



CURTAIN UP

the newsletter for

noda London

Be inspired by amateur theatre

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Winter 2023 issue



Welcome to the Winter issue of Curtain Up! – As Christmas approaches our Regional Representatives are being kept busy with pantomimes and seasonal productions. This is, generally, such a happy time of year (Oh yes it is!!) and all this is reflected in our very British tradition of pantomime. For children this is often their first experience of theatre so you have a huge responsibility to begin training the next generation to be Inspired by Amateur Theatre.

NODA Theatre Summer School launched on December 1st and there are still places available so please check out the website www.noda.org.uk to see the courses on offer this year – I promise you won't be disappointed.

And finally for this year everyone on the London Regional Committee sends warm wishes for a happy, and successful, 2024.

Jacquie Stedman – Editor

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Councillor's Update



So Christmas, once again, is almost upon us and, 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. It is a delight to have so much wonderful entertainment on offer, as well as our 'winter' season for main shows. I have found it uplifting to see societies getting into full swing and planning with confidence their programmes for the year - choosing from shows on offer from the rightsholders. I hope that you have all experienced success with your choice of shows this year, and that this will continue into 2024.

Season's Greetings to you all and good wishes for a very successful 2024 season.

Pam Armstrong, Regional Councillor, NODA London

District Round-up – News from around the Region

London District 1 – Matt Bentley

They tell me summer is a quiet time for most societies with autumn getting busier. It turns out the exact opposite was the case this year for District 1. June and July were unusually busy with an average of one production per week. Compare that with September and October, which averaged one every three weeks. Nevertheless, while the quantity has been low, the quality has been exceptionally high.

Geoids produced two musicals in less than two months. The delightfully quirky *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* featured some exceptional performances, and was a joy to see given how rarely it is able to be performed. *Spring Awakening* was an emotional roller-coaster with a stunning aesthetic and some extraordinary company numbers.

Sedos lovingly recreated the excellent movie *Clue* in an adaptation made for the stage, with plenty of theatrical innovations that kept the essence of the film and added plenty of fresh magic. This also included a live score created specifically for this production, which was an absolute treat.

Many thanks to Robin Kelly who stepped in to report on New Stagers' production of *The Ladykillers*, an adaptation of another iconic film. Robin had nothing but excellent things to say about this production and I was sorry to miss it. For the record, I was aboard the SS American, setting sail as Eli Whitney in Mayhem's production of *Anything Goes* - the unsinkable musical which contrasts beautifully with Sedos's production of *Titanic* which, at the time of writing, has just left port and I can't wait to see it.

Finally, I most recently saw Centre Stage's production of *Holiday Inn*. This was a joyous festive triumph and I was pleased to grin from start to finish. The talent on display here, both on and off stage, was abundant. The concept of the production, though, was strikingly simple showing that with a bit of creativity you can stage a big, bold show while remaining resourceful.

And so the end of year festivities are nearly upon us. After *Titanic* I will be attending a few pantos and then jetting home for a sunny Christmas period. Thank you so much to all the District 1 societies for an excellent year. Have a fantastic holiday and I can't wait to see what you have in store for us in 2024.

London District 2 – Mike Smith

Winter Draws on!!!

As the days get shorter and the evenings darker, nothing seems to dampen the enthusiasm of my groups in District 2.

Since our last round-up I have been treated to some excellent shows with some stand-out performances.

As I had hoped, Hillingdon Musical Society did not disappoint with their production of *Sister Act*. It was not only great fun, but it was also joyous and uplifting. Performed in the unusual setting of a very modern Baptist Church. (photo?)

Sister Act done and dusted; their members move straight into auditions for their next show – *Rock of Ages*.

Hot on the heels of their last show, 42nd Street, HEOS Musical Theatre are in the throws of Panto rehearsals – *Jack and the Beanstalk* – for their mid Christmas/New Year show on the 29th&30th

December in Greenford. A short break (I hope!) before rehearsals for their Spring production of 9 to 5. Busy Bees!!

GLOC celebrated the spooky season with an interim show – GLOC Busters! Performed at St Benedict's School in Ealing. It was billed as "a frightening musical romp through several mystical, spooky or just plain crazy musicals". A great way to enjoy Halloween.

2024 will see them performing Mel Brook's Young Frankenstein.

Julian Light Opera Society performed their annual show – this year it was Iolanthe. Although I was unable to attend, I understand it was a very successful production, much appreciated by all. Preparations are already in hand for 2024, when they will be performing Ruddigore at the Questors Theatre.

