

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter

JUNE 2017

### EDITOR'S BULLETIN

Our big event is coming up, the ODN Drama Festival. So do try to get to see at least some of the plays that week. The list of plays is on page 2, This is the amended programme as one Group pulled out after the fliers had gone to the printers.

*Mike Davies*

### Chairman's Thoughts

So many lovely productions - so sad that often they are still overlapping and we have to miss out. Or they are sold out because we didn't book early enough - how good is that though!

Congratulations to all ODN Members who have been nominated to the Noda London finals - big area London but it's a lovely recognition of our work to be nominated.

We look forward to seeing you at the ODN 1 Act Drama Festival from Mon 5th June in the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

Please display the posters and hand out fliers - all actors respond to a nice, big audience, so get that publicity out there for us. Better still come and join us during the week at the Unicorn and support your ODN friends and colleagues

*Deidre*

## ODN Drama Festival

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June

Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon  
2 one act plays per evening Mon-Fri, 3 plays called back for Saturday Gala night. Our adjudicator for 2017 is Jennifer Scott-Reid, a GODA member. A rare feature of the ODN drama festival is that after each adjudication, the adjudicator runs a short workshop with the cast!

At the end of the Friday night performances & workshops, the adjudicator will announce her choice of 3 plays to be repeated on the Saturday Gala night.

See page 2 for running order.

**Tickets:** are on sale at the Bookstore in the precinct Abingdon, or phone 01235 527865 or 821351.

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

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

31May Oxford Operatic Society  
-3Jun Avenue Q

#### JUNE

1-3 Witney Dramatic Society

**Death by Fatal Murder**

1-3 Bicester Choral & Operatic Society

**H.M.S. Pinafore**

5-10 ODN Drama Festival -

**Unicorn Theatre,**

21-24 Abingdon Drama Club

**Thou Shalt Not Suffer**

21-24 Dorchester A.D.S.

**Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders**

24-25 Kennington ADS

**The Wizard of Oz**

#### JULY

5-8 Banbury Cross Players

**Lovesong**

8-9 Aston & Cote Thespian Society

**The Emperor's New Clothes**

11-14 Thame Players

**Honk - The Musical**

15 Oxford Operatic Society

**Life Is A Cabaret**

18-29 Oxford Theatre Guild

**Love's Labour's Lost**

19-22 Blewbury Players

**Great Expectations.**

11-12 YOBOS

**The Wedding Singer**

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# AGM Report 2017

It was lovely to see so many ODN Groups represented in Drayton at the AGM on April 28th 2017.

Amby Hitchcox was given flowers as a big thank you for her expertise when auditing the ODN Accounts each year.

Sadly Peter Webster and Mike Lacey have stepped down from the ODN Committee and were given wine and thank you cards. Peter has served three years and Mike Lacey more like thirty three. Jean Sutherland of Hanney Drama Group and herself a former ODN Committee member, suggested that Mike Lacey be made an Honorary Member in recognition of his long term involvement with ODN. All other Committee members were re-elected together with Richard Damerell and Janie Eyre Brook as new members - we look forward to working with them in the future.

Several Groups, when invited, could not entertain at the AGM but 10year old Hannah Peel as 'Annie' sang two songs, beautifully, from Abingdon Operatic Society's latest production.

Sandwiched in between Hannah's songs, Committee member, Mike Davies, sang 'This is America' from the Jigsaw Production of 'Made in Dagenham' the musical.

We hope that we can add more acts to next year's entertainment for the AGM.

The Pantomime Competition results were announced - the marks were very close.

**4th place** Tie = Stonesfield Players and West Oxford Pantomime Association

**3rd place** = Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

**2nd place** three way tie = Kingston Bagpuize, Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society and Sinodun Players

**1st place**, with only 1 point difference, = Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon's pantomime was written and Directed by Peter Webster who happily received the Peter Stone Shield.

Members enjoyed chatting about their latest productions over a glass of wine - why don't you join us next year?



