



# CURTAIN UP

the newsletter for

# *noda* London

Be inspired by amateur theatre

## What's in this issue

From the councillor

District Round Up

NODA Programme and Poster Competition

Whats's On In London



## Winter 2022 issue



Welcome to the winter issue of Curtain Up! –

Thank you to all those groups who have chosen to share their news with the other groups in the region, and a reminder that as soon as you have the dates and the rights to any of your shows you can submit them to go on the What's On section of Curtain Up! AND have them displayed on the NODA London Facebook page ([paul.holgate@noda.org.uk](mailto:paul.holgate@noda.org.uk)). Once the production has happened the notification will be taken down, so it all becomes a rolling information service. We know that audiences may well have to pick and choose what they see in the coming months so just make sure they see YOUR show and have the relevant information asap. In the meantime enjoy your pantomime season (Oh yes you will!!) and have a lovely Christmas.

Jacquie Stedman – Editor  
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## Councillor's Update



The summer seems like a distant memory now but what a summer we had ! Although the nights have drawn in we have all the joys that our winter season brings to us, with a plethora of Pantos the season for which now lasts for many months. What a delight it is to have so much glorious entertainment on offer, as well as our 'winter' season for main shows. It is uplifting to see societies getting into full swing again and planning with renewed confidence, their programmes for the year.

Your Members are the beating heart of your organisation. In all the planning for your shows do not forget your ever loyal participants. NODA provides a way in which you can show how much you appreciate the service your members give to you and

amateur theatre, with our much-valued Long Service Medals – which also come as Long Service Badges as well. We have introduced a very special 5 Year Badge – and eligibility for Long Service now commences from the very **start** of your involvement with amateur theatre – so have you counted up recently, how many years you have done especially if you started as a youngster?

We also have an Achievement Award which may be given by societies to any participant for anything of note a group feels should be recognised. No application form is needed and you may order it direct from NODA. With our prices starting at £15 these are remarkable ways in which to show your gratitude to your Members especially as the Awards are cherished by the recipients.

Show you value your most precious asset – the very special people who make up your group and with whom you enjoy your beloved theatre.

Season's Greetings to you all.

Pam Armstrong, Regional Councillor, NODA London

## **District Round-up – News from around the Region**

### **London District 1 – Matt Bentley**

It's hard to believe it's been almost 4 months already since I took over as NODA representative for District 1. I've seen some excellent productions and am extremely grateful for the warmth with which societies have welcomed me in my new role (although I'm still the same friendly face in the audience for the most part).

One of the areas I was very interested in when I took up the role was diversity and inclusion. It's now been over two years since the Black Lives Matter movement, which became the focal point for a lot of these excellent and essential conversations in the community theatre world, so it felt appropriate to look at the progress that has been made. Two productions in particular stood out to me in this regard, each taking a different approach and finding success.

Festoon Theatre Company was set up during the pandemic and has been leading the way in diverse casting, with a casting policy requiring a minimum of 50% people of colour. Festoon are exceeding their policy aims and it was a delight to see such a wealth of talent in their excellent production of *Bonnie and Clyde*.

Centre Stage's approach of colour-blind casting in their production of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* was equally effective. To see three talented South Asian women in lead roles in an amateur musical in central London (when this is not a requirement of the script) was both exciting and well overdue, particularly when added to the diversity present in the remainder of the cast.

Other highlights in this regard included New Stagers' production of *I Have Five Daughters* and Sedos's *Carrie*, both of which were chosen to showcase some excellent female talent. Sedos's new, queer interpretation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* delivered a top-notch cast from across the gender spectrum with excellent results. I was also impressed by Quay Players' approach of reinterpreting the role of Donkey in their production of *Shrek* as a successful alternative to having a white actor try to replicate Eddie Murphy's performance in the film.

While there is still a lot of work to do in this area, I'm proud of the progress that has been made so far. We knew it was going to be hard work, but these are all positive steps in the right direction.

On that note, I am thrilled that Tess Robinson, a strong diversity advocate in District 1, is offering free online workshops for any society that wants to identify what actions they can take to make progress in this area. For more information, see @tessrobs on Instagram or email [tesscrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:tesscrobinson@gmail.com).

### **London District 2 – Mike Smith**

I am delighted to report that Societies in District 2 of our London Region are alive and kicking! After the long and difficult time that we have all been through it is such a joy to be able to be back enjoying what our groups do so well – perform and entertain!

I have noticed a real newfound enthusiasm from those performing (and all those supportive back-room boys and girls!) and audiences too, are very happy to be back and so appreciative of being entertained.

A real wealth of talent is back on stage, showcasing plays, musicals and of course the ever-popular pantomimes. Such a mix of entertaining performances I have had the pleasure of attending over the past few months.

Hillingdon Musical Society's production of "Musicals Behaving Badly" - written in house – had the audiences dancing in the aisles. Winning them the London Region Flame Award. This was followed by an equally enjoyable performance of "Young Frankenstein".

A challenging production of "Big Fish" was brilliantly accomplished by GLOC Musical Theatre group. The costumes and set for this were stunning, as was the choreography and Direction.

Beaufort Players entertained in their usual highly professional manner with a Tom Wells play entitled "The Kitchen Sink". A delightful, yet tender and emotional portrayal of family with big dreams and small changes – and a home with a dis-functional sink!!

As we approach the end of 2022, I'm still looking forward to seeing shows like "The Mikado" from Julian Operatic Society and also several pantomimes.

I must say it is interesting to see how many Societies are now embracing the use of more technology in their productions. Lighting, sound and projection – all a great asset to so many shows.

Good Luck to everyone with your forthcoming programmes, let's hope 2023 will be a kinder year to us all.

### **London District 3 – Des Wilby**

District 3 has certainly made a full recovery in 2022 with the vast majority of groups having already staged several productions. Whilst the majority of these have been musicals (Shrek and Our House continue to be very popular choices), there have also been some excellent plays and G&S shows. With Christmas rapidly approaching it is looking like a busy Panto season in District 3!

Following on from Covid, and for many societies an enforced period of inactivity, societies have been looking to improve their financial situation with a variety of fundraising events. Inflation and the inevitable increased costs in staging a production have made this even more of a priority. I am fortunate to have so many quality societies in District 3 and feel confident everyone will weather the current uncertainty and continue to delight their audiences.

### **London District 4 – Robin Kelly.**

As will no doubt be commented on elsewhere, it really is good to be back in the swing of things after the worst of Covid. Putting matters into perspective, between April and today, 23 District 4 show reports have been completed. Only 13 reports were completed in the whole of last year. It has to be said however that Covid still impacts, with individuals still unable to attend rehearsals due to self-isolation. Notable highlights so far this year have included the reformation of Dartford Operatic & Dramatic Society's Youth Theatre Group and we look forward to their next production in December.

Reduced ticket sales as a result of the cost of living have emerged as a major concern for all groups. Filling the Orchard Theatre for DAODS or the Churchill Theatre for WWOS is becoming increasingly difficult – even for shows such as Made in Dagenham. Confidence isn't improved by increasingly late bookings. Although the recent Bromley Players production of Evita hit 90%, only 60% had been sold one week before the show. Given the eye watering costs of mounting musicals, this is obviously an increasingly serious concern. Drama is also not immune to the problem. While Erith Playhouse and Bob Hope Theatre are in the fortunate position of having their own premises, covering the increasing costs of heating and lighting is a headache no matter the quality of production (and there have been some outstanding productions in both theatres this year). It becomes increasingly important that we support each other's productions. It also helps to be aware just what standards are being achieved elsewhere in NODA world!

One last thing. As many in District 4 are no doubt aware, I am currently undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer. I make no secret of this and indeed am on a mission to persuade all males over 45 to get themselves PSA tested. I am one of the lucky ones. It was only as a result of responding to an advert for testing at a local chemist that I discovered there was an issue. Treatment appears to be going well but radiotherapy will not kick in until January. In the meantime, I continue with my reporting duties – although it might be that reports are not quite as prompt as I would like. However, if at any point this proves to be impossible, Jackie Mitchell is ready to step into the breach.

