

The background of the cover features a blue curtain with a central opening, through which a solid blue rectangular area is visible. Two white diagonal lines cross each other in the lower half of the image, forming an 'X' shape. The word 'noda' is written in a white, cursive script at the top, with a thin white horizontal line passing through it.

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

NODA SCOTLAND

Magazine

National Operatic and Dramatic Association
Registered Charity no: 1171216. Registered Company no: 241572.
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The last seven months have proved a challenge for us all in so many ways but I have been so impressed with the ingenious and inventive ways members have managed to continue to engage with both their members and audiences alike. Well done to everyone – keep up the good work. 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

Our virtual conference held from 23 to 25 October proved a great success and you can read a full report elsewhere in the magazine or catch up on the bits you missed on the NODA website - <https://www.noda.org.uk/regions/scotland/noda-scotland-virtual-conference-2020>

Over the coming months NODA Scotland is looking to run further online training sessions covering the Business of Amateur Theatre, make up, online marketing and engagement. The first of these will be a Business of Amateur Theatre workshop on Thursday 26 November. To register simply email the NODA Scotland Councillor -stuart.dick@noda.org.uk Details about the other two workshops will be released in due course, once plans have been finalised.

At our recent AGM I was delighted to announce that Neil Hartley would be taking over as NODA Scotland Youth Coordinator. Read more about Neil and his plans elsewhere in the magazine. I would like to thank Calum Campbell our previous Youth Advisor for all his hard work over the past few years – it is very much appreciated.

For those clubs planning future online performances don't forget to let your Regional Rep know so they can write a show report for publishing on the website and inclusion in future magazines. Online and rearranged future productions can all be listed on the NODA website What's On section. 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

NODA and NODA Scotland continue to do all they can to lobby for support for the creative sector. You can find details of 'The Importance of Amateur Theatre' campaign elsewhere in the magazine and I would urge all members to support this important piece of work to raise the profile of amateur theatre.

Recently I was delighted to be invited to contribute to the latest podcast by Theatre Scotland to highlight some of the issues currently facing amateur theatre in Scotland. You can listen to the full podcast that also features NODA Scotland member Islesburgh Drama Group - <https://theatrescotland.co.uk/theatre-scotland-podcast-in-conversation-with-scottish-amateur-theatre-companies/> In addition I have also been asked to contribute to a feature in a future edition of The Stage on amateur theatre.

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 March edition of the *NODA Scotland Magazine* should be with the Editor not later than **Sunday 28 February 2021**. Earlier receipt of material will be welcome.

NODA SCOTLAND COMMITTEE

Generic e-mail address: firstname.secondname@noda.org.uk

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
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| Youth Coordinator | 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 March edition are welcomed from societies and individual members and should be submitted by e-mail to the NODA Scotland Editor by **Friday 22 January 2021**. Earlier receipt of material will be welcome.

NODA supports the education and information needs of individuals and organisations with high quality services and products that contribute to the success of amateur theatre, as well as encouraging appreciation of the sector by participants and audiences alike.

A warm welcome to our new Youth Coordinator, Neil Hartley.



I have been involved in amateur theatre for 15 years and have been lucky enough to have performed both as a principal and member of the ensemble. I have also undertaken many different production roles over the years, including stage management crew, chaperone, dresser and front of house. Like many of you, I enjoy visiting the theatre regularly and support both amateur and professional companies.

I have always been associated with clubs and societies who are affiliated to NODA. My experience of NODA also extends to attending NODA Summer School since 2017. This is such a fun filled week as well as an amazing learning experience working with professional tutors from across the country.

Over the next few months I plan to have an online get together with representatives from all youth clubs/sections to discuss what you would like to see coming in 2021 from NODA Youth and also what other assistance or resources you would like to have available to assist you in youth development. This get together will also give you the opportunity to get to know me a bit better and for me to get to know you all.

I look forward to working with you all in the future and for being given this amazing opportunity as NODA Youth Coordinator for Scotland.

Neil Hartley, Youth Coordinator
neil.hartley@noda.org.uk

Note to Committees:
If you have a youth society or section, invite the Youth Coordinator as well as the Regional Representative to their shows.

NODA Scotland Virtual Conference 23-25 October 2020

When it became clear we would not be able to hold our annual conference at Peebles Hydro the Committee was determined to do what they could to put together a virtual weekend to allow members to stay in touch and at the same time still take part in many of the normal weekend activities.

The weekend began as normal with a welcome, live via Facebook, from the NODA Scotland Councillor and NODA National President, Christine Hunter Hughes. Derek Calder, our resident dining room pianist provided a selection of well-known musical theatre tunes to sing along to whilst you enjoyed your dinner. Following dinner, Robbie McCue-Dick, hosted musicals bingo that attracted over 80 participants and was won by Aly Lamond. The evening was rounded off by Billy Muir at the piano for a late-night sing along.

Saturday had our usual workshops. Singing with Richard Waghorn and dance with Greg Robertson allowed members to take part from the comfort of their own home. The NODA Scotland Councillor, accompanied by a pipe band, welcomed everyone to the gala dinner where once again Derek Calder provided the musical sing along. Following dinner there was a chance to watch once more last year's cabaret by Thomson-Leng Musical Society before ending the evening in traditional style with the singing of the 23rd Psalm to the tune Crimond.

Sunday saw the AGM held via zoom for the official delegates and also broadcast live via Facebook to allow as many members as possible to watch.

In addition to the official programme I know that lots of fringe events organised by both clubs and individuals took place over the weekend bringing members from all over the country together.

From the feedback received the weekend proved to be an outstanding success and the NODA Scotland Committee would like to thank all those who played a part in ensuring members were still able to enjoy a conference albeit in unique and hopefully one-off format.

For those who were not able to join us over the weekend the full weekend is available to watch again via the NODA website - <https://www.noda.org.uk/regions/scotland/noda-scotland-virtual-conference-2020>

Whilst there is inevitably a degree of uncertainty about next year the Committee have started to make plans for what we hope will be a spectacular return to Peebles Hydro from 29 to 31 October.

The savings account opened on the 1 November to help spread the cost (see separate article for details) and it has been confirmed that Friday night will be fancy dress and the theme will be Disney – be it cartoons or films that come under the Disney family. Please put the dates in your diary and get your thinking caps on for your costumes.

Stuart McCue-Dick, Councillor

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.

NODA Scotland Conference

29-31 October 2021

Peebles Hydro



For those wishing to help spread the cost of the NODA Scotland Conference a separate bank account has been set up by the committee to allow members to put aside money as and when they wish. The committee hope this will help attract increased numbers to the conference - please spread the word.

If any member would like to take advantage of this please email the NODA Scotland Councillor (Stuart McCue-Dick) for full details - stuart.dick@noda.org.uk

**FULL CONFERENCE DETAILS WILL BE RELEASED
IN EARLY 2021.**

Peebles “revisited”

It was with a great sadness (but not unexpected!) that I, as a Regional Rep, had to take the decision to agree, along with the other members of the Scottish Committee, to cancel this year's NODA Scotland Conference 2020 to be held, as usual, at Peebles Hotel Hydro. And the cause? The “awful thing” which is causing so much trouble throughout our theatrical hobby and the country.

Gone is our congenial and convivial gathering; the excitement of meeting and greeting our theatrical friends with a hug or kiss; renewing old friendships; chatting and garnering news of the past theatrical year; lustily singing our hearts out in the bar (and yes, heartily enjoying our drinks at the same time!); social gathering (especially the room parties!); the many varied workshops – music, song, dance, and drama; ballroom or disco dancing; the thrill of dressing “up to the nines” for the Saturday night Banquet; the Grand March; the Midnight Cabaret; and, the most important part of the weekend, the actual Conference itself on the Sunday morning. All gone! Yes, sad times!

When I first attended the Scottish Conference, I was 18 years old! Now, I am . . . well, have a guess! But I do admit I am a heck of a lot older these days! And this set me thinking back to that very first Conference when I turned up as a very young 18-year-old.

At that time, I travelled by train to Edinburgh (no car then), arrived at Waverley Station, alighted from the train, climbed up the Waverley Steps, and walked (with a heavy suitcase) to the bus station to catch the local bus to Peebles. Then, arriving in Peebles High Street, I was met by my Society's President (who had walked down from the hotel), we then travelled by taxi to the hotel to be greeted by that wonderful sight – the magnificent staircase leading up to the hotel lobby. Many is the time I have visualised Anna Glavari (the Merry Widow), Dolly Levi, or Eliza Doolittle making their entrance down that truly magnificent staircase!