# ODN Drama Festival 2017

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June

Unicorn Theatre,  
Checker Walk,  
Abingdon OX14 3HZ



Long Gallery Bar will be open after the shows

----- **Monday 5th June**, 7.30 start -----

**'The Lesson'** by Eugene Ionesco -

Performed by *Didcot Phoenix Drama Group*

*Workshop on stage, strike set, Interval*

**'Floor 13'** by Young Theatre and Helen Sharman

Performed by *Stanton Harcourt Drama Group*

*Workshop on stage, strike set*

----- **Tuesday 6th June**, 7.30 start -----

**'Pathways'** by Tasha Moar & Dan Shipman-Toon

Performed by *Didcot Phoenix Drama Group*

*Workshop on stage, strike set, Interval*

**'Henna Night'** by Amy Rosenthal

Performed by *Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group*

*Workshop on stage, strike set*

----- **Wednesday 7th June**, 7.30 start -----

**The extraordinary revelations of Orca The Goldfish**

by David Tristram

Performed by *Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group*

*Workshop on stage, strike set, Interval*

**'Sixty-Love'** by Mike Rowbottom

Performed by *Sinodun Players*

*Workshop on stage, strike set*

----- **Thursday 8th June**, 7.30 start -----

**'Seagulls'** by Caryl Churchill

Performed by *Henley Players*

*Workshop on stage, strike set, Interval*

**'Murder Play'** by Brian J Burton

Performed by *BreakaLeg Productions*

*Workshop on stage, strike set*

----- **Friday 9th June**, 7.30 start -----

**'The Allotment'** by Gillian Plowman

Performed by *Banbury Cross Players*

*Workshop on stage, strike set, Interval*

**Seagulls** by Caryl Churchill

Performed by *Henley Players*

*Interval*

**The extraordinary revelations of Orca The Goldfish**

by David Tristram

Performed by *Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group*

*Announcement of plays to be called back for Gala Night*

----- **Saturday 10th June**, 7.30 start, **Gala Night** -----

**3 plays from the week**, recalled by the adjudicator, Jennifer Scott-Reid, to repeat their performances.

Followed by a **Gala Night** buffet for *all* performers & crew from the week, in the Long Gallery - hope you can all come!

Don't forget the ODN

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)

## Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe

is looking for a new home. Please contact us if you know of anything suitable. We need 1500 square feet of clean dry space near Abingdon or Didcot, with parking, electricity and mains water.



In the meantime, do pop in and see us at Steventon to browse our fabulous collection of vintage, period, character and fancy dress costumes.

odwc1938@gmail.com oxondramawardrobe.co.uk

Accessories from £1. Costumes from £5

Many bargains to be had. There is plenty of parking."

## CORN EXCHANGE ROOF APPEAL

### RIVERSIDE GARDEN PARTY: 17 June 2017

Wallingford's Corn Exchange closes this month for major building works but, as the saying goes: the show must go on! And to add cash to the fundraising coffers, a summer Garden Party has been organised at a glorious riverside setting on the outskirts of Wallingford.



Corn Exchange and Sinodun Players supporters John and Elizabeth Gordon have kindly offered to host this special event on the sweeping lawns of their home on Saturday 17 June at 3.30pm.

Guests will be welcomed with a glass of bubbly followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea, regaled throughout with a soundscape of beautiful music. Entertainment, to be enjoyed while quaffing a glass of wine in the large marquee, will include a one-act comedy, *Sixty-Love*, written by Sinodun Player Mike Rowbottom and which is the Players' entry in this year's drama festivals in Henley and Abingdon.

Tickets to the event, which is open to all members of the public, are £15 available from [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk). More information, including location details, from Julie Utley, [julieutley@aol.com](mailto:julieutley@aol.com) or 01491 834987.

## THE CORN EXCHANGE WALLINGFORD ROOF APPEAL

### Temporary Closure for Roof Replacement

Volunteers' efforts to preserve the future of Wallingford's historic Corn Exchange and raise finances to replace its leaking roof are paying off. The amount in the kitty, at the time of going to press, is over £310,000, well on the way to the £500K target. The building will close in mid-June to make ready for building work to begin. It will re-open in the autumn.

