



*noda*

Be inspired by amateur theatre

**NODA SCOTLAND**

*Magazine*

National Operatic and Dramatic Association  
Registered Charity no: 1171216. Registered Company no: 241572.  
Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber & Connie Fisher.



Here we are almost 12 months since we were last able to perform in a theatre and yet the range of activities and the enthusiasm shown by members across the country to keep engaging with their own members and audiences alike has been quite remarkable. You can read about some of these activities throughout the magazine and I would encourage you to share what you have been up to on the NODA Scotland Facebook page as well as sending details to our magazine editor for inclusion in future editions – [alan.jones@noda.org.uk](mailto:alan.jones@noda.org.uk)

As each day passes and each dose of vaccine is delivered, the day when we can return to the stage and fully engage in the hobby we all love is growing ever closer. This renewed optimism applies equally to our annual conference at Peebles Hydro in October. The committee are continuing to make plans and all being well we hope to be able to launch full details in May or June, all of course, subject to and in line with updated Scottish Government guidance.

Neil Hartley, our Youth Coordinator, has been working away since his appointment making contact with groups across the country as well as planning some exciting West End workshops for members 8-18. Full details about these can be found later in the magazine. Don't hesitate to contact Neil if there is any help or support you need as your groups start to make future plans – [neil.hartley@noda.org.uk](mailto:neil.hartley@noda.org.uk)

As members start to plan future performance back in the theatre, don't forget to invite your Regional Rep along so they can write your show report. If you are planning to invite myself as Councillor please get your invites in early as my diary will start to fill up quickly once we start to see a return to some sort of normality. Online, rearranged or new future productions can all be listed on the NODA website What's On section as far in advance as you have made plans. This will ensure you get additional free publicity for your productions. If you need help to do this simply, send the details to – [stuart.dick@noda.org.uk](mailto:stuart.dick@noda.org.uk)

In recent weeks NODA has launched a new stand-alone website for the pantos it represents. This new website brings together all the titles in one single easy to search location with many new and updated scripts now available. For further details simply visit – [www.pantoscripts.org.uk](http://www.pantoscripts.org.uk)

Early in the pandemic NODA Council took the decision to extend the membership year for societies by 3 months to 31 March 2021 to help provide additional financial support to members during the crisis. Over the coming weeks society members will receive renewal details. I hope I and the NODA Scotland committee have demonstrated over the past year the value of being a member of NODA and we look forward to being able to continue to provide you with all the necessary help and support as we start to emerge from lockdown.

So, until we are able to meet again, stay safe and please don't forget to share the magazine round your members.

*Stuart McCue-Dick, Councillor*

*NODA Scotland Magazine* is published in March, July and November. The March edition includes reviews on shows which had performances in November, December, January and February; the July edition covers shows performed in March, April, May and June; and reviews of shows performed in July, August, September and October appear in the November edition.

Generally, reviews are written by the Regional Representatives whose names appear later on this page. Where the review has not been written by the appropriate Regional Representative, the author's name is given.

Advertisements are invited from societies and theatrical rights holders, traders and suppliers.

### Advertising rates

- The rate for a show advertisement is £25 per edition.
- The rate for advertisements by theatrical rights holders, traders and suppliers is £50 for three successive editions.

Please send advertising material to the Editor.

All copy for the July edition of the *NODA Scotland Magazine* should be with the Editor not later than **Wednesday 30 June 2021**. Earlier receipt of material will be welcome.

## NODA SCOTLAND COMMITTEE

Generic e-mail address: [firstname.secondname@noda.org.uk](mailto:firstname.secondname@noda.org.uk)

Councillor	Stuart McCue-Dick
District No 1 (Glasgow Area)	Elizabeth Daniels
District No 2 (Dundee & Perthshire) & Minute Secretary	Roger Buist
District No 3 (Central Scotland)	Elizabeth Donald
District No 4 (Renfrewshire, Ayrshire & Bute)	Craig Inglis
District No 5 (Lanarkshire)	David Black
District No 6 (Edinburgh Area)	Dorothy Johnstone
District No 7 (Fife) & Membership Secretary	Mike Pendlowski
District No 8 (Borders Area)	Deborah Lyons
District No 9 (Grampian & Highland)	Douglas Clark
District No 10 (Angus & Kincardine) & Awards Secretary	Gordon Smith
District No 11 (South West Scotland) & Treasurer	Stewart Cameron
Youth Adviser	Neil Hartley
Web Manager	Vacancy (covered by Councillor)
Editor	Alan C Jones

## NODA TODAY

*NODA Today* is a UK-wide magazine published in March, July and November.

The content of the magazine comprises features about societies, individuals, shows, NODA corporate activities and any outstanding achievements or activities in the region. NODA Head Office has asked that Regional Editors provide no more than 1,200 words collectively for all of the region's content. All jpeg pictures sent for inclusion should be at least 150dpi, with the ideal being 300dpi. Articles for the July edition are welcomed from societies and individual members and should be submitted by e-mail to the NODA Scotland Editor by **Friday 18 June 2021**. Earlier receipt of material will be welcome.

### **Note to Secretaries:**

**Please send a copy of the *NODA Scotland Magazine* to all members of your society to ensure that everyone is up to date.**

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS: CELEBRATE YOUR TIME IN AMATEUR THEATRE!

How long have you been in amateur theatre?

Did you know you can purchase long service awards from NODA to celebrate your dedication?

From 10 years all the way up to 70 years, we have pins, badges and medals that you can wear with pride.

Check out our long service awards on the NODA website.

**Further details from the NODA Scotland Awards Secretary:  
Gordon Smith (Regional Representative, District No 10).**





**10 Year Badge**

Ayr Amateur Opera Company

Ayr Amateur Opera Company

Hamilton Operatic & Dramatic Club

Nicola Harper

Joanna McGahon

Beverley Gardiner

**NODA PANTOMIMES**



# Panto Scripts

Hear ye, hear ye! Fair people of Pantoland, we have an announcement!

NODA is delighted to announce the launch of  
[www.PantoScripts.org.uk](http://www.PantoScripts.org.uk)

Whether you are looking for a script to perform or just something to read, PantoScripts has something for everyone!

- With over 100 amazing scripts with new titles being added regularly
  - Flexible licensing to suit all groups
  - Digital perusals available for all titles

Visit our website:

[www.pantoscripts.org.uk](http://www.pantoscripts.org.uk)

or follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/pantoscripts.org.uk](https://facebook.com/pantoscripts.org.uk)

to keep up to date with the latest panto scripts, news and special offers!



## **Introducing our latest NODA Corporate Partner**

ShowShare is a one-stop streaming tool to help you with every stage of streaming your production.

As the approved streaming provider of The Really Useful Group, MTI Europe, Concord Theatricals and several other major rights holders, ShowShare makes streaming secure, straight forward and affordable.