I look forward to seeing you again soon!

## **London District 5 – Phil Wilcox**

Over the past few months I have reviewed no fewer than four contrasting and well-acted productions put on in quick succession by a single society (CODA).

These were the thrice postponed, COVID-affected Little Women (for which one female actor won best performance), swiftly followed by Steel Magnolias; an al fresco version of Pride and Prejudice: and, most recently, a terrific four-hander, The 39 Steps.

Elsewhere, Mayhem Theatre Company have also been prolific, staging a brace of outdoor shows, the delightful musical revue Songs Under The Summer Sun and their usual high standard annual Shakespeare, this time The Merry Wives of Windsor. They also recently mounted a well-cast version of 9 To 5.

Another company, Woodmansterne Operatic and Dramatic Society, put on two totally differing, and highly enjoyable, shows - Sister Act and Not Yet!, an entertaining self-written musical theatrical spoof. They also featured in an article in Noda Today, which I prepared in conjunction with them.

Now I am currently anticipating for the usual round of pantos in January, to follow Parish Players' delayed, fun-filled Camelot The Panto earlier in the year.

## **London District 6 – Paul Daynes**

As Autumn rolls into Panto Season and we gear up for Dames, Dancers and Delights we can report a busy few months in District 6.

In October, WP Drama produced Stevie a compelling play about the life and works of Stevie Smith, the English Poet. It was an absorbing three-hander superbly led by Sarah Jones in the titular role that brought the words and stories of Stevie Smith to the Redbridge audience; and all on National Poetry Day.

Havering Music Makers wrote their own script to link popular songs together that reflected the life of East End pub landlady Liz, before last orders were called on her life. Last Orders at the Castle Inn was a great vehicle for the twenty-one performers to perform thirty-two numbers that the audience knew and could join in with. A fun evening with a pub feeling.

Theydon Bois Drama Society took on the challenge of performing three of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads monologues. These require three actors to be alone on stage for 40 minutes telling these wonderfully crafted, comedic monologues all with poignancy and painful twists. The performers did great justice to the master of observation and phraseology.

The mysterious Bracken Moor was brought to Lopping Hall by Loughton Amateur Drama society a play by Alexi Kaye Campbell. This dark drama about the aftermath of a tragic accident was very thought provoking and a fine piece of theatre.

CADOS came leaping out of the can in song and dance with their version of Hairspray at Mornington Hall in Chingford. They doubled up for three of the leads with two actors playing each Tracy, Velma and Edna. They divvied up the lines and songs and merged in and out of scenes and sometimes appeared together. It was very innovative but worked very well.

November brought two plays and a musical.

Loughton Operatic Society gave an excellent version of Carousel with some outstanding singing throughout the company. A live band and a cast of over 30, including children, filled the Lopping Hall stage with wonderful harmonies and some solos of the very highest standard.

This Autumn both IODS and HMM have branched out from their regular musical offerings and into straight plays. IODS's Murder in Play by Simon Brett and HMM's Waiting for God were new departures but performed with great skill and discipline. It is often a great learning opportunity for musical theatre performers to take on non-singing roles and both these casts rose to the challenge skilfully and with great success.

We are looking forward to Woodford Pantomime's return with Cinderella and Theydon Bois Drama Society's Robin Hood in January. Both companies are well known in their areas for wonderful Pantomimes and the crowds will be out no doubt in full force. LADS will be giving us the four-hander version of 39 Steps.

Then it is 2023 and the seasons roll on.

### **London District 7 Report – Paul Holgate**

As you know I have been providing cover for District 7 for some while now (having been the Reg Rep for District 7 a few years ago – so I know you all well). We did have a Regional representative in place but unfortunately, owing to personal circumstances he has had to take a sabbatical for a while.

One highlight of the shows that I have seen, was Garden Suburb Theatre's open-air performance of James and the Giant Peach. Little Oak Wood was the perfect setting for this captivating story.

ELOD's autumn show was that quintessential English musical *Me and My Girl*, with first-time director Mitchel Lathbury doing a sterling job. In a busy week, I also found time to cover for LADS in L06 who were staging Alexi Kaye Campbell's atmospheric ghost tale *Bracken Moor*.

Recently, I have been to see another enchanting tale of woodland creatures: HGO's production of Leoš Janáček's opera, *The Cunning Little Vixen* which was performed in the original Czech.

It has been a delight to see shows across the District – do please invite me to your productions – I like to keep busy ! You can contact me at [paul.holgate@noda.org.uk](mailto:paul.holgate@noda.org.uk)

### **London District 8 Report - Tony Austin**

District 8 has started to feel loved again with the reopening of the Winston Churchill Theatre in September - somewhat delayed by the chaos left by the vaccinators, including the stage curtains which emerged from under the stage with mouse damage and had to be replaced by Hillingdon Council.

Ruislip OS performed the second show there with an impressive production of Stephen Schwartz's *Children of Eden*, the only musical I have seen where all the Direction, Musical Direction and almost all the Choreography was done by the same person, Anthony Wilson, who also deserved the extra title of Fight Director for the realistic Cain and Abel fight in Act 1, superbly mirrored in Act 2 by Japheth and Ham. They will celebrate their Centenary next year with *Crazy for You* (March 29th to April 1st) and *White Christmas* in November.

As I write this in early November, the deluge is due to start soon with the first fully staged show from Harefield ADS since 2019 *Agatha Crusty and the Pantomime Murders* after their sold-out Murder Mystery one-night stand in April, while Ruislip DS make a very welcome return next in the parade of slaughters with *Murdered to Death*, planned before the lockdown. At the end of the month Rickmansworth Players are putting on *Calendar Girls the Musical*, with Bishopshalt School following shortly with *Little Shop of Horrors*, while January should bring relief and laughter with *Pantos* by both Arrow Players and Argosy Players.

Unfortunately, Harefield ADS had to postpone their *Agatha Crusty* play as some of the cast had gone down with Covid!! Just when we think it's all under control!!!!

A plea to all in the District after log-jams of productions in late April and early May in several recent years: please try to spread your Spring dates so we can all enjoy The Coronation.

With thanks for all the great entertainment you have all given me over the years and best wishes for the future.

### **London District 9 – Carole Baynes**

HARROW OPERA: Having recently completed their joyful production of "Die Fledermaus" Harrow Opera are already in rehearsal for their next popular production - the glorious "The Magic Flute" which will be playing at the Compass Theatre in Ickenham in May 2023.



**KLOS MUSICAL THEATRE:** KLOS has just successfully presented the joyful musical “Me and My Girl” after a gap of over two and a half years due to the pandemic and the loss of their venue (as it became a designated vaccination centre). After a couple of attempts to present “Sister Act” which they had been rehearsing before lockdown - this show was placed on the ‘back burner’ until the cast and crew were free to return. At last KLOS are planning to bring their “Sister Act” to the Winston Churchill stage (Ruislip) in early April 2023. This will be their third attempt so let’s hope there are no unforeseen hitches. The CHAMELEONS ADS: Following a successful run of “Vicar of Dibley in July.

The Chameleons have not reconvened - other than for social gatherings. The pantomime that the company normally presents over the Christmas period has not been planned this year as they were unable to acquire their usual venue and a suitable alternative could not be found. Following the winter panto the company usually work towards a play in the early summer - but as yet no specific production has been announced.

**PUMP HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY:** In October PHTC celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a few weeks after an enjoyable performance of the final episodes of the “Blackadder Goes Forth” series - very sensitively recreated by this excellent team. The company was originally formed to do challenging innovative theatre and they try to honour this with “crowd pleasers” in between, to keep them afloat. Their next production “City of Champions” by Steve Brown is one such strong, powerful, challenging play. This drama goes behind the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown to expose a modern day Sodom & Gomorrah. Auditions for “City of Champions” are at the end of November and it will play mid April 2023.

