

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter



DECEMBER 2016

### EDITOR'S BULLETIN

Lots going on in the next couple of months, not all pantomimes. Don't forget to enter your group's panto or children's play into the ODN panto competition (see page 2).

That moot point about plays needing black actors has popped up again for HAODs (see Castings). My personal view is that when we don't have the right actors we make up older people to look young & young to look old etc. I've been chinese (King & I) black (Showboat) in the past. Both of those convey an important message about how things used to be. I await your letters of comment!

*Mike Davies*

### Chairman's Thoughts

We're all getting excited about the Pantomimes coming up - you put in so much thought and energy, having real fun along the way. Maybe some Groups need to put as much effort into the plays? because the paying public demand more - if you are not getting the support from your village for your comedies and dramas, are you or your Director guilty of less commitment?

I can see a division in our ODN groups - on one side large, enthusiastic audiences bringing much needed revenue. The audiences come because they know they will have an entertaining evening. On the other side there are poor audiences (bolstered up by loyal family members and friends). Less income and some actors leaving to join more successful Groups sometimes sadly leads to the closure of the Society.

I still think that an experienced Director will enthuse a cast and get the best performances. Maybe ODN can start a list of experienced Directors who would be willing to guide new Directors?

Of course we are all suffering from rising prices for our venues. Some rents are soaring way beyond our ticket income. The higher rents seem to be set by people who have no idea of the expenses we have to pay - Licences, scripts, rehearsal hall rents, dress hire and printing costs to name but a few.

Despite these problems we seem to be battling through, I look forward with pleasure to seeing your colourful cornucopia of Pantomimes for 2016/17

*Deidre*

The deadline for the February issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2017  
Contributions to [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

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

#### DECEMBER

- 1-3 Bartholomew Players  
"Yes, Prime Minister"
- 1-3 *Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society*  
*A L A D D I N*
- 2-4 Thame Players
- 7-11 Peter Pan (the Panto!)
- 6-10 *Oxford Theatre Guild*  
*All My Sons*

#### JANUARY

- 13-28 SINODUN PLAYERS  
The Pied Piper
- 19-21 *WOPA*  
*"A Lad In Oatlands Park"*
- 20-28 Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society  
Sinbad the Sailor
- 27-28 *Didcot Phoenix Drama Group*  
*Jack & the Beanstalk,*
- 28-29 Faringdon Dramatic Society  
Feb3,4 Arthur's Adventures or "Merlin to the Rescue"
- 28-29 *Woodcote A.D.S.*  
Feb3,4 *Dick Whittington*

#### FEBRUARY

- 1-4 Banbury Cross Players  
Caught in the Net

#### MARCH

- 22-25 *BreakaLeg Productions*  
*Hedda Gabler*

#### APRIL

- 5-8 Jigsaw Stage Productions
- 20-22 Made in Dagenham The Musical
- 5-8 *AmEgos Theatre*  
*Sweeney Todd;*
- 26-29 Banbury Cross Players  
The Tempest

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## There's still time to enter the ODN PANTOMIME COMPETITION

It's not yet too late to Enter your Pantomime or Children's Play into the ODN Panto-competition for 2016-17.

Full details on the application form which can be downloaded from



[www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](http://www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)  
(downloads page)

The winning group wins the Shield for the year, and has their name & panto engraved on it.

Entry fee is £10. Please return form and entrance fee at least 4 weeks before your first night but at the latest by 14th Dec 2016.

The results will be announced at the AGM on Friday April 28th at Drayton Village Hall

Please note that entry is only open to ODN members. Please check that your ODN subs have been paid.

ODN are not running a **playwriting competition** this year, however if there are any disappointed playwrights out there, the Isle of Man may have the answer:-



Entries invited for TheatreFest16 play-writing competition, which invites writers from around the world to submit a new one-act play based on 'Journeys', the theme for the TheatreFest16 programme. The winner will have his or her play performed during TheatreFest17.

Organised by the Isle of Man Arts Council, TheatreFest is a five-year project to pioneer and promote new work for the theatre, a legacy outcome from Island of Culture 2014.