<https://www.showshare.co.uk>

# THE BORDER STUDIO

www.borderstudio.com  
info@borderstudio.com

facebook.com/theborderstudiouk  
@theborderstudio



## DESIGN TO INSPIRE



### WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A SET?

With a huge catalogue to choose from and complete flexibility, we are here to collaborate with you, provide inspiration and new ideas, and work with you to create beautiful, thoughtfully designed sets that are bespoke to your space and budget requirements.

Get in touch with us today & let's discuss how we can elevate your next show with a set that will really communicate with your audience.

### What do our customers have to say?

*"The set was stunning and really made our panto out of this world. Thank you for all your hard work, we couldn't have done it without you"*

*Paul Harding, Leeds LIDOS*

*"I can't thank The Border Studio enough for their help and the fabulous set they have provided for our production of Spamalot. The quality of the set and props are superb."*

*Michelle Coulson, Dryburn Theatrical Workshop*

*We will certainly be dealing with you the next time we need a backcloth rather than anyone else - they were excellent quality but more significantly, I think your customer service is absolutely amazing.*

*Ben Jeffreys, Westcliff High School for Boys*

### WHAT'S NEW?

**CHICAGO**

**made in Dagenham** THE MUSICAL

**BETTY BLUE EYES**

**TOP HAT**

*The Wind in the Willows*

**SHREK** THE MUSICAL

**CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG**

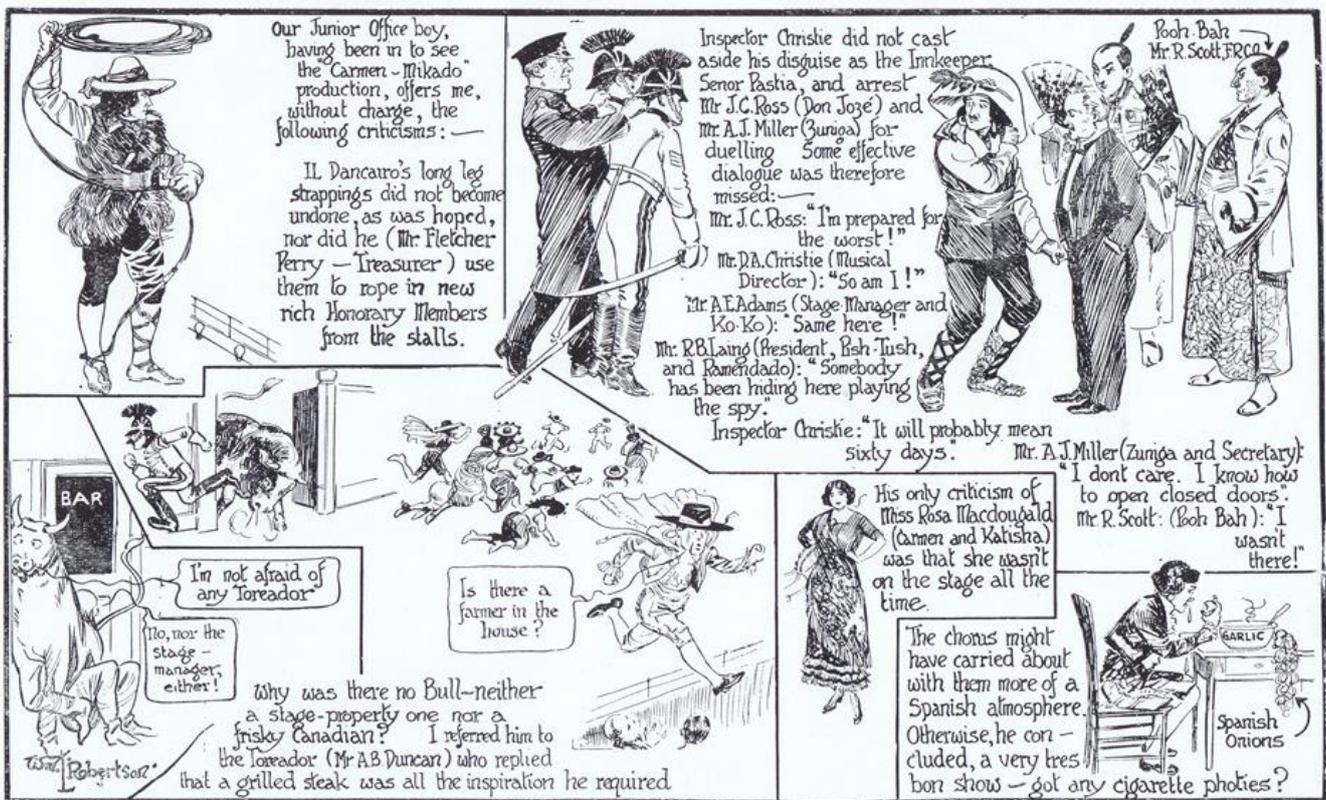
A DIP INTO THE ARCHIVES

I joined Dundee Operatic Society nearly 30 years ago at the insistence of the then MD, Keith Milne. I joined to sing, have fun and relieve the stresses of the day job and family life. That didn't last – I soon found myself on Committee and helping to organise our contribution to a promotional 'Hobbies' exhibition at Dundee's Caird Hall – including musical interludes in the Marryat Hall, swiftly followed by the need for a programme for the coming 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show; and then a newsletter was thought to be a good idea ... Some of you will recognise this!

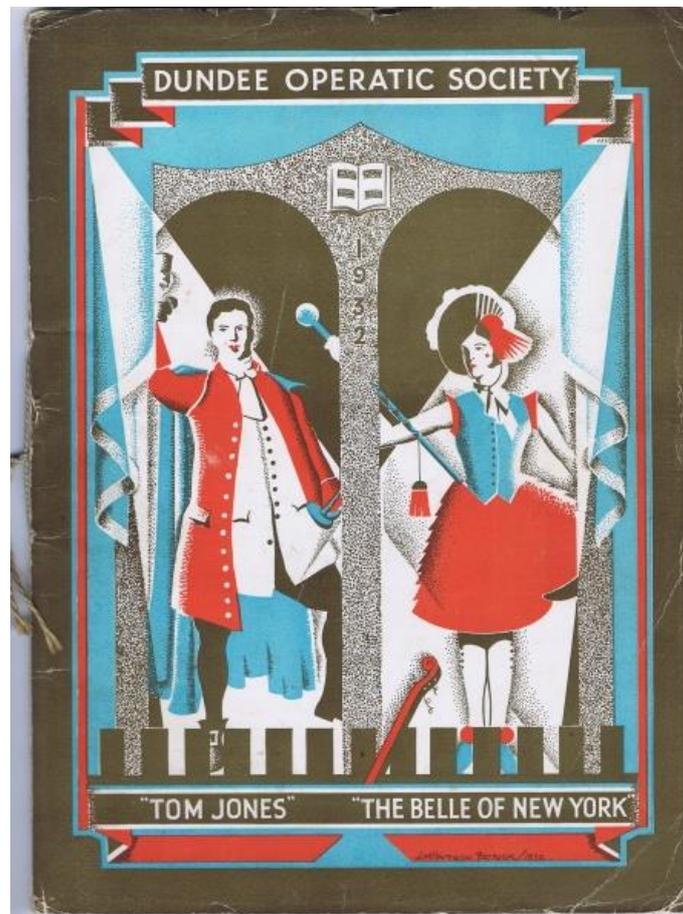
Out of a concert in 1992, where a previously unknown Record Book of the first three years of the Society kept by Arthur J Millar, the driving force behind the resurrection of the older societies (from 1872 onwards), was presented to the company by his son, Ronald, and with the Hobbies exhibition in 1993 came the knowledge that we had a small archive of material that had been handed down via Committee members over the years. It was thought there were some scrap books, a few scores, one or two old photos. My love of local and family history was ignited once again. Wouldn't it be great if we could showcase some of these memorabilia at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations that were already being planned? Challenge accepted!

