were there.

As always with panto there are plenty of parts for all, especially as there are seven "dwarfs".

So if you'd like to be involved it matters not what experience you have, if you think you can't dance or sing, or if you are an ADC member. As ever if you want to be involved you just have to come along to one of the casting nights as they are open to everyone.

We hope to see you there to find out more and get involved.

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Nell Gwynn

We have **read through and auditions** for Jessica Swale's Nell Gwynn (our Feb 2020 production) on 29 October and 7 November respectively, both 7.30pm at the Mill. Anyone welcome to attend.

A deliciously bawdy production bursting with song and dance which pays homage to a woman incredibly ahead of her time. This is an exciting ensemble piece and everyone will be involved in the main singing and dancing numbers.

There are 14 parts to be filled.

See our website for more details.

AMEGOS

THEATRE

THEY HAD IT

COMING!

Auditions for **CHICAGO**

are taking place on Sunday 8th December

AmEgos Theatre are thrilled to announce that their spring show in April 2020 will be the award-winning Kander & Ebb musical CHICAGO

If you want to join us on stage, open auditions take place on 8th December.

To register your interest and receive further information, please email

AmEgos.Theatre@gmail.com



HENLEY AODS

Are You Being Served



By Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft
(the authors of 'Allo 'Allo)

Readings and Auditions

Performance:-

HAODS Dinner Theatre, February 19 – 22, 2020

The HAODS Studio, New St, Henley, RG92BP

This well loved sit-com is going to be given the HAODS treatment as the subject of our ever popular annual dinner theatre.

Catering by Steve Luscombe, of Luscombe at the Golden Ball at Lower Assendon.

Readings 27 November & 2 December, 7.45pm

Auditions 4 December, 7.45pm

In the HAODS Studio, New St, Henley, RG92BP

If you would like to be a part of this iconic sit-com, please contact me,

Julie Huntington at hunting311@aol.com

WOODCOTE A.D.S. DIRECTOR WANTED

for Pantomime in Jan/Feb

Does anyone out there wish to direct our January production. It is normally a pantomime but we are open to other suggestions as we have no-one available to do this.

We have had a production for the last 50+ years and have only missed one in that time.

There are people who I am sure want to be in the production but no one to take the lead.

The person needs to be available from end October and performances are booked for 25/26 Jan and 1/2 Feb 2020. Our normal rehearsal night is Thursday.

If anyone is interested please contact me -

Marcia Spiers

marciespiers@hotmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Handbagged

by Moira Buffini

Handbagged is a play by the British playwright Moira Buffini, examining the relationship between Elizabeth



II of the United Kingdom and Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister from 1979 to 1990. The title derives from the verb coined early in Margaret Thatcher's term to evoke the effects emanating from her personal handbag as it became an emphatic political prop and visible symbol of her power.

The play received positive reviews, with one commentator describing it as 'very funny...if occasionally overstretched', and that the play had a 'buoyant, meta-theatrical playfulness' due to its repeated breaking of the fourth wall.

When: 1-5 October 2019

Where: Wesley Memorial Church, New Hall Inn Street.

Tickets: see www.OxfordTheatreGuild.com

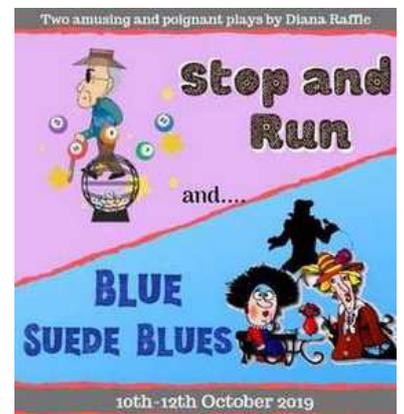
WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Proudly presents:

Two one-act plays

'Stop and Run' and
'Blue Suede Blues'

by Diana Raffle



Stop and Run

When Eileen Dodds sent her husband out to get a portion of chips and two pickled eggs, she never suspected he would run off with the shop owner and not be seen for five years - but that's exactly what happened! Thirty years later, Eileen returns from a holiday with Raymond, a blind bingo caller, who she intends to marry in a week's time! But is Raymond only after her money? And will Eileen ever find true happiness? What Fun!