For terms and conditions for the TheatreFest16 play-writing competition visit [www.iomarts.com](http://www.iomarts.com). Entries can be submitted by email to [iomartscouncil@gov.im](mailto:iomartscouncil@gov.im) or mailed to Isle of Man Arts Council, Hamilton House, Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 5EZ.

Closing date December 31, 2016.

Don't forget our new  
FACEBOOK pages:-



1. Productions and Events  
[www.facebook.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork](http://www.facebook.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork)
2. Closed Members only Group  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

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

## Stagelights Drama Group

It is with sadness that I have to tell you that Stagelights ceased to exist last night. While members of the group may meet for informal play readings in people's houses or pubs, as of today Stagelights is no longer a legal entity.

I am hoping to create a much more wide ranging group (in terms of ages, maybe 8 to 100?, and in terms of activities - drama, dance, music, etc.) that may continue to use the regular slot for rehearsals at Old Mill Hall on Thursdays, and our pre-booked performance dates in June and January [although not this January].

I am hoping to get the new venture up and running over December/January.

Regards Chris Osland

## OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA WARDROBE

Volunteers are gearing up for the coming PANTO SEASON by trying out some of their huge range of period and fancy dress costumes.

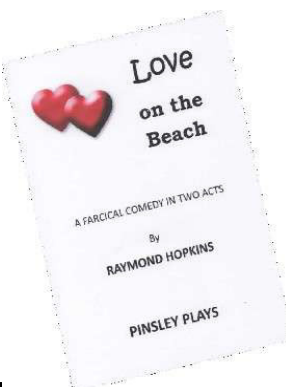
Oh yes they are!

Producing a show, play or pantomime this Winter? Contact ODW at [odwc1938@gmail.com](mailto:odwc1938@gmail.com) for help with your costume needs.

[OxonDramaWardrobe.co.uk](http://OxonDramaWardrobe.co.uk)



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT PLAY?



*Since 1998 Raymond Hopkins has been writing farcical comedies and donating his royalties to Multiple Sclerosis Research.*

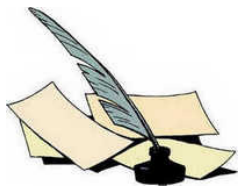
*His latest play called 'Love on the Beach' has just been released.*

*Would your group be interested in staging the world premiere of this play?*

Email — [mail@raymondhopkins.com](mailto:mail@raymondhopkins.com)  
for a free reading copy.

**Please visit**  
[www.raymondhopkins.com](http://www.raymondhopkins.com)

## ODN Facebook Page – a great resource!



The Bartholomew Players found themselves with a rather large dilemma recently when the “Prime Minister” in their November production of “Yes, Prime Minister” had to “resign” for personal reasons with just 6 weeks to go before opening night! We posted an urgent “Help!” please message on the ODN website and within 3 days had a choice of 3 possible PMs who came forward!

Our replacement Jim Hacker was a professionally trained actor, who lives locally and has been doing amateur work for some years, latterly with the Standlake Players. Phil Birkett from the SP had circulated the message to his group. We also advertised on the Oxfordshire Theatre Guild network which is where the other two candidates heard about it.

At our most recent committee meeting, we all commented that this is a route we'd take in the future if we didn't have the exact candidate to fill a role - it seems like a very efficient way to get to a large network of people who respond very quickly.

Postscript! Unfortunately, the replacement PM also had to drop out for health reasons with just 3 weeks to opening night, but we were saved by an existing member of our group who had reluctantly declined the role back in July due to family commitments, but who now found herself miraculously available and was even more miraculously off-book within one week!!!. So Jim Hacker has now become Jill Hacker (how relevant to today's politics!!) and we have a great show lined up for our sell-out audience!

As a first time Director, this has been a baptism of fire for me (despite attending the NODA Directing Drama course back in the summer!) but thanks to the great team of people in the Bartholomew Players, I have remained sane and far from a nervous breakdown!

Denise Santilli    Publicity Officer Bartholomew Players

## Costume storage space needed!

Jigsaw Stage Productions are once again urgently looking for storage space around the Wantage Area for our selection of Stage Costumes.



If anyone is able to help or suggest any possible solutions could you please contact either Chris on 07765057107 or Rosemary on 01235 767509

Thank you!

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

## SPOTLIGHT ON....

### WOPA

#### West Oxford Pantomime Association



How long has your Society been in existence?