Since the Roof Appeal was launched in January, we have been touched by the public's support. People have attended our fundraising events with enthusiasm, have put money in collection buckets after shows and many, just passing the Corn Exchange, have popped into the foyer to place donations in the collecting box. We have received substantial amounts from charitable trusts and from individual donors via the online JustGiving site. We are currently awaiting a decision on a number of grant applications.



The Corn Exchange has often featured on ITV's *Midsomer Murders* as the picturesque theatre in the heart of the fictional town of Causton. Run entirely by volunteers, it is an important Wallingford amenity for entertainment and, with a foyer bar that opens to the public for coffee on Friday and Saturday mornings, is a popular social hub.

But its long-term future could be in jeopardy if we do not act now to replace the 160-year-old roof which leaks in bad weather causing damage to its infrastructure.

The new roof, which has been designed by a specialist architect in old and listed buildings, will involve replacing the cracked original glass panels with coated aluminium sheets. The interior roof space will be raised allowing the splendid original Victorian ironwork to be fully appreciated by our audiences. Improvement to other facilities along with auditorium heating and ventilation are on the to-do list.

We still have a way to go to reach our target £500K and donations will still be much appreciated:

online at :-  
<http://campaign.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/sinodun-players/rooffund>.

Carol Evans

Roof Appeal Fundraising Committee

# CASTING

## THAME PLAYERS AUDITIONS

### Cinderella the Pantomime

written by Ben Crocker

Auditions for 11 to 80+ yrs: 4th June at 2pm at the Thame Players Theatre

Auditions for 16 to 80+ yrs: 7th June at 7.45pm at the Thame Players Theatre

Cinderella performances are 1st to 3rd Dec and 6th to 10th Dec 7.45pm weekdays and 2pm and 5.30pm Sat and Sundays.

Pat Shepherd

01296 747017 / 07970 450136

# REVIEWS

## JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTION 'Made in Dagenham' the musical

April 2017



Set in Essex in 1968 the many women who work as sewing machinists at Ford, Dagenham strike for equal pay with men. The title song 'Made in Dagenham' is sung with gusto by all the cast. The women refuse to back down and are invited to meet Barbara Castle, a strong impersonation by Pam Hale and subsequently, Harold Wilson with Charlie East gently poking fun at the well-known Gannet mac and the ever present pipe.

Helena Kerswell as strike leader, Rita O'Grady, is the reluctant spokesperson for the women - she sings 'Ask a Busy Woman', 'I'm sorry I love you' and 'We nearly had it all' beautifully. She nearly loses her husband and family because she must fight for what she believes to be right.

Then the boss of Ford, America (Mike Davies) arrives, by helicopter (great lighting and sound) He sings a funny patter song complete with pom pom cheerleaders, about the different pronunciation of

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English and American - he then orders the car plant to be shut down.

Families realise what it means to have to survive on strike pay. 'Rita' speaks at the Eastbourne Conference and some of their demands are met.

The scene changes with Bryan Proctor in charge were slick and quick, the lighting and sound were in the capable hands of George Jackson. The chorus numbers were expertly choreographed by Karen Brind and musical direction by Jevan Johnson Booth.

Director, Gill Morgan, pulled together all these important aspects to make a great evening's entertainment.

Deidre Jones

## ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

### 'Annie' the musical

April 2017

It is 1933 during the great Depression in America. Annie (Harley Edwards or Hannah Peel) is living in an orphanage run by an almost perpetually drunk Miss Hannigan (Joy Skeels)

Billionaire Oliver Warbucks (John Wilkes) seeks to entertain an orphan in his mansion for Christmas. He is a very successful business man with a soft centre. His secretary,

(Jenna Elliott) selects Annie and they decide to try and find Annie's parents. Several couples claim to be her parents but they are only interested in the

large cheque promised by Oliver Warbucks. All are shown to be frauds as it is revealed that Annie's parents are dead. Oliver Warbucks decides to adopt Annie and all the orphans join them for a lovely Christmas.

Two teams of energetic, enthusiastic orphans delight in this lavish Abingdon Operatic Society's production. Both 'Annie's' show tremendous talent.

