

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



AUGUST 2016

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

Not so much over the summer months in am-dram, but just look at what's in store for October!

ODN at last have a Facebook presence! It should help to promote your shows, particularly to younger people - we need to encourage more of them into amateur dramatics. *See page 4*

Many thanks to Karen Carey for setting this up. So as long as people don't start posting what they had for breakfast it should be a useful tool.

We like to have photos with reviews, but please, an action photo of a (dress) rehearsal – (my pet hate is a cast lined up smiling at the camera!)

Mike Davies

Chairman's Thoughts

What a great Drama Festival we had in June in Abingdon. Thank you to all the Groups that entered, we have had very happy, supportive feedback. And congratulations to Wayne T Brown, winner of the new playwright competition with his play 'Dynamo Flo'. The next new playwright competition will be in 2018.

There were some really good productions this year and some witty, helpful comments and workshops by our adjudicator, Ben Humphrey. We all enjoyed ending the week in the Long Gallery of the Unicorn for the Gala Night Buffet, so nice to have time for a chat and a laugh with old friends.

We are addressing the problem of unfinished lighting checks during the Tech Day. This leads to further checks being requested on performance days, which is not allowed at any Festival.

The Tech Day for 2017 will be held on Sun June 4th, immediately prior to Festival Week. The lights will be set for each of the plays performing that week. We intend to hire more modern lighting for use at the Festival next year, to bring the Unicorn closer to the standard of lighting that other Festival venues provide.

All helping to improve our Festival each year.

I hope you are all enjoying this glorious weather and have happy holidays.

Deidre

The deadline for the October issue is 21st Sept 2016
Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

AUGUST

12-13 Youth Of Banbury Operatic Society
Legally Blonde The Musical

SEPTEMBER

6-10 *The Thame Players*
The House of Bernarda Alba

28 Sep-1 Oct Oxford Theatre Guild
A Cavalcade of Fools

OCTOBER

12-15 *Henley Players*
Comic Potential

13-15 Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society
"A Foot in the Door"

18-22 *Oxford Theatre Guild*
Festen

19-22 Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society
The Gondoliers

19-22 *Sinodun Players*
The Tempest

25-29 Abingdon Operatic Society
Barnum

25-29 *Banbury Operatic Society*
Spamalot

27-29 *Witney Dramatic Society*
'Bothered and Bewildered'

NOVEMBER

11-12 *Wantage Stage Musical*
Concert - Sounds of the 1980s

16-19 Abingdon Drama Club
A Man for All Seasons

24-26 *Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group*
Cinderella

30 Nov-3 Dec Bartholomew Players
"Yes, Prime Minister"

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ODN Drama Festival 2016 - Awards.

The "David Coates - Punter's prize award"
(chosen by our Season Ticket holders) went to -
California Suite - Visitors from Philadelphia
by Neil Simon - *Bartholomew Players*

Runner up was:-
Dynamo Flo by Wayne T. Brown
Oxford Theatre Guild

The "Colin Dexter Rose Bowl Award" for a
special moment went to:-

California Suite - Visitors from Philadelphia by
Neil Simon - *Bartholomew Players*

The "First Time Director's Award" went to:-
Helen Watson the Director of **The Regina
Monologues** by Rebecca Russell & Jenny
Wafer - *Banbury Cross Players*

The 3 plays from the week chosen by the
adjudicator, Ben Humphrey, to repeat their
performances were (in the order below):-

Too Long an Autumn by Jimmie Chinn -
Sinodun Players

Still Life by Noel Coward - *BreakaLeg
Productions*

Dynamo Flo by Wayne T. Brown -
Oxford Theatre Guild

Dynamo
Flo
workshop
with

Nicola
Taylor

Phil Weller
and
Adjudicator
Ben
Humphrey



Too Long
an Autumn

Marilyn
Johnstone

Rebecca
Cleverley

Graham
Watt

Barbara
Wood



Maxine Briscoe, Mike Davies, Deborah Parker &
David Fardon in "Still Life"

NEXT YEAR'S ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL

The Dates for 2017 are Mon 5th to Sat 11th June.
N.B. The Tech day will be on Sun 4th June

ODN Playwriting Competiton

The results of the ODN Playwriting Competiton
was announced at the opening night of the ODN
Drama Festival, this year. We had 7 entries and
the **winning plays** were:-

1st: **Dynamo Flo** by Wayne T Brown of Oxford
Theatre Guild

2nd: **House Lights** by Lisa Stone Faringdon
Dramatic Society

3rd: **The Zombies & the Morseline** by Mike
Rowbottom Sinodun Players

Normally there would have been a Play-Reading
of the winning play, but as OTG were performing
'Dynamo Flo' that same evening, the 2nd play
'House Lights' by Lisa Stone was read by ODN
Committee & friends to an appreciative audience.

