

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



AUGUST 2017

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

It's great when we see ODN working at it's best.

A Lady at Blewbury Players said "joining ODN a few years ago had done wonders for our ticket sales"!

And via the ODN Facebook page, we've recently helped groups to borrow from each other - a pair of Gauntlets, a Chaise Lounge, and the ODN wheelchair.

The ODN wheelchair is becoming quite famous - having appeared originally with Old Gaol Theatre (who gave it to ODN) and over the past few years it has appeared in Calendar Girls, Anything Goes, Annie the Musical and Made in Dagenham with Jigsaw Theatre and is soon to appear in Richard III at Compton Players!

Also good to one of our local authors Peter Webster is having one of his pantomimes performed again by Wychwood Players, it was originally written for Faringdon Dramatic Society.

Mike Davies

Chairman's Thoughts

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely summer - rehearsals with windows wide open and half the cast on holiday at any one time. Oh the joys of early autumn productions.

You may see inside that ODN have now joined National Drama Festivals Association and we heartily congratulate Didcot Phoenix Drama Group on being recent winners of the All Winners Drama Festival in Barnsley.

Some members may have seen Didcot's Winning production entered in the ODN One Act Drama Festival in June in the Unicorn. Only the best for ODN.

Pantomime rehearsals start in earnest after the summer break and we hope you will all enter the ODN Pantomime Competition this year. It was suggested at the ODN AGM this year that ODN should 'employ a professional adjudicator' for our panto competition and 'more Groups would enter'. This suggestion was briefly discussed by the Committee who decided that a) The cost would be prohibitive and b) an adjudicator would be needed at different dates from December to the end of February.

Of course everyone feels that their Pantomime is obviously the Best and no-one agrees with the result except the happy Winner. But, hopefully, the marking sheets will help Directors to improve - I have noticed that some of our comments have been taken to heart and implemented. The result often being a much improved pantomime and therefore higher marks.

So enjoy your rehearsals and who knows your production might win this year and don't forget to take some action photos for our Newsletter.

Deidre

The deadline for the October issue is 22nd Sept 2017
Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

AUGUST

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11-13 *AmEgos Theatre*
The Importance of Being Earnest

12 Launton Village Players
The 2017 Summer Show

25 *Hagbourne Drama Group*
'Another Evening of Nonsense'

SEPTEMBER

12-16 *Thame Players*
The Browning Version

13-16 BreakaLeg productions
'When We Are Married'

27-30 *Abingdon Drama Club*
Portia Coughlan

OCTOBER

18-21 Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society
La Belle Hélène

12-14 *Compton Players*

19-21 **Richard III**

13-14+ The Standlake Players

20-21 **The Importance of Being Earnest**

18-21 *Henley Players*
Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility

24-28 Abingdon Operatic Society
Sister Act

24-28 *Banbury Operatic Society*
Half a Sixpence

27-29 Witney Dramatic Society
Double Bill of One-Act Plays

NOVEMBER

2-4 *Middle Barton Drama Group*
"Arrivals and Departures"

3-4 + Drayton Players
10-11 **Absurd Person Singular**

8-11 *Henley A.O.D.S* **A Chorus Line**

23-25 The Wychwood Players **'Peter Panto'**

28Nov **Blewbury Players**

-2Dec **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**

29Nov *AmEgos*

-2 Dec **Monty Python's SPAMALOT**

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ODN Drama Festival 2017

Awards.

The "**David Coates**" - **Punter's prize award** (chosen by our Season Ticket holders) went to :-
'The Allotment' by Gillian Plowman - Banbury Cross Players

Runner up was:-
'Henna Night' by Amy Rosenthal - Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

In Third place was:-
'Pathways' - Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

The "**Colin Dexter**" **Rose Bowl Award** for a special moment went to:-
'The Allotment' by Gillian Plowman - Banbury Cross Players



The "**First Time Director's**" Award went to:-

Tasha Moar of Didcot Phoenix Drama Group for *'Pathways'* pictured here (left) receiving her award from the adjudicator, Jennifer Scott-Reid.



The 3 plays from the week chosen by the adjudicator, to repeat their performances on the Saturday Gala Night were (in the order below):-

'Henna Night' by Amy Rosenthal - Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

'Pathways' by Tasha Moar & Dan Shipman-Toon - Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

'The Allotment' by Gillian Plowman - Banbury Cross Players

ODN Drama Festival 2017

Review by Mike Page

By my count, I reckon there were about 8 regular "punters" this year, but more importantly the general public were out in much more force than I have seen in the past couple of years. I'm pleased to see that interest has grown. Where else could you see such diverse talent and entertainment so cheaply, in a beautiful venue and run by such dedicated volunteers from the committee?