Today, we are all used to the fantastic amenities which Peebles Hydro can offer and how much we enjoy them. But people, of my tender age, can still recall what the hotel was like all those years ago! And, thinking about it, gives me a quiet chuckle! Especially the Saturday night!

Nowadays the Hydro ensures its guests have the warmest of welcomes and, soon, you are escorted to your own personal domain for the weekend – your room, complete with its en suite or, to put it bluntly, your own private loo!

What joy! What ecstasy! A private en suite loo! But there was nothing like this for that 18-year-old lad! To put it simply, at that time, there were no private bogs!!

All those years ago, the Hydro just had individual toilets, and bathrooms, spread out along the various corridors of the entire building. If your room happened to be immediately opposite one of these amenities, you were in cloud cuckoo land!

And it all worked well! Until preparing for the Saturday Banquet! At that time, the Conference AGM was held on a Saturday afternoon and, once over, people made their way to their rooms to make ready for the celebratory evening. And this was where the fun began . . . !

Just imagine it, all of Conference (at this moment in time) wanting a bath before dressing up in their glad rags for the Banquet! This was the moment when the person who had the bedroom immediately opposite one of these much sought-after rooms had a prime start on anyone else in rooms in the corridor! Dressing-gown on (ladies with curlers in their hair), bath towel in hand, bedroom door half open (this was most important), one ear cocked to hear the elusive sound of the bathroom door opening, then shutting, signalled the start of the Great Race!

Many half open bedroom doors in the corridor were immediately flung wide open, all at the same time, then, figures in various states of dress, charged out of their rooms, into the corridor, to make the mad dash to be the victor and win the hurried race prize – to slam the bathroom door shut into the face of the other desperate bath, (loo-sing) contenders!

It was a funny sight, I can tell you! Maybe we men were a bit more fortunate, but I won't go into that! This “comedy” went on for some time, until calmness prevailed, and the last person to gain entrance to the bathroom had to suffer - cold water!

Another quick memory of my “distant past” Peebles was when I and other friends decided to skip the Saturday afternoon AGM and enjoy ourselves in the jacuzzi and swimming pool which, at that time, was situated immediately underneath part of the Ballroom, where the AGM was taking place. What a wonderful time we were all having – shouting, laughing, shrieking, noisily splashing about, until . . . the stern, stentorian voice of Regional Rep Jack Underwood abruptly halted our fun! A telling-off! We were making too much loud noise and the AGM meeting, above us, was having great difficulty in hearing what was being said! Exit six sheepish looking people! Happy days indeed!

Roger Buist, Regional Representative No 2

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMATEUR THEATRE – WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT IT?

There is no question of the importance of Amateur Theatre within our local communities.

Amateur theatre performing groups produce over 3500 productions annually which are watched by audience figures of more than 2 million every year. These performances include pantomimes, plays and musicals. We are proud to be part of the umbrella body, the National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA). The combined membership of this organisation is over 100,000 ranging in age from 8 to 80.

NODA's members groups generate between £150m and £200m in ticket sales with at least the same being produced in additional spending, including: food, drink, travel and accommodation. The vast majority of this supports a wide range of businesses, including theatres, village and community halls, theatrical suppliers, restaurants, musicians, bars and hotels. Many groups also raise significant sums for local and national charities with post show collections and specific fundraising events.

Amateur theatre plays a significant part in the cultural life of the nation; helping with both physical and mental health, not just for the performers and all taking part, but for audiences too. Youngsters involved grow in confidence and self-esteem. Amateur theatre, in many smaller communities, is very often the hub of cultural activity as well as helping to bring communities together. Also worthy of note, is the fact that many professional performers and stars of TV, originally trod the boards in amateur theatre thus shaping them for more lucrative exploits ahead.

Amateur theatre also supports professional theatre as well. The venues amateur groups are hiring, mostly, are professional theatres and with that comes the employment of staff, both front of house and technical, as well as the hiring of freelancers, i.e. choreographers, directors, musical directors, make-up artists, etc.

At the present time, virtually all amateur theatre productions have been cancelled across the country, and given the lead time for productions, it is unlikely there will be many, if any, productions before the end of 2021. This is a significant loss to the cultural and economic life of the UK. Many groups have been making use of technology to keep in touch, rehearse, or put together videos to entertain their audiences via social media channels. They are eager to maintain their involvement and to resume a normal programme as far as they can.

My plea to you today, is to PLEASE give the amateur theatre sector the same consideration as that of the professional theatres. The professional theatres are currently being highlighted in the press, but there is no mention of the amateur sector – a sector which does so very much for the wellbeing and the economy of our country.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMATEUR THEATRE – WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT IT?

Request to members

NODA is asking all member clubs to make use of this press release by submitting articles to local papers as well as promoting it on their website and social media channels. Clubs are encouraged to include details about their club, the impact of the current restrictions and activities they have been undertaking to engage with both members and audience. Already a number of clubs have received some great local coverage that has helped to raise the profile of amateur theatre both locally and nationally

Can we ask that you also add the following hashtags to social media/twitter posts - it would be great to get this trending:

[#BeInspiredByAmateurTheatre](#) [#NODAScotland](#) [#NationalOperaticAndDramaticAssociation](#)

THEATRE SCOTLAND PODCAST

I was delighted to be invited to take part in the latest podcast from Theatre Scotland. Also taking part was NODA Scotland member Islesburgh Drama Group from Shetland.

Listen here - <https://theatrescotland.co.uk/theatre-scotland-podcast-in-conversation-with-scottish-amateur-theatre-companies/>

Another great chance to get NODA out there.

Stuart McCue-Dick, Councillor

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 years



15 years



20 years



25 years



25 years



30 years



35 years



40 years



45 years



50 years



50 years



55 years



60 years



65 years



70 years



Society Life
Member

50 Year Medal

Runway Theatre Company

Robert Fyfe

45 Year Silver Bar

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Betty Ganson

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Janice Stuart

St Andrews Musical Society

Alan Tricker

Southern Light Opera Company

John Whelan

40 Year Silver Bar

Kelty Musical Association

Joyce Clark

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society

Carole Fleming

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Fay McIntosh

Ury Players

Douglas J. Clark

Ury Players

Gordon S. Edgar

Southern Light Opera Company

Fiona MacFarlane

35 Year Silver Bar

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society

David Steedman

30 Year Silver Bar

Cupar Amateur Musical Society

Anne Brotherston

30 Year Badge

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Stuart Sellars

Eastwood Entertainers

Ian McNicol

Eastwood Entertainers

Yvonne McNicol

25 Year Long Service Medal

Cupar Amateur Musical Society

Andrew Doig

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Janet Stevens

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Lorraine Tuftt

25 Year Badge

Eastwood Entertainers

Jane Killin

20 Year Badge

Alyth Musical Society

Andrew Beckett

Alyth Musical Society

Karon West

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Kirsty Thomson

Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society

Ross McGinn

Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society

Pamela Margaret Scott

Kelty Musical Association

Kerry Black

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society

Tracy Allan

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Lynsey Stuart

20 Year Badge

Leven Amateur Musical Association

Robert Todd

15 Year Badge

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Erin Docherty

Cupar Amateur Musical Society

Helen Knowles-Venters

Cupar Amateur Musical Society

Franca Tana

Commendation Award

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Jude Milne

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Hugh Watson

Dundee Scout Gang Show

Callum Wood

Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society

Susan McGinn

Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society

Rhona McGlasson

Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society

Jan Wilson

Youth Certificate

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society

Toni Burnett

Larbert Amateur Operatic Society

Emily Kidd

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Evie Barclay

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

James Bradley

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Georgie Elliott

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Lucy Gavin

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Caileigh Gordon

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Susan Mackie

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Elise McGinn

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Emma Miller

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Emma Preston

Linlithgow Amateur Musical Productions

Ellie Withnell

Legal Advice

NODA provides extensive advice on a wide range of contractual issues and guidance on subjects that would benefit from the advice of a qualified solicitor who understands the specific requirements of amateur theatre. Email info@noda.org.uk with a clear description of the advice required.