Please note – there will not be a play-writing
competition next year, the next will be in 2018.

Ben Humphrey
Presenting the
Play-Writing
award to
Wayne Brown
of Oxford
Theatre guild
for his play
"Dynamo Flo"



Triple Success for the Bartholomew Players!

Bartholomew Players scooped two prizes in the Oxfordshire Drama Network One Act Play Festival in Abingdon on June 9th 2016, AND the prize for the Best Overall Production in The Wallingford Drama Festival the following week.



Our "Visitor from Philadelphia" play from California Suite by Neil Simon won the Colin Dexter Rose Bowl for the best "Magic Moment" and the David Coates Award for the "Punter's Prize" (voted to be the most entertaining play of the week by the Season ticket Holders) at the Abingdon Festival.

We entered the same play into the Wallingford Drama Festival the following week and were awarded the "Best Overall Production" as awarded by the adjudicator, Colin Dolley GoDA, SASDA with the trophy being presented by the Mayor of Wallingford.

Gareth Hammond (Marvin) and Claire Johnson (Millie) together with Ellina Mikhailova (Bunny) put on a fast paced, riotously funny and quick-witted performance that clearly pleased the adjudicators and audience alike, expertly directed by Debi Lisburn-Diacon.

The Director, Debi Lisburne-Diacon, is pictured with the actors, (L-R) Claire Johnson, Ellina Mikhailova and Gareth Hammond and our stash of silverware from both Festivals!

Don't miss the chance to see your local award-winning Amateur Dramatic Group in action at Eynsham Village Hall in our next production Yes, Prime Minister by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn which runs from Wednesday November 30th to Saturday December 3rd 2016. Save the dates now!!!

NODA award for Compton Players

Compton Players' production of Seal Cove last November, written and directed by Dave Hawkins has been awarded the Maurice Spillett Trophy for Best New Show in the NODA South East Region 2016 awards.

Chris Horton, of NODA, said: "the award takes into consideration all aspects of the show". Dave Hawkins said: "the fact that it's for the show rather than the play means that the part every single one of the cast and crew played in the production counted towards this unexpectedly gobsmacking award!"

"A well performed play, enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience." - ODN.

"The talent of the actors resounded throughout this excellent production. This was a clever and intriguing story that kept us entertained and interested." - NODA.

SPOTLIGHT ON....

Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society



How long has your Society been in existence?
37 Yrs

How many members do you have? *50+*

Where do you perform?
Kennington Village Centre

Do you have a 'clubroom' or other venue where you meet socially to rehearse? If so, where is that?

Kennington Village Centre

Have you/have you had any famous members in your Society? Have any of your members gone on the professional stage? *Yes*

*One has appeared regularly on Downton Abbey
One is a director/actor/fight director/
choreographer*

Many have gone to drama School

How are you financed? Do you fundraise? If so, how?
*Financed by profits from performances,
fundraise for local charities.*

Do you have sponsorship? *No*

How do you choose your plays? Is your choice influenced by your audience?
Normally the person who wishes to direct will choose the production.

How many productions do you do each year?
2-3

Have you won any trophies/prizes?
YES – ODN & Wallingford Drama Festival Awards.

ODN Panto Comp (Best Actor in Panto Comp)

Do you have a Youth Group?
We have a section of younger members who are a big part of the society.

What and when is your next production?
"Sinbad The Sailor" Jan 2017

Are there any other interesting facts that you would like to tell us about your Society?

Founder member of the O.D.N.

We like to encourage all of our members, and have fun doing so

Contact Details:

Sarah Elner

Email: sarah.ellner@yahoo.co.uk

Or see www.kenningtonads.org.uk



I have set up two Facebook pages for the Oxfordshire Drama Network, which will disseminate ODN news and information to its members, promote productions and events, and hopefully encourage interaction between the member groups.

1. **Productions and Events**

www.facebook.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork

What does it do?

This is a public facing page that has been set up to promote only the productions and events of the ODN member groups and will reinforce the ODN website. All the great productions that the ODN member groups are producing delivered directly to newsfeeds of any subscribers – a great publicity opportunity for all of us.