Blue Suede Blues

Grace and Lily reside in a nursing home with little to do but witness a senile resident impersonating Elvis Presley. Grey-haired and wrinkled Grace may be, but she's determined to add a dash of spice to her life to break the tedium. She inveigles the unwilling Lily into helping her kidnap the young care assistant, Pansy,

for the ransom of a bottle of gin, a packet of fags and a budgie, but things don't go quite according to plan - with hilarious results!

When: 10th-12th October - 7.30pm (8pm Friday)

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

Tickets £10 / £8 concessions - over 65's from: Rapture Entertainment, Woolgate Centre, Witney – or Margaret Hamm (Tel: 01993 704032)

www.witneydrama.co.uk/index.php/next-show or On the door

HENLEY PLAYERS Dangerous Corner

by JB Priestley

Henley Players present JB Priestley's well-crafted story. A thriller of truth, secrets and lies, where one loose word leads to an explosive combination of suspicions and emotions.

The examination and exposure of the relationships of dinner party guests leads to a series of revelations with sinister possibilities building towards a gripping climax, a classic thriller.

When: Wed 16 - Sat 19 Oct, 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat

Where: Kenton Theatre, 19 New Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BP

Tickets: £13-£15 (Conc avail) from www.kentontheatre.co.uk

Website: www.henleyplayers.com



SINODUN PLAYERS Blood Wedding

by Federico Garcia Lorca.

Lorca's 1932 emotional tale of family animosity. Blood Wedding is based on the true story of a passionate and repressed love affair, where the concept of human fatality is inevitable.



"Knives, knives. Cursed be all knives and the scoundrel who invented them."

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

It is a tragedy that plays out the conflict between individual wishes and societal decrees and laws; The play focuses on a woman and the two men who love her - their tragedy is the tragedy of love missed.

It examines the societal norms that keep her from being with the man she loves. It explores the behaviour that drives our humanity by exposing a love that was denied yet never forgotten and the consequences of society, social standing, repression, desire, betrayal and loss.

When: Wed 16th – Sat 19th October at 7.45pm

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

Tickets: £12 from Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000 or

www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/blood-wedding

Website: www.sinodunplayers.org.uk

WOODCOTE DRAMATIC SOCIETY Murder Mystery

Sea Salt & Slaughter
by Karen Ince.

When: 17th 18th 19th October
at 8 pm (Bar opens 7.30)

Where: Woodcote Village Hall

Tickets: are £12.50 each and include nibbles, a ploughmans supper, pudding and coffee.

from woodcotedrama.co.uk

or email

boxoffice@woodcotedrama.co.uk



ATOMIC THEATRE Blackadder Goes Forth

4 episodes of the 16th best TV sitcom - Captain Cook, General Hospital, Major Star and Goodbye.

Performed by local group Atomic Theatre in support of "Comic Relief" and "Movember".

Comic Relief is a major UK charity, with a vision of a just world, free from poverty.

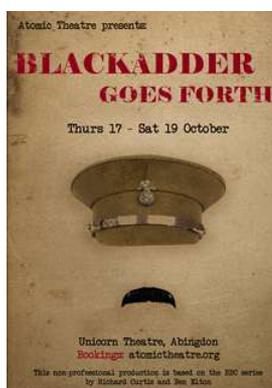
The Movember Foundation is the charity that promotes men's health.

When: Thu 17th - Sat 19th Oct at 7.30pm + 2.30pm Saturday matinee

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3JB

Tickets: £12 from a link on our website:-

Website: www.atomictheatre.org



ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Evita

by Andrew
Lloyd Webber
and Tim Rice



Set in Argentina between 1934 and 1952, Evita tells the story of 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: Tue 22nd - Sat 26th October at 7.30pm (plus a 2.30pm matinee on Sat 26th October)

Where: Amey Theatre at Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE

Tickets: Online at www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk or enquire at: tickets@abingdonoperatic.co.uk by phone: 0333 666 3366

Buy balcony seats at Newbury Building Society, Abingdon

KIDLINGTON A.O.S.