I'll say it straight away – I didn't like all the plays. A couple were not my cup of tea. Jean always laughs at me as I seem to be the only luvvie she's worked with who can't stand Shakespeare so what do I know! I prefer a clever comedy, a drama that makes you shed a tear, or a gripping drama that has you on the edge of your seat. Each to their own, I say. Well we had the lot this week- absurd theatre, comedy, drama, thriller and murder mystery. I don't want to hurt the feelings of the ones I did not like, as that's my issue. In general, even the worst plays were very well acted, with great scenery and largely good direction. However, we all know we're amateurs and can improve, hence the presence of the new (to me) adjudicator Jennifer Scott-Reid. She is a delightful lady who gave praise where it was due, but never belittled the casts. Her workshops were inspired and inspiring, showing the groups different (not necessarily better as she hastened to add) ways to play certain scenes, speeches and movements.

Every workshop was extremely well received by cast and audience alike and in some cases DID improve the play or make it more understandable. I hope the ODN committee will grab Jennifer as soon as possible to return next year.

I had to wait until Friday to see my favourite play of the week – *The Allotment* by Gillian Plowman - performed by Banbury Cross Players. For me, every aspect of this show was brilliant. The story, the set, and the cast who went from comedy to pathos in the blink of an eye. Absolutely sublime.



I know it was chosen to return on Saturday for the gala night, but unfortunately I wasn't able to attend so I am not sure how it did that night. <It won the Punters Prize & Special Moment Rose bowl - Ed>

I am already looking forward to next year's 33rd festival. Who knew it started the same year as I was born?!

(Who are you kidding Mike, Jean Sutherland!)

ODN joins the National Drama Festivals Association

The ODN Committee is happy to announce that the Network is now a Member of the NDFA.

The NDFA is an Association of more than 37 independent Drama Festivals drawn from across the UK which includes full length, one act and youth Festivals.

Although the ODN will keep the non-competitive, friendly element of our One Act Drama Festival intact we will now ask our GoDA adjudicator to mark each play using the GoDA guidelines.

These marks will not be announced but will be available to any Group who asks for the marks which were awarded to their own production. Some Groups need to forward these marks to the NDFA Selection Committee who assess them along with marks gained from other Festivals during the year, which runs from June to June.

The NDFA then decide which groups go forward to the NDFA British All Winners Drama Festival - held in different parts of the Country in July

It can be really helpful to see exactly where marks were won and lost in all our productions.

We look forward to a successful and happy association with the NDFA.

Deidre



Children's Workshops: Creating Musical Theatre

Arts and Sports are holding two one-day workshops on Creating Musical Theatre over the weekend of 2nd/3rd September.

Led by musical theatre specialists Lin Marsh and Selina Marsh, participants will be taught how to prepare their voices and bodies for performing musical theatre effectively. They will also be taught a selection of pieces to perform to their families at the end of the workshop.



The workshop on 2nd September is suitable for young performers aged 10-14, while the 3rd September workshop is suitable for anyone aged 15+. The workshops are open to anyone regardless of ability or previous experience - all we ask is that you're enthusiastic and willing to work hard!

Places cost £55 (£100 per pair).

Creating Musical Theatre - Arts and Sports - Community Arts, Sports and Culture

Spend the day learning how to make musical theatre

ArtsAnSports.org.uk (No connection to ODN)

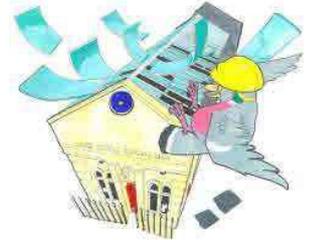
Don't forget the ODN
FACEBOOK pages:-



1. Productions and Events
www.facebook.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork
2. Closed Members only Group
www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767

Corn Exchange Roof Appeal - Update

Fundraising to replace the leaking roof on Wallingford's Corn Exchange has reached its target E500,000 thanks to a major cash boost from South Oxfordshire District Council.



The Council's community grants committee has awarded £170,000 for the work which will also include new stage facilities and improvements to the auditorium heating and ventilation.

However, fundraising is set to continue and a number of special events will be organised over the coming months. While the council grant has brought the fund to its initial target, £100-£150K is still needed to bring the theatre up to the full specification.

Since the Roof Appeal was launched in January, a team of enthusiastic volunteers have been working long hours to find ways to raise the cash. Grant applications have been sent to numerous charities and trusts, many of which have resulted in substantial donations. Events, such as a barn dance, quiz evening, garden party and a Marathon Show have steadily boosted the amount, helped too by bucket collections after cinema screenings and Sinodun Players' live shows. Members of the public have also donated via the online JustGiving site or by placing donations in the foyer collection box when passing the building. Wallingford Brownies, big fans of Corn Exchange pantos, donated £126.

Volunteers have been busy removing equipment in preparation for the work to begin. This has included emptying the costume store, dismantling the cinema screen, removing curtaining and taking down scores of stage lanterns from ceiling gables. A human chain was set up to move the various items from its theatre location and into storage. Wardrobe items included huge numbers of military uniforms - 'enough to start a war', one volunteer commented. Auditorium seats have been taken out and sent away for refurbishment.

