

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016

### EDITOR'S BULLETIN

It's been quiet Am-Dram-wise over the summer, but just look at all the productions coming up.

Don't forget to enter your group's panto or children's play into the ODN Panto comp.

It's amazing how far people will go to get the right props. Bartholomew Players went to "Superhire" in Acton to hire some authentic 'dispatch boxes' for "Yes Prime Minister"! They even had a Dalek for hire! So I've added them to our list of local theatrical suppliers on the ODN website if you need something unusual. I try to make it a useful source of information.

*Mike Davies*

### Chairman's Thoughts

Recently Mike and I went to three professional productions in the lovely Theatre on the Lake at Keswick, in the Lake District. On our return we went to the Playhouse in Oxford to see Robert Powell and Lisa Goddard. It's so good to see professional productions, although I wish they would list the scenes in their expensive programmes, generally two pages in the middle of a glossy advertising brochure is all we get.

I do envy the size of the stages in professional theatre and indeed knowing where your productions will take place. Several amateur groups are in trouble because of rising rental charges. We cannot hope to pay these higher rates by raising our own ticket prices because, I'm afraid the public just won't pay.

Many local authorities don't confer at all with their amateur Societies and are removing stages during renovations and another venue bites the dust. Is it because there are no drama representatives at any council meetings?

According to Noda and amateur stage magazines this is a national problem.

The Pantomime is the one production per year that sells out and provides funding for other shows during the year, although it still needs a venue. I've heard of one group who, up to a few weeks ago, still didn't know whether their usual Hall would be available for their Pantomime this year. Which, of course, delays and interferes with publicity.

However I've no doubt that 'the shows will go on' and I look forward to seeing all your pantomimes this coming season.

*Deidre*

The deadline for the December issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2016  
Contributions to [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

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

#### OCTOBER

- 12-15 Henley Players "Comic Potential"  
13-15 Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society  
"A Foot in the Door"  
14,21,22 The Standlake Players "RolePlay"  
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

- 2-5 AmEgos "Two"  
9-12 Compton Players "Bracken Moor"  
10-12 Faringdon Dramatic Society  
Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders  
10-12 The Chiltern Players "Seasons Greetings"  
11-12 ENCORE ELITE "Ithaka"  
11-12 Wantage Stage Musical  
18-19 Concert - Sounds of the 1980s  
14-19 Oxford Operatic Society "Oliver!"  
16-19 Abingdon Drama Club  
"A Man for All Seasons"  
16-19 HAODs (Henley) "Spamalot"  
19 Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society  
A Christmas Carol - in 60 Minutes Or Less!  
24-26 The Wychwood Players  
"Lord Arthur Savile's Crime"  
24-26 Kingston Bagpuize D.G. "Cinderella"  
30 Nov-3 Dec Bartholomew Players  
"Yes, Prime Minister"  
30 Nov-3 Dec Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society  
"A L A D D I N"  
DECEMBER  
2-4 & 7-11 Thame Players Peter Pan (the Panto)  
4 & 17 Jigsaw Stage Productions "Cinderella"  
6-10 Oxford Theatre Guild "All My Sons"

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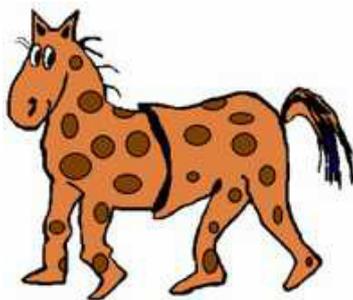
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## Now is the time to enter the ODN PANTOMIME COMPETITION

Now is the time 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.

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)

## OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA WARDROBE

We would love to help you with your costume requirements for your upcoming productions.

We have a vast selection of costumes from Romans to 1970s, plus fantasy and panto costumes, as well as thousands of personal props and accessories.

We charge only £20 per complete costume to Drama Groups, generally for up to 2 weeks but we are very flexible.