WITH FOND REMEMBRANCE
Ian M Gray
Glasgow Light Opera Club



Ian Gray: 1943 - 2020

Ian first appeared onstage in 1955 as a young member of the Life Boys, now known as The Boys' Brigade Junior Section. Ian's first stage that he graced was the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Other theatres he performed in as a young man, which sadly are no longer in existence, were Glasgow Empire and Alhambra Theatre. From his early days in the Boys' Brigade enjoying treading the boards in the BB Fanfare, the equivalent to the Scouts' Gang Show it is no surprise that his love of theatre grew. He quickly became part of the Glasgow theatre scene joining the Lyric Club in 1962, performing with them in *Oklahoma!* in 1963. He joined Glasgow Light Opera Club (GLOC) shortly after this, and continued performing with both clubs for many years. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing in both The King's Theatre and Theatre Royal in Glasgow, and when not performing was always front of house, welcoming Glasgow audiences. After years performing with both clubs, and due to work commitments, Ian concentrated his focus with GLOC and became involved in the committee where he dedicated many years. He served as Vice President for several years being made Honorary Vice President in 1991. He served the committee in many different roles, and in 2013, he was nominated as President. In the 1980s, Ian once left the stage only to appear back onstage through one of the trap doors. His dry humour and enthusiasm for GLOC was always apparent and their stage shows, Burns Supper and other events he loved will no longer be the same without him. Ian was also a Life Member of GLOC and in his final year he once again served as President.

He was very fond of the piece of business in the "Women" number in the 1984 production of *The Merry Widow* in which director Alan Jones had him appearing upwards from the stage trap door. The audience couldn't believe how long it would take before Ian reached his not inconsiderable height!

Ian took his dedication to the amateur theatre world even further and was the NODA Scotland District 1 regional representative. A role, which people in GLOC affectionately referred to him as the "NODA man", Ian served for 29 years, before retiring in October 2018. At Conference he always greeted people with a friendly welcome and in the earlier days, always dressed in his red trousers, and gavel in hand, managed to keep control of a room full of people attending what was affectionally known as the "Greetin' Meeting", an open forum which was held on the Sunday morning before everyone headed home. Enjoying his show visits, as well as supporting the Glasgow clubs, his role took him around the West of Scotland. In the words of one of the District 1 clubs, "Members of Runway Theatre Company were saddened to hear of Ian's passing. He was a great supporter of Runway, and always enjoyed our annual pantomimes, which he felt captured the real humour of the West of Scotland and put him in the Christmas spirit. He supported our development from panto into the world of musical theatre, and encouraged our policy of producing shows which were new or rarely performed. He was a great ambassador for NODA, encouraging us to attend the annual conference and participate in the programme and poster competitions". In 2015, having served as regional representative for 25 years, Ian was awarded Honorary membership of NODA.



In praise of Ian - Claire Brown (GLOC)

As a recognised face
Of our club we hold
Memories of Ian
Worth their weight in gold

He dedicated his time
Whether offstage or on
We just cannot believe
That now he is gone

Our stage will feel empty
With him no longer there
But we know he's always watching
From an empty theatre chair

Our scenes on the stage
Will no longer feel the same
But the Glasgow theatre world
Will always echo his name

So the next time we all
Take to the stage
We will remember him
As we turn our script page

We will remember
Each time we change a set
Of how we all knew him
And how we first met

Each time a lighting plot
Is carried out before a show
We will remember Ian
As the lights onstage glow

Theatre lockdowns
Means this year is a bust
Getting back onstage
Is definitely a must

So the next time we bow
At our finale stage call
We will do it for Ian
As that final curtain falls

Glasgow Light Opera Club
Will feel different forever
But we will cherish the memories
And the times we had together



Normally at the gala dinner during the NODA Scotland conference we hold a charity raffle for a cause close to members hearts.

Whilst this was not possible this year a Just Giving page has been set up to allow members to make a donation to The Beatson Cancer Charity in memory of Ian Gray, former member of the NODA Scotland committee for almost 30 year, who sadly passed away at the end of August.

To make a donation simply click on the link -
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nodascotlandiangray>

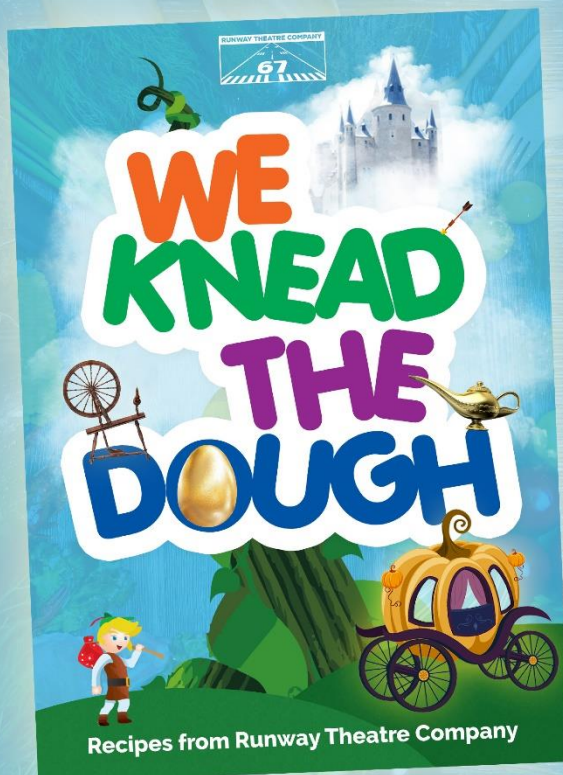
The page will remain open until 30 November for those who wish to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause.

WITH FOND REMEMBRANCE
Iain Kay
Glasgow Light Opera Club

Glasgow Light Opera Club (GLOC) recently lost Iain in May 2020. Iain was introduced to GLOC by Ian Gray and joined as Club Treasurer in 1979, a position he held until 2010; and when he resigned the club kept him on as Honorary Treasurer. His extensive banking knowledge and larger than life character made him an invaluable asset to GLOC. He was astute, organised and forward thinking and over the years he invested many funds and saw maximum return for the club as well as dedicating a lot of his time to ticket bookings, allocations and distribution.

As well as being Treasurer he was a dedicated club member and supported all social events including GLOC barbecues and the Burns Supper.

He loved doing Front of House and excelled in this role. He had the respect of the King's Theatre staff and had the Woman's Guild parties laughing as soon as they entered the theatre. GLOC will certainly miss Iain, described by many as the life and soul of the after show party.



Looking for the ideal stocking filler for Christmas?

As we can't perform our usual pantomime this year (Boo!), **Runway Theatre Company** members in Glasgow have been busy collating their favourite recipes.

So if you fancy some **Giant's Potato Pie**, **Tommy the Cat's Salmon Pâté** or **Bessie the Coo's Pancakes**, look no further!

At only **£5** a copy, this is a great gift for all your theatrical family and friends - and you too!

To order your copy, please contact **Ken Christie** by email: ken@runwaytheatre.co.uk or by phone: **01786 472756**.

Copies can be hand delivered by Runway members, or posted to you direct (please add £1 p&p for posting).

Thanks for your support - and we look forward to seeing you all in person next year - oh, yes we will!

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

THE PANTHEON CLUB, GLASGOW – 95 YEARS YOUNG



Pantheon's plans for 2020 would have seen us start our next decade of productions with two shows in The Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Sadly 2020 is not to be and we use this time to reflect on the last 10 years of production.

So, let's take a look back at a few Pantheon Show posters from these last 10 years; talk about diversity of shows – from the classic *Romeo and Juliet* to the awesome *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the record-breaking Scottish Premier of *Elf The Musical* and the spectacular production of *Cats*.

- 2010 *Romeo and Juliet* and *Footloose*
- 2011 *High School Musical* and *Beauty and the Beast*
- 2012 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Musical Mayhem* and *The Sound of Music*
- 2013 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Calamity Jane*
- 2014 *Grease* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*
- 2015 *Sister Act* and *Legally Blonde*

- 2016 *Grease*, *Lovers* and *Urinetown*
- 2017 *Spamalot* and *Elf The Musical*
- 2018 *Men Should Weep*, *Into the Woods* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
- 2019 *Cats*, *Smalltown* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Pantheon will be back in 2021 to start our “roaring twenties” decade which will include our centenary in 2026. In the meantime, follow us online as we look to create theatre in a different medium.

<https://www.facebook.com/pantheonclubglasgow>

<https://www.instagram.com/pantheontheatre>

<https://twitter.com/thepantheonclub>

<https://pantheontheatre.co.uk>



David Cooke, Pantheon Club

NODA Pantomimes

Over 100 quality scripts

New scripts added regularly

Flexible licensing to suit all groups

Dedicated pantomime website launching Summer 2020

Whether you are looking for something traditional like Cinderella or Sleeping Beauty, or something a bit different like A Sword in the Scone or The Princes Quest there is something for every group



pantoscripts.org.uk



With a wealth of theatrical experience, we can help set the scene for your production. Based in Glasgow, we can fulfil your production requirements at an affordable price.



info@sceneryhirescotland.co.uk

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Booking Now!