**WOS PRODUCTIONS:** WOS are pleased to announce that they will finally be returning to Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip, in February 2023 presenting the delightful musical comedy parody “The Drowsy Chaperone”. The ‘man in the chair’ reminisces whilst he plays recordings of his favourite show from the 1920s. As he does so, the show magically comes alive in his room. I am sure many of us remember Elaine Paige playing the titular role in the West End, back in 2007 and I saw Steve Pemberton ‘in the chair’ (when he replaced co-author Bob Martin)-it was such fun! A really entertaining show which I am sure the full company will enjoy working on. WOS’ last couple of presentations - a compilation of Christmas songs last year and a Music Hall presentation “I Say, I Say, I Say” in the Spring- have been performed by just a few of the members (as Wospians). Hopefully the full membership will be involved in this forthcoming production

### **District 10 – Iain Fowles**

Since joining NODA, as Regional Rep, I have been delighted by the welcome I have received by all societies and the sheer breadth of talent that is being presented on stage. A favourite phrase that I like to champion ‘We are only amateurs as we are not getting paid!’ - this is certainly the case!

As we enter the Autumn season, and pantomimes are truly upon us (oh yes they are!) I have been lucky enough to see 8 productions so far: -

### **Belmont Theatre**

Two very contrasting plays – ‘The Ride Down Mount Morgan’ and ‘Pygmalion’. Both plays were a joy to watch, with cast and direction being first class. Belmont also celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year – many, many congratulations.

### **Potters Bar Theatre Company**

‘Ladies in Lavender’ an underrated play, very well presented at a new and challenging venue. I look forward to seeing ‘Kipps’ in November.

### **Abbotts Langley Players**

‘Entertaining Angels’ what a delightful and insightful play this is – well worth looking at. The staging, although simple was very well conceived.

### **Kings Langley Players**

Again, two very contrasting plays – ‘Mindgame’ and ‘5 Lesbians eating a Quiche’. From a psychological drama to a high-spirited piece. Very different, equally enjoyable with some very good acting. The addition of the cocktail bar in the foyer certainly makes for a great evening.

### **Radlett Musical Theatre Company**

It was lovely to be back at The Radlett Centre for ‘The Little Mermaid’ – a really challenging production, that proved to be a risk well worth taking, with some really outstanding performances.

### **Green Room**

‘Young Frankenstein’ another much underrated musical, beautifully presented by Green Room. A truly stunning production, with several standout performances, hard to believe that it was an amateur production.

I’m very much looking forward to seeing ‘Shrek’ by St. Albans Musical Theatre, Abbots Langley’s ‘Farndale Murder Mystery’ and Kings Langley’s ‘Dick Whittington’. We’ve also welcomed a new company in St James Music and Drama – Welcome!

If there is anything that I can help with, please do get in touch [iain.fowles@noda.org.uk](mailto:iain.fowles@noda.org.uk). I look forward to seeing you all over the coming months.

### **District 11 and 11a – Judith Watsham**

Nearly all of the groups in Districts 11 and 11A seem to be fired up and ready to go with a wide variety of productions, musical, dramatic and, of course, panto rehearsals are in full swing for many. It is really lovely that there is so much enthusiasm again and to see a lot of new faces on stage joining members of long standing. Please all of you remember to invite your rep along to report on your shows - contrary to one ill-informed opinion I received we all try and offer constructive comments and encourage you to up your game. Also, it matters not whether you are lucky enough to have a well-equipped theatre for your performances or use an all-purpose small hall – some superb productions can be achieved wherever you perform!

### **London District 12 – Andrew Walter**

Banbury Operatic Society is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I was privileged to attend their autumn concert, “There’s No Business like Show Business”. It was remarkable that the company for the concert included founding members of the Society as well as new members making their first appearances – and I understand that the long service of many members of the Society was recognised through NODA Awards. Congratulations to you all. Abingdon Operatic Society and the The Sinodun Players have also acknowledged the contribution of their members through NODA long service awards in recent months.

I was back in Banbury last weekend to see “Moana Jr” staged by Avocet Theatre Company – another group providing wonderful opportunities for young people to get involved in music and drama. The Company’s next production will be the pantomime, “Sleeping Beauty”, scheduled to be staged in June next year. A summer pantomime is a new concept to me, but why not? And if you can’t wait until then, Faringdon Dramatic Society’s version of “The Sleeping Beauty” and The Sinodun Players’ production of “Jack and the Beanstalk” both open in January.

Just as pantomime is migrating to the summer, musicals are taking over the stage in the post-Christmas period, with Oxford Operatic Society’s production of “Evita” opening at the Oxford Playhouse in January. The following month, Banbury Operatic Society is showing that it is moving with the times by producing “Ghost – The Musical”. And just in case you thought that plays have been completely marginalised in District 12, I am looking forward to seeing The Bartholomew Players’ staging of “Rutherford and Son” as November turns into December.



## **London District 13 – Cate Naylor**

It has been a busy Autumn so far and as well as revisiting societies, I have had the pleasure of meeting two new societies putting on their first show since the pandemic.

The season started quietly with two shows in September. First a return visit to Progress Theatre for Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense which was a hilariously funny three hander with lots of role changing and madcap humour. At the end of September, Aldermaston Players put on Number 13, the Luckiest Guesthouse, a play written by one of their members which interwove self-contained stories of people who stayed there. The society were very excited to premier this play and to recognise the playwright. Thank you to Rob Birtwistle who reviewed this as I was away.

In October, I was kept very busy watching nine productions in the district. First up was an energetic production of Our House at Shinfield Players Theatre. After two delays due to the pandemic and a further due to Storm Eunice and lots of recasting, it was great to see the show finally make it to the stage. Following that I saw another fun musical The Wedding Singer from NOMADS in Newbury; their first show since the pandemic. It was lovely to meet the chairman and vice chair of the society at a drink's reception before the show. Both of these musicals had large casts with everyone clearly enjoying being back on stage after so long and having fun.

My next show was The Pride at Progress Theatre and was quite a contrast. It was dark and challenging dealing with perceptions and attitudes to homosexuality in 1958 and 2008 and I commend the director and actors for sensitively dealing with, at times, very unsettling content.

This was followed by another musical; Pippin performed by Reading Operatic Society. I had not seen this musical before and thoroughly enjoyed it. There were some very strong performers and an amazing set.

Another contrast, and my next show Ladies in Lavender performed by The Henley Players transported me to post-war Cornwall. This play was beautifully done with strong performances and a clever stage which provided each room in the house and the garden as well as the Cornish coastline.

Following that, I joined the youth group Starmaker for their performance of Into the Woods Junior. This was a challenging musical for the youngsters, as singing Sondheim is no easy task, but they had obviously worked hard to master the lyrics and harmonies and approached it with enthusiasm and some very strong performances.

After that my final musical of the month was Made in Dagenham from the Sainsbury Singers. I did not review this one as my husband was the MD, but I enjoyed accompanying Andrew Walter (District 12) who did. The singers gave a brilliant performance of this powerful true story.

I finished the month with two very contrasting plays. First up was Waiting for God, Mortimer Dramatic Society's first production since the pandemic. The play was based on the television programme and the actors were very entertaining as the cantankerous and sometimes challenging residents of the BayView Retirement Home. It was lovely to finally join their audience, and I was made very welcome.

My last show was First Love is the Revolution. A fringe production from HAODS in Henley. This play was loosely based on Romeo and Juliet, but the Montagues and Capulets were replaced by a human family and a family of foxes! It was an immersive piece of drama on a traverse stage and excellently done with very strong performances from the whole cast.

Please do keep on inviting me to your shows, I am really enjoying meeting you all and seeing a huge variety of genres and productions. We have such a lot of talent in the district, and I look forward to seeing many more productions.

## **London District 14 – Nick Humby**

As 2022 draws to a close some societies are still struggling to get fully back operationally with casts unwilling to commit to full blown productions, venue issues and financial pressures on members and

audiences. The joy felt by cast and audiences when they do get together is wonderful to behold and hopefully 2023 will move us closer to normality.