*6 Yrs*

How many members do you have? *150+*

Where do you perform?

*West Oxford Community Centre*

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

*West Oxford Community Centre*

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

*Lara Hazel, Sophie Ruggiero, Hope McNamara*

How are you financed? Do you fundraise? If so, how? *Financed by Adverts + Sponsors + Ticket sales.*

Do you have sponsorship? *Sometimes*

How many productions do you do each year?

*Pantomime & one other that changes*

Have you won any trophies/prizes?

*No*

Do you have a Youth Group?

*All in one (Approx 50+ children)*

What and when is your next production?

*"A Lad in Oaklands Park" in Jan 2017*

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

*Teenagers write their own scenes in pantos*

Contact Details:

Karen Starr

Email: *info@wopa.me*

Or see *www.wopa.me*

## CASTING NEWS

### Banbury Cross Players

**OPEN AUDITIONS for The Tempest** on 1 December 2016, 8pm at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury.

Performance dates 26-29 April 2017, 7.45pm

Details available on our website

<http://banburycrossplayers.org.uk/2016-2017-season/#tempest>

or email us on

[contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk](mailto:contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk)

# CASTING NEWS CONTD

## JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

will be holding the first **read through** for their Spring 2017 Production of the fabulous West End blockbuster Musical **'Made in Dagenham'** at 3.30pm on Sunday 18 December in 'The October Club', Wantage (behind Wantage Parish Church).



The show will be staged at:-  
'The Beacon', Wantage from 5-8 April 2017 & at  
'The Cornerstone', Didcot from 20-22 April 2017.

We're particularly looking for men for main parts (singing and non-singing) and chorus.

Men wishing to **audition** for a main singing part should come prepared with a song of their own choice.

Please phone 01235 767509 for further details.

Also see our website  
[www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk](http://www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk)

## BLEWBURY PLAYERS

### "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

(Performances 19th-22nd July at Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury).

Like all Dickens stories, there are many characters, young and old, parts large and small, and as always, Blewbury Players, are happy to welcome people with a wide range of acting experience. Our director will be Sebastian Palka, who trained as an actor in Poland and has studied and directed there, in Australia, and now in London, with the Polish Children's Theatre.

### AUDITIONS

To be held at Blewbury School on 29th January and 5th February. To book an audition please contact us at [blewburyplayers@gmail.com](mailto:blewburyplayers@gmail.com) or call Sheila on 01235 850537. If these audition dates are impossible please do still contact us and discuss it. Many thanks Trish Brooks

## HENLEY A.O.D.S.

### Bethlehem Lights

By Michael Ashton

Last year we did a one act play competition and our winner was a play called Bethlehem Lights - don't be fooled into thinking it is a sweet Christmas play, it is

anything but. It is extremely powerful, with a real person as the subject. The prize was to have the play performed and perhaps be our festival entry. However, the problem I have is that all the actors have to be black as the play is set in a hotel in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - and as you see from the resume of the characters, Mathieu Ndugjolo Chui is not a very savoury character at all. So the play is very powerful.

It will be performed over two nights in our Studio, Feb 17 & 18 and then several Festival dates.

Julie Huntington 07831 546047

Email: [hunting311@aol.com](mailto:hunting311@aol.com)

### Character Breakdown

**Set:** A hotel room in Kinshasa and a park in Australia - 2007

**Mathieu Ndugjolo Chui** - Age 44 – Bantu - a colonel in the Congolese army and a former senior commander of the National Integrationist Front (FNI) and the Patriotic Resistance Force in Ituri. On 6 February 2008, he was arrested by the Congolese authorities and surrendered to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to stand trial on six counts of war crimes and three counts of crimes against humanity. The charges include murder, sexual slavery and using children under the age of fifteen to participate actively in hostilities.

In December 2012, he was acquitted of war crimes at the Hague by Judge Bruno Cotte on the grounds that the prosecution had not proven beyond reasonable doubt that he was responsible for the crimes committed, a decision which led to criticism of the ICC. This play is set in the aftermath of a massacre of a Mema Village. A strong, ruthless part.

