

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



OCTOBER 2022

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

After a quiet summer, many of us are rehearsing for a pantomime. If you are, then don't forget to enter your production into our Winter Festival. We are presenting a variety of awards not just an overall winner, also remember it's open to anything 'seasonal'.



We have not received any reviews for this edition, so ask ODN to send a reviewer for your production, or maybe write your own of something you've seen.

Mike Davies

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

28Sep-1 Oct Sinodun Players Twelfth Night

OCTOBER

15 Bicester Choral & Operatic Society
Vivaldi Magnificat & Gloria

19-22 *Henley Players* **Ladies in Lavender**

24-29 Banbury Operatic Society
There's No Business Like Show Business

25-29 Abingdon Operatic Society **Me And My Girl**

26-29 Compton Players **Happy Acres**

27-29 *Witney Dramatic Society* **Two one-act plays**

29 Bartholomew Players **Blokes of a Feather**

31Oct Oxford Theatre Guild
 -5Nov **After Edward**

NOVEMBER

10-18 Didcot Phoenix **Nooses Off**

17-19 *Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group* **Aladdin**

18,19 Drayton Players **'Deckchairs'**

18,19 *Wantage Sings* **Weathering the Seasons**

23-26 Goring Gap Players **Two 1-Act Plays:**

24-26 *Wychwood Players* **Ghost Train**

30Nov Bartholomew Players
 -3Dec **Rutherford and Son**

DECEMBER

3-11 Jigsaw Stage Productions **Aladdin**

3,4 **ACTS** **Who killed the secret agent?**

15-31 *Buttercross Theatre Productions* **Aladdin**

16,17 **BODS** **A Christmas Carol**

17 Bicester Choral & Operatic Society
Sleigh Bells Ring!

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hi Everyone

Hope you all enjoyed your summer and are raring to go with your Autumn/Winter productions. I can see from the Facebook page that rehearsals are in full swing for many groups, and I look forward to seeing many of them over the coming months. We will be announcing details of our Winter Festival in the coming weeks so keep your eyes peeled.



The National Festival Circuit has just kicked off in Cambridge with the Cambridge Festival of Drama, and was won by the Combined Actors of Cambridge with an original piece called "The Medici Stars" by member David Sear about the friendship that turned sour between astronomer, Galileo Galilei and Maffeo Barberini who became a Pope. The play picked up 4 awards including best original script.

The next festival on the circuit is the Woking Drama Festival at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre 5th-15thOctober and I'm thrilled to see that ODN member, Henley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (HAODS), will be performing "The Devil and The Dove" by Piers Burnell on Friday 14th. Some of you may have seen this stunningly visual piece of theatre at the ODN festival in June, which then went on to be selected for the National Drama Festival in Coventry. I'm sure that we all wish Piers and his team all the best, and if you haven't had a chance to see it yet, it's well worth a trip. (The Rhoda McGaw Theatre is attached to a large Shopping Centre / Cinema / Restaurant complex with a multi-storey parking – so definitely worth a day trip!)

Best wishes

Karen Carey (Chair)

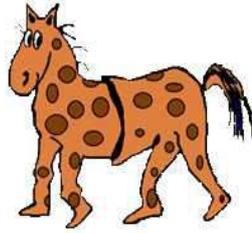
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OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK

PANTO/WINTER PRODUCTION FESTIVAL 2022/2023



Once again we will be running our Winter Competition for pantomimes as well as Seasonal Plays, Musicals etc. Below is a list of some of the awards that we will be presenting next year at our AGM.

The entry form to enter your production into the Festival will be available to download from our website in the very near future, or email us to send you a copy

AWARDS

The following are typical of the awards which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting next year.

- The All-Round Production .
- 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

Holding Successful Auditions

By Ben Crocker

Of all the many jobs you need to do, this is one of the most important – so here are a few thoughts to help you make the exercise as successful as possible.

Ensure a good turnout

This may seem obvious, but don't schedule auditions on a day when there are likely to be competing events. You want as many people as possible through the door. Cajole, arm twist, flatter – give yourself the best possible pool of people to cast from.

The 80% rule

Many professional directors consider that casting can determine 80% of the success of their production. (And that includes me!) If you get the right people – even if all you do is turn up and read the paper whilst they get on with it – the show will probably turn out ok. Conversely, get the wrong people and there is virtually nothing you can do to turn things around!