'Kiss me Kate'

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

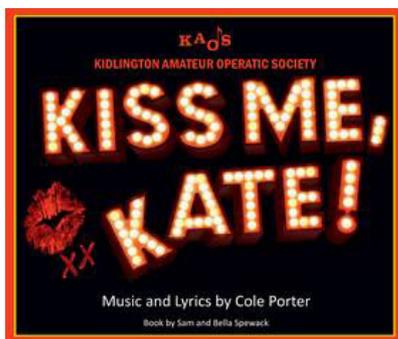
Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society (KAOS) will be performing the West End and Broadway classic 'Kiss me Kate' this October.

When: Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 October 2019

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 pm

Where: Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 2NT

Tickets: £13 (£8 for children and full-time students) online at www.kaos.news or by phoning Box Office 01865 375613 also from Alison's Animals; Garden City; Anemone Florists, Kidlington Centre; Building Supplies, High Street.



BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY

Crazy for You

by George and Ira Gershwin

Bobby Child agrees to investigate a customer who has defaulted on a mortgage in hot, quiet Deadrock, Nevada, a gold mining town that's seen better days!

The owner, Everett Baker receives a letter from New York warning of foreclosure on the Gaiety Theatre.

Bobby falls in love with the Theatre owner's daughter Polly at first sight, not realising who she is. They comes up with a plan – put on a show to pay off the mortgage.

Will Bobby get into showbiz? Will he get his girl? Will the show go ahead? Will the theatre be saved? To find out, you'll have to come and see the show.

With the close harmony work, and fun lyrics, it's a great show. We have a barber shop effect in the Cowboy Trio, and numbers that range from the beautiful ballad "Someone to watch over me" to the sparkling "I got rhythm". It's classic Gershwin - who could ask for anything more?

When: Tue 29th October to Saturday 2nd November

Where: Wykham Theatre, Wykham Park Academy, Ruskin Road, Banbury, OX16 9HY. Curtain up at 7.30pm nightly.

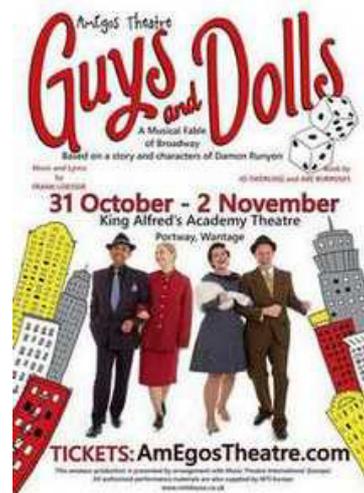
Tickets: £15 for adults and £13 for concessions (under 16 and over 65)

online: www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk/tickets from Edd Frost & Daughters Family Funeral Directors, 36 Timms Road, Banbury, OX16 9DN.

BOS Website: www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk,

AMEGOS Guys & Dolls

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, Guys And Dolls is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend, nightclub performer Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for 14 years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler Sky Masterson for the dough, but Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown. Guys And Dolls takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.



Frank Loesser's brassy, immortal score makes Guys And Dolls a crowd pleaser.

When: Thur 31st Oct - Sat 2nd Nov

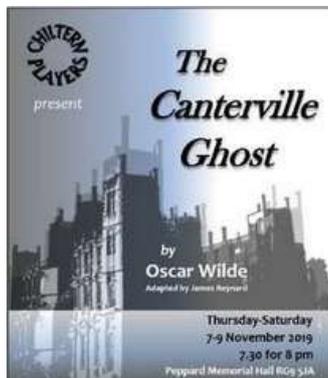
Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage

Tickets: see www.amegostheatre.com

CHILTERN PLAYERS D.G. The Canterville Ghost

by James Reynard,

Based on Oscar Wilde's 1887 short story and adapted for the stage by James Reynard, The Canterville Ghost is not your average ghost story as it is full of humour and fun and presents a very different take of a haunted house.



Despite warnings of a ghost, the Otis family from America take up residence in the English stately home, Canterville Chase. The warnings are indeed true but the family coming from a new country which 'does not have the same attitude to the spectral world' is undismayed and the ghost finds himself in the unfamiliar and unwelcome position of being the tormented instead of tormentor.

Daughter of the family, Virginia, befriends the ghost and resolves to find a solution which is satisfactory to all.

This version of the story has been given a festive setting to get you in the mood for Christmas!

When: Thurs 7th, Friday 8th and Sat 9th November

Doors are open 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Where: Peppard Memorial Hall, Peppard Common, RG9 5JA.