**Sofia** – Early 20's – Mema, Looked upon as from a lower class tribe by Ndugjolo. A passionate young woman.

**Andrew** – Any age – a priest – In danger of losing his faith, but a fair man

**Newsreader** – pre-recorded – male

## THAME PLAYERS

### Absent Friends

by Alan Ayckbourn

**Auditions** for our May show  
**will be on 4th and 11th Jan.**  
**at the Players Theatre, Thame.**

Performances are 9th to 13th May at 7.45pm.  
3 men and 3 women. 30 somethings! 70's era

For more details etc contact Brian Holt on  
[brian@brianholtassociates.com](mailto:brian@brianholtassociates.com)

# REVIEWS

## Compton PLAYERS

**Bracken Moor** by Alexi Campbell Saye  
9-12 November 2016

This play is set in the home of Yorkshire mine owner Harold Pritchard in 1937. He lives there with his wife, Elizabeth, but always under the shadow of his 12 year old son, Edgar who was killed in an accident 10 years ago.

The set, whilst imaginative and striking seemed a little under-dressed, not quite reflecting the opulence of Pritchard's status.

The first encounter with the hard-nosed Harold is a disagreement with mine spokesman, John Bailey concerning the purchase of new machinery, which will see the loss of miners' jobs. Paul Shave (Harold) could have been harder and more confrontational, as he appeared too 'nice' throughout. This would have given John Bailey (Ian Hickling) the opportunity to respond forcefully. Likewise, Harold's intolerant attitude to Terence's idealism could have been a little more spirited. George Buckland gave a sterling performance as Terence, and his transformation between the opinionated young man and the child-like person possessed by the ghost of Edgar was simply brilliant.

Elizabeth (Tracey Pearce) was very believable as the grief-stricken mother and her interaction with Terence, as Edgar, was very good. It was a shame that some of her lines were lost due to lack of volume.

The house guests, Vanessa and Geoffrey Avery were well portrayed, with a stately performance from Jasmine Mullany (Vanessa), in contrast to the wilting Elizabeth, who was eventually fired-up with a forlorn hope, when unknown family secrets were being revealed by Terence. There was good tension between Harold and Geoffrey (Dave Hawkins) who came into his own, when standing up to Harold in act 2. His performance was solid and believable.

The stormy night culminated in a very effective thunder crash and lightening which heralded a greater transformation of Terence into being possessed by Edgar. Eric Saxton gave a brief, but sturdy portrayal of Dr Gibbons, called in (at 4.30 in the morning – [pre NHS!]) to attend Terence, following his bout of fitting. His Yorkshire accent was so good I had to check in the programme to see where he came from – Oxford!

The cast maintained the tension of the play throughout, helped by the maid (Lauren Eeley)

explaining the situation to John Bailey who arrives with papers to be signed regarding the new mine machinery. Although an incidental part, this was a vital link and was very well and convincingly played.

The reveal was well handled and left everyone wondering if this really happened or was it all an act!

Congratulations to all on a skilful production of a difficult play.

Nigel James

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## FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

by Derek Webb

A lovely warm welcome from Faringdon DS and a tasty ploughman's to set the scene for a nice evening out. First glance at the programme and I can see



that we're in for a treat, most of Faringdon's 'big guns' are acting tonight. The full house indicates that the locals appreciate the talent that is FDS.

A fun script by Derek Webb with lots of play on words - quite difficult for the actors to master, but no call on the prompt, Amanda Linstead, all night.

Set in a village Hall, Jo Webster made good use of the village Hall we were in, playing 'in the round'

I was a bit distracted by the exits and entrances - the back of the Hall seemed to be the entrance from the 'street' although when going 'out' again some actors left by a door at the other end of the Hall. And why did the cleaner (lovely performance by Jeni Summerfield) lock her cleaning cupboard without leaving her mop and bucket inside? She should have left them off-stage and then we wouldn't have noticed.



Small points but eagle eyes used to 'Midsomer Murders' notice them. Director, Helen Thrower, did an otherwise safe job.

.....Continued overleaf

Sadly we missed some of the lines of Verity Roberts as a funny, squeaky voiced committee member - performing 'in the round' often brings this problem when actors may have their backs to some members of the audience.