Come and see our wonderful team of volunteers on Mon Wed or Sat from 10am to 2pm.

Email us on [odwc1938@gmail.com](mailto:odwc1938@gmail.com)

Check out our website for further details:-

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



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

## STAGE CURTAINS WANTED



## CASTING NEWS

### WANTAGE JUNIOR SHOWSTOPPERS

#### Director and Musical Director needed

Wantage Junior Showstoppers are seeking a Director and Musical Director to direct our 2017 musical...

WJSS is a youth musical theatre group for 10-18 year olds and in the past has performed shows such as 'Hairspray', 'Grease', and 'Bye Bye Birdie'.

In previous years the group has met on Sunday afternoons from 4-6:30pm, although this may be flexible.

We are looking for people who are passionate and enthusiastic about teaching young people the skills required in putting on a full length musical.

These are voluntary positions although expenses may be covered.

If you would like more information please email [info@wantagejuniorshowstoppers.co.uk](mailto:info@wantagejuniorshowstoppers.co.uk)

## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

### OPEN AUDITIONS

We're looking for actors to take part in Ray Cooney's "Caught in the Net" - a hysterical farce which finds bigamist taxi-driver, John Smith, keeping both his families (one in Wimbledon, one in Streatham) happy - and blissfully unaware of each other.

When his teenage daughter (by one wife) and son (by the other) meet on the Internet, they are determined to see each other in person - having so much in common - same surname, taxi-driver dad, same age, same name.

When it dawns on John they are about to meet the situation gets increasingly out of hand as John

lurches from one catastrophe to another in an attempt to keep them apart.

Will the truth ever come out?

**Read through** 4th October 2016, 8pm at The Mill Arts Centre - everyone welcome!

**Auditions** Thursday 13 October 2016, 8pm, at The Mill Arts Centre.

You do not have to be a member to audition but will be required to join if cast.

Performance dates are 1-4 February 2017 at The Mill Arts Centre.

If you are interested but cannot make the above dates, please get in touch :-

Email: [contactus@BanburyCrossPlayers.org.uk](mailto:contactus@BanburyCrossPlayers.org.uk) or 01295 710875.

We look forward to seeing you!

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## SINODUN PLAYERS AUDITIONS FOR PANTOMIME THE PIED PIPER

by Alan Frayn

Performance dates 13-28 January 2017

Come and audition for lots of parts, large (principals) and small (chorus) roles. It's great fun.

Auditionees must be 17 years or over.

Auditions will be held on Friday 7 October at 7.30pm in The Studio,

Monday 10 October at 7.30pm and Saturday 15 October at 2.30pm, both in the Club Room.

Directions will be posted in the foyer.

For further information contact Julie Utley on [julieutley@aol.com](mailto:julieutley@aol.com)

or Caroline Wilkes on [caroline@chilterntherapy.com](mailto:caroline@chilterntherapy.com)

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## HANNEY DRAMA GROUP

Young actors needed for comedy

**Auditions** are Sunday 9 October at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, East Hanney

"Play Safe" by Paul AJ Rudelhoff & Jane Hilliard.

The whole script can be found on Lazy Bees web site [www.lazybeescripts.co.uk](http://www.lazybeescripts.co.uk)

It has 5 female roles and 6 male roles (2 of which are teenagers) and is set in a retirement home for old actors.

Performance dates are 9th to 11th Feb 2017

Contact the Director, Charlie East on [CharlieEast1550@gmail.com](mailto:CharlieEast1550@gmail.com) or 01235 200771

## THAME PLAYERS

### Auditions for "LADY SUSAN"

Monday 24th October at the Players Theatre Nelson St Thame at 7.45pm

"Lady Susan" is based on the novella by Jane Austen adapted by Kathryn Atwood

Performances 5th to 11th March 2017

Lady Susan Vernon, four months a widow, and her unloved teenage daughter Frederica have been staying at Langford, home of her friends, the Manwarings. Whilst there, Lady Susan has managed to conduct an affair with Mr Manwaring as well as break up the relationship of his spinster sister, Maria, and the buffoonish, but wealthy baronet, Sir James Martin.