The Corn Exchange will be closed until the autumn but throughout the summer, films are being shown in the Great Hall, Cholsey Meadows as part of a collaboration with the Cholsey Development Trust. For more information about films, see CornExchange@TheGreatHall on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Sinodun Players' productions are set to resume with the January panto. Watch this space for details.

Carol Evans

British All Winners Festival

Didcot Phoenix won the Lighthorne Festival of One-Act Plays last month, winning a cash prize of £500 + a further £500 towards a charity of our choice. We chose Restore – a mental health charity based in Oxford. Lighthorne Festival is a member of the National Drama Festivals Association (NDFA) and each year the NDFA organize a week long festival whereby the winners of their member festivals are eligible for consideration by the committee to take part, providing they have scored over 80.

Up to 12 one act plays are invited alongside 3 youth plays and 3 full length plays – which from a membership of 37 festivals is less than half, so there was no guarantee that we would be selected even as a winning group. Luckily for us we were selected by the committee to go forward to this years British All Winners Festival which was hosted by The Lamproom in Barnsley.

On the morning of the performance (17th July) the cast and crew set off to the theatre for the tech rehearsal. It's a fantastic converted old Methodist church, with backstage facilities to die for - and the staff were absolutely brilliant and made us feel very welcome and at ease. We had an hour and a half on stage and then gave us a tour of all the facilities and made sure we were aware of all the health and safety procedures etc

Once the Tech was over, we ran through the lines, before putting on our posh frocks and heading to a Civic Reception to launch the event, hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Jeff Ennis in the Town Hall where we enjoyed an afternoon tea and a tour of the building with many other of the performing teams and members of the NDFA committee, before heading back to the Theatre for the evenings performance.

We knew that the standard was going to be high and we were incredibly proud just to have made it to the festival and perform amongst the best of the best in the country so we were incredibly nervous but gave it our best shot. Once the performances were finished it was over to Veteran adjudicator Russell Whitely, for the adjudication.

After wisely advising the audience not to 'try and work out what the hell was going on', he praised the team for their "powerful" performance and commented on the pace, excellent cueing, use of stage, consistency, attention to detail and keeping everyone on the edge of their seats. He concluded with "It was a production that for me explored the highs and the lows with great skill. The build up of tension and horror in the piece, and the fluctuations in it's emotional level were outlined with sensitivity and great attention to detail – this didn't happen by accident they really worked at it –

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it was a theatrical tour de force that had us riveted all the way through".

We had a really terrific couple of days in Yorkshire. Road trips like this really do bond together the group and I thoroughly recommend all groups do something similar – we had such a fun time, and isn't what this drama lark all about?

A few of us went back up on the Sunday, just for the day this time, for the awards ceremony and to see the remaining 3 plays - including the incredible TACT (Total Arts Community Theatre, from Tamworth) who had just recently won the British final of the All England Theatre Festival with their mesmerising production of "Lear's Daughters", and "Untucked" performed by Cambridge group, Drama Queens, and directed by this year's ODN festival adjudicator, Jennifer Scott-Reid.

Being under 21, both Daisy and Corin were eligible for the most promising Youth award and both were nominated. However, Corin took the accolade with Russell saying that her portrayal of the pupil, at first coquettish, then confused and, finally, terrified, was "absolute, total perfection".

It was a real shock when Russell announced us as the winner, and safe to say we are still pinching ourselves that we managed to pull off such an achievement against some truly remarkable groups. We are extremely proud and this is definitely a high point in the group's 34 year history.



I know that the ODN committee is considering becoming a member of the NDFA which would mean that high scoring teams from the ODN festival could be eligible for consideration for the annual British All Winners. This would really offer the ODN member groups a fantastic opportunity to raise their aspirations and hopefully will encourage more groups to enter and become part of the national scene.

So what's next for Phoenix – why Panto of course! Nothing like going from the sublime to the ridiculous!!

Letters

Dear editor,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Deidre and the ODN committee for another very enjoyable Festival week. I know from many years experience what a lot of time and effort goes into organising this event and ensuring its success.

The adjudicator's input makes a big difference and this year's adjudications were a pleasure to watch and listen to. I always look for points myself that I might have done differently and wait to see if the adjudicator agrees with me, she did! Also there were other points I didn't notice.

There has been only one year and a few evenings when I have not been in the audience or taking part in all the years the Festival has been in existence (before that the White Horse Theatre Festival) and each time I learn something new!

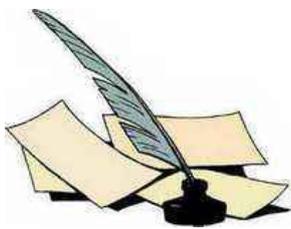
The workshops this year were really interesting and were proper workshops, which doesn't always happen. I was really sorry that both of the groups I belong to were unable to take part.