So, it turned out that we had quite a collection of material – original attendance registers, minute books, published accounts, some cartoons, printers' blocks, some 16mm cine film in cans, printers' proofs of early programmes. It transpired there were some photos at the City Archives which turned out to be of shows in the 1930s. There was also a set of display boards from the 80s and some photograph albums, from the 30s and 70s.

Over the years, I appealed for more from company members and occasionally through the press. At Peebles, I chatted with Eileen Merry (NODA Archivist for many years) and others to try and get a feel for what folk wanted from this (which was, ever the divas, "where's the photos of ME?!!").



In 2010, we received a box of memorabilia from Arthur J Millar's family which gave us some fantastic photos and press cuttings from the early years. In 2014, the Society was told that the storage space in the rehearsal rooms at the church we'd been using since forever needed to be cleared. What a treasure trove emerged! I managed to rescue a number of items and brought home many boxes of scores and other music, a painting initially thought to be DOS performing at King's Theatre (which turned out not to be, but did include some of the folk who performed with the Society in the early years), some very doubtful and ancient makeup and hair pieces, and some mops from a production of *Fiddler*. There was also a working carousel and some wooden swords but someone else took those to recycle.



Social media arrived and with it the ability to easily get our name 'out there' and in 2015 I set up the Dundee Operatic Archives page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DOSArchives>). It will probably never 'go viral' but folk seem to like seeing the photos and to reminisce. It seemed a small step to set up and publish a website to take the Archives to a wider audience, in the same way I had done for my own family history research. In doing this, I wanted to know more about the people who established the Society, who they were, what was their history, what was the social background to the early shows. I won't dwell on the early deaths of a couple of performers – the 26 year old leading lady who died of puerperal fever (her son survived), the cheery and loveable chap who was a gifted producer and stage manager but who succumbed to a heart attack at the age of only 40; but will mention that Dundee Operatic Society has several members, over the years, who have gone off to 'live the dream' of performing professionally; and has fielded 3 National Presidents, each one taking up the office twice! – Arthur J Millar 1961-3 & 1974-5, Alistair Gordon 1973-4 & 1976-8 and Robert T (Bert) Lumsden 2008-9 & 2013-14.

So, my job is just beginning in some ways; there is still a great deal of information to process. But come and see what there is at the website – the early programmes ("late train for Newport and Tayport at 11pm"), the many column inches of critique from the local newspapers ("Brilliant Amateurs, By Our Musical Critic"), those amazing cartoons of rehearsals for the first *Carmen*, the Patrons, the Egyptian Dancing Girls from the 1929 production of *Merrie England*, Sylvia Taylor's account of seeing a production from a box at the King's in 1934. Oh, and did I mention the 1932 programme cover drawn and SIGNED by local painter of some renown, J McIntosh Patrick?

Pat Carson, DOS Archivist [www.DOSarchive.uk](http://www.DOSarchive.uk)

### **Note to Marketing Managers: FREE PUBLICITY!!!**

**Make sure that all your forthcoming productions are listed on the NODA website as far in advance as you know plans have been made.**

PROJECT THEATRE, FALKIRK

Founded in 2008, we are a performing arts organisation and registered Scottish Charity who aim to promote youth involvement in the creative and performing arts across the Falkirk area through workshops, productions and other events and initiatives. Project Theatre was formed through grassroots organising and community spirit and works as a non-profit organisation. In our nature we pledge to be involved in the community (especially with young people) in as many engaging and positive ways as possible.

Under the artistic direction of our founder Jamie O'Rourke, our growing organisation's projects are divided into these areas: classes, Youth Theatre, Dance, Film & Digital, Music, School Holiday Activities, Collective & Creative Learning. We provide performing arts training and performance experiences with the power of potential at their heart and our diverse organisation has a committed following and is always seeking to build on this audience through innovative audience development and educational work.

Over the past year Project Theatre have continued to operate and hold as many classes as possible via online platforms as well as having some face to face sessions as and when it was allowed based on the Scottish COVID Tier system. Project Theatre felt a responsibility as a youth charity particularly when schools have been off to provide educational creative opportunities for our young people. They also believe, for the development and well being of all our young people during a pandemic, the process is priority above the finished product particularly since in these circumstances we cannot and should not expect to have all of the skills, resources and time available to us in usual circumstances.

During 2020 Project Theatre has worked with over 60 young people, 11 regular and freelance staff and our team of 20 volunteers over 18 different activities; these have included 5 outdoor sessions in a local park and town centre during the summer months. The Project Theatre social media audience and website visits grew dramatically throughout this time as they created 13 performances for screen with a collective reach of around 2400 views on both YouTube and Facebook platforms.

When they were not around the local parks and city centres making use of the available space the group held over 45 in-studio classes/rehearsals before lockdown and full face to face restrictions were put in place. This did not stop the group and as I have mentioned the group then moved online and enjoyed around 60 online sessions from classes, workshops and rehearsals to staff and volunteer meetings, fun quiz nights and a mindfulness relaxation video.

The most recent workshop that Project Theatre has put together was with a very special guest from SIX The Musical. Hazel Karooma-Brooker joined the group via an online zoom workshop on Wednesday 24 February. After a brief introduction from Hazel the very starstruck cast took to the floor for a warm up and were then taken through the choreography to one of the dance routines from the show over an hour-long session.