We liked the choice of music from old TV murder mysteries, played at the end of each scene - all playing 'spot that tune'

Just a suggestion - actually a plea - can we please have a slow fade as the lights go down? A sudden black-out is an unpleasant shock - I didn't even have time to put my glass down on the table in front of me before we were plunged into darkness. I get the feeling that the 'sparks' think it's funny.

The large cast of eleven, as I expected, all gave top notch performances and I thank FDS for a most entertaining evening.

P.S. I have deliberately not mentioned the plot as requested during the interval

Deidre Jones

Nov 25th 2016

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## SINODUN PLAYERS

### THE TEMPEST.

We were promised 'a radical new approach' to The Tempest, and in many ways that's what we got. Director Paul Cleverley was able to condense the play down to a very manageable two hours, while still convincingly preserving the three plot threads running through the text. He obviously had a clear vision of how the action would be supported by the staging, music, sound and lighting effects; by and large they worked.

Nick Quarterley, as Prospero, presided over the action, bringing Shakespeare's language to life. It was well articulated and delivered throughout the entire play, bringing out the 'light and dark' elements of the text. He gave us a very sympathetic portrayal of a complex character, but somehow the body language and costume did not give us the feeling that here was a man of mystery and hidden power. His relationships with Ariel and Caliban, his willing and unwilling servants, and theirs with him, came across beautifully and these were sustained throughout the action. The same can be said of his relationships with Miranda and Ferdinand, played effectively by Lauren Carter and George Brooks respectively. These two made very appealing lovers.

Both Graham Watt as Ariel, and Joel Webster as Caliban, brought the stage to life in their very different ways whenever they appeared. The trio of Caliban, Stephano the drunken butler (Alex Watts) and Trinculo the jester (Peter Smithson) were

hilarious, Yes, they had the benefit of providing the comedy element, but it was noticeable that the 'power level' went up several notches when they appeared. Highly entertaining.

In general the standard of acting and delivery was high; however, with a play which depends so much on the richness of the language and the interaction and responses of all the characters, it was a little disappointing that a few of the cast did not do the text justice. A degree of passion and variation of tone was missing.

The 'Steampunk' set worked very well, with its varied levels, nooks and crannies, and its interesting and unusual elements - quite an inspired choice. It might have been an idea to pursue the 'Steampunk' idea into the costume design, perhaps providing a stronger picture overall. As it was, the variety of costumes from different periods (perhaps signifying the passage of time) was somewhat distracting.

The projection effects and lighting added really strong elements to the production, as did the sound. However, the noise of the tempest at the start did rather drown out the words of the actors. The music, and the instruments used, worked extremely well, being ideally suited to the piece. The downside was that having the musicians sit where they did, at stage left in full view, was again distracting as one's eyes were inevitably drawn directly to them.

A thought: The masque sequence was presented as an antimasque; with such a strong comedy trio already introduced to us, this might have been an opportunity to introduce a more dreamlike sequence rather than more comedy.

A couple of other small points: Ariel's mask meant that his voice was distorted and we could not distinguish his words. Also, the lights in Prospero's magical cloak seemed overdone and perhaps better suited to a pantomime.

To sum up? A good evening in the theatre, with much to enjoy, but perhaps Sinodun's acting resources were stretched a little thin.

Peter Webster



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

### "Yes, Prime Minister"

by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn

The UK is in crisis: debt is spiralling, unemployment is on the rise and the fragile coalition cabinet, led by Prime Minister Jill 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 Jill's Private Secretary Bernard Woolley, moral considerations collide with the economic future of the nation. But how will Jill 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

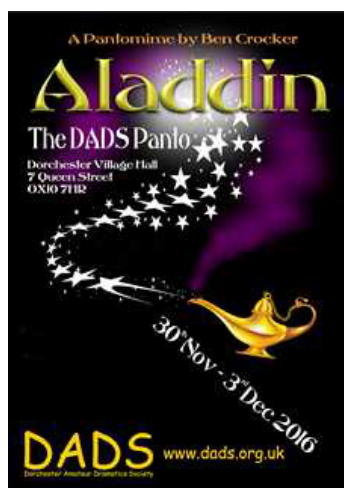
**Tickets:** see website:-  
[www.BartholomewPlayers.co.uk](http://www.BartholomewPlayers.co.uk)

## DORCHESTER A.D.S.

### ALADDIN

By Ben Crocker

Aladdin is one of the best known and popular pantomimes and the DADS production will be in traditional 'Panto' style designed to appeal to all age groups. So 'curtain-up' will be earlier than usual - Midweek performances will start at 7pm and on Saturday the performance will start at 4:30pm, which will be of especial appeal to those with younger children. Along with Aladdin, all the usual familiar characters will be there such as Wishee Washee, Widow Twankey and the 'baddy' Abanazar.