Obligated to leave Langford and with nowhere else to go, she accepts an invitation from her previously estranged brother-in-law, Charles Vernon, and his wife Catherine, to stay with them at their country home, Churchill, in Kent. Frederica meanwhile is sent to boarding school until she agrees to marry the unattractive and much older Sir James for his money, so enabling her mother to marry for love.

But Lady Susan's cunningly constructed plans begin to go awry. With the help of her best friend Alicia, Lady Susan escapes to London, only to find herself resorting to hilariously desperate measures when her complicated love life begins to unravel.

See advert on ODN website for full Cast list.

To see a script please contact the director :-

Pat Shepherd on

01296 747017 or 07970 450136

or email [p.k.shepherd@btinternet.com](mailto:p.k.shepherd@btinternet.com).

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 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!

Can an android fall in love? Can an android laugh? Would these be considered malfunctions in an android, since these abilities are characteristic of human beings, and hence illogical from an objective point of view?



Ayckbourn creates the ultimate romantic mismatch between a young writer and a cyborg who shows deviant signs of human characteristics. Set in the foreseeable future when everything has changed except human nature, the plot revolves around Chandler Tate, a washed-up director reduced to directing generic soaps with automated "actoids", whose responses are dictated by control-room technicians. Will true love triumph? And is it indeed true love? Will the charming cyborg discover her own "comic potential"?

Comic Potential is one of Ayckbourn's funniest plays, debuted in 1999 at the Lyric Theatre and went on to win several prestigious awards.

This play contains adult language which **may not be suitable for children**

**When:** 12-15 October 2016, 7:30 pm

**Where:** Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames

**Tickets:** from Kenton Box office 01491 575 698  
or [www.kentontheatre.co.uk](http://www.kentontheatre.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.HenleyPlayers.com](http://www.HenleyPlayers.com)

## 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](http://www.WoodcoteDrama.co.uk)

## THE STANDLAKE PLAYERS

### "RolePlay " by Alan Ayckbourn

When Justin Lazenby and his soon to be announced fiancée Julie-Ann invite their respective parents for an introductory dinner party you would

imagine it will be a relatively quiet night. You wouldn't think it would end up featuring a lap dancer, gangsters and an agonising decision.

Join us this October to explore this hilarious play by the master playwright Alan Ayckbourn, and enjoy a professionally catered supper along with glass or two of your favourite tipples from our bar, all for £15. Doors open 7pm.

**When:** 14, 21, 22 October 2016 at 6.30pm

**Tickets:** £15 for two-course supper and play

Book your tickets today!

Call the box office on: 01865 300545

**Email:** [tickets@standlakeplayers.com](mailto:tickets@standlakeplayers.com)

**Visit:** [www.standlakeplayers.com](http://www.standlakeplayers.com)



## 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](http://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? 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](http://www.kaosinoxon.org)

## SINODUN PLAYERS

### The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

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



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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](http://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](http://www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk/tickets.html)

**Enquiries:** 01235 834383



# 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 and the Knights of the Round Table. "Lovingly ripped off" from the classic film comedy Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Spamalot was written by another legend almost as famous - Eric Idle. It features an (almost) entirely new score by Idle and John Du Prez, including fantastic tunes like "I Am Not Dead Yet", "Knights of the Round Table", "Find Your Grail" and, of course, the Nation's Favourite Comedy Song (according to a Reader's Digest Poll), "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life". The original Broadway production won multiple awards, including the Tony Award for Best Musical.

**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](http://www.BanburyOperaticSociety.co.uk)

**Twitter:** @BanburyOperatic



**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](http://www.witneydrama.co.uk)

## AMEGOS

### 'Two'

by Jim  
Cartwright



Set over one eventful night in a pub in the North of England, Two is a play about people. People in their extraordinary, and ordinary, everyday lives, and the strength of the human spirit - stronger than anything on offer behind the bar.