Hazel was very keen to be involved in the workshop and provided the following statement:

"I'm really excited to be doing this workshop with Project Theatre, I love teaching dance and especially the SIX material which I adore, I'm so thankful for the opportunity. I feel especially blessed, these opportunities wouldn't come my way if it weren't for my involvement with the show and the fact that so many people are in love with Six too. I feel it's particularly crucial for as many theatre professionals as possible to be linking up with youth theatres, charities and the like – not to mention that it helps us as well, and there's absolutely been more of it from everything I've seen and been involved with. I think it's so necessary to be getting a little theatre into our lives as much as possible. And with some MT pros even starting their own online theatre schools, it's never been more important for everyone to be linking up and sharing their experience and knowledge, especially with the generations coming up who will be the future of theatre. I've been hit by the pandemic as much as most from this industry, but I'm very lucky that I was away just before it all started and was able to just run home to my parents (ha-ha!). It's been gutting to see the way it's all been handled, especially with so many shows trying to pick-up, only to get shut down again. Sometimes it feels like this will be the end of theatre because of how much we've been let down, but I think people underestimate how much we all love and need theatre. We'll all be back the second we're allowed – I don't think they could stop us, even if they wanted to. Theatre people are a force to be reckoned with!!"

*Neil Hartley, Youth Adviser*

NODA SCOTLAND YOUTH



Dear Members

NODA Scotland and myself as the NODA Scotland Youth Coordinator, are excited to be able to offer to your members aged 8-18 the opportunity to attend our West End Zoom Workshops with Lauren Ellis-Steele from the UK touring production of Wicked and Hazel Karooma-Brooker from SIX The Musical.

Each workshop will last approximately an hour and will give those participating the chance, following a warm-up, to learn a routine from the show taught by a member of the cast.

As these are very different musicals, we are planning on running the workshops, for 2 age groups 8-12yrs and 13-18yrs, over 2 different weekends to allow your members to attend both should they wish. The costs for each session will be £2 per child per session.

Can I ask that you circulate the details to your members and ask that if they are interested in attending either or both workshops, they send the following details to myself by Friday 12 March – [neil.hartley@noda.org.uk](mailto:neil.hartley@noda.org.uk)

**Name:**

**Age:**

**Youth Society/Group attended:**

**Parent/Guardian Name:**

**Parent/Guardian Email:**

**Workshop Interested in attending (Wicked, SIX or both):**

Once we have an idea of numbers for each workshop, we will look at potential dates and be back in touch directly with those who have shown an interest to give further details.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from your members. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is any other help or support I or NODA Scotland can provide.

Best wishes

Neil Hartley  
NODA Scotland Youth Coordinator



## NODA Scotland Youth

### West End Workshops

NODA Scotland are excited to be able to offer to your members aged 8-18 the opportunity to attend our West End Zoom Workshops with Lauren Ellis-Steele from the UK touring production of Wicked and Hazel Karooma-Brooker from SIX The Musical.

Each workshop will last approximately an hour and will give those participating the chance, following a warm-up, to learn a routine from the show taught by a member of the cast.

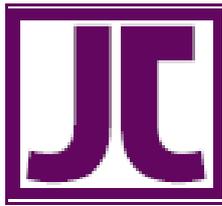
As these are very different musicals, we are planning on running the workshops, for 2 age groups 8-12yrs and 13-18yrs, over 2 different weekends to allow your members to attend both should they wish. The costs for each session will be £2 per child per session.

Should you require any further information or are interested in attending either or both workshops, please contact either your youth society who can pass on the information required or our NODA Scotland Youth Coordinator Neil Hartley at [neil.hartley@noda.org.uk](mailto:neil.hartley@noda.org.uk) by the Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

*noda*

Be inspired by amateur theatre



# Just Tickets

Theatrical & Leisure Ticket Printers

Just Tickets® specialise in all types of theatrical and event ticket printing & support services including:



- Vertical tickets
- Horizontal tickets
- Laser tickets
- Bespoke tickets
- Security tickets
- Draw tickets
- Roll tickets
- Wristbands

We Pride ourselves in offering our customers a first class service at prices that will meet even the tightest of budgets.

Telephone our sales team on 0345 126 0631  
or email [sales@just-tkts.com](mailto:sales@just-tkts.com) for further  
information on our leading range of quality products.

Just Tickets® 23 Wood Lane  
Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9SJ  
[www.just-tkts.com](http://www.just-tkts.com)

# THEATRICAL TRADERS ASSOCIATION

The Theatrical Traders Association represents all the affiliated traders who supply amateur theatre in the UK. Membership of the TTA means a reputable supplier who maintains the standards set by the Association.

## COSTUMIERS

<p><b>Ace Theatrical Costumiers</b> Unit G, Crown Business Park, Dukestown, Tredegar Blaenau Gwent NP22 4EF 01495 350008   e.lande1@tiscali.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Ariel Company Theatre Costume Hire</b> Unit 20, Bolney Grange Business Park, Stairbridge lane, Bolney, Sussex RH17 5PB 01444 250407   www.arielhire.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Dress Circle Costumiers</b> Brook House, Maldon Road, Witham, Essex CM8 3HY 01376 515500   www.dresscirclecostumiers.com</p>
<p><b>The History Bunker Ltd.</b> 263a Whitehall Road Leeds, West Yorkshire LS12 6ER 0113 220 5881   www.thehistorybunker.com</p>	<p><b>Molly Limpet's Theatrical Emporium Ltd.</b> 712 Chesterfield Road, Sheffield S8 0SD 0114 250 0851   www.mollylimpets.com</p>	<p><b>Northern Costume Hire</b> Long Ing Mill, Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 6BJ 01282 817351   www.northerncostumehire.co.uk</p>
<p><b>Stage Costume</b> Unit 2, Victoria Industrial Park, Victoria Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 5AJ 01322 311787   www.stagecostume.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Triple C's Costumes</b> Brindley House, Engine Lane, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 7AQ 01384 893911   www.tripleccostumehire.com</p>	<p><b>Utopia Costumes</b> Utopia House, Academy Street, Forfar, Angus DD8 2HA 01307 468231   www.utopiacostumes.com</p>

## SCENERY, PROPS ETC.

<p><b>The Border Studio</b> Riverside Mill, Level Crossing Road, Selkirk, Scottish Borders TD7 5EQ 01750 20237   www.borderstudio.com</p>	<p><b>HWL (UK) Limited</b> Cricket Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DR 0161 335 0220   www.hwLtd.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Proscenium Ltd.</b> Sladen Wood Mill, Todmorden Road, Littleborough, Rochdale OL15 9EW 01706 377226   www.proscenium.co.uk</p>
<p><b>Scenery Hire Ltd.</b> Unit 10, Avondale Road, Avondale Industrial Est, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 1UG 01633 262 728   www.sceneryhire.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Scenic Projects Ltd.</b> Nelson Wharf Business Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9LP 01502 575000   www.scenicprojects.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Scenery Solutions Trading Ltd.</b> Unit 2, Barton Farm Industrial Estate, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 6RP 023 8064 1496   www.scenerysolutions.co.uk</p>