The 14 piece orchestra, ably directed by Mark Denton was a little loud, sometimes drowning the words. The careful, descriptive choreography was by Kerry Callaghan. Director, Rob Bertwistle drew all the elements together, harmonies, nice sets, children and a dog! The well rehearsed and well dressed ensemble pieces presented a most entertaining musical and a great night out.

Deidre Jones



# KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP An Evening of Comedy

April 2017

The three one-act plays staged were all totally different, but had strengths in their own way.

Firstly,

## HENNA NIGHT

by May Rosenthal was an encounter between the heartbroken ex-boyfriend, Judith and his new partner Ros. Judith was hoping that her desperate message left on his answerphone would bring him running to her, but it turns out to be his new partner wanting to clear up the situation. This two-hander was feistily performed by Emily Eastham as Judith and Andrea Spencer as Ros. Emily was very firm and assured with excellent timing and pathos. Andrea was well matched against Emily, trying to be conciliatory, whilst maintaining her right to the new relationship. The chemistry between the two was superb and the rollercoaster of emotions was brilliantly portrayed. Although the set was in curtains, it was very effective showing the chaotic state of Judith's flat and her state of mind. It was a very touching moment when the water had been cut off and Ros, on set rinsed out the henna from Judith's hair. The music was appropriate and set the right atmosphere for the end of the play.



Secondly, **THE REAL PROBLEM** by Bruce Kane. This was performed by the youth members of the group and was a very funny all female play about the problems caused by men, as seen by various historical influential women. It should have been a very funny play, but for the fact that many of the lines could not be heard, due to the speed and lack of volume of the actors' delivery. This is something that directors must impress upon their casts. The performances of all the young women were good and contributed to an effective performance. Particular credit must be given to Abbi Hale (Anne Boleyn), who had only her head with which to perform and got the characterisation across well. Hecate (Fiona Eaton) was very convincing in her portrayal.

Lastly, **THE EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS OF ORCA THE GOLDFISH** by David Tristram. Another two-hander with Paula Eastwood and Michael Lacey. Again, another well matched cast with good timing and a great sense of comedy. This was one of the funniest plays I have seen in a long time and the comedy came across very well. The transitions from the main characters of Alice and Henry from both actors was brilliant. The way they slipped from normality into fantasy was slickly done and very



believable at all times. The old deck-chair routine was skilfully executed by Henry, without actually losing any fingers. The switch from downtrodden housewife to sexy bond-girl by Alice was delightful to behold. A difficult play to be convincing, but Michael and Paula achieved it, congratulations. A simple, but effective set with great lighting effects.

Nigel James

## MUSICAL YOUTH COMPANY OF OXFORD The Hired Man

by Melvin Bragg, music & lyrics by Howard Goodall

From the moment they appeared, every one of these young actors knew exactly what they were doing and singing, and why the character was there. They held their characters, accents and emotions all the way through.

They had a clever 'universal' set, with the orchestra hidden under a platform at the back with stairs up each side.



These stairs were used extensively to give different areas and open up the whole visage.

Scene changes were obviously well choreographed and done by the cast (in pitch black!)

There were some brilliantly choreographed movements, synchronised digging for example (air-shovels of course), and simple things like every head making a movement simultaneously - so very effective.

I loved the use of 'freezes' - the most dramatic was 'mid fight', whilst Emily (Saffi Needham) wrestled her feelings in her solo "If I Could". The other, so memorable, was when John (Johnny Allison) sang "What would You Say to Your Son" (he wanted to go down the mine like his Dad) whilst his family stood 'freeze-frame' over the dinner table.



The wartime battle scene was extremely well done, with the noises and lights portraying the horrors quite dramatically, whilst the characters fought the battle so convincingly.

There were lighter moments - memorably the May-pole dance at the fair.

The voices of Emily & her daughter May (Alec Auton) were a delight to listen to.

The programme was excellent, with all the information about scenes & songs etc (unlike many professional

productions!) and a lot of other interesting items. They had gone to great lengths to find a suitable 'farm' setting and authentic costumes for taking the photos which were printed in sepia, making them look even more authentic from the period – I love it.