My only wish is that more groups would take part and more members of those and other groups join the audience. The audiences were pretty good this year but no evening was full. If you don't come you are missing such a lot.

There were some outstanding performances from all the groups and there is nearly always one play which I will remember for years to come (however many I have left!).

This year it was "The Allotment" , at one point there were chills running down my spine, the script, the acting, the direction drew you in and you felt their pain.

See you next year, I hope, best wishes Jean Sutherland.



Dear editor,

I get sport competitiveness, I've been at the heart of that for 55 years in football, squash, cricket, tennis, rugby, even cycling; competing to win is the main point - not the only point, but certainly the main one.

But competing arts? No, I don't get that, so the ODN's very warm and welcoming festival is a rare treat for we am dram toilers on the stage and at the keyboard.

Such prizes as there are at The Unicorn are for a magic moment of theatre - which I once won ten years ago, and the Punters prize for what they thought was the most enjoyable show - which I've never won, but never mind.

I've now directed six festival plays and written them all; I find it an encumbrance to have to think what an adjudicator might notice because my idea is to make

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you laugh, make you cry, make you think or make you angry, it's not to concern myself too much if I've ticked the box for having the telephone positioned an inch this way or that.

The lack of competition means we entrants can appreciate the work of others without worrying if we measure up or not - well, that's the theory and I very much enjoyed the preceding play to ours. Unfortunately they didn't stay to watch ours so they didn't get the same benefit.

But a festival where plays are simply put on for the sake of putting on drama? That's proper art. So thank you and I hope I get to do it again.

Mike Rowbottom

Sinodun Players

CASTING

CAST AND CREW NEEDED!

DRAYTON PLAYERS;

"Absurd Person Singular"

Drayton Village Hall on

6-8pm on Sunday, 27th and

3-6pm on Monday, 28th August.

Absurd Person Singular is a very funny play which takes place over three consecutive Christmases.

This comedy about the rise of a socially ambitious businessman is one of Alan Ayckbourn's most popular, and has been drawing laughter from audiences since it premiered in 1972.

The cast requires three male and three female characters (three married couples). There is some flexibility with the playing ages:-

Sidney Hopcroft: playing age 30s or 40s. An ambitious businessman, determined to get on, even at the expense of his marriage.

Jane Hopcroft: playing age 30s or 40s. A meek, neurotic character. Happiest when cleaning the kitchen and seemingly willing to put up with her husband's appalling behaviour.

Ronald Brewster-Wright: playing age 40s to 60s. An ageing banker who enjoys the finer things in life, full of cheerful bluster.

Marion Brewster-Wright: playing age 40s to 60s. Somewhat eccentric and a bit of a snob. She is revealed as an alcoholic later in the play.

Geoffrey Jackson: playing age mid-30s to early 50s. An architect on his way up. A philanderer with a string of affairs behind him. Suave and charming, he is indifferent to his wife's unhappiness.

Eva Jackson: playing age early 30s to early 50s. She is depressed, with suicidal tendencies, but has staged something of a recovery later in the play. She is indifferent to what people think about her manners or appearance.

Performances will be at Drayton Village Hall on 3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th November 2017.)

(continued on next page

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We are also seeking back stage crew to bring this production to the stage.

Would you like to help us?

Contact us by email at: info@DraytonPlayers.org.uk or phone Mike Davies on 01235 821351

HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

We are planning a pantomime! We have our production team in place and would like to invite you to a meeting on **SUNDAY SEPT 24th at 2.30pm** in the Old Hanney Room in Hanney War Memorial Hall.

We are looking for principals and chorus for **CINDERELLA and the Velvet Slipper** by Peter Nuttall, to be performed in early February.

No formal auditions. We will chat about our plans for the production, read a few extracts and sing a song or two together. Then you can let us know what you would be interested in doing on stage.

You can read the script online at Lazy Bee Scripts. Any queries please email :-

lyndahart1@hotmail.com (Sec)

or mjsuth34@gmail.com (Chair)

See you there. We are very excited about this project. OH YES WE ARE!

GORING GAP PLAYERS

Auditions for The Rivals

This is a joint, open-air production by the Goring Gap Players and The Basildonians to be staged in July 2018.

Auditions will take place on Tuesday 22 August and 29 August at 22 Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne and 6,13,20 and 27 September at the Morrell Room, Streatley.

For more information contact the director Barrie Steele on 01491 875939 or 07734 961070.

REVIEWS

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Lovesong by Abi Morgan

The Mill, Banbury 5th-8th July 2017

The final play in BCP's 2017 season is Lovesong by Abi Morgan, an incisive and worryingly accurate portrayal of how time elapses over forty years of marriage, one minute you're setting up home, the next you're contemplating downsizing.