From opening time to last orders, all walks of life pass through this pub, and the comings and goings are watched over by the all-seeing, and all knowing, proprietors - the landlord and landlady at the heart and soul of their local. So get yourself a drink and settle in...

There is limited seating in this bijoux theatre, so grab your tickets now!

**When:** 2nd - 5th November at 7.30

(Bar open from 6.45)

**Where:** The fabulous theatre in Buscot Park

**Tickets:** [www.wegotickets.com/AmEgos](http://www.wegotickets.com/AmEgos)

**Website:** [www.amegostheatre.com](http://www.amegostheatre.com)

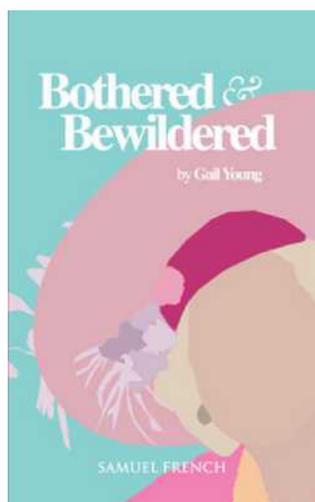
## WITNEY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### '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.



## COMPTON PLAYERS

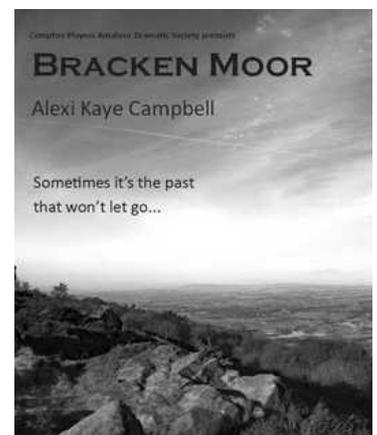
### Bracken Moor

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

After years apart, two families come together to rediscover their lost friendship. Instead, they conjure up the spirit of a buried tragedy.

Set against the economic crisis of the 1930s, this boldly theatrical tale of grief and denial was premiered by Shared Experience at the Tricycle Theatre, London, in 2013.

"A superior kind of ghost story - intellectually as well as emotionally haunting" - The Stage.



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"a striking balance between melodramatic form and supernaturally-tinged social message" – The Independent

"perhaps the strangest, and certainly the most compelling, of his plays so far" – WhatsOnStage

"an absorbing show... I smiled, I shed a tear and – I won't tell you when – I jumped out of my seat" – The Times

**When:** 9th - 12th November 2016.

Doors open 7pm Curtain up 7.30pm

**Where:** Compton Village Hall, Burrell Rd, Compton, Newbury RG20 6NP

**Tickets:** £9.00 (£8.00 concessions)

\*All tickets £8.00 for Saturday Performances\*

**Tickets:** email:

boxoffice@comptonplayers.co.uk

or line and for more information:-

**Website:** www.comptonplayers.co.uk

## FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

A comedy by  
Derek Webb



"Agatha Crusty"

(pronounced Croosty) is a crime novelist. She's also pretty adept at solving crimes. When her sister-in-law Alice invites her to spend a few days with her in the village of Chortelby, it's not long before she gets caught up in a series of murders which seem directed at members of the All Saints Village Hall committee.

From Toby, the Vicar, and Eleanor, Chair of the committee, to Harry Knott the caretaker and identical twins Olivia and Oliver Truscott-Pratt, there are plenty of suspects. And with an investigating officer as incompetent as D.I. Twigg, there are plenty of laughs as the murders begin to pile up.