Also, reading the programme, we find out how they managed to get so much out of these youngsters, by encouraging them to research history, and their own family. They all went to the Imperial War Museum, and even got a real life Sergeant Major to 'drill' them. A lesson to all of us about researching whatever character we're trying to portray.

This was a most wonderful entertaining evening, and congratulations due to all, especially Ed Blagrove the Director assisted by Jake Halsey-Jones, Julie Todd the Musical Director and Kerry Hudson the Choreographer for getting such wonderful performances from the whole cast.



I can't wait to see what MYCO are doing next!

Mike Davies (ODN)

## BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

### Humble Boy by Charlotte Jones

With a stunning set of an English county garden and superb attention to detail I sat back for a brilliant evening. Sadly, this was not the case.

The play came across, in the four scenes of Act 1, as disjointed, with an excess of gratuitous bad language which did nothing to enhance the play. This was the fault of the play, not the players, but did have the effect of an unsettling performance in which, despite their hard work, the cast did not seem to gel. This was not helped by the words being a bit 'sticky' and many prompts.

There were a couple of brilliant performances; George Pye (Richard Buss) who played Flora's suitor, with gusto and Mercy Lott (Liz Hutchinson) whose twittery portrayal of the neighbour was a delight. The dinner scene was particularly amusing in Act 2 with the Gazpacho flavoured with James's ashes. Martha Gray gave a spirited performance as Rosie, George's daughter, who turns out to be the mother of Felix's daughter. Jim, the gardener, who turned out to be the ghost of the late James Humble, was solidly played by Steve Ashcroft, who capably recited reams of Latin plant names.

Lesley Robinson looked striking as the recently widowed Flora Humble, who was hotly pursued by the long-standing Lothario, George. She could have been a little more domineering. Nick Smith didn't look entirely comfortable with the mammoth part of Felix Humble, particularly with the ill-fitting padding used to give the impression of an expanding waistline.

The lighting and sound effects of the bees were very convincing.

A difficult play, well-acted, but which didn't quite do it for me, particularly following the huge success of their previous production.

Nigel James

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

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

## Avenue Q

by Charlotte Jones

Avenue Q is a laugh-out-loud musical that follows the story of a recent college graduate named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q.



There, he meets Kate (the girl next door), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the internet sexpert), Lucy The Slut and other vibrant types who help Princeton finally discover his true purpose in life! This hilarious production is a coming of age tale which addresses the anxieties associated with entering adulthood. With live puppets, a memorable musical score and relatable themes, this contemporary musical will leave you in stitches!

This production is a small cast musical brought to you by Oxford's Operatic Society, which specialise in Musical Theatre.

Avenue Q has adult themes including strong language, sexual content and puppet nudity.

The age guidelines are 14+ for this production (but parents should use their own discretion).

**When:** Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May - Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun at 7.30pm

**Where:** Theatre at Headington,  
Headington Road, Oxford, OX3 7TD

**Tickets:** can be purchased through Ticket Oxford:-

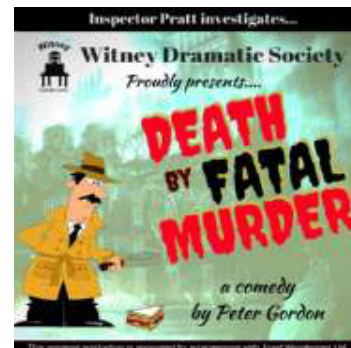
[www.ticketsoxford.com/whats-on/all-shows/avenue-q/4658](http://www.ticketsoxford.com/whats-on/all-shows/avenue-q/4658)

## WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### Death by Fatal Murder

by Peter Gordon

The inhabitants of Bagshot House all have secrets to hide - will Inspector Pratt live up to his name, or will he, for once, manage to solve the case of the missing Constable?