Of course, it's rarely quite as stark as this – and you probably don't intend to turn up and just read the newspaper – but the key point is, don't delude yourself. If someone isn't right for the part you won't be able to make them right, however much work you do with them.

Make it easy

Make sure everyone has the opportunity to read through the relevant bits of text prior to the audition. (Maybe set up links to excerpts on your website?)

Remember, not everyone is able to sight read well, so you need to give them every opportunity to give of their best.

Keep it short

Choose short excerpts to read. (No more than two pages.) If you want to see more, much better to read the same excerpt again.

Make the odd suggestion

If you are interested in someone and want to hear more, don't just ask them to read again without any feedback. Ask them to make some sort of simple change the next time they read. (And simple is important – not a string of instructions!) Ask them to make it more urgent, or louder, or faster, or to use more of themselves in the character – or anything that seems appropriate. It can be much more revealing than just reading again.

Ask for volume and projection

Just like Shakespeare, Pantomime is a heightened style. It doesn't really work unless there is a bit of attack behind it. Request your performers to give you a reading that will get to the back of the Hall. It may well help to liberate their inner clown or baddie!

Funny bones

Some people are just funnier than others! There's not much you can do about this – it's true in both amateur and professional theatre – but it is essential that the actors you choose for dame and the leading comic roles, have funny bones – it's innate and you can't really teach it.

Singing

Good singing is always a bonus, but not everyone needs to sing beautifully in pantomime. However, it really does help if your principal boy and girl have nice singing voices. (Either that, or cut the romantic numbers!)



Try to make sure that you end up with a good blend of voices throughout the company, but be prepared to be flexible. A warm, funny, likeable dame who can't sing a note is much more valuable to you than a superb singer without those qualities!

Make it fun

You want a nice informal and friendly atmosphere. Everyone does better when they are enjoying themselves!

Don't be afraid to re-call

If you can't make up your mind between two performers, ask to see them again. Often a second appraisal can bring things into focus.

Hold more auditions

If you weren't happy with the turnout the first time, renew the arm twisting and try and see some more people. Good luck!

Ben Crocker Pantomimes

Mob: 07790 595352

Email: ben@bencrockerpantomimes.com

Website: www.bencrockerpantomimes.com

Building Acting Skills

Improvisation Games and Exercises for Character Development

Games

A-to-Z

The director, an actor, or the audience picks a place or theme, such as "the grocery store" or "superheroes save the day." Then, choose an actor to start the scene with dialogue beginning with the letter A. Set a time limit to encourage quick thinking and fluidity! After the first line of dialogue is delivered, each subsequent actor makes sure their line begins with the next letter of the alphabet, while also moving the story forward. For example:

Actor One: Ah, man! I lost my glasses!

Actor Two: Bummer!

Actor Three: Can't you just get a new pair?

Actor One: Don't have enough money.

Actor Two: Exactly how much do you need?

Actors continue in this fashion until someone either misses a letter in the alphabetical sequence or goes over the time limit, at which point they're eliminated and another actor picks up the scene where the last actor left off. This can go on until just one actor remains, or each eliminated actor can be replaced by another waiting in the wings. If you manage to reach the end of the alphabet, loop back around or end the game.

Freeze

Choose a place or theme and designate an actor not onstage as "the freezer." Have the two actors onstage begin to improvise a scene. At some point in the scene, "the freezer"



can yell "Freeze!" and the onstage actors must freeze in their exact positions. (Consider making a rule to wait at least 30 seconds to "freeze" a scene so that the actors get into a groove.) Once the actors are frozen, the freezer replaces whichever actor they choose, resuming the exact position in which that actor had frozen. Then, the new actor starts the scene again, but with a different theme based on their frozen positions. For instance, a sword fight might become a baseball game. A jog through the park could become a fashion shoot. A poker game could become a sewing circle.

This can go on as long as you'd like, with new actors cycling in with their own improvised themes.

Exercises

It's always good to focus on character development. Below are three activities to help you with different dimensions of this, including physicality and relationships.

Props

Put a pile of props in the middle of the stage. Have all actors grab a different prop and line up at the front of the stage. One by one, actors introduce themselves as a character they have developed based on the prop they chose. Have the actors develop the character based on the Five Ws (who, what, when, where, and why).