The characters Maggie and Billy arrive in the US as newlyweds and he soon opens a practice as a

dentist. I missed the fact they had moved to the States for some reason but soon caught up. The rest of the play is a whirlwind with more comings and goings than Heathrow airport, the cast entering and exiting in countless scenes engaging with each other as the younger Billy interacts with his wife first as a young inspired bride then as time passes, the frail, sick Maggie.

There are only four people in the cast as young and older Maggie & Billy. They intermingle frequently as in one heart-wrenching scene, the older Billy dances with the younger Maggie as he remembers



how she was. The older Maggie was beautifully portrayed by Trish Thompson who gave the real impression she had given up on life and was ready to go as it were.

As the characters intertwine in the bedroom late in the play, most comings and goings are through a rather remarkable bed, disappearing and returning in a trance, a trick of which Paul Daniels would have been proud. Another nice touch was when the actors turned on an invisible tap on the fourth wall and the sound of running water started.

So with time passing illustrated by projected videos of flocks of starlings and photographs of moments in history, the play progressed at a pace with the young Maggie played faultlessly by Nicola Dixon wanting a child desperately. Billy, (vivaciously played with some style by Ian Nutt) consoles her assuring her the time will come, but never does. Director Tara Lacey drew maximum emotions from the piece with a simple but innovative set of kitchen, garden and bedroom, melodic music and dance, incorporated into the frequently surreal plot.

Andrew Whiffin played the older Billy and I was totally convinced. He looked a worried man throughout. As a retired dentist in the US I would have thought he was in clover but I think instead he was in turmoil, trying too hard to help Maggie by fetching her pills from the pharmacy, insisting he accompanies her to the doctors, you know the sort of thing, the husband thinks he's helping, the wife thinks he's not.

With no audible cues, the cast seemed word perfect and this being the opening night, I was particularly impressed by a lengthy tirade the older Billy gave with vigour towards the end of the play.

So full marks all round to Banbury Cross Players, Lovesong is a fitting end to their 2017 season.

Lance Bassett

BLEWBURY PLAYERS

Great Expectations

19, 20 & 22 July

The Blewbury garden arena was an ideally sylvan setting for last year's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, but not so obviously fitted for the bleak marshes or the bustling London of Dickens' novel, specially adapted here by local author Julia Golding. So the staging was emblematic rather than naturalistic, with a pile of gigantic books at one side, on top of which we discover Dickens himself (Steve White) at his desk writing the story we are about to witness, and



returning throughout the evening to hurry the tale along. And a long tale it is, beginning from childhood – engaging performances from the young actors here – and involving an array of minor characters, virtuous, villainous or grotesque, too many to mention in a short appreciation. Period costumes were fine without being fussy, and the large cast was effectively deployed by director Sebastian Palka, sometimes in frozen tableaux, sometimes as a crowd



(of noisy Londoners, for example) to set a scene.

The beginning of the play is dominated by the fearsome besom Mrs Joe (Zillah Laidlaw, "translated" indeed from her radiant Titania last year), and then we meet the haughty Miss Havisham (Jane Gibson, with perfect poise and diction). Time moves on, and the full-grown Pip (Dan Shipman-Toon, believably ingenuous) is whisked to London under the eye of the commanding Jaggers (Bob Brooks). Estella is there too (Georgia Brennan-Scott, resplendent in a

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green satin dress, ensuring that our eyes as well as Pip's are fixed on her), and perhaps the most dramatic moment of the evening is the pivotal confrontation between her and Pip, when he tries in vain to melt her cynical resolve to marry for pragmatic, not romantic, reasons. There's plenty more incident to follow, of course, and the pursuit on the Thames leading to the death of Magwitch (Chris Lakeland, an affecting portrayal) was convincingly staged, followed by the inevitably muted partly-happy ending. Blewbury Players have a strong tradition and a strong team, and there were no weak links here – another production they can be proud of.

Edmund Bennett

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

YOBOS

The Wedding Singer

Based on the 1998 Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer* is a hilarious musical with songs that will get you dancing in the aisles. It's 1985 and rock-star wannabe Robbie Hart, who still lives in his grandmother's



basement, is New Jersey's favourite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his fiancée, Linda, leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie is so distraught that he makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. When he meets Julia, a young waitress, Robbie falls madly in love. The only trouble is that Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark. Unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever. With a score that pays loving homage to the pop songs of the 1980s, *The Wedding Singer* takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up, and a wedding singer might just have been the coolest guy in the room.

When: Friday 11th August (7.30pm) until Saturday 12th August (2.30pm & 7.30pm)

Where: Wykham Theatre, Banbury Academy, Rruskin Road, Banbury, OX16 9HY

Tickets: adults £10, under 16s £8, from www.yobos.co.uk/tickets

or from Anker & Partners Estate Agents, Banbury.