## RIGHTSHOLDERS

<p><b>Stagescripts Ltd</b> Lantern House, 84 Littlehaven Lane Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4JB 0345 686 0611   www.stagescripts.com</p>
--

## TICKET PRINTERS

<p><b>Just Tickets</b> 23 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire RG4 9SJ 0345 126 0631   www.just-tkts.com</p>
---

## WIGS AND MAKE-UP

<p><b>The Wig Centre (formerly Bromley Ltd.)</b> Cricket Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DR 0161 335 0687   wigs@hwLtd.co.uk</p>
--

<p><b>D.R. Easton Ltd.</b> 1 Dorothy Avenue, Pea cehaven, East Sussex BN10 8LP 01273 588262   www.de.rekeastonwigs.co.uk</p>
--



Look out for the TTA logo. For help with the supply of anything for your productions contact the TTA helpline on 0345 126 0631



[www.theatricaltradersassociation.co.uk](http://www.theatricaltradersassociation.co.uk)

# PROSCENEIUM

Stage Scenery Hire  
Stage Properties Hire

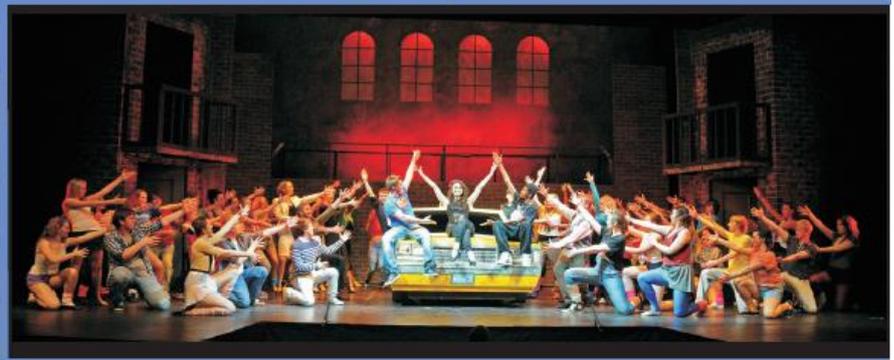
Transport Services  
International Stage Services



Theatrical Scenery & Properties Hire

LEGALLY BLONDE

9 to 5



Tel - 01706 377226

Email - [enquiries@proscenium.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@proscenium.co.uk)

[www.proscenium.co.uk](http://www.proscenium.co.uk)





Hamilton ODC

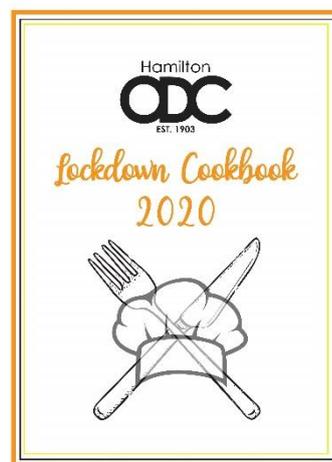
No one expected the last year to be what it has turned out to be. However, we have not let that get in the way of the club being together. We have had a zoom call every Tuesday night which have really helped, especially during the toughest times of lockdown. Many our calls have been themed, and others have just been a general chat and catch up. Some of our members describe the zoom calls as uplifting, fun, comfortable, enjoyable, refreshing, laughter, bizarre, friendly, chatty, outrageous, and encouraging. We have not only had a laugh and a carry on, but we have looked back across the years and spoke about past shows, members who are no longer with us and shared some entertaining stories as well as pictures!



During the height of the first lockdown, we sent out a pocket hug to let our members know that no matter how hard it gets we are here. It put a lot of smiles on our members faces and was another way of bringing us all together.

We have also fulfilled a gap to our members Thursday nights with a quiz. Several of our members put rounds together to form many of our quizzes. Every week had a musical themed round as well as others ranging from general knowledge and history to the club's previous productions and member's baby pictures. Our 2020 edition finished with a packed and very close leader board and our 2021 edition is proving to be the same.

For many years, the club have been known to be giving back to charities in the local community to which we have sustained during this uncertain time. So this got us thinking and we decided to do our own cookbook. Our members provided their brilliant recipes to make up the book full of delicious starters, main courses, desserts, home baking and cocktails. We were overwhelmed with the response to the cookbook so everybody who bought one was put into a raffle with the winner choosing the benefitting charity. The Dogs Trust was chosen in memory of our former treasurer Christine Seaton and we were delighted to contact them with our donation of £300.



Our donations did not stop there as later in the year we put together a Christmas hamper and all the funds were going towards a children charity. We raised £400 which was enough to give 50+ children a present, a hot meal and a safe place over Christmas. Both such worthy causes which we were delighted to raise so much for.



We also had our own virtual awards day where nine of our members received their NODA long service award to their door.

Beverley Gardiner - 10 years  
Mhairi Thompson - 15 years  
Elizabeth Clements – 20 years  
Frank Bent - 25 years  
Emma Rodger - 25 years  
John McCulloch - 40 years  
Lindsay Mills - 45 years  
Joyce Tweedlie - 50 years  
May Weir - 55 years



We are always extremely proud to see our members get recognition of their time and efforts to our club and the whole amateur dramatic scene.



Our creative skills appeared once again to produce our own HODC merchandising range, with the aim being for our members to be able to take the club badge into their homes and out and about in the community. We had 3 items in our range which were club branded. We had face masks, coasters and, due to it being close to Christmas, baubles for the tree. Again, the response was overwhelming positive and continued to keep the club and all our members close together. On the lead up to Christmas we were given an amazing opportunity to team up with Hamilton Business Improvement District. Hamilton BID supports local businesses and organisations to put them out there on all

the relevant platforms. We were invited to do a virtual song to help spread some festive spirit which we accepted, and it was debuted on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2020 and reached 8,500 people. This was something new to a lot of us and it took a significant amount of preparation in the background but the reaction we got from people close to the club and those in the local community was phenomenal. It gave our members the much-needed opportunity, although virtually, to sing and perform together. It is the start of which we hope to be a great relationship between Hamilton BID and ourselves which will open more opportunities for the club and place us right at the heart of the local community.

We are incredibly pleased that during the tough times we are facing with COVID-19 that it has not stopped us being active as a club. We are excited at what else we can do and continue to keep everything crossed that it will not be too long until we can get together in person again. And furthermore, hope that we can rehearse and perform for audiences again as soon as possible, as well as support all of the other amazing clubs.

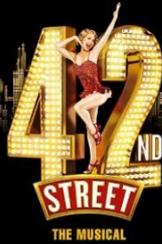
*Christopher Costello, Marketing Manager, HODC*

## **NODASafe**

**NODASafe is run by people who understand theatre and have personal activity in the community theatre environment, so we know what pressures and challenges face NODA societies on a show-to-show basis. Support includes - telephone and email support with production safety queries, general advice on all health and safety queries, dealing with serious accidents, generic risk assessments and coming soon will be online training.**

# UTOPIA COSTUMES

Booking Now!