Tickets: £10.00 (£8.00 for 15 years and younger) additional information from 0751 239 2625

Website: www.chilternplayers.co.

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

'Our Country's Good'

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Australia 1789, in Britain's first penal colony, an ill-assorted crew of convicts and one of their captors, a Lieutenant of Marines, put



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

on a play to celebrate the King of England's birthday. The Governor is supportive but not all those in the isolated colony are keen on the idea. Are the convicts there to be punished or rehabilitated?

This Olivier Award winning play, based on a true story which is far stranger than fiction, was first written and performed in 1988 and became an immediate 'Modern Classic'. It celebrates the redemptive and transcendental power of theatre. FDS are delighted to be able to bring it to Faringdon as their November production. Please note the play contains strong language and deals with adult themes.

When: 7 November 2019 - 7:30pm - 9 November 2019 - 7:30pm

Where: Faringdon Junior School

Tickets: from www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

GORING GAP PLAYERS Sense and Sensibility

by Jessica Swales

A modern adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense & Sensibility is set early 1800's, dressed in classic Regency Costumes.

The story is of the destiny of the four Dashwood women and how they survive being swindled out of their inheritance by their greedy half brother, and his cruel wife Fanny. Luckily for them their jolly cousin Sir John

provides them with a small but drafty cottage in Devonshire, quite unlike their Norland Park. Their bossy nose neighbour Mrs Jennings clucks around Elinor and Marianne Dashwood determined to find husbands for them before the season is over. A whirlwind of social events are planned of pic-nics, croquet, musical evenings and a London Ball for the girls to be paraded in public for a suitor. We follow the tragic twists and turns of love for both of the Dashwood girls, and are kept in suspense as to who will marry who. This is a colourful, fast paced, comedy, not to be missed.

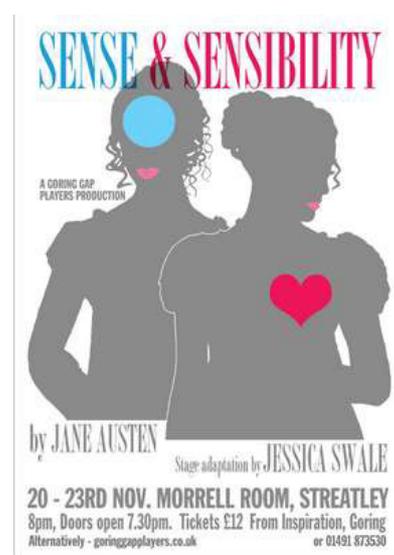
When: 20 - 23rd November 2019.

Doors Open: 7:30 Curtain Up : 8pm

Where: Morrell Room, Streatley.

Tickets: 01491 873530, or Inspiration Shop, Goring

Website: www.goringgaplayers.co.uk



BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

The Thrill of Love

by Amanda Whittington

The Thrill of Love is a stylish, devised piece of theatre, exploring the events that led up to the last execution of a woman in Britain - Ruth Ellis.

Ruth Ellis is a young divorcee with a young child to care for. She works in the kind of nightclub where there's more than just a drink on offer. The girls work hard, play hard and dream of a movie-star life. Ruth meets the wealthy, womanising David, a racing driver with whom she becomes obsessed. Fame comes – but not in the way she imagined.

Ruth's story raises many questions. Why does Ruth and David's relationship end in murder? Why does she plead not guilty but offer no defence? Why does she show no remorse? Who is she trying to protect?

Amanda Whittington's acclaimed play is set in the mid 1950s. Despite the story specifically surrounding one woman, it is definitely an ensemble piece.

When: 20-23 November 2019.

Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury

Tickets: from banburycrossplayers.org.uk



DORCHESTER A.D.S.

Treasure Island

When:

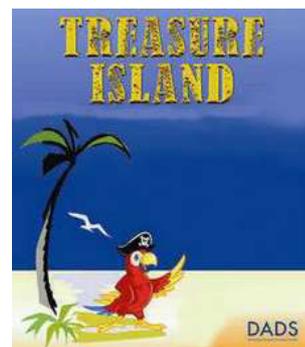
Wed-Fri 20-22 Nov at 7pm
+ Sat 23 Nov at 4.30pm

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

Tickets:

Wed £8 (under 12s £6).
Thu - Sat £10
(under 12s £8)

from: ticketsource.co.uk/dads (booking fee applies)
or from Dorchester on Thames Co-op



HENLEY AODS

Jesus Christ Superstar

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Lyrics by Tim Rice

This amazing rock opera, the very first of its genre, is being given a new look... Steam Punk!