AMEGOS THEATRE

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

AmEgos present their first outdoor production - Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This classic comedy of love, manners and deliberately mistaken identities is a firm favourite, and we can't wait to perform it in this fabulous setting.



When: Fri 11th, Sat 12th Sun 13th August 7pm Bar from 6pm bring seating (chairs or blankets) and dress for our curiously variable English weather!

Tea and cakes available at the Teapot all afternoon from noon, so come and have a walk on the beautiful White Horse Hill, before settling down to an evening with Jack, Algy, Lady B et al.

Where: The Teapot Tea Gardens, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington SN7 7QJ

Tickets: £8 www.wegotickets.com/AmEgos

LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

The 2017 Summer Show

“Boots, Chaps ‘n’ Cowboy Hats”

It'll be an evening of singing, dancing, sketches and stories, with a Western theme.

Bring your friends and family for a yee-haw time!

When: Saturday 12th August

7pm, sausages & beans included: £10/person

Where: the Launton Playing Fields Hall

Tickets: are on sale from Costcutter in Launton

HAGBOURNE DRAMA GROUP

‘Another Evening of Nonsense’

Following the success of our ‘Nonsense’ Evenings in 2015 and 2016 we are again putting together another daft evening to amuse ourselves and hopefully our audience.

When: Friday 25th August

Venue: Village Hall, East Hagbourne,

Doors open 7:00 pm, show starts 7:45 pm

Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available from the bar.

Tickets: £6 each from East Hagbourne Post Office, from Andy Stocks (01235 815344) or any member of HAMS

or email info@thehams.co.uk

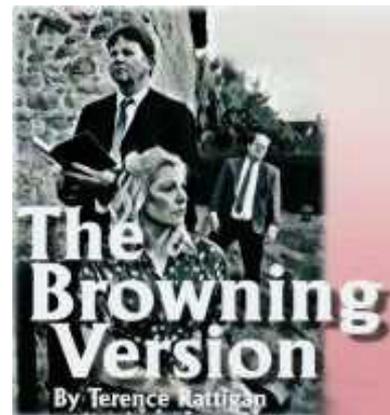
also see us on Facebook: HAMSdrama

THAME PLAYERS

The Browning Version

by Terence Rattigan

Terence Rattigan's classic play *The Browning Version* is set in a public school and centres around Andrew Crocker-Harris, an ineffectual master at the school who is despised by his unfaithful wife and refused a pension when he retires due



to ill-health. This is a powerful drama bearing all the hallmarks of Rattigan's playwriting skills.

When: 12 - 16 Sept - 7:45pm

Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson St, Thame

Tickets: £9 (concessions £8), Tuesday all £7

from online at www.thameplayers.co.uk or from Spear Travels on 01844 217228

BREAKALEG PRODUCTIONS

'When We Are Married'

by JB Priestley

This comedy, set in 1900s, centres around three couples getting together to celebrate their Silver Weddings as they were all



married on the same day. However some home truths start to fly like confetti when a secret is revealed. One of JB Priestley's best loved stories of laughter, fun and friendship. The bar will be open in the Long Gallery during the interval.

When: Weds 13th Sept - Sat 16th Sept at 7.30pm

Where: The Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, OX14 3HZ

Tickets: from The Bookstore, the precinct, Abingdon or BreakaLeg Box Office on 01235 821 351 for information or to reserve tickets.or

Email: info@BreakaLegProductions.co.uk

Weds and Thurs tickets are £8.00 and Fri and Sat are £10.00

Website: www.BreakaLegProductions.co.uk

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

Portia Coughlan

By Marina Carr

An unstable young woman, named Portia would appear to



have everything she could ever want; a wealthy husband, three small sons, caring friends and a beautiful house in the Belmont Valley. However, she would willingly give it all up for a glimpse of her dead twin brother Gabriel, who drowned on their fifteenth birthday.

Where: Unicorn Theatre

When: Wed 27th - Sat 30th September – 7.30pm

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, Under 12s, Students, ADC members)

from The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St), Abingdon

All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online)

Group Bookings available.

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Phone: 0845 4636638

KIDLINGTON A O S

La Belle Hélène

It's not every day that a man is promised another man's wife as a gift. Moreover, she happens to be the most beautiful



woman in the world - La Belle Hélène. The

problem is that Helen's husband (not unnaturally) has no enthusiasm for this plan! Such is the background to KAOS' next production directed by Richard Morton.

When: Wed 18 to Sat 21 Oct 2017

Where: Gosford Hill School, Kidlington

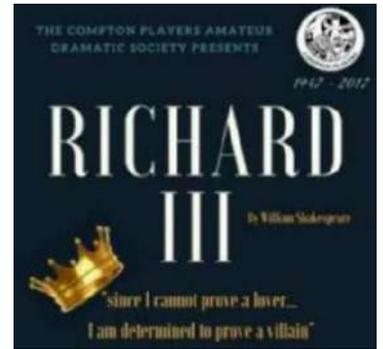
Tickets: See Website: www.kaos.news

COMPTON PLAYERS

Richard III

William Shakespeare

2017 is Compton Players' 70th anniversary, and we're marking it with a spectacular production of Shakespeare's



Richard III, a play about evil, violence and murder. It charts the rise of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, a cold-blooded and dastardly villain who slaughters his family and even marries his victim's widow to become king.