Who can Post?

Only administrators of this page can post information so if you would like your production to be put on the facebook page and promoted, please go to the ODN website (www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org) and add your event to the listings as normal. If there is any extra information you would like added (ie photos or links etc) then send them through to me directly (karencarey@me.com) and I will add them to the post.

Visitors to the page can comment on the posts and send messages, but cannot create any posts themselves. Page administrators and moderators can remove any comments that are found to be offensive.

Who's it for?

Anyone who is interested in receiving information on local productions and events and supporting the member groups. So please encourage not only your members, but also friends, family & supporters to take a look. Anyone with a Facebook page can subscribe by clicking on the "Like" button, then, whenever the page is updated with information, it should appear on their own Facebook newsfeeds.

2. **Closed Members only Group**

www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767/

What does it do?

This is a member's only resource and members can:

- Share rehearsal photos/information about their current production
- Send out urgent requests for help across the membership
- Interact and engage with other member groups
- Receive information from the ODN organisation – i.e. details of workshops, festivals, deadlines for the newsletter etc

Who can Post?

ODN members only, or those approved by the administrators.

Any individual who is a member of a group or society that is a paid up member group of ODN can be admitted. I have already invited those who I know are affiliated to one of the ODN groups, and sent out invitations to the ODN reps. The ODN reps will be assigned a 'Moderator' role and able to add and invite members of their own group - however, if your group's ODN rep doesn't have a Facebook page, or would rather not do this role then contact me with an alternative – I know some groups have a social media post on their committees, for whom this may be a more suitable role. Alternatively, click "Join Group" on the Facebook page and send a message to state to which group you are affiliated.

Who's it for?

You!

We are keen to encourage vibrant and interactive discussion between our members. Exchange thoughts and ideas, share the fun of your rehearsals, offer or ask for advice, tell us about great shows and events that you've attended, have ODN notices delivered to your Facebook newsfeed and, who knows, make some new friends. We all do this for fun and it's always good to interact with like-minded people.

We only ask that you keep posts friendly and polite. Constructive criticism will be welcome, but any posts deemed to be negative or abusive will be removed.

Many thanks to all of you who have 'joined' or 'liked' already – keep spreading the word and if you have any questions, then please contact me either via the Facebook group page or email (karencarey@me.com).

Karen Carey

ODN FaceBook Manager

(Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)

CASTING NEWS

WSMC

Calling all singers

WSMC 1980s Concert

Rehearsals started on 27 July for the next WSMC concert.

All singers (over 16) are welcome.

No auditions are necessary to join the group and you do not need to be able to read music.

We are a fun and friendly group of people of all ages, so feel free to pop along to one of our rehearsals and see what we are about.

Concert rehearsal are 19:30-22:00 Hrs
Every Wednesday from 27th July 2016

Venue: Methodist Hall, Wantage

Further information:

www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk;

info@wantagestagemusical.co.uk

or like us on FaceBook

and experience. Love and loyalty are powerful and moving at any age – and in any combination of genders.

Directors Simon Tavener and Moya Hughes' confidence and flair was evident



from the first moment when the cast filed on carrying umbrellas. Catherine Woolley's costumes and Tom Atkinson's versatile set design also gave much visual delight.

Music was one of the greatest pleasures of the evening, and both the cast and an outstanding Feste (actor and composer Joe Swarbrick) cut through the clowning and self-delusion with a melodious – but still implacable – river of pain, which culminated in the dark imprisonment of Nick Quartley's excellent Malvolio.

Maxwell Windich's Bertie Wooster-like Duke Orsino's antics provoked his manservant Curio (John Baron) to twist his face into a wonderful series of comic gurns, but Orsino's growing delight at discovering Cesario's true identity demonstrated a dextrous heart.

As with Malvolio, Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Tim Eyres) was entirely believable and one of the best interpretations I have ever seen. Aguecheek's humanity gave his fall real bruises, and as he left with his ego and finances in shreds, there was pathos in his ignominious exit. Even Maria's (Fleur Yerbury-Hodgson) relentless good humour, and Fabienne's (Amanda Holland) remorseful misgivings could not sweeten Sir Toby Belch's (Peter Roberts) choleric spite and snobbery.