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INTO THE WOODS – IN THE WOODS!!

Over the years we've put on some pretty huge shows in pretty weird places in very short timescales. When it became apparent that live outdoor events might be allowed in Scotland by August, attempting a full show outdoors seemed like a great idea.



With MTI on board and a handy privately owned hilly forest in the middle of Dunblane, alongside a massive advantage in that our usual tech team are normally found producing outdoor events, we were off. *Into the Woods* to many must seem a really odd choice; it's such a difficult show, but the lack of ensemble, the fact that a few of us had done the show before, and the lack of any major romantic storyline requiring lots of physical contact, along with its obvious suitability for the setting made it the clear choice.

Initially there were no guidelines available for either performing arts or live events outdoors – just an indicative date, so we started off rehearsing 5 weeks before the show, with no guarantee of being able to perform at all, abiding by the social guidelines in place rather than any sector guidance. For the first four weeks all rehearsals were outdoors (either up on Holmehill or in people's gardens) with a maximum of 5 people – including our pianist. That added an air of complexity to an already difficult show. The week before the show guidance for both live outdoor events and performing arts was released and we moved into following that guidance – allowing larger outdoor company rehearsals (with many mitigating steps around distancing, placement etc)

The Thursday before our show week (and 2 days before our tech boys started moving production into the hill) the Scottish Government confirmed that live events could go ahead and it all became very suddenly very real. I think up until that point we were all a little unsure it would ever happen. With our audience sitting in 'bubbles' painted in eco chalk on the meadow, a mobile coffee truck providing interval hot drinks, our ever patient techs camping out for the week to man the site, portaloos, a digital programme downloadable by QR code, a 45 page event manual for the police to satisfy the covid guidance and a fleet of clear umbrellas for the cast (which only had to use once) it was a massively steep learning curve for us all. The cancellation of our dress rehearsal due to rain and wind storms meant that we didn't have a single full company rehearsal. Opening night was more than a little scary.



That all said, it was magical. To perform again, to be in costume, to have an audience, and particularly outside, in amongst the bats and the trees as darkness fell, it really was quite special. Financially we made a considerable loss – the costs of mounting an outdoor production combined with the distancing required for the audience (despite having to add an extra show) was always going to make that likely. For us it was more about keeping theatre alive in a time of darkness. We can only do that once though – moving forward, the future, both for us as a social enterprise and performing arts family and everyone in the wider arts community is as uncertain and worrying as always.

Pamela Mackie, Creative Director, Rubber Chicken Theatre Company, Dunblane

N.B We learned a lot about how to make things work in covid times – band, costumes, staging etc If anyone wants to ask about any specific aspect just get in touch!

NODA TODAY



Does your society have something exciting to tell?

We are looking for interesting articles for our November 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?

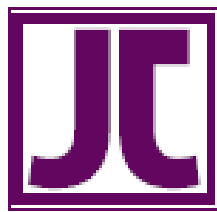
Does your society have famous alumni?

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 17 January 2021.

Visit the NODA website for up to date factsheets on Child Protection Guidelines (Scotland), Model Child Protection Policies, GDPR Privacy Policy for Children.



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District 4 Update

Myself and Daniel have really missed visiting the societies we would have seen during the months of lockdown, and as the list of cancelled shows grows we really savour the performances we caught at the start of the show diary for 2019/2020. I have also missed the opportunity to write and share show reports with you on all of the district's productions. However, it has been lovely to read the updates from District 4 societies, catching up on all the different activities that have been happening in place of shows. These follow on from this, and I hope you get as much joy and warmth from reading them as it did for me. Stay safe everyone! Craig ☺

PMOS

So much has changed since we took *Shrek* to the stage back in March. Little did we know that when we took our final curtain call that the curtain was about to go down on the industry we love. We can't help but reflect on the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on the industry we hold so dear.

The lights are out on Broadway, the West End and, of course, our local theatres too. We performed the last show in Glasgow's Theatre Royal before it closed its doors indefinitely. There was palpable sadness and even a hint of fear as the curtain came down and the set got dismantled. We knew we were extremely fortunate to have made the cut unlike many other clubs in the following week who had their show cancelled with less than a week's notice. (Even mid show week we feared that the theatres would close and we would not be able to complete our run.). However, this sense of relief was also mingled with a tangible feeling that we were being propelled into unprecedented times. We joked that the after-show would be the last chance we'd get to have a party together for a while so we should make the most of it. We had no idea that 8 months on we still wouldn't be in each other's company.

Technology has been a lifeline for us. There's been committee meetings via Zoom, online quizzes, live dance classes and group chats to keep us all in touch. While it isn't quite the same as a team outing to the theatre, a sweaty warm up or a cup of tea together during a rehearsal it has certainly kept us going in the darker times.

This is a bitter sweet time of year for PMOS. Usually we'd have announced our next production, held auditions, assembled a cast and be tentatively beginning the rehearsal process. Many of us would be heading to Peebles for the annual NODA conference - a highlight in the calendar. But while we miss our friends and the camaraderie, we are thankful to be healthy and safe. Theatre as we know it is completely shut down. An entire industry has been out of work and will be for the foreseeable future. Some venues face permanent closure. We are more than aware that we extremely fortunate that as *amateurs* we can 'take a break' without any financial or professional losses.

The word 'amateur' often has negative connotations but it originated as a French word, meaning 'lover of.'

At PMOS **love** is at the heart of what we do. We don't produce shows for profit or glory. We do it because we are passionate about theatre and because we want to support our members, help hone their craft and encourage their passion. For us it is more than 'just a hobby.' We are a family and the memories we have made together over the years are ones we all treasure. We live in hope that we will be back in the rehearsal hall together before long and that we will once again experience the friendship and joy of singing and dancing together on stage.

We know the ghost light is still burning for PMOS and all the other amateur clubs...



PMOS – Shrek 2020



PMOS – Shrek 2020

AAOC – Ayr Amateur Opera Company

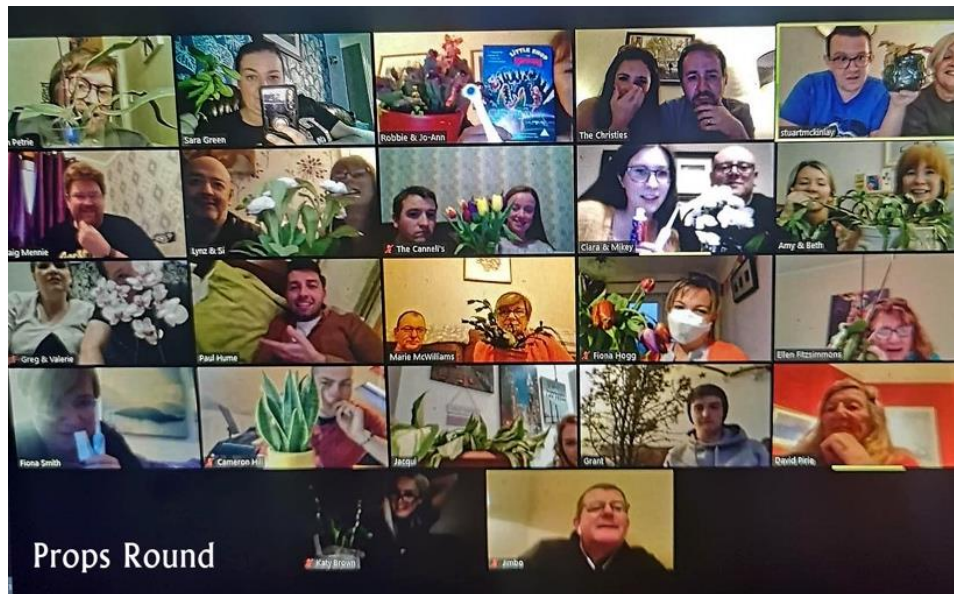
We had a fantastic 2019-2020 season rehearsing and performing *Shrek the Musical*. We had absolutely packed audiences every night, and what brilliant audiences they were! We all love performing, and the electric atmosphere brought by our audiences only makes it better. Our closing night audiences even joined in with us all as we celebrated Shrek's surprise on-stage proposal to Princess Fiona! We were pleased this year to again offer a BSL-signed performance and an audio-described performance, and were also delighted that bucket collections at some of our performances were able to raise £819.98 for the Ayrshire Hospice, whom we are proud to support.