For example, an actor chooses a baseball cap: "Hi! My name is Jack (who), and I'm coaching my son's little league team (what) this summer (when). I'm a Cubs fan, born and raised right here in Chicago (where). I volunteered to coach this season because I don't see my son as much since I've started working so much overtime (why). I'm afraid I'll lose my job if I refuse to pick up the extra hours they're asking me to take." How much backstory can each actor create from one simple prop? After every character is introduced, have your actors swap props or pick entirely new ones.

Where do you lead from?

Physicality is a huge part of character development. Many famous characters have very distinct characteristics, such as Quasimodo's hunch or Richard III's limp. But almost everyone has some mannerisms they likely don't even notice, such as biting nails, tucking hair behind the ear, or cracking knuckles. Another unique mannerism is how one walks.

Have an actor cross the stage in their normal fashion, repeatedly walking back and forth. As they do so, have the other actors (the audience) observe and try to identify how the onstage actor "leads," as in, what part of their body movement catches the audience's eye? Do they lead with their chest, pronounced and forward? Do they lead with the bottom of their shoes, kicking up their feet as they take their next steps? Or maybe they lead with their forehead, with their head pushed forward?

Once the other actors have established how the onstage actor walks, ask the onstage actor to change their walk to contradict their natural style. For instance, if the actor normally walks with shoulders back, have them hunch forward more and hang their arms down. Have them consciously lead with their knees, their hands, or their eyes. Whatever you do, encourage actors to get out of their comfort zone and dramatically change the way they move — shorten their stride, speed up their steps, alter their rhythm, shuffle their feet, etc.

After you've cast your show, ask each actor to dissect how they think their character would walk, then experiment and implement those movements.

Relationships

This exercise is useful once you've cast your show. After assigning roles and familiarizing yourself and your cast with the script and story, have the cast gather in a circle. Then, have them look to the other actors and consider what they think their relationship is with each other character.

Be sure to define "relationship!" Too many times, young actors see the word "relationship" and think of a romantic interest. But relationships exist with every person you come in contact with. The relationship could be an integral part of your life, like a parent-child relationship, or it could be a small and insignificant, fleeting moment, like a checkout clerk at a store. Still, each moment is important to lead you to where you are right now. And the same goes for characters in a show.

For example, consider Alice from any version of Alice in Wonderland. What is Alice's relationship with the White Rabbit? With Mad Hatter? With the Queen of Hearts? What about with herself?

After all actors have had time to consider their relationships with each other, have them write out their interpretations of the significant relationships, creating part of their backstory. Of course, there is no wrong answer. But by giving it considerable thought, this exercise helps actors better interact with each other.

Pioneer Drama Service
www.PioneerDrama.com



HAODS (Henley) Need a "Ko-Ko" For The HOT Mikado.

HAODs are looking for someone to play **Ko-ko!** (age 30-50), who needs to have good comic timing.... "I've got a little list...."

This is of course, the "swing" version of the show... with lots of fun costumes and the band on stage!

Performances are 16-19 November, at the lovely Kenton Theatre in Henley

If you're interested, contact me on hunting311@aol.com

or 07831 546047

Many thanks in anticipation!

Julie Huntington

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Our first play next year will be

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swale

Auditions

7.30pm on 2nd, 7th, 10th November.

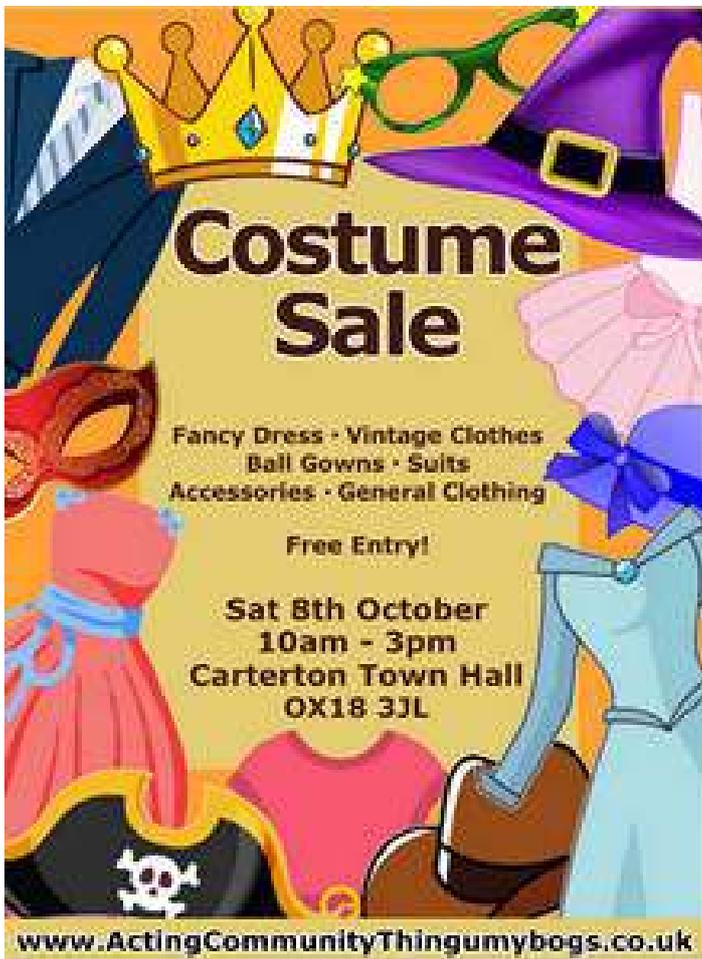
Auditionees will need to sign up for one of these dates in advance. Details about auditions should appear on our website, once the procedures for signing up on line have been set up.