Feisty exchanges between imperious Olivia (Bryony Marshall-Falland) and indomitable Viola (wide-eyed Eloise Sheffield) were perfectly attuned to comedic effect but both could convey deep feeling – not least Olivia's simmering sexual chemistry with Sebastian (Thomas Perry) after a daybed encounter.

ABINDGON DRAMA CLUB Play Readings

Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer on Tuesday
13th September @ 7.30pm in the ADC
clubhouse

Abandonment by Kate Atkinson on Tuesday
11th October @ 7.30pm in the ADC clubhouse

As ever these are open evenings and all are
welcome to come and take part or just listen.

The ADC clubhouse is on Marcham Road,
opposite the White Horse pub.

REVIEWS

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

Desire and deception in Oxford twilight.

Trinity College Gardens on a still, perfumed night was the idyllic setting of Oxford Theatre Guild's sparkling production of Twelfth Night.

Oxford audiences are so blessed with student summer garden productions that it is relatively unusual to see a full gamut of ages in the cast. The combination of zesty youth with seasoned age worked well, with experienced longstanding amateurs working with talented newcomers, accentuating the play's themes of youth



Cast out of all of this was the forlorn, lovesick Antonio (Simon Bellamy) who gave up everything: life, liberty and purse to a man who only had eyes for a woman.

As Feste says: the rain it raineth every day – but only for some, it seems.

Alison Boulton (Daily Info Reviewer) 21/07/16

THAME PLAYERS

'Macbeth'

by William Shakespeare



Lady Macbeth (Abi Tester) and Macbeth (Ryan Witney)

Bloody, Bold & Resolute, The Scottish Play Wows Thame!

It's a play many regard as having Shakespeare's best lines. It is notoriously prone to bad luck. Many directors fear it, though they'd love to do it. Chris Parker clearly was 'Bloody, Bold and Resolute'! (Well, 'two out of three' is pretty good!) Not only did he take it on, but it was performed outside in an English summer. (We'd just decided to leave Europe – so no chance of Mediterranean weather!) For me all the risks were well worth it. It was a very fine interpretation and performances were exceptionally well-prepared.

The play stands or falls in the casting of the lead protagonists. Ryan Witney and Abi Tester embraced their respective Macbeth and Lady Macbeth roles with great confidence. Their identification with the musicality of the poetry didn't impede their performances having integrity and clarity. Furthermore they worked together so well that the sexual energy required to make the text come alive, hardly waned throughout. So many of their lines are simultaneously mouthed by audiences, that the roles are as exacting as any in Shakespeare. Ryan was at his most menacing in his quieter scheming contemplations, and Abi when cautious of her husband's "milk of human kindness," but both actors were fully-controlled on maximum volume when required. Steve Trenchard gave a very consistent and credible characterization to Banquo, making their encounter with the three weird sisters in the opening scene riveting.

The latter, played by Anne Lankester, Lucy Hardy and Katy Youers, added sinister synchronised movement using the full scope of the open 'stage' area. The disgusting looking props and their co-ordinated chanting to cast the spell really did look magical even in the matinee show. (It is a trifle worrying to see so much evil so obviously enjoyed by actors. I hope these 'ladies' don't take any sort of dislike to any of the innocent Thame residents until the rehearsal period has totally worn off!) The noblemen all gave strong support with fine speaking and good movement. The quality of the costumes – especially the 'armour' really helped, though it must have been uncomfortable to wear.

There were some very fine cameos in the play, too. I can't mention all, but I was particularly taken with Simon Baynes' Erasmus-looking doctor. His well-acted concern

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

for Lady Macbeth and his obvious fear of Macbeth contributed to their dominance. The murderers, Steve Lambell and Jonathan Rush were pretty terrifying! Their movement and body language was enough, without them needing to speak. Thame wouldn't be safe if they were type-cast! Neave White was a very lovable and sophisticated son for Banquo and his wife. Their murders were almost unendurable, giving huge impetus to Steve's collapse and pathetic, "What ALL? All my darlings." Nick Weir gave good supporting acting to Macduff (Phil Byrom) gaining their full responses to his well-timed speeches. Phil's fighting skills were a great advertisement for Caesarean births. (I missed not having the head struck off, but going to the matinee one is often not shown the 'real' thing! After all, they have another show at 19.45!)

Even members of the cast with few appearances or lines were consistent, in character and reacting to the drama throughout. The teamwork was excellent.

Much of this must be down to Chris Parker's leadership as director. The decision to work the first scene as a 'prologue' outside the 'auditorium' was a stroke of genius, welding audience and players into reciprocating contributors to the play to follow.