Something very different to end 2023 for Beaufort Players. An original interactive murder mystery experience – with food!! - and billed as "A Deadly Influence"

A unique murder mystery evening, following the action, deciphering the clues and interrogating the suspects. All this with a two-course dinner!

A home-grown script written by Thomas Cobb, the Players' Chairperson. I'm sure this will be a great production.

I must just mention how much I enjoyed my visit to Sunbury, District 3, to see Zodiac Musical Society perform Godspell. I'm certainly going to try and get to see their next show – "Holly Jolly Christmas".

Season's Greetings to all my friends in District 2 and the London Region. I hope you all have an enjoyable festive period and are not too exhausted from all your much appreciated performances.

London District 3

I deputised in District L03 on 14 October 2023 at HLO Musical Company's production of **THE GONDOLIERS**. It was a pleasure to cover and my thanks to Laurie for the invitation, their committee Chair, Elizabeth and her volunteers for their very warm welcome to Hampton Hill Theatre on the day and to John, for the quick backstage tour after the cast had cleared between shows. www.hlo.org.uk

I had a second opportunity to deputise in District L03 on Sunday 18 November 2023 for Carlton Theatre Group's production of **THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY**. The venue on this occasion was the Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre and my sincere thanks to Joseph's colleagues for their hospitality during my visit. www.carltontheatregroup.co.uk

While mentioning District L03, I would like to welcome their newly appointed Regional Representative, Stuart James, to our regional team. I look forward to meeting him in person.

District 1 rep Matt was blown away by the talent present in Cygnet Players' production of *Little Women*. This was a brave production that took a lot of risks, but which kept coming back to the core cast and their excellent interpretations of the classic characters. Matt is also very pleased to welcome Stuart to the team as the new District 3 rep, having known him since they were both directing theatre in Wellington, New Zealand about 15 years ago.

District 4 Representative Robin Kelly was fortunate in being able to report on the Barnes Community Players Alan Bennett double bill of Cocktail Sticks (before its visit to the Edinburgh Festival) and Two in Torquay, luxuriating in the fabulous Bennett dialogue. A more recent treat

(or trick?!) was a trip to the WLOS compilation show for Hallowe'en – "A Little Show of Horrors" which proved once again how much strength in depth exists in the society.

London District 4 – Robin Kelly.

With the summer now a distant memory, District 4 groups have been getting into their stride. Sadly, the one exception to this has been Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS) whose October production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was cancelled when the Orchard Theatre was discovered to be affected by RAAC. To be fair, Dartford Council swung into action very quickly, brought forward previously planned work and a temporary theatre is currently under construction – but will not be suitable for a major production, particularly one with a flying car. Meanwhile on the other side of the district, Bromley Council have decided to divest themselves of the responsibility for maintaining the Churchill Theatre, which happens to be the venue for West Wickham Operatic Society (WWOS) twice yearly productions. With the theatre now over fifty years old, a degree of TLC is required. Commercial operatives who it is proposed will take over have made assurances that the theatre will be maintained. However concerns remain as to how binding such assurances will be when the true cost of maintenance issues emerges.

Productions seen since the last District 4 Report have ranged from Carrie the Musical (Bromley Players) to the similarly bloody Lieutenant of Inishmore (Bob Hope Theatre). For lighter relief, there was The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale Castle (The Priory Players) and A Bunch of Amateurs (Eldorado Musical Productions). The Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford was a new venue for both me and Swanley Light Opera Group for Agatha Christie's The Hollow. In contrast, Erith Playhouse presented a moving production of Hamp, timing with Remembrance Day week.



District 4 societies such as WWOS, Bromley Players and Bob Hope Theatre have been devastated by the untimely death of Kemal Ibrahim as a result of post operative complications following brain surgery. Kemal was 2022 London Regional Winner of the Ken Wirndnam award for Best Male in a Musical for his portrayal of Lola in the WWOS production of Kinky Boots (a role he went on to reprise with COS Musical Theatre). A hugely talented actor, singer, director and choreographer, Kemal was smart, funny and, most importantly, immensely kind. At the time of writing, a GoFundMe page to finance a Celebration and Memorial had raised a staggering £13,375. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family and many friends. He was just 43. Kemal was in the process of directing the Bob Hope Theatre pantomime, a task made so much more daunting by being taken over by his great friend Mims Melville. The show must go on – which is exactly as Kemal would have wanted.