Though late Spring and Summer covers our off-season, we were still missing the opportunities for social events and looking for ways to keep busy during lockdown. At Easter, we had lots of fun with an egg decorating challenge. We've also been having regular quizzes on Zoom, hosted by different members every time. We've had lots of innovative musical theatre rounds and challenges within these quizzes, such as the Props Round, the Quick Change Challenge, the Showmance Round and Put On Your Dancing Shoes! We also had a brilliant musical theatre themed Bingo Beats night hosted by Lynsey. Many of our members and friends of AAOC have recorded videos of themselves performing which you can view on our Facebook page. We also created a Lockdown Medley video through the hard work of our Shrek Musical Director, Grant, and our Secretary, Sara.

This year, we also hosted our first ever virtual AGM. We were delighted to have so many virtual attendees, allowing us to begin our new season. 2019-2020 President Ciara Brady rounded up the year, and handed over to our 2020-2021 President, Mikey McCabe. We were also pleased to recognise the Long Service to NODA of Joanna McGahon and Helen Petrie. We began our 2020-2021 season by welcoming our new Executive Committee: President Mikey McCabe, Vice President and Treasurer Nicola Harper, Secretary Sara Green, Immediate Past President Ciara Brady, David Cannell, Gillian Dorans, Ellen Fitzsimmons, Lynsey Kerr, Iain McLellan and Lindsay McNab.



AAOC – 2020

**EROS Musical Society**

2020 has been a year of unexpected events for the amdram scene. Having only just begun rehearsing for the revue which was planned for June 2020, following our acclaimed production of *Sister Act* in September 2019, we were forced to abruptly cease rehearsals in March this year and cancel the production. Little did we know what an impact COVID-19 would have, and it was a further shock when we realised that we were not going to be in a position to begin rehearsals in August for our production of *Sound of Music* which was planned for March 2021. It was with great reluctance that we took the decision to cancel this production.

However, the club managed to hold a virtual AGM via Zoom in June. This was well-attended and most of the existing committee agreed to remain in post, which aided proceedings considerably. Two members were identified who were due to receive long-service awards: Roger Topping and Lorna Cunningham (both 20 years). Honorary membership was also awarded to: Nanette Campbell (services to wardrobe and props) and Gail Robertson and Ev Wallace (stage management).



As always, there was work going on in the background, and thanks to the considerable efforts of David Clark, EROS Musical Society was awarded charitable status in July this year. We held a virtual EGM in September where David gave a very comprehensive presentation of the benefits of charitable status, responsibilities of members and trustees, and

the changes to the club constitution which were required. The new constitution was adopted unanimously, and David then introduced the three trustees, all much-respected long-standing club members: Roger Topping, Aileen Shaw and Carol Inglis.

Looking to the future, we hope to be allowed to meet up and sing as soon as it is permissible to do so. It is important to highlight the contribution that amateur musical societies make to local culture, in addition to helping to keep our theatres open. There is either going to be a great appetite among our audiences to return to the theatre, in which case we need to be able to access the full seating capacity of venues to ensure the financial viability of the production, or the audiences will have lost interest and fail to return. It may be a long and rocky road before musical societies see a return to the sell-out audiences of recent years.

LMS - Loudoun Musical Society

With theatres throughout the UK sadly empty and productions postponed, Loudoun Musical Society's 2020 production of *Kinky Boots* was pushed back until 2021.

Not letting that stop us, we decided to utilise the wonders of digital streaming and produce a virtual show for our members and audiences, bringing theatre to them in their homes, and so – LMS Together was born.

Following the huge viral success of our video of "You Will Be Found" from the musical "Dear Evan Hansen", LMS Together brought together members from past and present to deliver a message of friendship and togetherness, and give them and our audiences something to enjoy at a time when there are worries for many.

Streamed on YouTube and Facebook between Monday 28th September and Saturday 3rd October – LMS broadcast a series of performances, containing different songs from past shows and popular classics – all filmed and recorded over some very busy summer months.



Pulling off such a feat was not easy. With rehearsals held on Zoom, recording and filming in a socially distanced environment, it was then down to our dedicated team of sound technicians and technical wizards to create six unique mini-concerts to share online, each with its own dynamic compere leading audiences through a programme of specially selected numbers.

Producer Lynsey Campbell said of the project – "We were totally taken by surprise with the success of our 'You Will Be Found' video and saw the opportunity to bring a virtual show to our audiences as a huge opportunity. The challenge was huge, but one LMS are used to - the result is amazing and testament to our membership and production team".

Local businesses were a keen key to the success of the project with filming taking place in The Douglas Hotel as well as the Grand Hall through East Ayrshire Leisure, both based in Kilmarnock. Lynsey added – "It is at times like this where we all need to work together as a team and get through what is a difficult time for many. We hope this show shines a light and brings some hope to viewers – it certainly has for us".

The shows are free to view, however a JustGiving page has been created to raise funds for local initiatives as well as the arts in Ayrshire. With an initial target of £1,000, our members and audiences helped us smash this, and in total raising over £2,000 throughout our 'weekotheshow' - a true indication of just how important theatre and the arts are to all.



Our performances are still live on our YouTube and Facebook pages to view, and we hope that these will continue to shine a light and keep theatre alive in our homes until we can return to our home on the stage.

JustGiving link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/loudounmusicalsociety>

Watch online

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/loudounmusicalsociety/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LoudounMusical>

Harlequin Eastwood Theatre for Youth

2020 – well what a year! After ending 2019 with another hugely successful panto, our seniors were set to perform *Our House* in Eastwood Theatre opening on 25th March. We got as far as a brilliant sounding band call on the 15th then massive disappointment as the theatre closed due to Covid-19. Our juniors too were devastated as they had begun to rehearse *Annie* and it was shaping up to be a wee cracker of a show. Committee continued to meet regularly but it soon became apparent that this show too would not go ahead as planned in June.

So, what to do next while we waited for the world to return to some sort of normality? We began on 15th July with the first of our hour-long Summer Sessions, inviting all our members to attend by Zoom. These sessions have been facilitated by members and choreographers past and present and with no end to the Covid measures in sight we have continued these through July to October and intend to keep them going as a means of reaching our members until we can start rehearsing something! During each session we have 'break out' time when members can have a chat with their friends.

We have enjoyed dance sessions from choreographers Sarah McLaughlin and Lorna Dennison, teaching us some sharp moves to the music of *Six*, *Hairspray*, *Mamma-Mia*, *Hamilton*, *The Greatest Showman* and *Dreamgirls*. Member and music teacher Dave Zochowski held a music workshop based on 'Come Alive' from *The Greatest Showman*. We have had presentations from industry professionals Jamie McQueen (Stage Technician) and Karen Fishwick (Actor), a stage make-up session from Lauren O'Donnell and a games evening led by Sophie Aziz. We have also organised quizzes, thanks to Andy Kyle and Kenneth Robertson, and a treasure hunt as a means of keeping connected. As we approach Halloween, we have dance and singing workshops planned based on Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

In August we held a virtual AGM which was well attended by our members. Among our new honorary members, we are pleased to say is Christine Kyle, who takes over from her Mother, the late Grace Smith, as Honorary President.

But what are our members saying about all this?