Musically this is a challenging sing, as there are no spoken words but our MD, Jane Southern is continuing to pull the magic out of the hat. Each character has their own motif – even God!

When: November 20-23, 2019

Where: Kenton Theatre, 19 New Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BP

Tickets: from www.kentontheatre.co.uk

Box Office: 01491 575 698 Adult £18,
Senior/Student/Friend/Keeper £17, Child £12

Website: www.haods.org

COMPTON PLAYERS

Bothered and Bewildered

By Gail Young

This is a comedy drama about one woman's struggle with Alzheimer's.

The play follows Irene and her two daughters Louise and Beth as the girls lose their mum in spirit but not in body. As her family struggle to come to terms with her Alzheimer's, Irene's past passion for romantic literature blurs with reality. She spends hours discussing how best to write her 'memory book' with her imaginary friend and favourite author Barbara Cartland (the deceased world famous romantic novelist), disclosing long kept family secrets that she would never divulge to her daughters.

This tragi-comedy is about memory, loss, secrets and, above all, love.

When: 20th to 23rd November, 7:30pm

Where: Compton Village Hall, Burrell Rd, Compton, Newbury RG20 6NP

Website: and tickets: www.comptonplayers.co.uk

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DG

Beauty and The Beast

The National Theatre Company production.

This tale 'as old as time' includes magic, puppets, a prince and princess and a whirlwind story of love.

A family show,

When: Thu 21st & Fri 22nd
Nov 7pm and Sat 23rd Nov
at 2pm and 6.30pm.

Where: Kingston Bagpuize
and Southmoor Village Hall,
Draycott Rd, Southmoor,
OX13 5BY

Refreshments and a fully
licensed bar will be
available.

Tickets: from

www.kbdgshow.com or by calling 01865 821812

£9.00 adults and £6.00 children, family tickets (2+2)

£28.00 'Early Bird' family tickets are £25.00 if booked
and paid for by 19th October.



THE BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

Abigail's Party

by Mike Leigh

"Abigail's Party" is a suburban situation comedy of manners, and a satire on the aspirations and tastes of the new middle class that emerged in Britain in the 1970s.



The terrain is "the London side of Essex", "theoretical Romford" according to Leigh. Beverly Moss invites her new neighbours, and her neighbour, whose fifteen-year-old daughter Abigail is holding a party at home. The gathering starts off in a stiff, insensitive, British middle-class way as the virtual strangers tentatively gather, until Beverly and husband Laurence start sniping at each other. As she serves more drinks and the alcohol takes effect, Beverly flirts more and more overtly with neighbour Tony, as Laurence sits impotently by....

When: 27th–30th November 2019

Where: Eynsham Village Hall

Tickets: from Denise Santilli 07721 744020

bart.players@gmail.com

or Ticketsource

or "Evenlode DIY" in Eynsham

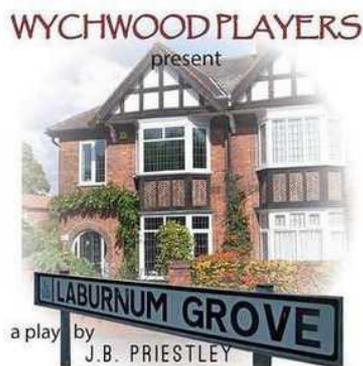
Tickets are also available on the door

WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

Laburnum Grove

by J B Priestley.

George Redfern leads a dull yet respectable life in Laburnum Grove – but he is burdened by sponging relatives and a family who don't appreciate him. His relations get plenty of excitement - and we get plenty of fun - when he finally loses patience with them and they no longer know what to believe.



Set in the 1930s, this play evokes period charm but Priestley's exploration of family relations, greed and honesty creates an immoral dramatic comedy fit for today.

An early work by the classic playwright J. B Priestley.