**When:** 1st, 2nd & 3rd June

**Where:** The High Street Methodist Church Hall, Witney.

**Tickets:** £9.00 from Rapture Music Store in Witney, or phone Margaret Hamm on 01993 704032.

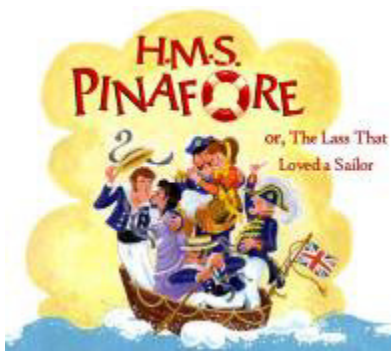
# BICESTOR CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

## H.M.S. Pinafore

or, *The Lass that Loved a Sailor*

The Comic Opera by Gilbert & Sullivan

Often referred to as the 'Carry On' of their day, G&S operettas never fail to deliver, and HMS Pinafore is no exception. Unashamedly over the top, with ridiculous characters and an outlandish plot. Applauded for their



approach to our past couple of shows, Iolanthe and Carmen-The Musical, directing team Nikki Fine and Martin Quinn are back, with a production that rivals both of these. Accompanied by a professional orchestra, it's a show not to be missed!

**When:** June 1-3 at 7.30pm

**Where:** The Cooper School, Churchill Road, Bicester, OX26 4RS

**Tickets:** (£13/£7) from Coles Bookstore or online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCOS](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/BCOS) by phone on: 0333 666 3366

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

# ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

## Thou Shalt Not Suffer

by Tony Green

One morning in February Alice Preston attempted to take her own life, because of a horrific ordeal of



intimidation inflicted on her by work colleague Anouska Laco. Ms Laco was arrested and now stands trial for the crime of aggravated harassment.

The audience will form the jury who must hear the case and decide if Ms Laco is guilty of the crime, or a victim of Ms Preston's tragic paranoia.

**Where:** Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

**When:** 21 - 24 June 2017 - 7.30pm

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

**Email:** [tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk](mailto:tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk)

**Phone:** 0845 4636638

**Group Bookings:** Groups of 10 and over all tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online - Just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require)

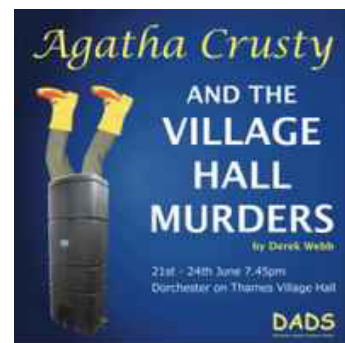
# DORCHESTER A.D.S.

## Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

By Derek Webb

Multiple Murders in Dorchester on Thames Village Hall!

Hot on the heels of Dame Agatha Christie's 125th anniversary, Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society (DADS) next production is Derek Webb's affectionate tribute: 'Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders'.



Fans of Agatha Christie, who lived locally at Winterbrook near Wallingford, will recognise many key elements from her 66 detective novels, including multiple murders and suspects. However, DADS Director, Sue Kitson says that, "This comedy whodunit succeeds because the central character, Miss Crusty, a famous crime writer, is not a slavish reworking of Miss Marple or, indeed, Agatha Christie herself."

DADS regular, Christine Jones is playing Agatha Crusty who has gone to visit her cousin for a "peaceful" break in a country village. But it is not long before she is called upon to use her expertise to aid the very incompetent D. I. Twigg (Mark Williams) to solve a series of dastardly murders, seemingly all connected to the Village Hall.

**When:** 21 - 24 June - 7:45pm

**Where:** Dorchester on Thames Village Hall.

**Tickets:** from [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk).

# ODN Drama Festival -

Unicorn Theatre,  
Abingdon.

2 one act plays per evening Mon-Fri, 3 plays called back for Saturday Gala night. Our adjudicator for 2017 is Jennifer Scott-Reid, a GODA member. This is a friendly festival and our main aim is to bring people together, both in a celebration of theatre and as a learning experience.

A rare feature of the ODN drama festival is that after each adjudication, the adjudicator runs a short workshop with the cast!

At the end of the Friday night performances & workshops, the adjudicator will announce her choice of 3 plays to be repeated on the Saturday Gala night.