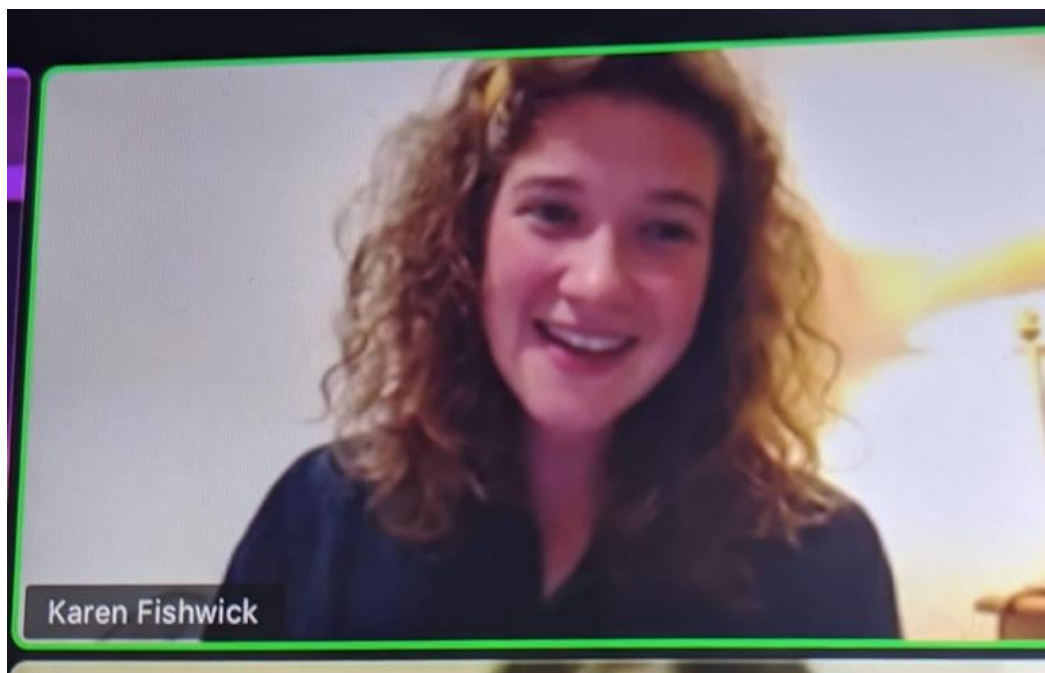
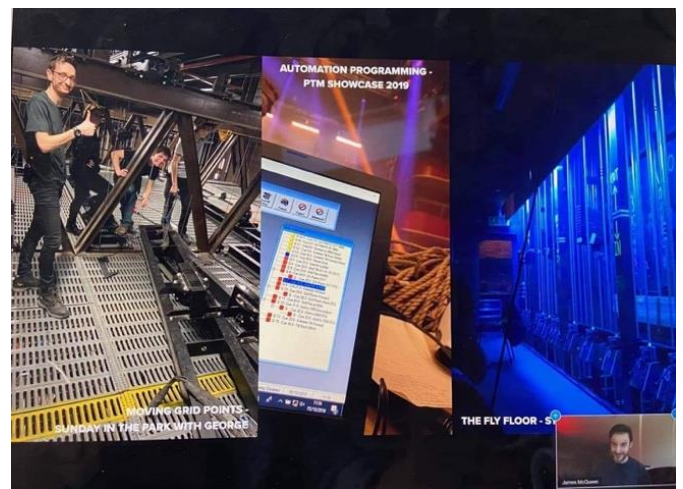
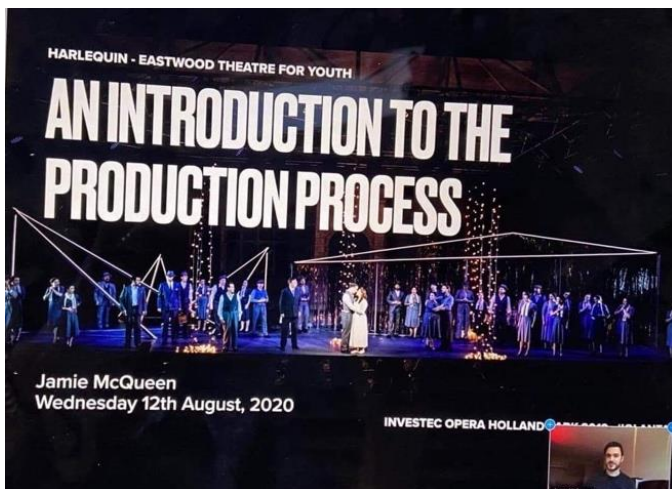
Mia - *I am 12 years old. I have been with Harlequin for 3 years. I love it! It is my favourite time of the week. This year I got my first main part, as one of the Orphans in Annie. I was so excited. Rehearsals were so much fun. Then along came this horrible corona virus! All change....*

Harlequin launched zoom classes every Wednesday night, not the same as our face to face rehearsals but great to see all my friends and stay connected. We have had dancing, singing and treasure hunts. My buddy Lucy comes round and we dance in the living room. Last month when the rules changed we even danced in the garden.

Thanks to everyone at Harlequin for making this happen. It makes me smile.

Matthew and Christopher - *We were so disappointed when our summer production of Annie was cancelled due to Covid. We have missed the fun of rehearsals and the company of our friends but the Harlequin team have worked hard to keep us involved by organising Zoom sessions. We've learned dances in our living rooms, chatted online with previous club members who have gone on to work in the business, and joined in online quizzes. We can't wait to get back on stage at some point in the future though, entertaining audiences!"*

With panto 2020 cancelled, Harlequin's programme for 2021 is currently on hold. Let's hope we can all get back together and re-start doing what we have done successfully for over 40 years.



Johnstone Phoenix Theatre Group

Who knew in 2019 at the end of panto that would be our last time performing before the lights dimmed on the industry that we love so much? COVID-19 had had such a detrimental effect on the arts. It's not just local theatre that is suffering. The London west end, Broadway, The Fringe, Local arts festivals and not to mention our well-loved theatres in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Johnstone Phoenix Theatre Group were very lucky that we were only halfway through rehearsals and had time to process what was happening and make plans. Some groups had less than a week's notice to cancel and all that hard work had gone to waste. The sense of disappointment and sadness felt by all members was overwhelming with this situation that was outwith our control. Our Spring Show, *Ghost – The Musical* was now dead in the water. Now we are into November and the situation hasn't changed. 2021 shows are being rescheduled and postponed even now.

But in keeping with our namesake the Phoenix rises to the occasion. The virtual world has been a lifeline for most clubs, and we are not any different. Our virtual committee meetings have been taking place as normal. Our club has been showcasing individual's talent on our Facebook page: we made a music video, held quizzes, gin nights, group zoom parties, virtual karaoke and more.

More recently we have been focussing on our community and the audience that keeps us alive... without them there is no show. Johnstone Phoenix wanted to give back to the community that supports us so dearly. We contacted our local care homes and asked if they would like entertained with carol singing this festive period. Bearing in mind that some of these residents quite possible haven't seen family members in month or indeed have no family members to speak of. So, all the while being COVID safe and sticking to restrictions as much as we can we aim to entertain our community in a different way this year by visiting the care homes and, while outside, singing at a safe distance for the patrons.

At this time of year, we would have held auditions for panto and now be in full rehearsal mode. Some of our membership would have been heading to Peebles for NODA's annual conference, a must event in the am dram world. But as much as we miss this event the health and safety of our membership always comes first.

Being part of the Phoenix Family is more than just a hobby for our membership. We are indeed a family and we are all constantly checking in on each other to see if anyone needs help. In these times mental health and wellbeing are extremely important. Because of our hobby, we are all social beings and need human contact. We have all tried our best to keep that happening in our group and it seems to have worked. People have always been there at the end of the phone when needed.

The ghost light still awaits us within the Johnstone Town Hall, and we hope to be back there very soon.



JPTG Quiz night and fundraising masks

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CD REVIEW

Showcase 30th Anniversary Album

Like so many other societies this year, Showcase were unable to present their annual concert in September. This was especially disappointing as the group are celebrating their 30th year of not only wonderful performances but fulfilling their main aim of raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. To date they have raised in excess of £250,000 and their aim this year was to bring that total to over £300,000. Knowing what they couldn't do the question was 'What can we do to continue to support this charity so that they don't lose out?' The answer 'Record a 30th Anniversary album performing some of our best loved songs.' A 15 piece orchestra and a cast of over 50 singers had the mammoth task of recording at different times in different places all socially distanced in accordance with government guidelines and then piecing the jigsaw all together – a huge undertaking which took a great deal of time and effort but resulted in a marvellous CD. With a total of 18 numbers performed by talented soloists, small ensembles and big chorus numbers the varied selection of musical numbers from different genres is fantastic. The opening *Bohemian Rhapsody & Radio Gaga* followed by *Mr Blue Sky* immediately establish the strength of the choral singing which is replicated throughout in the stirring *Africa*, the moving *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother*, *Love and Mercy* and the rousing *Hey Jude* and *We Will Rock You*. The professionalism of the solo singing is wonderful including the memorable *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*, *Cry Me A River* and *Green Green Grass of Home*. The vocal and orchestral arrangements throughout the programme are excellent with a chilling choral arrangement backing *This Is The Moment* and *Defying Gravity* with their strong lead vocalists. Without mentioning all the numbers on the CD, I can honestly say that each one is terrific and captures the true Showcase sound. I have played it several times and thoroughly enjoy listening to it. I must congratulate Showcase on their innovation in producing such a fabulous recording. It really is worth having and if you haven't already bought a copy I highly recommend that you go to the Showcase website www.showcase30.co.uk to order your copy and make a donation. This would not only be showing support to one of our own amateur companies but perhaps more importantly help them to continue the admirable work they do in supporting MacMillan and achieving their target of over £300,000