Utopia House  
Academy Street, Forfar  
DD8 2HA  
01307 468231  
ewanc@btconnect.com

 @Utopia Costumes Forfar



CAMS 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On 12 February this year, that well known institution, Cupar Amateur Musical Society (CAMS), celebrated a wonderful landmark when it reached its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The company can trace its origins directly to a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* on the evenings of 31 January and 1 February 1896, followed very closely by a meeting on 12 February, which led to the formal constitution of Cupar Amateur Opera Company. The Fife Herald & Journal on Wednesday 5 February 1896 pronounced, with no false modesty, "Two brilliant performances of *Pinafore* and went on to state that "Hardly a town in Fife – to say nothing of Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow – was not represented in Union Street Hall that Friday and Saturday evening". A special train even ran from Kirkcaldy.

The status of the company from the outset was exemplified by the initial eye-watering list of Honorary Patrons, including two Earls, various Members of Parliament, and a future Prime Minister, H. H. Asquith.

The tradition of amateur musical entertainment in Cupar was born, and, discounting wartime interruptions, has had an almost unbroken history up to the present day. Earliest performances took place in the Union Street Hall, subsequently named the Musketeers' Theatre, and latterly the Regal Cinema until the 1960s where it moved to its current home, the Corn Exchange.

Following a break during the Great War, the company reformed. A sombre indication of the impact of the war is found in the company's Minute Book, recording the death of five company members – a shocking toll in such a small company, but no doubt replicated throughout the country.

Modern audiences may be amazed to learn that, right up to the 1950s, the audience would regularly demand encores mid-performance, to the extent that, for the performance of *The Gondoliers* in 1956, there was the plea in the programme: "There are some instances where encores interfere with the continuity of the story, and the audience is asked not to break the continuity by insisting on them".

A significant feature throughout the company's history has been the continuity of family involvements. In the first 40 to 50 years, we see familiar Cupar names such as Robertson, Watt, Peattie, Innes and Pagan. Mr James Watt was President in 1924, and his son, also James Watt, played many character parts in the 50s and whose niece Fay Caird is a current long-standing member.

In 1950, Robin Robertson was honoured for his 50-year association with the company, and, almost exactly at that time, we see the first principal appearance of one Jack Smith, a much-loved company member and fine singer, who continued his connection with the company for a further 50 years. The 1950s and 1960s see the first mention of company stalwarts, Bill and Mary McAra, John and Barbara McManus, and, perhaps most remarkably, Jean Barclay. From a principal role in 1964, Jean, now into her tenth decade, continues to fulfil the vital role of Prompter almost 60 years later. Also worthy of mention is the contribution of Kate Doig (Houston) who first appeared on stage in *The Mikado* in 1964, and moved from a performer to fulfil the position of Accompanist and more recently as Musical Director.

Other on-stage personalities have included Ishbel Ford with her outstanding soprano voice, Elma Low, a Cupar favourite for many years, and Eric Towns whose most notable role was Reb Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (twice!). Several cast members have fulfilled comic/character roles over the years, including Dick Greig and Sandy Green, and in more recent years, Alice Cowieson, Raymond Young and Ruth Anderson. Linda Greene (both as performer and Producer) and her daughter, Anna Kernahan, undertook many principal roles in the 1980s, 1990s and beyond. Coming more up-to-date, we have seen the emergence of Andrew Doig (son of Kate), Helen Knowles-Venters and Neil Jarrett regularly topping the bill.

The Society is fortunate to have amongst its current membership, a number of performers who have graced the stage since the 70s and 80s such as Joan Wood, Allison Lumsden and the aforementioned Fay Caird, to name but a few!

One company member and one of the most popular CAMS member ever was Giff Mentiply, who could sing, act, dance and do comedy. Such a star. The company was bereft at Giff's untimely and sudden death a few years ago.

For so many people associated with the company, both on and off stage, Cupar Amateur Musical Society has been not so much a hobby as a way of life. The absence of a show in this year's calendar is a great loss to us all. How sad it is that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the company's century and a quarter performance of, *Shrek the Musical*, has had to be cancelled, along with various other events to celebrate this magnificent landmark. However, an

achievement of 125 years is surely something to be celebrated, and the company are planning to welcome back all its supporters in February 2022 with the Elvis Presley-based show, *All Shook Up*.

Anyone interested in joining CAMS can email the secretary at [cuparamssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cuparamssecretary@gmail.com)

*Sandy Green, CAMS Historian and Archivist*





# Supporting amateur theatre in times of need...

“ Our claim was dealt with efficiently. I sent in the relevant paperwork as requested with a covering letter and that was it! ”



“ Procedure was swift, simple and effective - pleasantly surprised ”

“ This is the first claim we have had over many years and the staff were most helpful. We will remain with Lloyd & Whyte and recommend them to other drama groups. ”

Society Insurance | Committee Insurance | Home Insurance

[www.nodainsurance.co.uk](http://www.nodainsurance.co.uk)

Call: 01823 250736

*noda*

**INSURANCE**

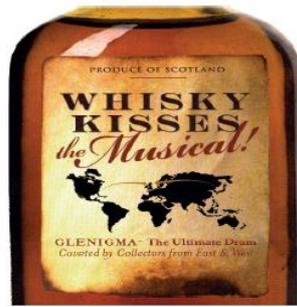
Protecting Amateur Theatre

NODA Insurance is a trading style of Lloyd & Whyte Ltd, used under licence from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. Lloyd & Whyte Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for use in quality management, training and customer support.

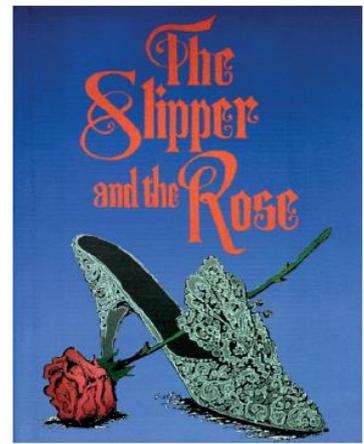
Many once popular musicals are losing their natural audiences. Here are some interesting alternatives...



Based on the true story of what happened (with a bit of artistic licence) when a ship containing 50,000 cases of whisky runs aground on a remote Scottish island in 1943. This musical delights and amuses audiences whenever it is staged.



Two collectors converge on a Highland distillery to compete for the last remaining bottle of the fabled Glenigma malt. The stakes are high, but is this a battle for a bottle, or will the Scottish experience change everyone's lives forever?