**When:** Mon 5th June - Sat 10th June 2017

**Where:** Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

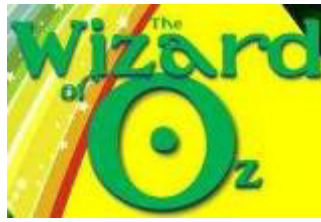
**Tickets:** are on sale at the Bookstore in the precinct Abingdon, or Tel 01235 527865 or 821351

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

## KENNINGTON ADS

### The Wizard of Oz

Join Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society as we venture down the Yellow Brick Road to the enchanting world of Oz, singing and dancing as we go. Based on the popular tale with all the well-loved characters including Dorothy, Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West!



**When:** Friday 23rd June 7.30pm

Saturday 24th June 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 25th June 2pm

**Where:** Performances at Kennington Village Centre - dates and times:

**Tickets:** £5 Fri, Sat/Sun £8.50, £6.50 concs, £25 family ticket of four (to include one adult). Under 5's free (on laps).

**Tickets:** from Kay in the Box Office on 01865 739025

or by email at [boxoffice@kenningtonads.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@kenningtonads.org.uk).

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/KenningtonADS](http://www.facebook.com/KenningtonADS)

## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

### Lovesong

by Abi Morgan

The story of one couple, told from two different points in their lives - as young lovers in their 20s and as worldly companions looking back on their relationship. Their past and present selves collide in this haunting and beautiful tale of togetherness. All relationships have their ups and downs; the optimism of youth becomes the wisdom of experience. Love is a leap of faith.

This contemporary piece interweaves the older and younger characters, exploring and replaying memories together – almost like a dance.

Contains adult themes and some strong language.

**When:** 5th – 8th July 2017

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

**Tickets:** £12.50 (£11.50 concs Wed & Thu only)

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



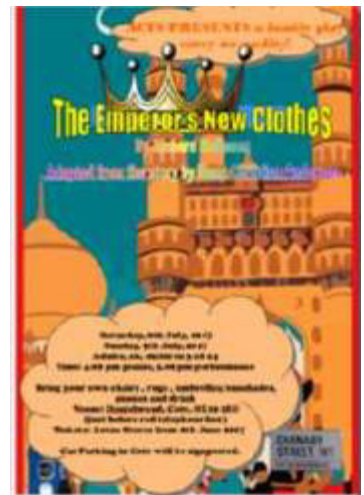
## ASTON & COTE THESPIAN SOCIETY

### THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

By Richard Hellesten,

Adapted from the story by Hans Christian Andersen

Bring your family, picnics, drinks, chairs, rugs, umbrellas and sunshades and enjoy our summer production in the garden of Danielwood, Cote, OX18 2EG (just before red telephone box), on Saturday, 8th July and Sunday, 9th July. This is a family play based on the well-known story and is suitable for all ages (no nudity!). Parking will be available in Cote and will be signposted. Portaloos on site!



**When:** 8 & 9 July 2017 - 4:00pm

**Where:** in the garden of Danielwood, Cote

**Tickets:** from Aston stores, adults £6, children aged 3-16 £3.

Enjoy your picnic from 4.00 pm.

Performance will start at 5.00 pm.

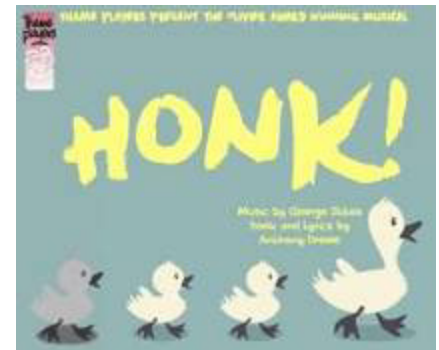
**Enquiries:** Popps Hoskins - [Hoskinsnick@aol.com](mailto:Hoskinsnick@aol.com)

## THAME PLAYERS

### Honk

#### The Musical

by Stiles and Drewe  
Thame Players present this heart-warming re-imagining of Hans Christian Andersen's The Ugly Duckling.



This fully orchestrated musical tells the story of Ugly, an aesthetically challenged duck, who finds himself pushed out by the other members of the duck-yard, leading him into an adventure that will see him discover the true meaning of what it is to be different.