**Crowthorne Musical Players** staged an excellent one night only Tribute to Sondheim in September. The show was charmingly compered with reflections from the cast on when they had sung Sondheim or which parts they aspire to play, accompanied very well by the Musical Director on a grand piano and beautifully lit.

**EBOS** staged an ambitious A slice of Saturday as a fund raising (putting on a show in 24 hours) event in October followed by an excellent Young Frankenstein at the Wilde Theatre in November. It is a perfect adult amateur musical show in which the cast and audience can have great fun and the EBOS team threw themselves full heartedly into the production to create a first-class show.

**Colnbrook Amateur Stage** presented A Class Re.ACT.ivation , a revue show in October. The six shows chosen were the pop concert style hit from 2017, Six, the classic 1950's musical Guys and Dolls, the recent rather moving Dear Evan Hansen, the wonderful sexy Chicago from 1975, the brilliantly grim Sweeney Todd from 1980 and the rather black comedy from 2010, Heathers. A great credit to the society.

The pre-Christmas Pantomimes season includes Merlin from **Riverside Players** and Beauty and the Beast from **Maidenhead Drama Guild** with Cinderella from **CAST** and Rapunzel from **Wraysbury Players** in January .

Looking forward to another enjoyable Christmas season.

**We are very pleased to welcome a new Regional Representative for District 10 – Iain Fowles:**



Iain is now celebrating more than 40 years in the world of Amateur Theatre (*I know he doesn't look old enough!* – Ed)

Starting at the tender age of ten in his school's pantomime, progressing through the ranks, enjoying performing and directing with societies across Hertfordshire and North London. Iain is a member of many local societies and is now Chairman of Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company.

Over the years Iain has had to balance 'real life' with the demands of am dram, but still managed to continue performing, and directing plays and musicals - some even being recognised with NODA awards!

As a performer, Iain has had the joy to play many fabulous parts, favourites include – Bobby in 'Company', Billy in '42<sup>nd</sup> Street' and Nicky in 'Avenue Q' – quite a diverse collection! As a director, projects have ranged from Pantomime to 'Jesus Christ Superstar', with a good selection of Broadway Musicals and the odd G & S. Play wise, 'Blithe Spirit' will always be a favourite, with 'Noises Off' coming a close second!

Iain is delighted to be the NODA Rep for District 10 and hopes to catch up with as many societies over the coming months. Of course, if you need any advice or help, please don't hesitate to contact him.

## NODA Theatre Summer School 2023



The 2023 NODA Theatre Summer School is back at Yarnfield Park in Stone with all the enthusiasm and commitment that the students expect. Once again we will be delighted to meet again, in person, and to throw ourselves into a wonderful, energetic week of theatrical learning.

The 2023 NODA Theatre Summer School launched, as usual, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022., so if you haven't signed up please don't hesitate. Check out the NODA Summer School Facebook page to hear how the courses are going.

Dates for 2023 are July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a week that you will never forget and make friends for life. For details of past courses please go to the NODA website and see what we have offered. [www.noda.org.uk/summerschool](http://www.noda.org.uk/summerschool).

### **ROCK ON WITH SONGS FROM THE SHOWS – A MINEFIELD ?**

Compilation shows are great fun and enormously popular with societies and audiences alike – great revenue earners. However, for the unwary they can be a minefield, so be careful and do your research thoroughly on the permissions you must obtain beforehand.

What you **can't** do are DISNEY songs and ABBA songs – see **the NODA Factsheet**.

How to go about obtaining permissions ?

- Check that the venue has a PRS Licence
- Check IN **DETAIL** the NODA Factsheet
  - This gives **COMPREHENSIVE** advice on how to go about checking and obtaining the correct performance rights and keep the right side of the copyright laws

### **DISTRICT 10 – BELMONT THEATRE COMPANY – 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

Belmont Theatre recently celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Bushey Sports Club, Hertfordshire. They had actually reached that milestone the year before, but because of covid, it was not possible to celebrate.

They were nomads over the years, initially performing at St Michael's Church hall near Belmont Circle, Harrow. It was certainly back to basics, having to put the chairs out before the performance and put them back after. Interval teas were served through a hatch. The venue was cold and suffering major subsidence problems. The rehearsals were held in a local school, complete with the usual officious caretaker! Memorable shows there were 'Blitz' 'The Diary of Anne Frank' 'The National Health' with a multitude of hospital beds and the only pantomime that Belmont have ever performed 'Robinson Crusoe'. Their original venue finally succumbed to the subsidence and is now a block of flats (what else)

Their rehearsals then moved to The Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Weald, it was great to be part of the Arts community of Harrow.

The Arts Centre itself then relocated to Hatch End, just behind what is now Morrisons where they put on productions in the intimate Travellers Studio and the impressive Elliott Hall. Great atmosphere in the bar and the scenery storage area which was shared with other theatre groups.

It was then that they embarked on their memorable large scale musicals to sell out audiences. 250 seater venue.' Oliver!' 'Christmas Carol' 'Rock Nativity'. For Christmas Carol they hired huge scenery trucks, so large they had to take the door frames off to get them in. It was a listed building!

In 2007 they moved to The Pump House Theatre and Arts Centre in Watford and are well settled in their venue, where they have built up a loyal enthusiastic audience base. Their first production there had 50% audience and they worked extremely hard to build up our local loyal audience.

They became members of NODA many years ago and have enjoyed that support throughout the years. They have received numerous awards which are proudly displayed FOH, including best Actor and Actress for Journey's End and Bothered and Bewildered respectively.

On their celebration evening they were pleased to welcome Jacquie and David Stedman, Pam Armstrong and Paul Holgate, from NODA London. It was great to see them and we thank them for their continued support.

The evening started with a drink for guests as they arrived, allowing everyone to mingle and look at the many photographs dating back to the 50's. Photograph albums and programmes were available to see all the past productions, cast and the all important crew.

Speeches were made by their Chairman Eddie Stephens and President, Michael Collins.

The buffet was served and the 75<sup>th</sup> cake was cut by Eddie Stephens and Frankie Hogan.

It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to meet long lost friends, audience and members. Certainly an achievement to be celebrated.

Frankie Hogan  
Belmont Theatre Company

## **NODA London Youth Report**

In London we have twenty-four paid up Youth Groups , the majority of which are in District 13. I personally only get invited to a few Youth productions on a regular basis, so it would be great to hear about you upcoming productions and come to see more of you!!! You are, after all, the future of amateur theatre!!!!

Maybe many of our Youth Groups belong to NODA just for the Insurance - which is a shame, considering how many other benefits NODA has to offer its members. Unless your Rep, and hopefully I too, can get to see production we can't consider your group for either the YOUNGSTARS Award or any of our others appropriate awards.

I was, of course, delighted and very proud, of the three performing groups at our Awards day in June – as well as being so talented they behaved impeccably. None of them had even been on the fairly large stage at the Radlett theatre before but after just a few minutes orientation they all got on with the job in hand and entertained and delighted the packed theatre. Well done Rickmansworth Youth, Shinfield Youth and YOBOS.

Recently I have seen The Addams Family and James and the Giant Peach (a new show for me) at Tring Youth Workshop, Into the Woods staged by Starmaker who are getting back on their feet post COVID, and our current Youngstars Award holders, YOBOS, performing Kipps the Musical. Congratulations to you all for the hard work involved.

Annie Hertler-Smith, Youth Co-ordinator NODA London



## 50 Years On.....



This month will see Simon and Nicola Gilbert move away from Theydon Bois to their new home in Norfolk. Whilst obviously wishing both of them every happiness in their new venture The Drama Society is wondering just how they will manage to replace these two stalwarts of the Society.

Simon Gilbert has been with Theydon Bois Drama Society for 50 years starting when he was just 10 years old, following his mother Betty onto the Village Hall stage. It's hard to count up the number of shows Simon has been in but he thinks it is over 80, from murder mysteries, musicals, Shakespeare and comedies. Perhaps it is for his many pantomimes that Simon will be best remembered often as one of the comedy duo loving the "bish, bash, boom of slapstick".