London District 5 – Phil Wilcox

Since my last round-up, I have been invited to see three varying productions. The first, a very entertaining original revue put on by Woodmansterne Operatic and Dramatic Society, *Diing Dong*, was written and directed by one of its many talented members, Deanne Weller.

Described as "a musical review about finding love", the show refreshingly mainly veered away from the "tried and trusted" material from the usual hackneyed shows. Instead, it included some very witty songs from the likes of *Heathers*, *Jekyll And Hyde*, *Schmigadoon*, *Bonnie And Clyde*, *First Date The Musical* and a showstopper performed by the director herself, *Screw Loose* from *Cry Baby*. This is a musical which I have to confess I had not previously come across.

Secondly, the ever-reliable Mayhem Theatre Company mounted a spectacular production of *Anything Goes*, with the usual line-up of gifted actors and singers, plus some top notch dancers.

Sadly, illness prevented me from attending CODA's version of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, featuring a mainly youthful cast. However, my colleague Robin Kelly kindly stepped in at the eleventh hour and has written a very comprehensive report.

Now, it almost time for my panto companies to "strut their stuff". Oh, yes it is!

London District 6 – Paul Daynes

This Autumn, District 6 audiences have been treated to some lesser-known plays, musicals and reviews. To start their centenary season, LADS performed *Time of My Life*, an Alan Ayckbourn play with many of his classic ingredients such as family feuds and time travel. Unusually perhaps this performance had two real life couples playing an engaged and a married couple on stage, which must have made learning lines more convenient.

Alan Ayckbourn has written and published eighty-nine plays but amateur companies tend to stick to the well-known top ten, so it was refreshing once again to see IODS's production of *Ten Times Table*. This is a funny and at times farcical play about a committee trying to organise a local pageant. The politics of the committee is well portrayed and then the re-enactment of the battle of the Pendon Twelve provides a lively ending.

The Woodhouse Players performed the four hander *Hello Goodbye* by Peter Souter, better known for radio shows. This clever comedy was last played in Hampstead in 2015 and the script was chased down by Director Neil Bird to bring it the Welsh Church Hall in Leytonstone. The play relies heavily on the two leads and, in Ashleigh Cole and Iain Prest, Woodhouse had two excellent actors which brought the pathos and comedy off the script and onto the stage.

Another gem was shined and displayed by HMM for their version of *Play On!* by Rick Abbott. If any group is looking for a new comedy, I would recommend *Play On!* Written for 7 women and 3 men it's a very funny and accessible play showing the rehearsals and performance of a mystery play. It has a nod to *The Play that Goes Wrong* but with a proper plot and relationships that hold the piece together.

WP Drama's November production was the better-known *Ladies' Day* by Amanda Whittington, which provides four fantastic comic parts for women and a handful of cameos for men. When the Hull fish packers decide to have a day at the races, they are exposed to an unfamiliar environment that unravels some long-held secrets. Paula Brett Harris directed this super play with some fine acting that provided a great night at the theatre.

Theydon Bois Drama Society went to the other end of the continuum with the instantly recognisable *The Vicar of Dibley* that brought in a sell-out run of three nights. The familiar characters were well impersonated and the laugh out loud moments rolled along continuously.

On the musical front we have had CADOS with *Betty Blue Eyes* and Forest Musical Theatre Company with *Seussical*. Based on Alan Bennett's *A Private Function*, *Betty Blue Eyes* takes us back to post war rationing and a style of 1940s' songs to match. A large cast filled Mornington Hall with song and dance but the star of the show was Betty, a sizeable puppet Pig designed and made superbly by CADOS member David Pinnell. Any company thinking of performing this show

would do well to contact CADOS re Betty. David has submitted an article about Bettys creation later in this edition.

Seussical is one of the most frequently performed shows in the USA but is less often seen in London. Forest Musical Theatre Company returned to Ilford's Kenneth More Theatre for a fabulously colourful and energetic production of the Dr Suess inspired musical. Bizarre characters meet in strange lands and enact the peculiar story. Wonderful performances provided a high-quality show with a many excellent singers.

Songs from the shows were presented in HMM's Come to the Cabaret and LOS's Truesical which used musicals based on true stories to theme a wonderful evening's entertainment at Lopping Hall in Loughton.

And Finally...

The Renegades Theatre Company had a well deserved festival win in the final of Short+Sweet Essex in September. They won the People's choice for Best Production for The Home Furnishings Department written by Renegade member William Patterson and featuring Tim Murphy and Craig Witney. Many congratulations.