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

**When:** 11th - 14th July at 7.45pm and Sat 15th July at 5pm

**Tickets:** £9 (concessions £8) from [www.thameplayers.co.uk](http://www.thameplayers.co.uk)



# OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

## Life Is A Cabaret

OxOps are thrilled to present their first ever dance spectacular- LIFE IS A CABARET!

Dancers from the society will perform a vast array of show

numbers from many West End classics such as West Side Story, Mamma Mia!, Cats, Wicked, Dirty Dancing, and The Lion King, amongst others.

This event will showcase the society's talented dancers as they perform a variety of dance styles, from tap to lyrical, musical theatre to swing and more, accompanied by a toe-tapping live band and enigmatic singers led by Nia Williams.

The theme of the event is Cabaret, and this extends to the audience. Upon arrival you will be seated at a table and provided with complimentary refreshments, all of which are included in the price of the ticket. During the matinee you can enjoy a hot drink and cake, and at the evening performance, you can sit back and relax with a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink, as well as enjoy a variety of nibbles. Other refreshments will also be available at each event for you to purchase.

LIFE IS A CABARET promises to be a fun and sociable celebration of the society's incredible dance talent for both audience and performers alike.

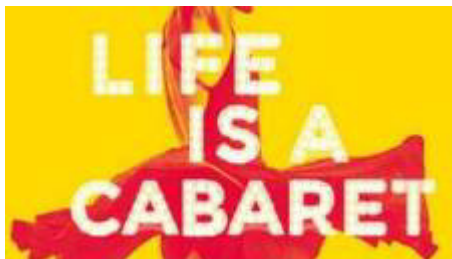
**When:** Sat 15 Jul, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

**Where:** Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP

**Duration:** 2 hours 30mins with interval

**Tickets:** £12 (£8 under 16s @2.30pm) from:-

**Website:** <https://oxfordoperatic.org.uk/>



Summer Shakespeare in an Oxford college garden – not to be missed.

**When:** 18 - 29 July 2017 Daily except Sundays

Performances at 8pm nightly with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 22nd July.

**Where:** Trinity College Gardens, Parks Road, Oxford

**Tickets:** from Oxford Playhouse, by phone on 01865 305305 or online

[www.ticketsoxford.com/whats-on/all-shows/loves-labours-lost/4812](http://www.ticketsoxford.com/whats-on/all-shows/loves-labours-lost/4812)

## BLEWBURY PLAYERS Great Expectations.

Open Air Production

This year's summer production will be an adaptation by Julia Golding of one of Dickens's best known and loved novels



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.

**When:** 19 - 22 July at 8:00pm

**Tickets:** from 3rd June. Buy locally or on-line.

See [www.blewburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk) for more detail.

## YOBOS

### The Wedding Singer



Based on the 1998 film of the same name. The musical revolves around Robbie, who sings at weddings, his failed relationship with his former fiancée, and his romance with a new love, Julia.

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

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

**Tickets:** available from end of June from [www.yobos.co.uk/tickets](http://www.yobos.co.uk/tickets)

or from Anker & Partners Estate Agents, Banbury.

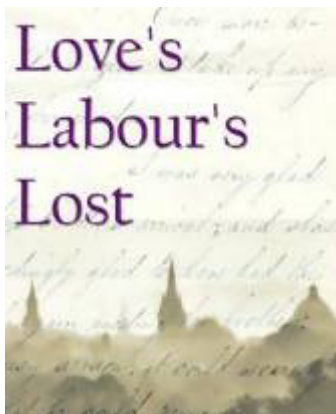
## OXFORD THEATRE GUILD Love's Labour's Lost

by William Shakespeare

Set in the Oxford of 1895, this witty new production of Shakespeare's enchanting comedy captures the perfect English Summer. Croquet on the lawn, Cricket in the Parks, lazy afternoons beside the river and romantic intrigues everywhere you turn.

This timeless tale of students falling in and out love is one that will delight audiences of all ages.

The company that has entertained local audiences in recent years with acclaimed productions of Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing and Pride and Prejudice returns once more to the gardens of Trinity College, in the heart of Oxford – the perfect backdrop for Shakespeare's delightful romantic comedy.



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