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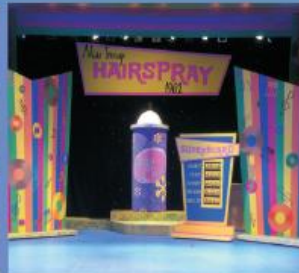
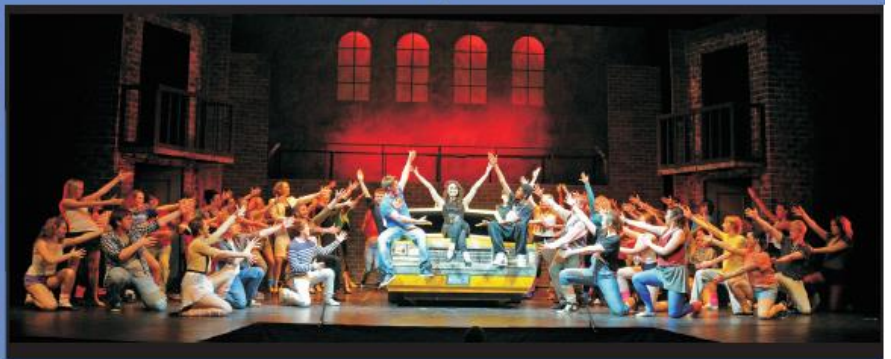
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**WITH FOND REMEMBRANCE
Ella Stewart
Kelty Musical Association**

Ella died peacefully surrounded by her family on 18th August 2020. Ella was a huge part of Kelty Musical Association for over 60 years, firstly as a young dancer and then a leading lady in many productions over the years, before finally slowing down - only a little bit - to take on the role of Treasurer and various other roles within the Committee. Her dedication to KMA was well known, as was her love and passion for musical theatre. Ella will be very sadly missed.



ACECHORUS IN LOCKDOWN

This was to be our special year: the year that ACEchorus came of age. All our plans for our 21st concert were finally in place, venues booked, rehearsal pianists and vocal coach, engaged singers signed up – what could possibly go wrong? Well, like the rest of the country, we quickly found out!

ACEchorus is a mixed voice group with up to 150 singers, drawing members from across the country and rehearsing separately in Fife and Glasgow. Our repertoire is selected from musical theatre, popular songs and classic standards, all accompanied on stage by a professional orchestra. A mountain of work goes on behind the scenes for any group, and for us planning for our Gala Concert in November each year, begins in February. By the end of March we had the staffing and rehearsal venues booked, but thankfully we had not at that point contracted our orchestra or paid any hire fees to our concert venue. In any event, it was the venue – the SEC Armadillo in Glasgow – that cancelled our booking, so with no financial liabilities to anyone, it worked ok for us. Had the lockdown begun in May or June it would have been a very different outcome, as so much money would have been paid out by then and it may never have been recovered.

What we did lose of course, was what we all love – the chance to sing together! Getting together with others who have a shared interest is such an important part of human interaction, and like so many similar situations the one we miss the most.

Will it ever be the same again?

Rona McKenzie, Director, ACEchorus, Glasgow



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"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?

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BETTY BLUE EYES
TOP HAT

The Wind in the Willows

SHREK
THE MUSICAL
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KEEPING US TOGETHER DURING COVID



Derek Calder, prominent Borders Area Musical Director and Director, with experience galore of musicals, pantos and cabarets, has brought great pleasure and much needed togetherness to a wide range of folk in The Borders, The Central Belt and beyond with his Borders' Big Sing every Monday night. This on line sing has been going for 27 weeks now and shows no sign of abating. His method of inviting us to suggest songs then asking us to vote on our favourites which are then included the following week is a successful format – not to mention the added attraction of wondering which of his cats is going to strut his keyboard this time! For many of us who are missing our rehearsals and the fellowship of our companies, these Monday nights have been a highlight of the lockdown weeks. After a singing warm up to keep us in good voice, we sing songs that provide a good sing and that also trigger memories of productions and fun. We can comment as we go, finding again for an hour a companionship in the sharing of a beloved hobby.

Derek tells us how it all came about:

The Borders' Big Sing was started for my three theatre groups – The Right Angle Theatre Company in Galashiels, Selkirk Musical Theatre Company and Hawick Amateur Operatic Society. However, friends in other areas asked if they could join in, as well as friends from groups I've worked with in the past, Falkirk Amateur Operatic Society, Bo'ness Amateur Operatic Society, and Innerleithen and District Amateur Operatic Society were also welcome to join. Word of "The Borders' Big Sing" was talked about at work at Galashiels Academy, and Senior Management quickly asked if they could add it to the Staff Health and Well-being activities during lockdown, which of course I said Yes to. Shortly afterwards they were back asking if it could be promoted throughout the Scottish Borders and added to the list of Health

and Well-being activities for employees of Scottish Borders.

Our chairman of NODA Scotland encouraged me to promote “The Borders’s Big Sing” on the NODA Scotland Facebook page and this brought in numerous participants from societies across Scotland and old friends from the past.

TV presenter John Scott (Wardrobe Supervisor for some episodes in the *Poirot* TV series, as well as numerous Hollywood movies such as *Tomb Raider* and *Four Weddings And A Funeral* and numerous James Bond movies, as well as *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* in London’s West End) had also been doing live streams during lockdown and at the end of one session I excused myself early to go do preparations from *The Big Sing*; that brought about more interest from John and many of his other viewers, with several requests for songs from *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*.

So, rather than being restricted to the Scottish Borders I have viewers/participants around the world, in the UK stretching from Inverness down to London, and with viewers in Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, USA (Florida & Houston, Texas) and New Zealand.

The repertoire for “The Big Sing” comes from shows we all loved, and the basis is a set list, known affectionately as the S.O.S. (Same Old S****), compiled years ago by the late Jimmy Walker for late-night singsongs in the bar at the NODA Scotland Conference at the end of October, and subsequently expanded greatly for playing during the Saturday evening banquet, where everyone sings as they eat!

In 6 months we have sung 299 different songs, from 125 different shows ranging from G&S through to *Hamilton*, and that number is still increasing. Participants are encouraged to send in suggestions every week, and if I have the music, I’m more than happy to learn them for including them in another *Big Sing*. We also have a poll after each session where participants can vote for their three favourite songs in that evening’s programme, for inclusion in the following week’s programme.

While we are all missing our rehearsals, I intend to keep *The Big Sing* going (as long as numbers make it worth my while!): so many have said that our Monday evening singalongs have been something to look forward to each week. Anyone who wishes to join in is more than welcome.

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.

GETTING IN TOUCH

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

T +44 (0) 1733 374 790

E info@noda.org.uk

W www.noda.org.uk

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NODA Safe noda.org.uk/nodasafemembers 0345 257 6632

NODA Legal Advice Service 01733 374 790

NODA Membership Services info@noda.org.uk

Social Media [facebook.com/ nationaloperaticdramaticassociation](https://facebook.com/nationaloperaticdramaticassociation)

Twitter - @NodaTweets

Instagram - @NodaPics

A CLOSE CALL WITH *DOLLY!*

It was Monday 16th March 2020, and excited members of Inverness Musical Theatre Company arrived at Eden Court Theatre eager to unleash our week-long run of the Jerry Herman classic musical *Hello Dolly!* on our loyal Highland audience.

As the cast and crew prepared to take to the stage for the technical rehearsal, a meeting was called on stage. We were informed by the theatre management the local council emergency group were due to meet the next day and it was highly likely the Theatre would close.

Having just completed building the set it was our Stage Manager, George Reynolds, who asked the question ... would we like to forget the tech and just run the show?

Well why not? We had an orchestra in the pit; costumes were hired; theatre staff were in attendance and we had six months of dedicated rehearsals under our belt; all the components were in place.



Realising the urgency and with no time to lose the cast scattered to their changing rooms to get into costume for the opening. The show played to an almost empty auditorium but with no less commitment than if we had sold out the upper circle. To thunderous applause and support of the handful of non-playing supporters sprinkled amongst the 870 empty seats, we took our curtain call and the lights faded on *Hello Dolly!*

It was a most surreal and emotional experience for everyone. Even our longest serving members had never experienced such events or the feelings stirred in all of us that evening. On the same day we had arrived at the Theatre, we all packed up and the hired costumes were boxed ready to be returned. The stage set, so carefully and enthusiastically set up earlier in the day, was struck and we all went home wondering ... would our club survive such a financial shock?