**When:** 10 - 12 Nov - Doors open 7:00pm for 7:30pm

**Where:** The Corn Exchange, Market Place, Faringdon. SN7 7JA

**Tickets:** Adult £8, Child (under 16) £6

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

**Website:** www.FaringdonDramatic.org.uk

## THE CHILTERN PLAYERS

### "Seasons Greetings" by Alan Ayckbourn



Neville and Belinda are hosting Christmas with family and friends, but as rifts appear and old wounds re-open it is soon evident that it might not be a very merry one. Petty and not

so petty squabbles break out. Christmas pressies are plundered, musical toys are set off at a most inappropriate time and things go generally awry. Highlights include an inept puppet show, a midnight tryst that goes wrong, and a shocking denouement!

**When:** Thu 10, Fri 11 and Sat 12 Nov 7.45 pm

**Where:** Peppard Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road, Peppard Common, RG9 5JA

**Tickets:** £8.00 from 'Occasions' in Sonning Common,

on-line at [chiltern.players@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chiltern.players@yahoo.co.uk),  
Tel 0118 972 2632, or on the door.

## ENCORE ELITE

### Ithaka

by Ginny Avery



Encore Elite, Sinodun Players' senior youth group, will be delving into the realms of Ancient Greece with "Ithaka", a short play written by Elite director Ginny Avery.

Inspired by the plight of Penelope on the bountiful island of Ithaka, the Queen vainly hopes for the return of her beloved husband Odysseus whilst trying to appease the demands of her many unwanted suitors.

**When:** Friday 11 and Saturday, 12 Nov - Two shows a night, 45 mins each at 7pm and 8.30pm.

**Where:** the Club Room at Wallingford Corn Exchange

**Tickets:** £5 from [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)  
or Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000.

# 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](http://www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk)

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

## OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

### Oliver!

Music, Lyrics and  
Book by Lionel Bart

Consider yourself at home as Oxford Operatic Society return to the Oxford Playhouse with their thrilling new production of Lionel Bart's acclaimed musical adaptation Oliver!

Oliver Twist, a young orphan in Victorian England, escapes from his cold and oppressive orphanage to a new life in the city. But falling in with young pickpocket the Artful Dodger and the charismatic but manipulative Fagin offers as much danger as it does freedom to Oliver. For every new friend he meets, like the warm-hearted Nancy, there are dangerous foes..... A journey through the darkness of Victorian London, with thrills, laughter and tears for all the family.

Based on Charles Dickens' novel, Lionel Bart's classic musical combines much loved tunes such as Food, Glorious Food and I'd Do Anything with the heartbreak of As Long As He Need Me and Where Is Love?

**When:** Monday 14 – Saturday 19 November 7.30pm  
+ 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 19 November

**Where:** Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford

**Tickets:** £11.50 - £21.00 from

Oxford Playhouse Box Office:

In Person Oxford Playhouse

By Phone 01865 305305

Online [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com)

**Website:** [www.oxfordoperatic.org.uk](http://www.oxfordoperatic.org.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](mailto:tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk)

**Phone:** 0845 4636638

## HENLEY AMATEUR OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

### Monty Python's SPAMALOT

by Eric Idle, Music by John  
Du Prez & Eric Idle

A new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Find your grail with this chance of a lifetime to experience one of the greatest comedy musicals of the modern age, the award winning best Musical: SPAMALOT!

The show retells the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and features a bevy of beautiful show girls, not to mention cows, killer rabbits and French people. Did we mention the bevy of beautiful show girls?

**When:** Wed 16 to Sat 19 Nov 7.45pm + 2.30pm Sat

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

**Tickets:** Adult £20, Conc £19 Child £15

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



# THE NORTONIANS A.D.S.

## A Christmas Carol – in 60 Minutes Or Less!

by Martin Prest

This is accurate adaptation of Charles Dickens classic Christmas story, containing all the story lines and Dickens classic prose neatly wrapped up to start the Christmas festivities by the Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society.

People in the know are aware that there are a multitude of memorable characters in the story. The Nortonians are attempting this with only a cast of four! Martin Hannant plays Scrooge with Sian O'Neill narrating his story of conversion. The multi talented trio of Beverly Digwood, Andrew Pitman and Paul Lovick plays all other parts!