Auditions, as always with OTG, will be open to members and non-members alike.

Performances will be at the Oxford Playhouse, 21st - 25th March 2023.

Website: www.oxfordtheatreguild.com

Email: secretary@oxfordtheatreguild.com



Carterton Town Hall, Alvescot Road, OX18 3JL

Free entry.

Fancy Dress, vintage clothing, ball gowns, suits, accessories, general clothing

www.actingcommunitythingumybags.co.uk

Our full title is "Acting Community Thingumybags for Save the Children", because we give all our profits to Save the Children fund. With this years panto we hope to add to the £92000 raised for the charity so far. We are having a bit of a clear out of costumes and props due to downsizing our storage space, all the money raised from the sale will help fund this years pantomime "Once upon a Time".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SINODUN PLAYERS

Twelfth Night

By William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's classic comedy of love and deception is transported to the Art Deco period of the 1920s and set in the



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

sumptuous Hotel Illyria on the Italian Riviera. In this sleek and stylish new production, salted with comedy, romance and specially composed songs, tempers flare as passions rise under an unforgiving sun, leading to conflict, confusion and humiliation.

When: 28th September to 1st October 2022

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

Tickets: www.cornexchange.org.uk

Website: www.sinodunplayers.org.uk

BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY Vivaldi Magnificat & Gloria

We kick off with Vivaldi's well known and stunning Gloria, along with his less well known, but equally amazing, Magnificat. Accompanied by The Oxford Sinfonia and professional soloists you won't want to miss it.

When: Sat 15 Oct 2022, at 7:30pm

Where: St Edburg's Church, Old Place Yard, Bicester OX26 6AU

Tickets: from www.bcoswesing.org.uk/tickets

OR: Cole's Books store in Crown Walk, Bicester

Website: www.bcoswesing.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/BicesterChoral



HENLEY PLAYERS Ladies in Lavender

Adapted for stage by Shaun Mckenna;

A heart-warming story of unfulfilled dreams and unrequited love, it tells the tale of two retired sisters, Ursula and Janet, living in a close-knit fishing village in picturesque Cornwall in 1936.

A handsome and talented young Polish violinist bound for America is washed up on the shore.

The sisters take him under their wing and nurse him back to health: however, the presence of the



mysterious young man disrupts their peaceful lives and the community in which they live.

This is a beautiful, poignant and award-winning piece of theatre, Based on the film written and directed by Charles Dance; From a short story by William J. Locke

When: 19–22 October 2022 at 7:30 pm
+ Matinee Sat 22nd Oct at 2:30 pm

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

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

Website: www.henleyplayers.com

BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY

There's No Business Like Show Business

A wonderful show produced by Banbury Operatic Society and featuring songs from musicals performed by BOS over the course of our 60 years bringing 'show business' to Banbury!

Fully staged, costumed and choreographed, with a live theatre orchestra, the show features a wide variety of musical numbers, including from the rollicking Pirates of Penzance to South Pacific, Merrie England to Mack and Mable, My Fair Lady to Calamity Jane, Guys and Dolls to Anything Goes and lots more in between.