On top of his many performances Simon has also taken to directing, amongst which have been, *Blithe Spirit*, *Murder Weapon* and his debut *Allo, Allo* which sold out every night. Simon was also involved in so many aspects of the village drama group from committee member, organising the Bar, designing sets, chief set builder and keeping the props and furniture stores useable.

One funny story he recalls was when he was needed as a dead body that had to fall out of a cupboard at the end of the first scene. He was chatting back stage and forget to get into the cupboard. The show was stopped with a faked full hall blackout, he jumped into the cupboard in darkness, they started the show again from the start and no one noticed anything wrong.

All at Theydon Drama wish Simon and Nicola all the very best and won't be surprised to see both of them on a stage in Norfolk any time soon.



**Fee-fi-fo-fum! It's time for Thame Players' pantomime ... not forgetting the Dame!**

*"Fee-fi-fo-fum!  
I smell the blood of  
an Englishman. Be  
he alive, or be he  
dead, I'll grind his  
bones to make my  
bread."*

So says the Ogre in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a favourite amongst pantomimes, opening at the Players Theatre Thame on

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The story goes back to the eighteenth century (and some research shows it goes back much earlier): *The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean* appeared in 1734, but the version used today is based on Joseph Jacobs' retelling in *English Fairy Tales* in 1890.

In Thame Players' version of this well-known fairy tale, the hero is Jack, a poor country boy, who trades the family's cow for magic beans. The beans grow into a towering beanstalk. When Jack climbs the beanstalk, he finds himself in the castle of an unfriendly Ogre. Jack is hopelessly in love with the Princess, and determined to defeat the Ogre, who is huge and threatening and wants to eat humans for breakfast, assisted by his henchman Stinkweed. Of course, Jack outwits the Ogre, assisted by Sweet Pea, the fairy, and various other characters including Robin Hood and some of his Merry Men – and even the Brothers Grimm of fairy-tale fame!

Another of the characters we could not be without in any self-respecting pantomime is the Dame. In this production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the Dame is played by Tony Long and this year is special, because it will mark his 30<sup>th</sup> performance as the Dame. Tony took the role over when there was a vacancy in the early 1980s, created by the departure of Roger Smith, who had played the Dame for many years. Tony's first Dame role was in *Cinderella* in 1984 and he hasn't looked back since! He says, "Every year I go to the panto auditions and every year I wonder if someone else will show flair for the role and knock me off my perch. But while I'm still fit enough, I'll keep auditioning and keep hoping to get the part." He added, "For me the panto is the highlight of the year. I thoroughly enjoy all the roles I play but Pantomime Dame is without doubt my favourite."

Thame Players' *Jack and the Beanstalk* is co-directed by Colleen Tudway and Steve Lambell, themselves veterans of many a pantomime. They said, "We couldn't be more delighted than to be celebrating Tony's 30<sup>th</sup> appearance as the Dame in this year's panto, he is always a big hit with audiences, and is without doubt one of the best exponents of the role. Long may he continue."

The plot would not be complete without the Dame, and of course, the corny jokes which will have you groaning and laughing in your seat, the singing and dancing routines and all the elements we expect and look forward to every year ... It all adds up to great family entertainment and audiences are guaranteed to have a brilliant time. – oh, yes, they will!

Tickets are selling fast, so if you want to see *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Players Theatre from 2<sup>nd</sup> December, act now to be sure of a seat – oh, yes, you should!



## Long service awards report October 2022

### Abingdon Operatic Society

Ann Turton- 60 year badge

Chris Turton-55 year pin

Joy Skeels-40 year badge

Dennis Garrett-silver bar

John Ridley-silver bar

Rob Bertwistle-silver bar

Sue Richards-silver bar

Emma Woods-youth award

Emily Vines-youth award

Noah Smith-youth award

### Banbury Operatic Society

Jenny Tustian-60 year bar

Frederick Castle-35 and 30 year badges

Ann Sloan-silver bar

David Hornsby-silver bar

Catherine Cook-15 and 10 year badges

Benjamin Coleman-15 and 10 year badges

Remember – this is your society's way of recognising the commitment that your members have made to amateur theatre and your society in particular.

Jackie Lack ([jackie.lack@noda.og.uk](mailto:jackie.lack@noda.og.uk))

Awards Secretary, London Region

Louisa Talbott-15 and 10 year badges

Sarah Rubery-15 and 10 year badges

Jonathan Rubery-10 year badge

Sharon Smith-10 year badge

Jessica Smith-10 year badge

### Barking Music and Drama Society

Daryl Kane-25 year medal and badge

Linda Russell-20 year badge

Charlotte Summers-10 year badge

Marion Long-Certificate of Recognition

### Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company

Anthony Harvey-45 year badge

Iain Fowles-40 year badge

Lynda Randall-25 year medal

### Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company

Martin Wolmark- 25 year medal and silver bar

Denise Wolmark-silver bar

### Sinodun Players

Anne Stanners-45 year badge

**Commissioning a new Musical in the Amateur World –**

**FLAMES OF INJUSTICE.....continued**

Four years ago I was chatting to one of our panel of regular MDs about our centenary in 2022 and he said,



"If you really want to celebrate why don't you write your own musical?" At the time I wrote off the idea as being so unlikely as to be not worth thinking about but the seed had been sown and it just needed the right conditions to germinate. I did get as far as consulting our local historian about the dramatic events in our town's history that could be turned in to a theatrical performance and I even wrote some fairly pathetic lyrics for a song. However, my epiphany came when I realised we would need professional help and I thought about Sarah Osborne. I did a Devising Drama course at NODA Summer School one year, with Sarah at the helm and was so impressed I thought who better to ask to help us.

To my surprise and delight Sarah said she would facilitate a weekend workshop, or rather two whole days of workshops, in Witham where my group rehearses and performs. I gave her the source material about James Cooke and the Witham Fires of 1828 and Sarah guided about 14 members of Witham Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS) through a series of drama games and exercises that culminated in us having a strong narrative for the story, the order of the scenes and what should happen in each one, the named characters of the piece and even the characterisation for each role. Oh, and we had a working title, *The Flames of Injustice* which we kept for the actual show.

It was agreed that we would ask Sarah to write the play while the committee at WAOS gave some thought to potential composers. A number of tentative approaches were made to musicians we knew but the musician that was most enthusiastic was Frankie Garland, who had been an accompanist for us in the past and joined our cast for a couple of shows subsequently. By the end of 2019 we had a script and during lockdown in 2020 we held half a dozen Zoom calls to put together the bare bones of lyric ideas for over 20 songs, from which Sarah then wrote the final lyrics. These were passed to Frankie who created the tunes and some of the basic harmonies. The musical baton was then passed to Phil Toms who created the vocal harmonies and the orchestration for six instruments.

The summary of this process sounds like it was easy but there were definite issues along the way, mostly relating to changing work priorities of people who had a living to make. Despite this we made it to Day 1 of the pre-audition rehearsal with a completed piano vocal score and several recordings of a few chorus numbers and soloist songs with backing tracks all done in a professional recording studio. The idea was to intrigue our members with some lovely music and get them to commit to a brand new show for the next six months. We were lucky that two talented young women, Rhi Howard and Jessie Tabor were keen to

direct and direct the music respectively. Without their vision, skill and patience we would not have achieved our fantastic final result.

I am still waiting to see the edited video of the dress rehearsal but I have few doubts that, warts and all, it will be a fitting and lasting tribute to the hard work and energy of the cast, creatives and production team of *The Flames of Injustice*, as well as giving James Cooke his day in the court of public opinion almost 200 years after his execution, aged 16.