The costume, setting, front-of-house and stage back-up was universally strong. In short the play achieved a standard which the Thame Players continually eclipse – which is why the matinee sold out!

Many congratulations to all concerned. Bloody bold, Bloody Resolute, too!

Gwilym Scourfield

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH OF BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY Legally Blonde The Musical



Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name, Legally Blonde tells the story of perennially perky Elle Woods - a girl who loves to be pampered and shop for the latest all-pink outfits (and matching accessories, of course!). But don't let this seemingly blonde ditsy fashionista fool you – this sorority sister is smarter than she looks and doesn't take 'no' for an answer. So when boyfriend Warner dumps her for someone more "serious", Elle sets out to win him back by putting down the credit cards and hitting the books. Ready to revamp her image, Elle goes where no Delta Nu sorority girl has gone before: the hallowed halls of Harvard Law School. At first, she struggles to fit in but, with a little help

from her friends, our heroine in heels completes her journey to Harvard Law graduate, proving along the way that staying true to yourself never goes out of style!

When: Friday 12th August 7.30pm, and
Saturday 13th August 2.30pm & 7.30pm

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

Tickets: £10 Adults / £8 16 & under
online: www.yobos.co.uk/tickets
or from Anker & Partners Estate Agents

THE THAME PLAYERS

The House of Bernarda Alba

by Federico Garcia Lorca
a new English version by David Hare

Five daughters live together in a single household with a tyrannical mother. When the father of all but the eldest girl dies a cynical marriage is advanced which will have tragic consequences for the whole family. Lorca based his drama on real life characters that lived in the village, Asquerosa, where he had lived as a child, using the petty gossip and cruel conventions that he had observed there. The play, with an all female cast, speaks powerfully as a political metaphor of oppression as it does of domestic drama. When he had completed the play Lorca said "The only topics that concern me for the theatre are social and sexual ones."

Finished just two months before the author's murder on 18th August 1936 by a gang of Franco's supporters, The House of Bernarda Alba is now accepted as Federico Garcia Lorca's great masterpiece of love and loathing.

When: Tue 6th to Sat 10th Sep at 7.45pm
Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame

Tickets: £9 (conc £8) from
Spear Travels, Greyhound Walk, Thame,
Tel 01844 217228 or
online www.ThamePlayers.co.uk

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

A Cavalcade of Fools

by Andrew Barsby

A bitter-sweet romantic comedy, set in the little world of amateur theatre

Maggie, the director of an amateur theatrical company, holds the hands of some distinctly mixed actors as they stumble through rehearsals for a new production. One of her new recruits is Martin, a middle-aged accountant – recently dispossessed of his job and his wife, he's in search of some small success in life.

The play-within-a-play tells the tale of an ancient power struggle: on the one hand, the dissolute inhabitants of a mouldering abbey, on the other, the scheming Veiled Lady and her retinue, who have occupied a nearby castle. For Martin, in the reluctant rôle of an elderly monk, acting proves to be no escape from drama and affairs of the heart.

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Will the cast pull it off? Who is the mysterious Veiled Lady? Can piety defeat military might? Whither the Cavalcade of Fools?

This new play by Andrew Barsby is a joyful investigation into love and hate, war and peace, the perverse splendour of human relations and the sheer unreliability of Fate itself.

When: Wed 28th Sept - Sat 1st Oct 7.30pm (+2.30 Sat)
Where: the Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford

Tickets: £13 (£11/£9 Under 18s)
www.OxfordPlayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/#event=20962
in person at Oxford Playhouse or
Tel 01865 305305

HENLEY PLAYERS

Comic Potential

by Alan Ayckbourn

A romantic sci-fi comedy, set in a TV studio in the foreseeable future, when low-cost androids (known as "actoids") have largely replaced actors!

When: 12-15 October 2016, 7:30 pm
Where: Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames
Tickets: 01491 575698

WOODCOTE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

"A Foot in the Door"

by Richard
Harris



This extremely funny comedy sees May Archer, an elderly widow, entertaining in her London semi.

The first guest to arrive is Warren, a fledgling wardrobe salesman, following by Desmond, a home security expert. Next on the scene are Stan and Angela, keen to measure up May's bedroom for decoration and then the pneumatic Jilly arrives with her electric keyboard. Each salesperson adopts a persona they think will persuade their client to put her money their way, but May's inability to wrench her eyes away from the TV and her lack of interest in any of their products looks set to wreck their hopes. This madcap comedy comes to a rousing conclusion when May saves the day with a clever scheme that leaves everyone satisfied.