When: Thu 24 - Sat 29 October at 7.30pm
+ Matinee Sat 29th at 2.30pm

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

Tickets: £14 (£12 conc) from
www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk/tickets

Website: www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Me And My Girl

We'll be
'Doing
The
Lambeth
Walk'
around
Abingdon
in October



Me And My Girl was originally a roaring success in the 1930s, when it seemed the whole of the

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

UK was mad about The Lambeth Walk and pearly kings and queens.

Then, in the early 1980s, the show was revised by Stephen Fry and Mike Ockrent, and was even more successful than the original 1930s version. It ran for eight years in the West End and for three years on Broadway, scooping up Olivier and Tony awards in its wake.

When: Tues 25 – Sat 29 October at 7.30pm
Sat 29th at 2:30pm & 7.30pm

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

Tickets from: www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

COMPTON PLAYERS



Happy Acres by H Connolly

It may be advertised as "A Quality Establishment" but Happy Acres health farm is far from that. The domineering Mrs Comley and her sidekick Sam, the old odd job man, are in charge of the worn out and tired buildings. Sam is running a moonshine whisky still from the garden shed. They both spend their time trying to relieve the clientele of pounds, not from their waists but from their wallets. Mrs Comley, in cahoots with Madame O, the struck-off hypnotist, allow the inmates to indulge in a spot of "harmless hypnotics". That is until all the booking forms get muddled up and the punters become not quite what they expected! A fast paced, very funny comedy that all the family can enjoy.

When: 26th to 29th October at 7.30pm

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

Tickets: Wed-Fri £9 (£8 conc), Sat all £8 from
www.comptonplayers.co.uk

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Two one-act plays:-

'Trapped'

by Michael Green
and

'Bags and Browning'

by Liz Carroll

'Trapped'

by Michael Green

In a send up of a traditional English Thriller, the cast find themselves not trapped when the over energetic lead actor knocks down doors that were meant to be locked. Adding to the fun is a corpse that walks onto the stage because it cannot fall out of a jammed cupboard door and a stage manager who has to read in a part at the last minute. This is a short but fast paced play with a lot of 'visual' laughs.

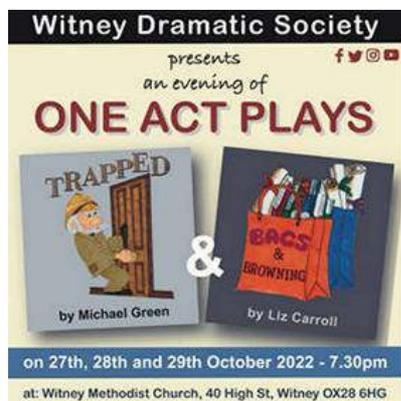
'Bags and Browning' by Liz Carroll

Mary is a homeless woman known as the Bard of the South Bank for her recitations of 'Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came' by Browning. But someone has heard she might have a valuable manuscript, and is willing to kill for it.

When: 27th, 28th and 29th October at 7.30pm

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

Tickets: see <http://www.witneydrama.co.uk>



Edward II wanders on to the empty stage, bloodied and confused. He has no idea where he is, or how he got here, but he does have an ominous feeling that something is wrong. As that feeling grows, so too does the threat on the other side of the auditorium doors.

Locked inside the theatre with some rather anarchic fellow inmates – Gertrude Stein, Harvey Milk and Quentin Crisp – Edward can't escape what seems to be coming for him...

After Edward welcomes us into a chaotic world of pride and shame; a place where Queer politics collide with imagined and personal experience.

The play was commissioned by The Globe Theatre and performed in the Sam Wanamaker Theatre in 2019. This will be the first production since the premiere. It is a dazzling script with great characters.

Dates: Mon 31st October to Sat 5th November at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

Venue: Old Fire Station, George St, Oxford

Tickets: from the Old Fire Station
www.oldfirestation.org.uk

Pay more price - £16.00

Standard price - £14.00

Pay less price - £12.00

Website: www.oxfordtheatreguild.com

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS Blokes of a Feather

Following the successful award-winning production of Von Ribbentrop's Watch last November, playwrights Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran agreed to become Patrons of the group. BP are delighted to welcome them back to Eynsham Village Hall for one night only for a special evening's entertainment.