Ten days earlier our NODA insurance renewal had been due, and with everything going on around the world, we decided to check with NODA whether our insurance would cover us if our show was called off because of the Covid 19 pandemic. With confirmation it would be (and despite the hefty increase in our premium) we took the decision to increase our cover from £10K to £55K. Despite our earlier assurances, it was with a little anxiety we submitted our claim for the costs

associated with our abandoned show. We were delighted to get the news shortly afterwards that our claim would be met by the NODA insurance policy and we all breathed a huge sigh of relief.



Despite the traumas and shocks of events back in March we now find ourselves in a strong financial position going forward. Although we all agreed our loyal audience may have to wait a few years before we tackle *Hello Dolly* again. Instead, we were delighted to announce recently to our supporters our next show will be *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This production is particularly special, not only because of the events of last six months, but because our Honorary President is Sir Tim Rice.

How lucky we all are to be part of the NODA family and even if we have to wait for *Joseph* until 2022, we are all ready to put on our Sunday clothes once again oops sorry, wrong show!

Morven Reid, Chair, Inverness Musical Theatre Company

DISTRICT No 10: Angus & Kincardine

Monifieth Amateur Dramatics

Like many amateur groups across Scotland, we at MAD found ourselves at a loose end in March when the National Lockdown was announced. After cancelling a show only a few days before opening night the cast, crew and members needed something else to do. Thanks to an online seminar focusing on radio plays, Nicky (our artistic director) found the answer and we started to focus on producing *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

A small dedicated group of MAD members came together weekly over Zoom and slowly rehearsed for *Hitchhiker's*; a very different process of auditioning, directing and rehearsing faced the members. After several months we have been able to produce 'Fit the First' or part one for the uninitiated. The initial success of over 3000 views, has led us to complete 'Fit the Second' (part two) and now rehearsals have started for 'Fit the Third'.

Devastated by the news that we are unable to reopen or rehearse in person, us MADlings have decided to press on with 'Plan B'. Rehearsals are starting for another radio play (secret for now) and preparations are underway for panto season (oh yes they are!). Halloween will see us scaring the folk of Monifieth on our Spooky walk which runs from 7pm-9pm Saturday 31st October, see our Facebook for further details.

The world is most defiantly our stage,

Stay safe.

Mat Hodson, Secretary

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. ”

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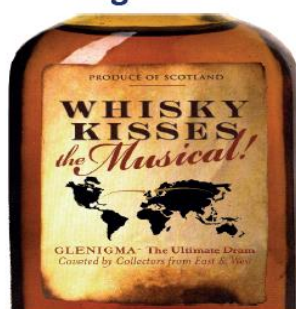
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NODA Insurance is a trading style of Lloyd & Whyte Ltd, used under licence from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. Lloyd & Whyte Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for use in quality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

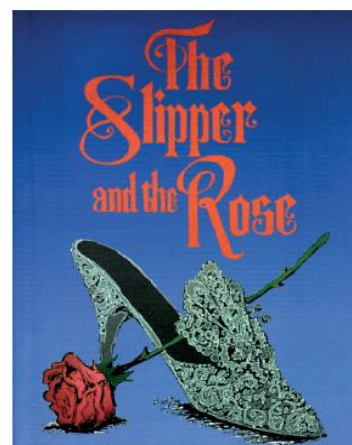
Many once popular musicals are losing their natural audiences. Here are some interesting alternatives...



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 sales@stagescripts.com 0345 686 0611

We Will Rock You (Young@part)

Big Bad Wolf Children's Theatre Company
Falkirk Town Hall

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

High School Musical

Minerva Youth Theatre

Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 February 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

Kinky Boots

Hawick Amateur Operatic Society HAOS

Hawick Town Hall

Monday 8 to Saturday 13 March 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

The Wedding Singer

Carnoustie Musical Society

Carnoustie High School Theatre

Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 March 2021

Blitz!

Tayport Amateur Dramatic & Musical Society

Bonar Hall, Dundee

Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 March 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

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 26 April to Saturday 1 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)

Big Fish - The Musical

Runway Theatre Company

Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock, Glasgow

Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 May 2021 (Matinee on Saturday)

Kinky Boots

Downfield Musical Society

Whitehall Theatre, Dundee

Wednesday 12 to Friday 21 May 2021

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)

Seussical

Downfield Musical Society
Whitehall Theatre, Dundee
Saturday 4 to Sunday 5 September 2021

Legally Blonde

Leven Amateur Musical Association
The Centre, Leven
Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 September 2021

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 6 to Saturday 10 October 2020 (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)

Mother Goose

Runway Theatre Company
Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow
Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 December 2021 (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

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)

NODA MEMBERSHIP



Be inspired by amateur theatre

NODA Individual/Joint Membership

If you have been inspired by the work being done by NODA Scotland to support amateur theatre, why not consider becoming an individual or joint member.

Membership will give you access to benefits including your own copy of NODA Today, the NODA Scotland magazine, access to the members area of the website with lots of useful factsheets and your own booking form for the NODA Scotland conference.

Individual Membership - £28.00 per annum

Joint Membership - £37.00 per annum

For full details about membership visit the NODA website -

<https://www.noda.org.uk/membership/subscriptions>

NODA MEMBERSHIP – NOW EXTENDED BY 3 MONTHS - EXTRA SUPPORT FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



NODA Head Office has remained open throughout the lockdown period with our dedicated team working from home available to support members on a range of issues resulting from the enormous impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Questions relating to legal topics, cancelled productions, financial consequences and insurance cover have been brought into sharper focus. We have also been working closely with rights holders and looking into copyright law on filming songs for social media along with discussing digital AGM possibilities. We have been pleased to make available a full programme of online courses free of charge. On these and other issues we continue to be in a position to help or source the information you need and want.

Mindful of the deep financial struggles being experienced by the members we wish to offer a level of tangible and Urgently needed support, particularly through the immediate weeks and months ahead.

The NODA membership year is changing and will run from 1st April to 31st March beginning in 2021

All society memberships due to expire on 31st December 2020 will be extended by **3 FREE MONTHS** until 31st March 2021.

Present membership fees will then be subject to NO INCREASE until 1st April 2022.

Remember, we are always at the end of the phone, drop us an email or visit our social media pages or get in touch with societies in your area. Your local regional representative will also be only too pleased to offer any help you may need. Amateur theatre is a family, and, in these times, it is always important to lean on family.

Contact Details

NODA Head Office - 01733 374 790

Website - noda.org.uk

Email - info@noda.org.uk

Facebook - facebook.com/nationaloperaticdramaticassociation

NODA YOUTH



Youth Group and Youth Section Members how can NODA help at this time?

Neil Hartley, our new Youth Coordinator, is keen to introduce himself in person and understand the challenges that youth groups/youth sections are currently facing as well as what help and support NODA Scotland can give you.

The following dates are possible options:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday | 17 November at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 18 November at 7.30pm |

Please email Neil with your preferred date – neil.hartley@noda.org.uk Even if you can't make either date please drop him an email and it may be possible to organise a further date.

Do you know what benefits you get being a member of NODA?



PANTOMIME SCRIPTS AND LICENCES

With over 150 different scripts, whatever your cast, whatever your venue - we have the script for you and as a member you will receive a discount on performance rights!

pantoscripts.org.uk

Need A DBS Check?

You can apply for DBS Checks through NODA

Contact Head Office for more information

Have you taken advantage of discounted insurance through your NODA Membership?
noda.org.uk/insurance



PROGRAMME AND POSTER COMPETITION

Have you got an amazing poster or programme for your show?

Enter it into the National Poster and Programme Competition

noda.org.uk/ourservices



HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH AMATEUR THEATRE FOR A LONG TIME?

You might be eligible for a Long Service Medal

Awards range from 10 years service right up to 70 years

noda.org.uk/longservice

REGIONAL SUPPORT

Advertise your event on the NODA Website

Show Reports from your Regional Rep

View your show reports online

Access to your region's social media to share ideas, ask for help, source props/costumes etc.

Access to Regional Conferences and Workshops

Need Information?

You will find lots of factsheets on our website to help with running your society.

These include

Model Child Protection Policy
Corporation Tax & VAT
Fundraising
Equal Opportunities
GDPR
Gift Aid
Any many more!



Need Legal Advice?

As part of your membership, societies can get assistance from our Legal Advice Service

To use this service please email a full explanation of your request to

info@noda.org.uk

NODA THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL

Exclusive access to spaces on our yearly Musical Theatre Summer School

noda.org.uk

The font of information for amateur theatre