When: Thu 13th to Sat 15th October at 7.45 pm
Where: Woodcote Village Hall
Tickets: from box office 01491 680523
or visit www.WoodcoteDrama.co.uk

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Festen

"I've written two speeches, Dad. You get to choose which one."

It is the eve of Helge's 60th birthday. His wife, daughter and two sons have gathered to celebrate with him at their family-owned hotel.

On the surface, it is an ideal family portrait - until eldest son Christian gets to his feet to raise a toast to his father, and breaks the silence around a disturbing family secret.

Trapped in the hotel, the perfect image begins to fracture. Is Christian telling the truth? Or will brother turn against brother as the family tears itself apart?

An English-language adaptation of the Danish film and play, Festen is a darkly funny, savage and uncomfortable journey through a dinner party that no one will ever forget.

When: Wed 18th - Sat 22nd Oct 7.30pm
(Also 2.30pm Sat)

Where: Mathematical Institute,
Woodstock Road, Oxford

Tickets: £14 (£12/£9 Under 18s)
www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/#event=20963
or in person at Oxford Playhouse
or Tel 01865 305305

KIDLINGTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

The Gondoliers

by Gilbert
and Sullivan

The story of two
charming
Venetian



gondoliers, Giuseppe and Marco, who are informed that due to an error of identity when they were young boys, one of them is the heir to the throne of Barataria. They agree to share the responsibilities of governing their new kingdom until it can be ascertained which of them is which, but matters are complicated when the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro reveal that their beautiful daughter, Casilda, was married to the future king as an infant. The problem?

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Giuseppe and Marco are both newly married to the contadine Tessa and Gianetta, and Casilda is in love with her father's attendant, Luiz.

Since its premiere in 1889, The Gondoliers has delighted audiences with its memorable score by Sullivan, and its political satire, cleverly tucked into Gilbert's witty plotline.

When: 19th - 22nd October

Where: Gosford Hill School Hall, Kidlington

Website: www.kaosinoxon.org

SINODUN PLAYERS

The Tempest

by William
Shakespeare



A romantic sci-fi comedy, set in a TV studio in the foreseeable future, when low-cost androids Sinodun Players present a radical new approach to Shakespeare's final and, arguably, greatest masterpiece.

Against a backdrop of truly original and outstanding, staging, soundscape, lighting, costume and haunting music, the Bard's final masterpiece promises to be an audio and visual treat. An inventive and entertaining experience for all.

There will be a talkback with cast and director Paul Cleverley after the Thursday performance.

Set on a mythical island where lives a coterie of fascinating characters, this tale has long been hailed as Shakespeare's most captivating drama. The story revolves around the exiled Prospero who plots revenge on his usurping brother by conjuring up a storm to lure him to his destiny.

When: 19 - 22 October 2016 - 7:45pm

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

Tickets: £10 (group discounts available)
from www.cornexchange.org.uk or
box office 01491 825000.

ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Barnum

by Cy Coleman,
Michael Stewart
& Mark Bramble

Barnum tells the story of the Prince of Humbug, Phineas Taylor Barnum. Over the objections of his wife, Charity, Barnum attempts to create a show in which the main attractions are figments of his own talent for promotion.

Included in this mix of characters we find the oldest woman alive, Joice Heth, the smallest man in the world, Tom Thumb, the world's biggest elephant, Jumbo, and to top it all off, a glamorous Swedish opera singer, Jenny Lind.

When: Tue 25th to Sat 29th Oct 7.30pm
+ Sat matinee 2.30pm

Where: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, OX14 1DE

Tickets: see

www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk/tickets.html

Enquiries: 01235 834383



classic comedy film, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the musical also diverts a bit from more traditional versions of the legend.