When: 12-14 & 19-21 Oct 7:30pm Doors 7:00

Where: Compton Village Hall, Burrell Road, Compton RG20 6NP.

Tickets are £9, concessions £8 and will be available

from www.boxoff.co.uk or via the Compton Players' **web site** at www.comptonplayers.co.uk

THE STANDLAKE PLAYERS

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

We present our 10th Anniversary show, a true all-time classic by one of the greatest writers who ever lived.

Join us for Jack's travails as he attempts to secure an engagement to his sweetheart

Gwendolen, assisted, or rather obstructed by his friend Algy, who in turn finds love with the charming Cecily. Will

Lady Bracknell allow her only daughter to marry Jack, can Dr Chasuble also find a happy ending with Miss Prism, and why is it so vitally important being earnest?

When: 13,14th & 20-21st Oct

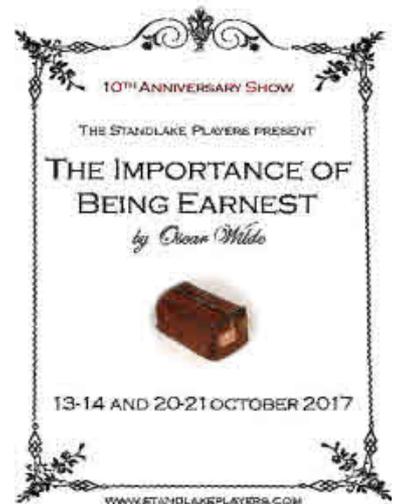
Where: Standlake village hall

More details on the anniversary meal and timings of the evening will follow...

Reserve your tickets early

Email contact@standlakeplayers.com

or call the box office on 01865 300545



HENLEY PLAYERS

Jane Austen's

'Sense and Sensibility'

by Jessica Swale

Directed by Julie Huntington

When: 18-21 Oct, 7:30 pm; Sat Matinee 2:30 pm

Where: Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames

Advance Bookings: 01491 575698

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sister Act

Based on the 1992 movie of the same name and starring Whoopi Goldberg, Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder. Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a Convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious supervision of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, sisterhood and music.

Featuring original music by Tony award and 8-time Oscar winner Alan Menken (Disney's Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Newsies, and Enchanted), dazzling dance routines and songs inspired by Motown, soul and disco, Sister Act is the funniest and funkiest musical around.

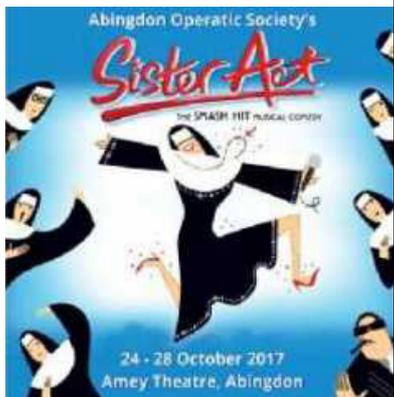
When: Tue 24 - Sat 28 Oct at 7.30pm also Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm

Where: Amey Theatre in Abingdon School, OX14 1DE

Tickets: tickets@AbingdonOperatic.co.uk

Balcony tickets from Newbury Building Soc Abingdon (unreserved seating)

Enquiry line: 01235 831383



BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY

Half a Sixpence

Arthur Kipps, an orphan and over-worked draper's assistant at the turn of the last century, unexpectedly inherits a fortune that propels him into high society. His childhood companion, Ann Pornick, watches with dismay as Arthur tries to join the upper class and gets engaged to the wealthy Helen Walsingham. Both young women undoubtedly love Arthur - but which of them should he choose? With the help of his friends,



Arthur learns that if you want to have the chance of living the right life, you need to make the right choices.

When: 24th-28th October 7.30pm nightly

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

Tickets: £15 (Adult), £13 (concession), £50 Family ticket (2A & 2C) from 1st Sept at

www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk/tickets or

Edd Frost and Daughters Family Funeral Directors, Banbury,

or Anker and Partners Estate Agents, Banbury.

Website: www.banburyoperaticsociety.co.uk

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Double Bill of One-Act Plays

Our next production will be a double bill of two brilliant one-act plays, one with an air of mystery and the other with plenty of good farcical humour.

1. 'The Return of Lady Bracknell'

by Graham Jones

It's two weeks to the production of 'The importance of being Earnest' and Rebecca has flu, so there's no one to play Lady Bracknell. Except... this strange lady, dressed for the part, who knows all the lines and stays in character all the time...Who is she?