When: Saturday 29th October 2022 from 7.30pm – 9.30pm

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

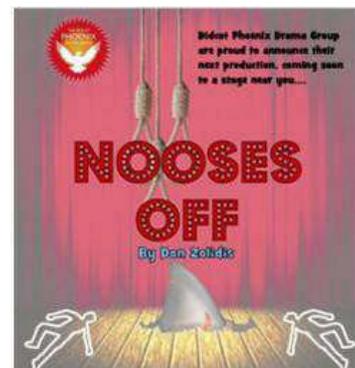
Tickets: £15 (no booking fee) available from www.Ticketsource.co.uk/BartholomewPlayers or from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham

DIDCOT PHOENIX

Nooses Off

by Don Zolidis

An amateur theatre company's whodunit hurtles towards opening night -- but the real mystery is whether the cast and crew can get this disaster to curtain call. It won't be easy when the costume designer's bent on revenge, the actors are wrapped up in a revolving door of showmances, one suitcase plays the role of nine, and the playwright won't admit that Nine Little Indians might owe a little something to Agatha Christie. The best seat in the house is backstage on opening night in this full-throttled homage to Michael Frayn's classic comedy.



When & Where:

10th Nov - Harwell Village Hall. (8pm)

11th Nov - Didcot Civic Hall (8.30pm)

12th Nov - East Hagbourne Village Hall (8pm)

18th Nov - St Blaise Church, Milton Village (8pm)

Tickets available via the website soon

www.didcotphoenixdrama.co.uk

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

After Edward by Tom Stuart

'I think it's queer.
And it's about to
get queerer...'

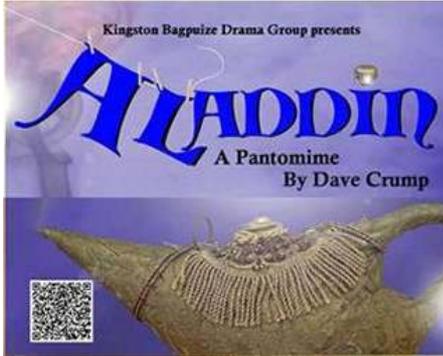


KINGSTON BAGUIZE DRAMA GROUP

Aladdin

by Dave
Crump.

A traditional pantomime, full of fun for all the family, and with a few surprises too.



When: Thu 17th, Fri 18th Nov 7.30pm

Sat 19th Nov at 2pm & 6.30pm

Where: Southmoor Village Hall, Draycott Rd,
Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5BY

Tickets: £12 adult (£7 under 16s) OR £35 family
(2 adults + 2 under 16s) from:-

Ticketsource.co.uk/Kingston-Bagpuize-Drama-Group
(booking fee applies)

Website: www.kbdramagroup.co.uk

DRAYTON PLAYERS

'Deckchairs'

Two 1act plays:

**The Guilt Card
and**

Day Trippers
by Jean Mcconnell



The Guilt Card

The Guilt Card is about a woman whose life is blighted by the machinations and emotional blackmail of her sickly elder sister.

Day Trippers

Coworkers, one confident and one prudish, learn more about themselves and their colleagues than they ought to during a brilliantly funny outing at a nudist beach.

When: Fri 18th & Sat 19th November at 7.30pm

Where: Drayton Village Hall, Lock Way, Drayton,
Nr Abingdon, OX14 4LF

Tickets: From Vickerys Hardware, Drayton, or
via www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

WANTAGE SINGS

Weathering the Seasons

A musical concert
based on the theme of
songs from all the
seasons.



When & Where:-

18th November at Steventon Village Hall,
The Green, Steventon, Abingdon OX13 6RR

19th November at Old Mill Hall, School Ln,
Grove, Nr Wantage OX12 7LB

The doors/bar will open 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Tickets on our website:-

www.wantagesings.co.uk

GORING GAP PLAYERS

Two 1-Act Plays:

'Still Life' by Noel Coward and
'Gosforth's Fete' by Alan Ayckbourn

'Still Life'

In a suburban rail station, Dr Alec Harvey removes a cinder from Laura's eye and they fall in love. Subsequent



weekly meetings over tea, scenes debating respectability or love and some sentimental moments transpire before they decide

In typical Coward style, the play, written in 1936, is interspersed with witty insights into social niceties of that time. The play was adapted by Coward for the film Brief Encounter in 1945.

'Gosforth's Fete'

Gosforth, the local publican, is attempting to organize the annual village fête, but the odds are stacked against him; the weather is bad, the sound system doesn't work and the local dignitary who



will open the fête has arrived early. Then Gosforth is told he is about to become a father....