When: 25-29 OCTOBER at 7.30pm

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

Tickets: £15 & £13 (avail from 1st Sept)

Online, or from Anker & Partners Estate Agents

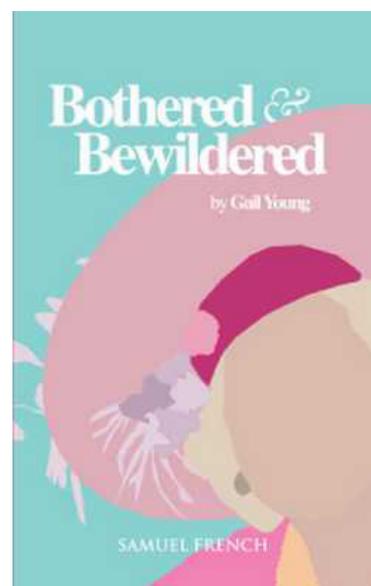
Website: www.BanburyOperaticSociety.co.uk

Twitter: @BanburyOperatic

WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY 'Bothered and Bewildered'

by Gail Young

A comic drama that follows Irene and her two daughters Louise and Beth as they begin a long journey in which 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 fiction



blurs with reality. She discusses with her unseen and witty companion Barbara Cartland (Irene's favourite and now deceased world famous romantic novelist) how best to write her 'memory book', disclosing to Barbara long kept family secrets that she would never reveal to anyone else.

This is a wonderful play, full of comedy and pathos and we look forward to seeing you there.

When: Thu 27th, to Sat 29th Oct at 7.30pm

Where: The Methodist Church,
40 High Street, Witney, OX28 6HG

Tickets: from Rapture Music, Woolgate, Witney
or from Margaret Hamm (Tel: 01993 704032)

Website: www.witneydrama.co.uk

BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY Spamalot

Book & lyrics by Eric Idle

Music by John du Prez & Eric Idle

From the original
screenplay by Graham
Chapman, John
Cleese, Terry Gilliam,
Eric Idle, Terry Jones,
& Michael Palin

Spamalot tells the
legendary tale of
King Arthur's quest
to find the Holy Grail.
Inspired by the



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

WANTAGE STAGE MUSICAL Concert - Sounds of the 1980s



WSMC are back with their latest concert.

Join us as we take you back in time to enjoy the music of the 1980s. It was a decade where the music was Gold and we hope that after the evening's entertainment you'll be Walking on Sunshine.

So save the dates:

Fri 11 Nov – East Hagbourne Village Hall

Sat 12 Nov – Stanford-in-the-Vale Village Hall

Fri 18 Nov – Old Mill Hall, Grove

Sat 19 Nov – Steventon Village Hall

Further information:

www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk

Email: info@WantageStageMusical.co.uk

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB A Man for All Seasons

By Robert Bolt

A modern classic. The play is perfect for the Unicorn's Elizabethan stage set up and will be simply staged with the pillars in place.

This tragic historical drama offers a brilliant portrait of Sir Thomas More in his last years as Lord Chancellor of England during the reign of Henry VIII.

When Henry fails to obtain Papal approval for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn, he mandates his subjects to sign an "Act of Supremacy" making him both spiritual and temporal leader of England. Sir Thomas cannot in good conscience comply. Neither Cromwell, Cardinal Wolsey, his family nor the King himself are able to convince More as he maintains his integrity and belief in silence.

Ultimately accused of high treason, this very silence leads the man to his execution.

When: Wed 16th - Sat 19th Nov at 7:30pm

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

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

Group Bookings: 10+ £8 (£8.55 when booked online - select concession rate tickets)

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Phone: 0845 4636638



KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP Cinderella

by Stuart Paterson



This is going to be one of the most belly-laugh, fast paced, colourful and entertaining productions we have ever put on!

When: Thu 24 and Fri 25 Nov at 7:30pm
& Sat 26 Nov at 3:00pm and 7pm

Where: Southmoor Village Hall,

Tickets: Adult £8 and Child £5 (early bird offer for Aug/Sept)

from 01865 736913

Online: booking details available later.

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS "Yes, Prime Minister"

by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn

From the writers of the original television series, comes this equally sharply satirical stage version.

The UK is in crisis: debt is spiralling, unemployment is on the rise and the fragile coalition cabinet, led by Prime Minister Jim Hacker, is at breaking point. But salvation may exist in the form of a complex pipeline deal with the oil-rich country of Kumranistan that would entitle the government to a multi-trillion pound loan. When the Kumranistan Foreign Secretary makes a shocking request of Jim's Private Secretary Bernard Woolley, moral considerations collide with the economic future of the nation. But how will Jim and his team: Bernard, Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby, and Special Adviser Claire Sutton, reconcile the two? Political machinations, media manipulation and an appeal for divine intervention ensue.

When: Weds 30th Nov to Sat 3rd Dec .

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

Tickets: see website:-

www.sites.google.com/site/BartholomewPlayersk