When: Thu 28th to Sat 30th November at 7.30 pm

Where: The New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood OX7 6BQ.

For ticket information please visit:

www.wychwoodplayers.com

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Cinderella

A Traditional Family
Pantomime

by Rex Walford & Iris
Lloyd

"Cinderella" is a typical rags to riches story, with all the usual elements along the way - Wicked Step-mother, Ugly sisters, a handsome

prince, a beautiful maiden with a Fairy Godmother, plus a comic duo. Suitable for all ages

The **VENUES** are:-

Sat 30 Nov, 3pm & 7pm - Harwell Village Hall

Tickets from Bob's Butchers, Harwell

Sun 8 Dec, 3pm & 7pm - East Challow Village Hall

Tickets from Mill Street Hair, Wantage

Sun 15 Dec, 3pm & 7pm - Old Mill Hall, Grove

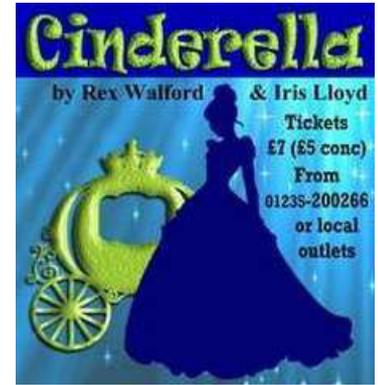
Tickets from Brett's Chemist, Grove

Tickets: £7 and £5 (Concessions)

From 01235-200266

Or from local sales outlets above

www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk



ST PETER'S PLAYERS

Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs.

When: Wed 4th – Sat 7th December

Where: Wolvercote Village Hall

Website: www.stpetersplayers.co.uk

THAME PLAYERS

Dick Whittington

This classic tale retold by Tony Long will be a traditional rendering of the pantomime, with a dame, a principal boy and a beautiful heroine along with a very clever cat.



When: 6th -15th

Dec Wed-Sun 7.30pm

also 2pm Sat & Sun

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

Tickets: www.thameplayers.co.uk

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

"Snow White"

by club member Richard Wilson.

Based on the original story we all know and love, the Evil Queen is enraged when her Magic Mirror informs her that she is not "the fairest of them all".



Snow White is forced to flee from the Queen and her henchmen, Bodge & Splodge, but finds help and support from life-long friend Buttons, his mum Dame Bunting, a handsome Prince and seven "dwarves".

Exciting, uplifting and funny, find out who really is Snow White's true love.

When: January 2020 -

Fri 10th, Sat 11th, & Thu 16th, - Sat 18th @ 7.30pm

Sat 11th, Sun 12th, Sat 18th @ 2.30pm

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon.

Tickets: from November at the usual places.

www.abingdon-drama-club.com for more details.

OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

Crazy For You

The New Gershwin Musical!

In a world of showgirls and cowboys, Gershwin's musical comedy is the classic tale of a city boy and a country girl who fall in love and try to save a theatre... the old-fashioned way!

Stage-struck banker Bobby Child desperately longs for a career in show-business. Whilst working out-of-town Bobby falls for postmistress Polly Baker whose



father owns the crumbling Gaiety Theatre. Bobby decides to save the theatre and win Polly's heart, but will his plan be a success?

Award-winning OXOPS return to the Oxford Playhouse with this feel-good show, featuring the hits Someone to Watch over Me, Slap That Bass and I've Got Rhythm.

When: 20th – 25th Jan 7:30pm (+ 2:30pm Sat Mat)

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

Tickets: £10-£24 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com

KENNINGTON ADS

Cinderella

by Alan P Frayn

We're really looking forward to bringing this well-known tale to the stage for the fourth time in our 40 years!

Tickets are on sale and are selling well, so although January seems a long way off it would be a good idea to get your tickets sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

When: Friday 24th January 7.30pm ~ all tickets £8

Saturday 25th 2pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 26th 12pm and 5pm

Thursday 30th 7.30pm

Friday 31st 7.30pm

Saturday 1st February 2pm and 7.30pm

Where: Kennington Village Centre:

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

Box Office on 01865 739025

or email boxoffice@kenningtonads.co.uk

Payment in cash, by cheque or BACS.

Facebook: @KenningtonADS for latest news

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK COMMITTEE 2019-2020

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