This is definitely not "Bah Humbug" but a chance of a real festive evening out. Watch out for posters.

**When:** 19th November at 7.30 pm and your ticket price of £8.00 will include "Seasonal refreshments"

**Where:** in The Parish Rooms on, Church Street, Chipping Norton,

**Tickets:** on sale in advance, from 24th October (Jaffe and Neal Bookshop, Chipping Norton. or from "wegottickets.com") and on the door.

## THE WYCHWOOD PLAYERS Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

by Constance Cox

A comedy in three acts based on the short story by Oscar Wilde. Lord Arthur Savile is engaged to the lovely Sybil Merton. Her pet chiromantist Podgers has read Lord Arthur's palm and foretold he would commit a murder. Lord Arthur desires a blissful married life and therefore feels duty bound to get the murder over with first. Despite help from his butler and the cheerful anarchist Winkelkopf, attempt after attempt fails. Will Lord Arthur ever overcome these setbacks and march up the aisle with Sybil or will there be yet another postponement notice sent to The Times?

**When:** Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th November

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

**Tickets:** Tel: 07817 426305 or  
email: WychwoodPlayersBoxOffice@yahoo.co.uk



## KINGSTON BAGUIZE DRAMA GROUP

### Cinderella

by Stuart Paterson



This version of Cinderella has been described as 'thoroughly refreshing' and 'entertaining' and is suitable for all. This is going to be one of the most belly laugh, fast paced, colourful and entertaining productions we have ever put on, guaranteed to put a smile on everyone's face ahead of the start of the festive season.

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

**Where:** Southmoor Village Hall,

**Tickets:** from 01865 736913 or

**online:** www.kbdgshow.com or  
www.WeGotTickets.com/KingstonBaguizeDramaGroup

## 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 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

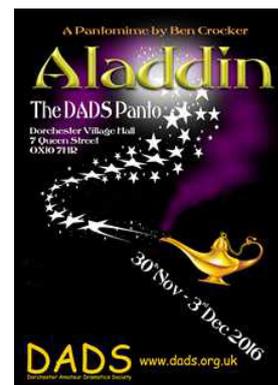
**Tickets:** see website:-  
www.BartholomewPlayers.co.uk



## DORCHESTER AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY 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

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## 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

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## JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

### "Cinderella" by James King

This classic fairy story tells the tale of Cinderella, her bossy step-sisters, a wicked stepmother, a handsome prince and magic in the shape of Cinderella's fairy godmother. Filled with hit songs, slapstick comedy, sparkling costumes, audience participation and featuring dance students from the Karen Brind School of Dance. A perfect Christmas treat for all the family.



**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** at The Beacon, Wantage. 5pm

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** at Grove Village Hall. 3pm

Tickets on the door or phone 01235 767509

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## 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



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

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.

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](http://OldFireStation.TicketSolve.com/#!/shows/873558635)

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## KENNINGTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY Sinbad the Sailor

Get ready to join us in January for 'Sinbad the Sailor' a sea-faring adventure, as we ride the ocean waves in our annual pantomime. From the fabled Arabian Nights tales, meet the infamous Sinbad and a whole cast of characters including the beautiful Princess Scheherazade, wicked sorceress Halapena, and Dame Peony Poopdeck.

As in previous years, we will be supporting a local charity with a collection at each performance. Look out for more information on our KADS facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KenningtonADS](http://www.facebook.com/KenningtonADS)

Matinee performances can fill up quickly, so you are encouraged to book early.

**When:** Fri 20th to Sun 22nd January AND  
Fri 27th & Sat 28th January

7.30pm for evening performances, 2pm matinees  
matinee and evening performances on Saturdays,  
matinee only on Sunday

**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 1st November from Kay in the  
Box Office 01865 739025 or  
email [antipants67@gmail.com](mailto:antipants67@gmail.com).