The libretto for this glorious musical tale of Cinderella and her Prince has recently been updated and revised to make it more easily staged. Taken from the smash hit film of 1976 with music and lyrics by the Sherman Brothers ('Mary Poppins' and 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang') it is a truly family friendly piece.



A comedic drama musical with contemporary upbeat songs and dance. In a British 'Fame' school two student girls grapple with their abilities, self-confidence and fears then compete to see who will go on to represent their academy at an audition for a West End musical.



Students at Grangebourne School celebrate their last day, then move on in life with unrequited love, recollection and reminiscence, betrayal and forgiveness, as they are re-united through a tragedy over 20 years later, together with a reunion of another sort entirely.

### One Act Plays

We have a large catalogue of comedies and dramas, quite a number of which have either won, or have been runner-up, at One Act Festivals in the UK, Ireland, and around the world.



And for the dramatically-minded our full length plays are top notch...



**Hoovering on The Edge** a full length drama by Hilary Spiers (1m, 7f) Discover the unlikely friendships that develop between seven very different women, tutored by one hapless male, on a summer writing holiday. Sun, sangria and story-telling, what could possibly go wrong! Meet Moira the tactless hypochondriac, Clare the dippy yoga teacher, and feisty Rita, to name but a few, as the women embark on a voyage of discovery about themselves, their hopes and their dreams... and uncover some surprising home truths.



**Past Forward** a full length drama by Carolyn Pertwee (2m, 2f) Can the past ever let us go? Liz and Tom Fielding are poised to change their present life by selling up and moving to the coast for a brave new future, little knowing that a chance meeting with Sam Rutland, a long lost friend from their youthful past, will challenge the very foundations of their lives. What happened all those years ago when Sam shared their flat in those heady carefree days? Why is Liz so desperate to keep Sam and their daughter apart, and then so anxious when they not only meet at the family home, but become lovers?

**Stage scripts** [www.stagescripts.com](http://www.stagescripts.com) [sales@stagescripts.com](mailto:sales@stagescripts.com) 0345 686 0611

**The Florians Dramatic Society: Evening of Bruce Kane Plays**  
**Director: Fiona Grant; Technical Manager: Geoff Burns**

In these unprecedented times The Florians took the bold step of putting on three live streamed performances of four short comedies by playwright Bruce Kane on consecutive evenings. The plays – based on fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm and Shakespeare and given a modern twist – were rehearsed online under direction of Fiona Grant and the performances were presented online with colourful backdrops supplied by the technical wizardry of Geoff Burns who ensured the changes between the scenes performed by the individual characters in their homes were seamless. The first play – *Mirror, Mirror* – was based on the popular fairy tale *Snow White*. Aileen Hendry played the wicked Stepmother full of her own conceit beautifully – relishing the change from her usual roles as principal boy in panto. Lisa Senior, playing her feisty stepdaughter also gave a very good performance. They were ably supported by Brian Howlett as the Mirror and Gareth Williams as Prince Charming. Gareth appeared in the second play – *Under the Balcony* (based on Romeo and Juliet) – as a lascivious and delightfully witty Casanova giving advice to Matthais Kramer's infatuated Romeo on how to woo the offstage Juliet voiced by Aimee Vincent. The third play *Cindy and Julie* showed us how the romances of Cinderella and Juliet may have ended if they took place today – in the psychiatrist's office – with a more worldly wise Cinderella (Lisa Senior) giving Juliet (Aimee Vincent) and another young woman with stars in her eyes (Aimee Ironside) the benefit of her experiences as a Princess! The fourth play *Ruby of Elsinore* finds us in the beauty salon of Elsinore Castle where the proprietress Ruby becomes the confidant of all the players in a modern day *Hamlet*. Morag Barron was a comic delight as she delivered some wonderful witty and sarcastic one liners to, and about, her Royal customers. Matthais Kramer gave a very strong performance as the troubled Hamlet as did Aimee Vincent as a misguided Ophelia. Christine Fletcher and Brian Howlett as Gertrude and Claudius gave very strong support as did Gareth Williams (in his third role of the evening) as the Ghost of Hamlet's father. The series of plays was narrated by Rob Kenyon with just the right note of cynicism. Congratulations to everyone involved for a very entertaining evening.

**Ury Players: Red Riding Hood**  
**Editor: Andrew Dart**

Were the Ury Players downhearted by not being able to stage their annual panto due to Covid restrictions? – Oh no they weren't! Instead they entered into the digital age and produced *Red Riding Hood* a Zoom Panto by local writer and company member Russell Adams. Russell gave this traditional tale an up-to-date twist with Granny Hood using online dating to get a husband (so she can inherit a fortune) and the Wolf using Covid germs to foil her plans (so he can inherit the money) but also included local references and the usual corny jokes and one-liners. With the use of simple costumes, face masks and projections the cast still managed to bring us the magic of panto. Garry Brindley as Granny Hood gave his usual saucy dame whilst Andrew Dart was an excellent wily Wolf. Liz Forrest, Heather Adams Officer and Tim Roberts were the spotty Covid germs and I particularly liked their song "Three Little Germs Are We" – a delightful parody on G & S's "Three Little Maids". Heather Stewart as Red Riding Hood and Isla Neil as Jim (the Barman at Granny's Dippit Inn) were the juvenile love interest. Kirsty Lockhart with the use of face masks portrayed the Inn's famous customers including Boris Johnson and Dame Judi Dench! Peter Esson played Granny's eventual love interest Baron Hardup and the whole panto was brought together by Freda Adams as the Narrator. Andrew Dart is to be congratulated on editing together the individual performances into a very coherent piece. Well done everyone.

DISTRICT No 10: Angus & Kincardine

**WHAT A "MAD" YEAR!!**

When we cancelled our March 2020 production of *A Very Scottish Play*, like many groups we expected to be back in our comfy theatres by the summer, not battling one of the hardest periods we have all faced. In a time when many had put thoughts of treading the boards again aside, Monifieth Amateur Dramatics got our thinking hats on and tried to make the best of the situation, embracing the new technology we had and the new normal. After two months of Saturday evening Zoom meetings MAD's new artistic director, Nicky, met with a dedicated team of Madlings in May and started producing episode one of *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Casting and rehearsals started in June with the episode released in October. With further restrictions being announced and no end in sight, MAD, with the help of many local businesses, turned Monifieth into a giant Hallowe'en walk. The event was a success seeing around 90 families taking part and many members of the public complimenting MAD.

When tier four restrictions prevented the planned Promenade Panto from going ahead, MAD put their heads together and quickly pulled a Zoom Panto out of the hat, oh yes we did! The four-part panto, based on *Jack and the Beanstalk*, premiered in November during the Monifieth Virtual Lights switch on, the three other episodes aired via our Facebook page and Youtube Channel. This led to several other Christmas productions including a live action *Elf on the Shelf* and a retelling of the classic *Night Before Christmas* poem. Dundee's Comedy Girls group collaborated with MAD to produce the comical *Rhyming Christmas Carol*, based on the novel by Charles Dickens.