Stewart Adkins (President, Witham Amateur Operatic Society)

*(You may recall that there was an article in the last issue of Curtain Up! giving you a preview of this exciting new show. We went to see it ..... it was excellent and the entire story was told with truth and sympathy.....and it was all TRUE!!! If you require any further information please contact me – [jacque.stedman@noda.org.uk](mailto:jacque.stedman@noda.org.uk) and I will pass you on to Stewart).*

## PROGRAMME AND POSTER COMPETITION 2023

### REMEMBER THAT FROM THIS YEAR

Posters and Programmes MUST  
display the Logo

*noda*

Be inspired by amateur theatre

... and NOT the crest



Affiliated to the  
National Operatic and  
Dramatic Association

I have already received several entries for the current competition. If you have not entered before then this year is an ideal opportunity. The competition's purpose is to encourage the highest standards in programme and poster design.

Programmes or posters from any shows that took place between 1 January and 31 December 2022 are eligible for the competition.

To enter, you must send five copies of each programme or poster, together with the correct entry form. Entries must reach me by 31 January 2023.

Further details with links to the entry forms are here :

<https://www.noda.org.uk/regions/london/noda-london-poster-programme-competition-2023>

#### **PLEASE NOTE.....SOME OF THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION HAVE CHANGED:**

Programmes and posters must all have the NODA Logo with the strapline "Be inspired by amateur theatre". This is a condition of entry. **You should no longer use the NODA Crest**

In addition, programmes must include the paragraph "an introduction to NODA". You may copy and paste this from the website or use the wording as part of a longer article about how you use

your NODA membership.

For the first time this year, I am able to accept electronic copies of posters. These should ideally be pdf format but, if sending a jpg or png then they should be a maximum of 5MB. Posters submitted electronically will be printed at A4 size for judging. I regret that I am unable to accept electronic programmes at present.

The winners for the NODA London Region will be announced as part of the 2023 Regional Awards. Each Region holds its own competition using the criteria set out by the Council, with the winners from the Region being entered in the National Competition.

A link to the current criteria for the competition together with downloadable versions of the Logo and the “introduction to NODA” may be found below.

<https://www.noda.org.uk/programme-and-poster-competition>

I look forward to hearing from you.....good luck!!!

Paul M Holgate

Chair of Programme and Poster Judging Panel

## WINNERS OF THE 2022 COMPETITION







### NODA London - Society Nominated Awards

[Do you have someone deserving of one of the NODA London Society Nominated Awards?](#)

There are 3 awards:

The **Louise English award** is for a person under 30 years old who has made an outstanding contribution to his/her Society. The expectation is that this would *not* be solely through performance.

The **Shelly Lemesh Unsung Hero award** is for a member or helper of a society who *without payment and when not appearing on stage* has made an exceptional contribution in the past year to their Society's production(s), whether backstage, in the fields of props, costumes, sound, lighting or other fields as the Society may specify.

The **Sylvia Rawlings lifetime achievement award** is for a person who has made a long-term **outstanding** contribution to Amateur Theatre. Their contribution may be in any form whatsoever, but the expectation is that this award is truly for a lifetime in Amateur Theatre. Each nominee for this award will receive a framed certificate.

Please note that societies may nominate one person only, for each of these awards. Multiple entries from a single society will not be considered.

Entry forms are available on the following link

<https://www.noda.org.uk/regions/london/noda-london-society-nominated-awards?>

**The very latest date for the return of your nomination forms is 17 April 2023.**

**AND LAST...BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST.....**

**Paul Cozens – an amateur theatrical legend**

**A Tribute by Cloe Robertson on behalf of Centre Stage, Geoids and Sedos –  
London District 1**



Paul Cozens & Cara Turtington

*The Pajama Game* (2018)



Paul Cozens *A Man of No Importance* (2013)

Photo by David Ovenden

Theatre groups around London have been coming together to mourn and celebrate Paul Cozens, a huge personality on and off stage, whose unexpected loss earlier this month has shocked and saddened us all. Paul was a stalwart member of various societies including Sedos, Geoids, Centre Stage and Mayhem; and his participation and support was a joyful and welcome presence in dozens and dozens of shows.

A prolifically talented man, Paul always seemed to be up to so many things at any given time that it's hard to single out examples of his work, whether as a performer, a Musical Director or as a musician.

At the baton for Centre Stage, he MD'd not only some of the most memorable big shows, including *Copacabana* (2003), *The Wedding Singer* (2011), *Our House* (2012) and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (2014); he also brought his encyclopaedic knowledge of musical theatre and crazy sense of humour to bear, as he and I reimagined their beloved fundraiser cabarets into the indulgent *Guilty Pleasures* (2010) and the even more anarchic *Ghoooooultly Pleasures* (2011). He performed for Centre Stage in *HMS Pinafore* (2002), *A Slice of Saturday Night* (2003), *Hot Mikado* (2005), *Dames at Sea* (2005), *Anything Goes*



(2006) and I Heart Centre Stage (2007). CentreStager David Walker-Smith, who shared the stage with many times, remembers him as "a great fun musical genius"; while his long time friend Nick Lane described him as "the most lovely, caring guy with a great big heart and equally well-endowed sense of humour." Alexis Rose, Centre Stage's President, said 'Paul was a much loved and massively talented member of Centre Stage and a true stalwart of the London amateur theatre scene. His loss will be deeply felt by his countless friends, fellow performers and creatives.'

Geoids were gifted with his particularly close creative partnership with Cara Turlington for their pitch-perfect production of The Pyjama Game (2017), MD'd by Paul, in his own inimitable style, in a onesie! As well as his being at the helm for their ravishing 'Top Hat' (2018). Dan Paul, Secretary of Geoids Musical Theatre highlighted the passion Paul brought to all his projects, saying his involvement in any and every show was 'wonderful'.

For Sedos, Paul created a number of memorable onstage characters, including Governor (Candide, 2016), Mr Carney (A Man of No Importance, 2013) and Judge Roan (Parade, 2009); as well as joining the company for Sedos' UK and London Amateur premier production of Rent (2007). His partnership with me gave rise to The Wild Party (2009) and The Show Off (2014). And, as with so many other societies, Paul's prodigious musical ability saw him as a fixture in the pit, audition and rehearsal rooms of just about every other musical going. Matt Gould, Sedos' Chair, paid tribute to Paul's talent, passion and love of performing, saying 'He is an immeasurable loss to the London Amateur Theatre Scene, and to each of us personally who knew and loved him.'

Like so many of us, Paul found the enforced absence from the stage during COVID a struggle. Friends were glad to hear that he had found his way back, playing for Mayhem's recent production of 9 to 5. Mayhem paid tribute to Paul's talent and commitment, saying he will be sorely missed.

Paul was a giant hug of a person, who had an unrivalled ability to make performers around him feel safe, empowered and passionate to find and exploit their own potential. His generosity was legendary, as was his ability to bring any room, gathering or party to life. In common with many, many people, I feel profoundly lucky to have been able to work with him; and deeply honoured to call him my friend. He has left a huge hole in the world, and all our thoughts, condolences and love go to his parents, Kay and Geoff, along with our thanks for raising such a bloody legend.