When: Wed 23rd to Sat 26th November

Doors open: 7.30pm Curtain up: 8.00pm

Where: The Morrell Room, Church Lane,
Streatley, Berks RG8 9HT

Tickets: TBA see our website for details.

Website: www.goringgapplayers.co.uk

WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley

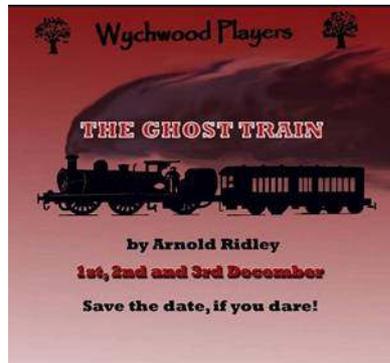
The action takes place in a train station in the remote countryside where a varied group of travellers are stranded. They learn of a local legend where a phantom train runs through the station in the early hours carrying ghosts from a train crash some years ago. Can they, between them, solve the mystery of The Ghost Train?

Arnold Ridley was best known for playing Private Godfrey in the long-running BBC series 'Dad's Army'. He was also a successful playwright with over 30 plays to his name. The Ghost Train was Ridley's first play, written almost a hundred years ago.

When: Thursday 24th November to Saturday 26th November 2022 at 7.30pm

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

Tickets: from our website:-
www.wychwoodplayers.com



BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS Rutherford and Son by Githa Sowerby

John Rutherford, is the patriarchal owner of a northern glassworks whose world is crumbling. By ruling both factory and family with an iron will, he succeeds in alienating his family and they turn against him.

Sowerby's great gift was for capturing a world in transition. Rutherford's domestic tyranny is challenged just as in society the idea of a predominantly male suffrage was under threat and feminism was emerging. By the end, it is two of the female characters who stand up to Rutherford and manage to forge their own path away from domestic oppression towards a more enlightened future.

When: Wed 30th Nov to Sat 3rd Dec
Doors open: 7.00pm, Performance: 7.30pm

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

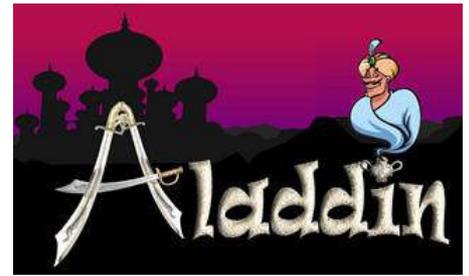
Tickets: £10.00 (no concessions) online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/bartholomewplayers, in advance from Denise Santilli, 07721 744020, email bart.players@gmail.com, from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham or on the door.

Website: www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Aladdin by Ben Crocker

Join Aladdin for a fun-filled magical adventure from Old Peking to the desert sands of Arabia as he bids to save the beautiful Princess Jasmine from the clutches of the wicked Abanazar.



The poor Emperor hasn't a clue what is going on with his hapless police force Sergeant Ping and PC Pong. The Genie of the Ring and Genie of the Lamp bring a touch of magic and mayhem to the story.

Expect all the traditional panto ingredients - toe tapping tunes, a laundry-full of laughs with Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, loads of audience participation - and a very, very badly behaved panda! It's a genie-us of a pantomime!

This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with plenty of hearty laughs to lighten anyone's winter evenings.

Ben Crocker's traditional pantomime is based on the original Arabian Nights tale that has been lovingly re-invented by one of the wittiest and most inventive writers working in pantomime today.

Tickets: £10, (£7 conc).

Family ticket £30 (2 Adults + 2 children)
Available from Local Outlets (see website), or via our website: www.draytonplayers.org.uk

Dates & Venues

Sat 3rd Dec, Harwell Village Hall, High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX, **starting at 5pm**

Sun 4th Dec, Harwell Village Hall, High St, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0EX, **starting at 2pm**

Fri 9th Dec, Hagbourne Village Hall, 53 Main Rd, East Hagbourne, Didcot OX11 9LR, **starting at 7pm**

Sat 10th Dec, Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, OX13 6RR, **starting at 5pm**

Sun 11th Dec, Old Mill Hall, School Ln, Grove, Wantage OX12 7LB **starting at 5pm**

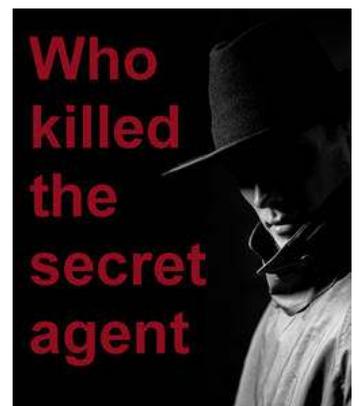
An amateur production by arrangement with Ben Crocker Pantomimes

ACTS

Who killed the secret agent?