This Ben Crocker Panto has a bright, upbeat, feel-good factor and takes on a new look at the old fairytale, along with, of course, the usual terrible jokes!

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

**When:** 30 Nov - 3 Dec 2016, Wed – Fri 7pm; Sat 4:30pm

**Tickets:** [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)  
or the DADS Facebook page

## THAME PLAYERS Peter Pan (the Panto!)



Thame Players traditional family panto suitable for all the family

**When:** Fri 2nd to Sun 4th AND  
Wed 7th to Sun 11th Dec  
Weekdays 7.45pm weekends 2pm and 5.30pm

**Where:** Players Theatre, Nelson St, Thame, OX9 2DP

**Tickets:** £8 - £9, from mid October from  
Spear Travels  
or [www.thameplayers.co.uk](http://www.thameplayers.co.uk)  
Box Office: Daytime - 01844 217228

## OXFORD THEATRE GUILD All My Sons by Arthur Miller

Joe and Kate Keller are a comfortable American couple living with the loss one of their sons in World War II. Joe runs a successful business, while Kate hasn't given up hope that their son will return home one day. But when their surviving son reveals a budding romance, old wounds are opened – and out of the festering shadows of secrecy come secrets which ask us about our place in the world and our responsibilities to others.



.....Continued overleaf

Written in 1946, Arthur Miller's first theatrical success examines American post-WWII optimism and asks what other than material comfort is needed for a good life. Its themes of truth and responsibility run through his later works but are shown here in a simple, direct way, creating a truly powerful and devastating play which crackles with emotion and tension.

Fresh from 2015's critically successful Season's Greetings, Oxford Theatre Guild return to the Old Fire Station with this gripping, timeless classic. Other previous credits for the Guild include Sense & Sensibility (Oxford Playhouse), Proof (Mathematical Institute), and King Lear (Merton College Gardens).

**When:** 6-10 December 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat 10th

**Where:** Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford

**Tickets:** £14/£12 from the Old Fire Station box office, 01865 263990

or online:-

OldFireStation.TicketSolve.com/#/shows/873558635

## SINODUN PLAYERS

### The Pied Piper

Comedy, magic, music and colourful in Alan P Frayn's version of the traditional tale. The story starts in Hamelin and wends its way through the



sewers to the Piper's Magic Mountain. Colourful characters en route include German sausage maker Helga, rat catchers Blatter and Splatter, baddies Sour-Kraut and Rat-Worst...and many more.

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

**When:** 13-28 Jan (except Sundays & Mondays), Weekdays 7.30pm, Saturdays 2pm and 6.30pm.

**Tickets:** £10 (Tues-Thurs), £12 (Fri/Sat), children under-16 £6.

from box office 01491 825000 or [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)

## WOPA

### "A Lad In Oatlands Park"

A family pantomime

**When:** Thur 19th Jan 7.30pm

Fri 20th Jan 4.30pm & 7.30pm

Sat 21st Jan 3pm & 7.30pm

**Where:** West Oxford Community Centre

The auditorium is open 30 minutes before the performance.

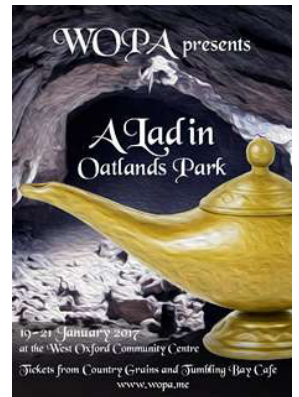
Bar is available from one hour before the evening performances.

**Tickets:** are available from Country Grains during business hours (and from Tumbling Bay Cafe Box Office on Saturdays 10am till Noon) from 3rd December.