Paul Cozens, Helen Mulligan and Clive Widger at the Centre Stage London 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball (2016)

## WHAT'S ON IN THE LONDON REGION

### **AMADEUS** by Peter Shaffer

23 Nov 22 - 03 Dec 22

Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society (SEDOS)

Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ

<https://sedos.co.uk>

### **THE LITTLE MERMAID** a pantomime with pirates

25 Nov 22 - 03 Dec 22

Beaufort Players

Church of the Ascension Hall W5 3EB

Box Office: 07730 572389

[www.beaufortplayers.org.uk/boxoffice](http://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk/boxoffice)

### **RUTHERFORD AND SON** by Githa Sowerby

30 Nov 22 - 03 Dec 22

Bartholomew Players

Eynsham Village Hall OX29 4QW

Box Office: 07721 744020

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

### **DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT**

01 Dec 22 - 03 Dec 22

Masque Players of West Wycombe

West Wycombe Village Hall HP14 3AB

Box Office: 07810 838327

[www.masque-players.co.uk](http://www.masque-players.co.uk)

### **NATIVITY** the musical

01 Dec 22 - 03 Dec 22

Kingston Vale Theatre Group

Adrian Mann Theatre KT17 3DS

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/kvtg](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kvtg)

### **THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ**

01 Dec 22 - 03 Dec 22

St Faith's Players

Watermans Arts Centre TW8 0DS

<https://st-faiths-players.org.uk>

### **CHRISTMAS WITH THE STARRS!** Christmas entertainment

02 Dec 22 - 03 Dec 22

Chinnor Musical Theatre

Bledlow Ridge Village Hall HP14 4AJ

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/chinnor-musical-theatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chinnor-musical-theatre)

### **ALADDIN**

30 Nov 22 - 04 Dec 22

British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainment Society (BACCES)

Beck Theatre UB3 2UE

Box Office: 020 85617506

[www.bacces.com](http://www.bacces.com)

### **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**

01 Dec 22 - 04 Dec 22  
Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society  
Crowthorne Parish Hall RG45 7BW  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/crowthornecats](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crowthornecats)

**FARNDAL AVENUE ... CHRISTMAS CAROL** by David McGillivray and Walter Zerdin Jnr

05 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Erith Playhouse Ltd  
Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/erith-playhouse-limited](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erith-playhouse-limited)

**WOODLEY'S WEST END SHOW STOPPERS!** (concert)

06 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Woodley Light Operatic Society  
Alan Cornish Theatre RG5 4JZ  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodleylightoperatic](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodleylightoperatic)

**CINDERELLA**

07 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Putney Light Operatic Society  
Arthur Cotterell Theatre KT1 2AQ  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/plos](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/plos)

**LIFE IS A DREAM** by Pedro Calderón de la Barca

07 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Progress Theatre  
Progress Theatre RG1 5HL  
<https://progresstheatre.co.uk/whats-on>

**ALADDIN**

02 Dec 22 - 11 Dec 22  
Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company  
Boxmoor Playhouse HP1 1NP  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366  
[www.hhtheatreco.com](http://www.hhtheatreco.com)

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

02 Dec 22 - 11 Dec 22  
Thame Players Theatre Company  
Players Theatre OX9 2DP  
<https://thameplayers.co.uk/what-s-on>

**ALADDIN - ADVENTURES IN THE EAST**

08 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Valley Players Hughenden  
Hughenden Valley Village Hall HP14 4NX  
Box Office: 07942 357499  
[www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk](http://www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk)

**DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT**

08 Dec 22 - 10 Dec 22  
Kings Langley Players  
Kings Langley Community Centre WD4 8ET  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366  
[klp.org.uk/current-show](http://klp.org.uk/current-show)

**SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS** Christmas entertainment

10 Dec 22 - 11 Dec 22

Crowthorne Musical Players  
Crowthorne Parish Hall RG45 7BW  
Box Office: 07796 276888  
[www.cmp-berks.org.uk/tickets](http://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/tickets)

**LITTLE RED** a new musical pantomime

15 Dec 22 - 17 Dec 22

The Quay Players  
Greenwood Theatre SE1 3RA  
<https://quayplayers.org.uk/tickets>

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** family pantomime

14 Dec 22 - 18 Dec 22

Maidenhead Drama Guild  
Holyport Memorial Hall SL6 2NA  
Box Office: 07375 111174  
<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mdg>

**PETER PANTO**

22 Dec 22 - 27 Dec 22

The Young Theatre  
Curzon Centre HP9 1RG  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/yt](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/yt)

**SLEEPING BEAUTY**

29 Dec 22 - 30 Dec 22

HEOS Musical Theatre  
Greenford Hall UB6 9QN  
Box Office: 07727 448 760  
[www.heos.org.uk](http://www.heos.org.uk)

**2023**

**CINDERELLA**

01 Jan 23 - 15 Jan 23

Woodford Pantomime  
Sir James Hawkey Hall IG8 0BG  
Box Office: 01992 524371  
<https://woodfordpantomime.co.uk>

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

07 Jan 23 - 14 Jan 23

Sanderstead Dramatic Club  
All Saints Parish Hall CR2 9AB  
Box Office: 07902 480327  
[www.sdclub.org.uk](http://www.sdclub.org.uk)

**HUMPTY DUMPTY**

07 Jan 23 - 14 Jan 23

Arrow Players  
St Edmunds Hall HA6 1QS  
Box Office: 07719 968 044  
[www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets](http://www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets)

**ROBIN HOOD**

12 Jan 23 - 14 Jan 23

Theydon Bois Drama Society  
Theydon Bois Village Hall CM16 7ER  
Box Office: 01992 919038  
[www.theydondrama.org](http://www.theydondrama.org)

**THE 39 STEPS** adapted by Patrick Barlow

12 Jan 23 - 14 Jan 23  
Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)  
Lopping Hall IG10 4LF  
Box Office: 07552 736110  
[www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm](http://www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm)

**DYNAMITE** an explosive musical revue

14 Jan 23 - 14 Jan 23  
Radlett Musical Theatre Company (RMTC)  
Radlett Centre WD7 8HL  
[www.radlettcentre.co.uk/What-s-On/Theatre/Dynamite?booking](http://www.radlettcentre.co.uk/What-s-On/Theatre/Dynamite?booking)

**CINDERELLA**

11 Jan 23 - 15 Jan 23  
Colnbrook Amateur Stage Theatre (CAST)  
Colnbrook Village Hall SL3 0RF  
Box Office: 07894 579177  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/cast-theatre-company](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cast-theatre-company)

**THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN** pantomime

13 Jan 23 - 15 Jan 23  
Twyford & Ruscombe Theatre Group  
Loddon Hall RG10 9JA  
Box Office: 0118 328 2825  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/twyrusdrama](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/twyrusdrama)

**MOTHER GOOSE**

07 Jan 23 - 21 Jan 23  
Erith Playhouse Ltd  
Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/erith-playhouse-limited](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erith-playhouse-limited)

**ALADDIN - ADVENTURES IN THE EAST**

13 Jan 23 - 21 Jan 23  
Woodhouse Players  
Welsh Church Hall E11 1HR  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhouseplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhouseplayers)

**A BUNCH OF AMATEURS** by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

18 Jan 23 - 21 Jan 23  
Proscenium  
Compass Theatre UB10 8PD  
Box Office: 01895 250 615  
[www.proscenium.org.uk](http://www.proscenium.org.uk)

**SNOW WHITE**

18 Jan 23 - 21 Jan 23  
Buckingham Community Pantomime  
Buckingham Community Centre MK18 1RP  
[www.buckinghampanto.co.uk](http://www.buckinghampanto.co.uk)

### **ALADDIN AND THE VALLEY OF THE DRAGONS**

13 Jan 23 - 22 Jan 23  
Shinfield Players Theatre  
Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF  
[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)

### **RED RIDING HOOD & THE ETERNAL WINTER**

02 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
Bob Hope Theatre  
Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG  
Box Office: 020 88503702  
[www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/redriding.html](http://www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/redriding.html)

### **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

13 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
Sinodun Players  
Corn Exchange OX10 0EG  
Box Office: 01491 825000  
<https://sinodunplayers.org.uk/future-shows>

### **THE WELKIN** by Lucy Kirkwood

20 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
Progress Theatre  
Progress Theatre RG1 5HL  
<https://progresstheatre.co.uk/whats-on>

### **EVITA**

23 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
Oxford Operatic Society (OXOPS)  
Oxford Playhouse OX1 2LW  
Box Office: 01865 305305  
[www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/evita](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/evita)

### **ROBINSON CRUSOE AND THE PIRATES' TREASURE**

25 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
Richings Players  
Iver Village Hall SL0 9NX  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/buckinghamshire/iver-village-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/buckinghamshire/iver-village-hall)

### **BABEZ IN THE WOODS**

25 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
The Pantoloons  
Purley United Reformed Church CR8 2LN  
[www.pantoloons.com](http://www.pantoloons.com)