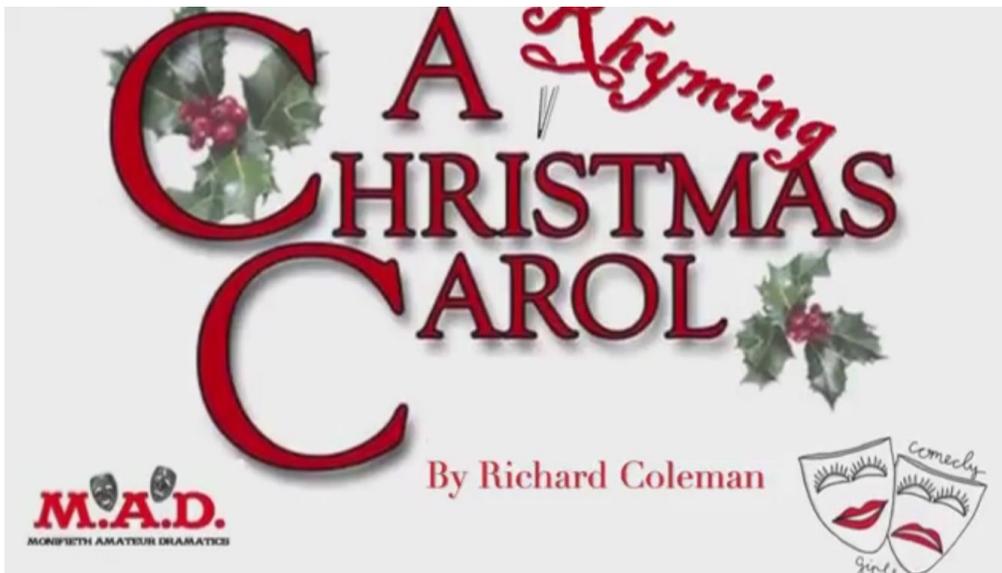
Burns Night 2021 saw MAD once again embrace lockdown where we produced a Virtual Burns Night, with several members recording recitations, songs and monologues. The evening was shared with two very special guests, local singer songwriter Laura McGhee and RuPauls Drag Race UK contestant (and ex MAD member) Ellie Diamond producing unique content for us.

Looking to the future, MAD are currently working on episodes two and three of *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *A Woman of No Importance* by Oscar Wilde. With the success of our Hallowe'en walk and in collaboration with Monifieth Parish Church, we are now putting the final touches to an Easter egg hunt and have started working with the Dundee Transport Museum to produce soundbites for their new exhibits.

MAD have been anything but locked-down by Lockdown and invite you to visit our Website [www.monifieththeatre.co.uk](http://www.monifieththeatre.co.uk), our Facebook page or Youtube channel to keep up-to date with our antics.

*Mat Hodson (Secretary) and Euan Smith (Publicity)*





**Hello, Dolly!**

Falkirk Operatic Society  
Falkirk Town Hall

Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 April 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Sunshine on Leith**

Cumbernauld Musical Theatre Society  
Venue: To be decided

Monday 4 to Saturday 8 May 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Kinky Boots**

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society  
Dobbie Hall, Larbert

Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 May 2021

**Musical Harmony**

Our Lady's Musical Society  
Motherwell Concert Hall  
Friday 7 May 2021

**Chess**

Dumfries Musical Theatre Company  
Theatre Royal, Dumfries

Friday 8 to Friday 15 May 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**The Steamie**

The Florians Dramatic Society  
Florians Theatre, Inverness

Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 June 2021

**Kinky Boots**

Loudoun Musical Society  
Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock

Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 August 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Sunshine on Leith**

Downfield Musical Society  
Whitehall Theatre, Dundee

Wednesday 22 to Sunday 26 September 2021

**Kiss Me Kate**

Glenrothes Amateur Musical Association  
Rothes Halls, Glenrothes

Tuesday 28 September to Saturday 2 October 2021 (Matinee on Sunday 26 September)

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

Theatre Guild Glasgow  
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 5 to Saturday 9 October 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**9 to 5**

Hamilton Operatic & Dramatic Club  
Motherwell Concert Hall

Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 October 2021

**Carousel**

Cumbernauld Musical Theatre Society  
Venue: To be decided

Tuesday 26 October to Saturday 30 October 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Sunshine on Leith**

The Minerva Club  
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 November 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**The Sound of Music**

Our Lady's Musical Society  
Motherwell Theatre

Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 November 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**The Baker's Wife**

Dumfries Musical Theatre Company

Saturday 20 to Saturday 27 November 2021 (Matinee on Sunday)

**Mother Goose**

Runway Theatre Company  
Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow

Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 December 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Aladdin**

Larbert Musical Theatre  
Dobbie Hall, Larbert

Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 November 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

**High School Musical**

Minerva Youth Theatre  
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 February 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**The Pirates of Penzance**

Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society  
Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline

Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 February 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Shrek The Musical**

Downfield Musical Society  
Whitehall Theatre, Dundee  
Monday 3 to Friday 7 May 2022

**Kinky Boots**

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society  
Dobbie Hall, Larbert

Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 May 2022

**Calendar Girls - The Musical**

Runway Theatre Company  
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 May 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Seussical**

Downfield Musical Society  
Whitehall Theatre, Dundee  
Saturday 3 to Sunday 4 September 2022

**Legally Blonde**

Leven Amateur Musical Association  
The Centre, Leven

Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 September 2022

**Shrek**

Loudoun Musical Society  
Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock

Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**My Fair Lady**

Our Lady's Musical Society  
Motherwell Theatre

Tuesday 1 to Friday 5 November 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Our House**

The Minerva Club  
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 1 to Friday 5 November 2022 (Matinee on Saturday)

**Kinky Boots**  
Downfield Musical Society  
Whitehall Theatre, Dundee  
Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 May 2023

NODA TODAY



**Does your society have something exciting to tell?**

We are looking for interesting articles for our July edition of NODA Today.

**Does your society have an exciting story to tell?**

**Have you pulled a show off completely out of your comfort zone?**

**Do you perform in a quirky venue?**

**Does your society have famous alumni?**

**Then let us know!**

We are always looking for stories for every edition of NODA Today and our online blog. If you think you have one of those stories then please get in touch.

**Please submit by e-mail to the Regional Editor by Friday 18 June 2021.**

**Note to Secretaries:**

**To make sure all your society's contact details are up to date,  
please contact Head Office:**

**National Operatic and Dramatic Association  
15 The Metro Centre  
Peterborough PE2 7UH**

**Tel: 01733 374790**

**Facebook [www.facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation/](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation/)**