**Tickets:** Thur £6 adults / £4 children

Fri & Sat £7.50 adults & £5 children.

Supper tickets are available for Friday and Saturday nights. These cost £21.50 for adults and £11 for children which includes supper & glass of wine or soft drink and entrance to the panto. Diners should arrive at 6pm.



## KENNINGTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### Sinbad the Sailor

Following our enormous giant thundering across the stage, and the 100ft beanstalk that



grew and grew, the evil dragon hungry for princesses, to the wicked black knight who helped feed the monster - there will be more beasties onstage in 'Sinbad the Sailor'

**When:** Friday 20th Jan - 7.30pm

Saturday 21st Jan - 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 22nd Jan - 2pm

Friday 27th Jan - 7.30pm

Saturday 28th Jan - 2pm & 7.30pm

**Where:** Kennington Village Centre

**Tickets** £5 for 1st night only, then £8.50 adults, £6.50 concessions, and £25 for a family of four.

On sale from Kay in the

Box Office 01865 739025 or

email [antipants67@gmail.com](mailto:antipants67@gmail.com)



# DIDCOT PHOENIX DRAMA GROUP

## Jack & the Beanstalk,

by Bob Heather

A traditional family pantomime



**When:** Fri 27th Jan 7:30pm and  
Sat 28th Jan, 10:30am, 2:30 & 7:30pm

**Where:** Didcot Civic Hall, Didcot.

**Tickets:** from the Civic Hall or from

**website:** [www.DidcotPhoenixDrama.co.uk](http://www.DidcotPhoenixDrama.co.uk)

# FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

## Arthur's Adventures or "Merlin to the Rescue"

By Peter Webster

All is not well in Camelot. The Knights suggest a tournament to decide who will attempt to pull the fabled sword from the stone, with whoever succeeds becoming King.

Sir Loin's squire Arthur, forgets to collect Sir Loin's sword; seeing one seemingly abandoned in the stone, he brings it to Sir Loin.

When Sir Loin realises that this means Arthur should be King, he takes the sword and sends Arthur away, to try to keep the secret to himself.

Will Arthur, with the help of his girlfriend Margaret, Merlin, Mrs Tickleme and the Knights, claim his rightful place on the throne.....?

As is traditional with our annual pantomime, there will be lots of awful jokes, plenty of action, scares, chases, well-known songs and colourful costumes. So come and join us!

**When:** Sat 28th Jan 2.30pm & 7.30pm  
Sun 29th Jan 2.30pm  
Fri 3rd Feb 7:30pm  
Sat 4th Feb 2:30pm & 7:30pm.

Doors open 30 minutes earlier.

**Where:** Faringdon Junior School, The Elms, Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7HZ

**Tickets:** Adults £8, Under 16s £6 (No Adult concessions)

Available online or from  
'Hare in The Woods', 7a Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HL

Or online from 5th December

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

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

# WOODCOTE A.D.S.

## Dick Whittington

by Alan Frayn

The City is overrun with rats and the people of London are wondering how on earth they will get rid of them! Underground in London's sewers the Rat King is using black magic for his own evil schemes.

Dick Whittington a poor orphan boy is off to London to seek his fortune enticed by a rumour that the streets are paved with gold. His dream is soon shattered when he finds himself cold, hungry and very alone. Just as he feels like giving up Dick meets a very extraordinary cat and together they experience abundant adventures, meeting an array of characters good, bad and weird along the way, including Dick's dream girl.

But will Dick succeed in his quest and become Lord Mayor of London?

We encourage children to dress up as rats and cats - prizes available for the best dressed boy and girl.

Produced by Nick Evans & James Mathers

**When:** · Saturday 28 Jan 2.15 pm & 7.30 pm

· Sunday 29 Jan 2.15 pm

· Friday 3 Feb 7.30 pm

· Saturday 4 Feb 2.15 pm & 7.30 pm

**Where:** Woodcote Village Hall

**Tickets:** Telephone 01491 680573

or email [wadsboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wadsboxoffice@gmail.com)

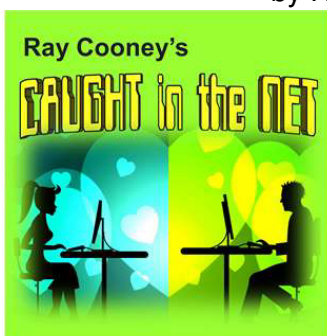
Book online at [www.WoodcoteDrama.co.uk](http://www.WoodcoteDrama.co.uk)



# BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

## Caught in the Net

by Ray Cooney



Hilarious sequel to It Runs in the Family

Bigamist taxi-driver, John Smith is still managing to keep both his families happy and unaware of each other. However, his teenage daughter and son (one by each wife) have met on the Internet. They are

determined to see each other in person as they appear to have so much in common - same surname, taxi-driver dad, same age, same name.