### **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

20 Jan 23 - 29 Jan 23  
New Stagers Theatre Company  
St Annes Church Hall SW18 2RS  
Box Office: 07814 611239  
[www.newstagers.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.newstagers.co.uk/whats-on)

### **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

26 Jan 23 - 28 Jan 23  
The Priory Players Amateur Theatre Company  
Progress Hall SE9 1SL  
Box Office: 07798 625820  
<http://theprioryplayers.com>



**DICK WHITTINGTON**

19 Jan 23 - 04 Feb 23

Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS)

Heathfields Hall DA1 2QH

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/dartford/daods-heathfields-hall/daods-presents-dick-whittington/eyablrp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/dartford/daods-heathfields-hall/daods-presents-dick-whittington/eyablrp)

**SLEEPING BEAUTY**

27 Jan 23 - 04 Feb 23

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Junior School SN7 7HY

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

**IOLANTHE**

02 Feb 23 - 04 Feb 23

Abbots Langley G & S Society

Watford Palace Theatre WD17 1JZ

Box Office: 01923 225 671

<https://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/events/iolanthethe>

**THE LADYKILLERS** by Graham Linehan

02 Feb 23 - 05 Feb 23

Garden Suburb Theatre

Upstairs at the Gatehouse N6 4BD

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

**THE WEDDING SINGER**

09 Feb 23 - 11 Feb 23

Havering Music Makers

Kenneth More Theatre IG1 1BT

Box Office: 0208 708 8800

<https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/kenneth-more-theatre>

**HICKORY DICKORY DOCK**

15 Feb 23 - 18 Feb 23

Launton Village Players

Cooper School OX26 4RS

[www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk/performance/Hickory-Dickory-Dock](http://www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk/performance/Hickory-Dickory-Dock)

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**

15 Feb 23 - 18 Feb 23

Cygnets Players

Arthur Cotterell Theatre KT1 2AQ

Box Office: 020 8058 7581

<https://cygnetsplayers.com/shows>

**HEAD OVER HEELS** by Gail Young

22 Feb 23 - 25 Feb 23

Belmont Theatre Company

Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP

Box Office: 07917 324179

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

**THE DROWSY CHAPERONE**

22 Feb 23 - 25 Feb 23

WOS Productions

Winston Churchill Theatre HA4 7QL

Box Office: 0333 666 33 66  
<http://wos-productions.weebly.com>

**LAST TANGO IN WHITBY** by Mike Harding

01 Mar 23 - 04 Mar 23  
Shinfield Players Theatre  
Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF  
[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)

**THE LONESOME WEST** by Martin McDonagh

03 Mar 23 - 11 Mar 23  
Progress Theatre  
Progress Theatre RG1 5HL  
<https://progresstheatre.co.uk/whats-on>

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

07 Mar 23 - 11 Mar 23  
Radlett Musical Theatre Company (RMTC)  
Radlett Centre WD7 8HL  
[www.radlettcentre.co.uk/What-s-On/Theatre/Fiddler-on-the-Roof?booking](http://www.radlettcentre.co.uk/What-s-On/Theatre/Fiddler-on-the-Roof?booking)

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**

08 Mar 23 - 11 Mar 23  
Panda Players  
Elgiva Theatre HP5 1HR  
[www.pandaplayers.co.uk](http://www.pandaplayers.co.uk)

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS** by Bob Larbey

08 Mar 23 - 11 Mar 23  
Proscenium  
Compass Theatre UB10 8PD  
Box Office: 01895 250 615  
[www.hillingdontheatres.uk](http://www.hillingdontheatres.uk)

**DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID**

08 Mar 23 - 11 Mar 23  
Hillingdon Musical Society  
Winston Churchill Theatre HA4 7QL  
Box Office: 01753 886609  
[www.hillingdonmusicalsociety.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonmusicalsociety.co.uk)

**UP 'N' UNDER** by John Godber

15 Mar 23 - 18 Mar 23  
Bob Hope Theatre  
Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG  
Box Office: 020 88503702  
[www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/upnunder.html](http://www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/upnunder.html)

**FOUR FREAKS FROM IOWA** a new play by Stuart Mitchell-Smith

22 Mar 23 - 25 Mar 23  
The Roan Theatre Company  
Greenwich Studio Theatre SE10 8ES  
[www.theroantheatrecompany.com](http://www.theroantheatrecompany.com)

**13** the musical

23 Mar 23 - 25 Mar 23  
Starmaker Theatre Company  
Alan Cornish Theatre RG5 4JZ

[www.starmaker.org.uk/boxoffice](http://www.starmaker.org.uk/boxoffice)

**HOT MIKADO**

29 Mar 23 - 01 Apr 23

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company  
Kings Langley Community Centre WD4 8ET

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

<https://klmtc.org/buy-tickets>

**42ND STREET**

29 Mar 23 - 01 Apr 23

HEOS Musical Theatre  
Questors Theatre W5 5BQ  
Box Office: 020 85675184

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

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**

29 Mar 23 - 01 Apr 23

Eldorado Musical Productions  
Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG  
Box Office: 020 88503702

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

**THE FATHER** by Florian Zeller

30 Mar 23 - 01 Apr 23

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)  
Lopping Hall IG10 4LF

Box Office: 07552 736110

[www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm](http://www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm)

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY**

05 Apr 23 - 08 Apr 23

Musical Youth Company of Oxford (MYCO)  
Oxford Playhouse OX1 2LW

[www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/the-addams-family-a-new-musical](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/events/the-addams-family-a-new-musical)

**SCHOOL OF ROCK**

25 Apr 23 - 29 Apr 23

St Albans Musical Theatre Company  
Alban Arena AL1 3LD

Box Office: 01727 844488

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

**THE HOUSE AMONGST THE WILLOWS** by Robert Scott

26 Apr 23 - 29 Apr 23

New Stagers Theatre Company  
St Annes Church Hall SW18 2RS

[www.newstagers.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.newstagers.co.uk/whats-on)

**SWEENEY TODD** the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

10 May 23 - 14 May 23

Chesham Musical Theatre Company  
Elgiva Theatre HP5 1HR

Box Office: 01494 582900

[www.cheshammusicaltheatre.co.uk/future-productions.html](http://www.cheshammusicaltheatre.co.uk/future-productions.html)

**SHREK** the musical

23 May 23 - 27 May 23

West Wickham Operatic Society  
Churchill Theatre BR1 1HA  
Box Office: 020 32856000  
[www.wvos.online](http://www.wvos.online)

**THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE** by Martin McDonagh  
07 Jun 23 - 10 Jun 23  
Shinfield Players Theatre  
Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF  
[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)

**A BUNCH OF AMATEURS** by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman  
08 Jun 23 - 10 Jun 23  
Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)  
Lopping Hall IG10 4LF  
Box Office: 07552 736110  
[www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm](http://www.lads.org.uk/tickets.htm)

**ELF** the musical  
07 Nov 23 - 11 Nov 23  
St Albans Musical Theatre Company  
Alban Arena AL1 3LD  
Box Office: 01727 844488  
[www.samtc.org.uk](http://www.samtc.org.uk)

**Why not share news of your next production??**

#### TEMPLATE FOR WHAT'S ON SECTION

**NAME OF PRODUCTION (Calibri, 12 font, Bold, Caps)**

Date	(Calibri, 11 font)
Name of Society	(Calibri, 11 font)
Venue	(Calibri, 11 font)
Box Office number	(Calibri, 11 font)
Website	(Calibri, 11 font)

#### EXAMPLE

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**  
25 Sep 2012 - 29 Sep 2012  
Kettering & District Theatrical Society  
Lighthouse Theatre, NN15 6PB  
Box Office: 01536 414141  
[www.kitts.co.uk](http://www.kitts.co.uk)

**Please put your submissions in date order. You can submit as many as you like and they will be removed when the production has taken place. The fixture list also appears on the NODA London FB page and the NODA website. Contact Paul Holgate at [paul.holgate@noda.org.uk](mailto:paul.holgate@noda.org.uk)**

**Thank you – Ed.**