A James Bond Spoof
by Chris Martin

An evening of murder
and mystery!
With Bar - Quiz -
Raffle - Prizes.



When: Sat 3rd Dec: Evening with supper
Sun 4th Dec: Afternoon with tea

Where: Aston & Cote Village Hall, Cote Rd,
Aston, Bampton OX18 2FS

Tickets: etc. see ODN Facebook page

BUTTERCROSS THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Aladdin by Joe Graham

Don't miss your chance to join us for this year's magical pantomime, Aladdin!

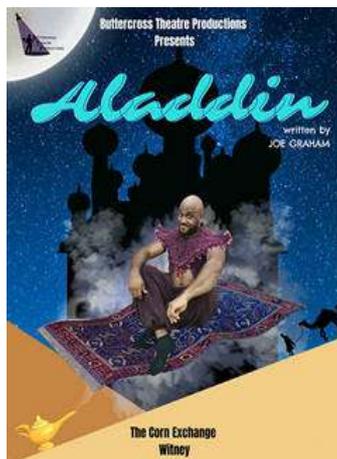
Dates & Times:-

Thu 15th Dec 7.30pm
Fri 16th Dec 1.30pm & 7.30pm
Sat 17th Dec 1.45pm & 7.30pm
Sun 18th Dec 1.45pm & 7.30pm
Thu 22nd Dec 7.30pm
Fri 23rd Dec 7.30pm
Sat 24th Dec 1.30pm
Thu 29th Dec 7.30pm
Fri 30th Dec 7.30pm
Sat 31st Dec 1.30pm

Where: The Corn Exchange, Market Square,
Witney OX28 6AB

Tickets: £12 (£7 under 14s) see website:-

www.ButtercrossTheatreProductions.co.uk



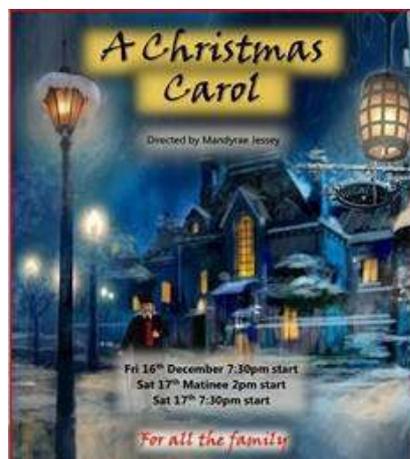
BODS (Branching out drama Society)

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens
Adapted by
John Mortimer

No one is born bad! we follow the life of Scrooge and discover why he has become so bitter and wrapped up in his own world and thoughts.

What happened to him at certain stages in his life to make him so sad and mean?



What can change his Cold and broken heart? What will it take to turn him around and make him the man he should always have been?

The vision for A Christmas Carol is to bring this much loved Victorian Christmas story to us all and add a special twist with songs and set adding some modern ideas mixed in with the traditional so offering something for everyone.

The unique direction also includes taking the audience through a transformation just as Scrooge has to transform his life, using clever visuals, sound, lighting, set and costume design.

An element of humour and fun runs through the whole show but keeping it true to the darker side of the storyline throughout.

A Christmas Carol has a cast and crew of about 50 people from the age of six to over 80, bringing an amazing rich tapestry of talents and skills.

Front of house and the bar will be in costume serving mulled wine and mince pies at each performance.

When: Fri 16 & Sat 17 at 7.30pm + Sat 2pm

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

Tickets: £12 (child £6) from
www.TicketSource.co.uk/BODS

BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sleigh Bells Ring!

Can you believe it will be 3 years since our last Christmas concert?

Tickets for last year's Covid-cancelled event sold out in less than 4 hours so keep close to your emails and social media so you don't miss out this time!

When: Dec 17th 2022 at 7.30pm

Where: St Edburg's Church, Old Place Yard,
Bicester OX26 6AU

Tickets: online at
www.bcoswesing.org.uk/tickets

OR will soon be available from Cole's Books store in Crown Walk, Bicester

Website: www.bcoswesing.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/BicesterChoral



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

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

Email: info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

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

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