When it dawns on John they are about to meet, he plunges into a hell hole of his own making in order to keep them apart. His saviour could be his lodger, Stanley, who is about to go on holiday with his decrepit old father. "Dad" turns up thinking he is already on

holiday at the guest house in Felixstowe. The situation gets increasingly out of hand as John lurches from one catastrophe to another. Will the truth ever come out?

**When:** 1-4 February 2017, 7.45pm

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

**Tickets** £10/£11 (no concessions Fri/Sat)  
available from [www.themillartscentre.co.uk](http://www.themillartscentre.co.uk)  
or from the Box Office 01295 279002

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

## BREAKALEG PRODUCTIONS

### Hedda Gabler

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated by Edmund Gosse and William Archer  
The beautiful, newly married Hedda Gabler dreams of taking her place in society. In 1890 the only way this can happen is through men, and she ruthlessly manipulates the men in her life. George Bernard Shaw described her as 'having no conscience'.

She continues to fascinate.

**When:** 22-25th March 7.30pm

**Where:** Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3HZ

**Tickets:** The Bookstore, the precinct, Abingdon

**Enquiries:** 01235 821 351 (or 07836 776220)

**Email:** [info@BreakaLegProductions.co.uk](mailto:info@BreakaLegProductions.co.uk)

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

## JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

### Made in Dagenham

*The Musical*

Inspired by a true story and based on a hit movie, this is an uplifting new British musical comedy about friendship, love and the importance of fighting for what is right.

Funny, touching and timeless, Made in Dagenham shows how ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they stand together.

Expect energy and humour by the bucket load from the talented and vibrant cast.

**When:** 5-8 April 2017 at 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat

**Where:** 'The Beacon', Wantage

**Tickets;** from The Beacon or Tel 01235 767509

**AND**

**When:** 20-22 April 2017 at 7.45pm + 2.30pm Sat

**Where:** 'The Cornerstone', Didcot

**Tickets:** Cornerstone, Box Office 01235 515144

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

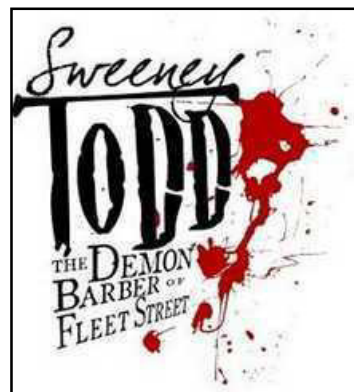


## AMEGOS THEATRE

### Sweeney Todd;

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Stephen  
Sondheim's  
award-winning,  
macabre musical



The infamous story of Benjamin Barker, AKA Sweeney Todd, who sets up a barber shop in London which is the basis for a sinister partnership with his fellow tenant, Mrs. Lovett - He never forgot and he never forgave...

*"As comic as it is dark, you'll never forget Sweeney"*

**When:** April 5 - 8 2017.

**Where:** King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Wantage

## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

### The Tempest

by William  
Shakespeare

Prospero, usurped Duke of Milan, rules a distant island by use of magic. Fortune brings his enemies close and he spies an opportunity for revenge, raising up a storm to shipwreck them. The shipwrecked travellers are separated and an invisible spirit, Ariel, directs their wandering. As Prospero's plans draw to a climax, will he abandon his magic for the sake of his daughter and Dukedom?

Shakespeare's final play – a turbulent mix of storm, shipwreck, lost and found love, heartache, revenge and reconciliation.

**When:** 26-29 April 2017, 7.45pm

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

**Tickets** £ 11/£ 10 (no concessions Fri/Sat)

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

or the Box Office 01295 279002