2. 'It's Not Your Day Is It?' by Eric Scott

Lothario Brad is having a bad day as his business dealings, his various extra-marital philanderings and the treachery of his friends all come together and his world comes crashing down.

When: 27th, 28th and 29th October 2017 - 7.30pm

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

Tickets: from: Margaret Hamm (Tel: 01993 704032) or online form to reserve tickets or make enquiry.

Website: www.witneydrama.co.uk

MIDDLE BARTON DRAMA GROUP

"Arrivals and Departures"

by Alan Ayckbourn

Two strangers, each haunted by their past, find themselves thrown together during a military exercise in a railway terminus. This meeting exposes those memories which are brought into sharp focus, as we see how they come to meet, how they deal with those recollections, and how they shape their reactions to a thrilling finale. It all sounds very serious but, actually, there are some laughs, as well as the odd gasp and possibly a few tears. We feel we should warn you that some of the themes and language are of an "adult" nature and may not be suitable for young children or those of a sensitive disposition!

When: 2nd, 3rd and 4th November 2017

Where: The Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton.

for details of times and ticket prices see

Website: middlebartondramagroup.co.uk

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourn

This slightly black comedy about the rise of a socially ambitious businessman is one of Alan Ayckbourn's most popular, and has been drawing laughter from audiences since it premiered in 1972.

When: 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th
November

Where: Drayton Village Hall,
Lockway, Drayton.

Tickets: 01235 200350 or Vickery's hardware store



from the Wychwood Saplings Drama Group to perform the hilarious 'Peter Panto' by Peter Webster for their next production.

Poor Peter has lost his shadow so can't fly! Captain Hook has kidnapped The Lost Twin!

Can Peter find his shadow and rescue The Lost Twin? To find out, join us in November.

When: Thurs 23rd to Sat 25th November at 7.30 pm
- Also at 2.30pm on Sat

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

Tickets: £10 N.B. for Saturday Matinee at 2 pm -
children under 16 are £5.

From WychwoodPlayersBoxOffice@yahoo.co.uk
Box office from 1st November - 07817 426305.

HENLEY A.O.D.S

A Chorus Line

A Chorus Line looks at one day in the lives of seventeen dancers, all vying for a spot in the "chorus line" of a Broadway musical.

After the first round of cuts, the director and choreographer, asks each dancer to speak about themselves. Reservations open into revelations, confessions and personal exposure.

Within the bright, outwardly homogenous chorus, the audience begins to see each dancer's individuality and fears.

Broadway's sixth longest running musical, A Chorus Line is funny, heartbreaking, and refreshingly honest, including memorable songs such as – What I did for Love, One, I can do that, Nothing, and Dance ten Looks three.

Parental guidance: some adult language.

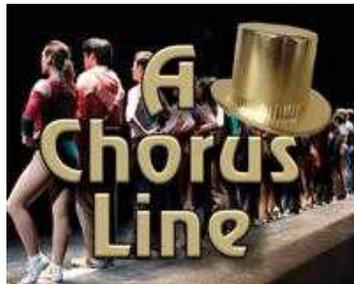
When: Wed 8 Nov to Sat 11 Nov 7.45 + 2.30pm Sat

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

Tickets. Adults £16, Concessions £15. (includes £1 restoration levy).

Online from www.kentontheatre.co.uk or

Box Office: 01491 575698 Mon-Fri 11am - 3pm, Sat 10am - 1pm



BLEWBURY PLAYERS

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

We are looking forward to transforming St Michael's Church into Narnia for six performances. More news about box office will be posted nearer the time and/or visit our website to sign up for newsletters. We now have an exciting cast but if anyone is interested in getting involved with the creative processes please e-mail us at

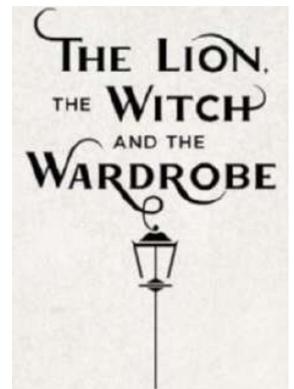
BlewburyPlayers@gmail.com.

When: 28 Nov - 2 Dec 2017

Where: St Michael's Church, Blewbury

Tickets: see www.BlewburyPlayers.co.uk

Website: www.blewburyplayers.co.uk



AMEGOS

Monty Python's SPAMALOT



AmEgos are thrilled to announce our autumn show will be SPAMALOT.

The cast is in place, we've started Fisch Schlapping and our coconuts are at the ready!

When: Nov 29th, 30th and Dec 1st and 2nd.

Where: King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage

Tickets: Early bird special offer tickets now available from www.wegotickets.com/AmEgos

THE WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

'Peter Panto'

by Peter Webster

The Wychwood Players will be serving up some big panto fun and heading to Neverland when they welcome some new actors and talented local children

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org