London District 7 – Thomas Lennon

I'm delighted to say the past few months have been busy.

On the weekend of 15 September 2023 to 17 September 2023, I had the opportunity to attend my first NODA AGM & Presidential Gala, held at the Preston Marriott Hotel, the highlight of which was the inauguration of our new NODA President, Christine Hunter Hughes (NODA NW) and Vice President, Graham Liverton (NODA SW). It was a great opportunity to socialise with regional colleagues and to network with some representatives from the other regions around the country. It also afforded me the opportunity to reconnect with some old colleagues, the President of AIMS, Feargal Cavanagh and his wife Annette. An eventful weekend.

Next, I had a return visit to Wylyotts Theatre on Friday 20 October 2023 for the ELODS production of **SINGIN' IN THE RAIN** where an evening of song and dance was well received by a near capacity audience. Since then, they have had their AGM on Tuesday 31 October 2023 and I would like to extend my best wishes to their incoming committee for the year ahead. Following their recent Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, they are already busy preparing for their next production, **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** - The Musical, to be performed at Wylyotts Theatre from 23 April 2024 to 27 April 2024. www.elods.org.uk

For my second outing of the month, on Friday 27 October 2023, I found myself in Harley Hall for Mill Hill Musical Theatre Company's production of Dolly Parton's **9 TO 5 - The Musical**. They had a very supportive full house on the evening and it was great to finally put faces with names for some of the MHMTC committee and membership. I look forward to making a return visit in the not-too-distant future. Their next event will be their Patrons' Party in March 2024 to begin the celebrations for their Platinum Jubilee. www.mhmtc.co.uk

My only West End outing for October was to see the new musical, **THE TIME TRAVELLER'S WIFE** at the Apollo Theatre. The extremely effective use of projections throughout the show made this a very memorable production. Well worth the trip!

As you know, I regularly advocate the support of neighbouring societies in the surrounding districts. I had therefore booked to attend a production of Irving Berlin's **HOLIDAY INN** by Green Room Productions, District L10, at Wylyotts Theatre on 04 November 2023. Regrettably, on the day, travel restrictions prevented me from getting there however, from the feedback I saw online it was very well received by their audiences. I'm sorry I missed it however, I will endeavour to catch

their next production, **BEAUTIFUL - The Carole King Musical**, in May 2024. www.greenroomproductions.co.uk

Back in my own district, on Sunday 12 November 2023, my next trip was to Jacksons Lane Theatre for HGO's production of the fairy tale opera **HÄNSEL UND GRETEL** by Engelbert Humperdinck. Some introductions were required on this, my first official visit to this company, though I had previously attended their production of **AGRIPPINA** in May. Thank you to David for his hospitality on the day. Obviously the '*opera of choice*' this year, as in my research it has already featured at Opera Holland Park and is scheduled for both Scottish Opera and Royal Opera House in the coming months. www.hgo.org.uk

A pre-December treat of a mid-month matinee in the West End to see **Stephen Sondheim's OLD FRIENDS** at the Gielgud Theatre helped to recharge the batteries ahead of the second half of a busy month on the amateur circuit. A smorgasbord of Sondheim was just the tonic.

My second planned trip to a neighbouring society was to our friends at SEDOS in District L01 for their production of **TITANIC - The Musical** at Bridewell Theatre on Saturday 25 November 2023. A particular favourite of mine musically, with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, it captures the triumph and tragedy of the hopeful passengers on the ill-fated Ship of Dreams. The society provide a wide range of plays and musicals annually which generally guarantees at least one trip to The Bridewell in my musical calendar. www.sedos.co.uk

A cheeky last-minute addition to the diary was a trip to Riverside Studios to see **FLOWERS FOR MRS HARRIS** before the end of its run. Well, you can't have an opinion if you haven't seen the production - it must be done. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Regrettably, I didn't get a chance to attend Garden Suburb Theatre's production of **MURDER WITH GHOSTS** in mid-October however, I understand it was well supported and received by their patrons. I have since then attended their production of **WYRD SISTERS** on Sunday 26 November 2023 performed Upstairs At The Gatehouse, a different location from my original visit with them in July. They have the most hectic schedule of all the groups within the district so they will keep me on my toes. www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk

In the latest e-mail correspondence from Wonder Theatre Training Academy, Joanne advised that they recently returned from a visit to Disneyland Paris with a group of 19 children who had the honour of performing on the main stage. She confirmed a memorable time was had by everyone involved. Additionally, she has informed me that following their season auditions, they now have both a junior group and a senior group who are currently working every Saturday with the focus being on forthcoming auditions and performances. She advised that their website is undergoing a redesign process and may not currently be accessible. www.wondertheatrettrainingacademy.co.uk

Following their AGM in July, I understand that exciting things have been happening behind the scenes at Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society. Their committee have been considering several options to enable the group to move forward. By the time we go to print, they will have had their **Christmas Get Together** on Wednesday 06 December 2023 at which they will update their membership on their plans. We can't wait to hear what is next from them. www.ffbos.com

Finally, as always, I will reiterate, if you haven't already requested an attendance for your next society production or indeed any society event, please do so at the earliest possible opportunity. I look forward to meeting more of you during those visits.

Here's to a truly prosperous 2024 for everyone.

London District 8 Report - Tony Austin

Our District has seen an unusual (and spectacularly successful) collaboration between our **Argosy Players** and District 9's **WOS (formerly Wembley OS)** for *The Wizard of Oz* at our local Theatre, the Winston Churchill in Ruislip where both societies normally play. The societies' collaboration was immaculate. But their requests for a joint report from Carole and myself had to be abandoned when our styles of report proved incompatible (we don't usually see the reports other reps write about their own societies, although Carole has done quite a few for me over the years). However, we agreed on the excellence of the evening and look forward to seeing their next separate productions.

Other things which will be over before you read this are **Ruislip OS's** last celebration of its Centenary with *White Christmas* and productions by the two societies with Centenaries in 2024, **Proscenium** with *Ladies' Day*, hugely publicised already on Facebook where they are also promising a big scale *Julius Caesar* for March, and *Ruislip DS* just going into Alan Bennett's *Habeas Corpus*, at which I hope to learn more about their plans for next year. **Ricky Players' Kipps** and **Bishopshalt School's School of Rock** (with the cast playing their instruments on stage) will keep me on my toes until 2024, when **Harefield ADS's** postponed home scripted *1940 That Glorious Summer* will slot in just before my Panto Season with **Arrow Players' Red Riding Hood** and **Argosy's Cinderella** sharing some dates.

London District 9 – Carole Baynes

District 9 companies have been busy over the past three months presenting some great entertainment. The Chameleons ADS have been in rehearsal for their up-coming pantomime "Dick Whittington" which plays next month. This will be performed at a different venue (The Church of the Ascension) but remaining in the Wembley district, with Rachel Spolander - one of their leading actresses, at the helm. After the expense of the full scale large cast musical "Sister Act" last spring KLOS decided on a smaller cast musical "Bad Girls - The Musical". Based on the television series, this was in fact totally new to me but was most entertaining and quite inspirational. KLOS found a strong cast of female inmates and the story was cleverly told in music. The following week at Winston Churchill Theatre WOS Productions joined forces with Argosy Players to present the wonderful ever popular "The Wizard of Oz". This was a fantastic show with the large cast being cleverly employed - certainly "The Wizard of Oz" stands the tests of time very well. In the spring 2024, WOS plan to perform a selection of songs that they would not normally have the opportunity to perform. Aptly entitled "Show Offs: Our Musical Daydreams", this should be a wonderful evening's entertainment in cabaret style at the smaller venue Ickenham Village Hall. Pump House Theatre Company presented the black comedy "Hangmen" in September in which top hangmen of the period discuss how they adjust to life after the abolition of hanging and their attitudes towards past miscarriages of justice. It was strangely entertaining. They have quickly followed this with another play relating to miscarriages of justice but this time during wartime (WW1). This play is based on Michael Morpurgo's story "Private Peaceful" -and PHTC presented the version dramatised for one actor. It played, most pertinently, during Remembrance week, a play that had been much appreciated on social media.

District 10 – Iain Fowles

It's been a really busy Autumn/Winter season, with some fabulous shows, and as always exceptional talent on display.

I have seen some wonderful productions, some highlights include: -

Belmont Theatre

An excellent presentation of a little known Agatha Christie play – Verdict. Well worth considering if your audiences like Agatha Christie.

Potters Bar Theatre Company

Two great productions this season – The perennial favourite ‘Allo, ‘Allo, just hilarious and a wonderfully clever interpretation of Sondheim’s Company.

Kings Langley Players

A very clever in-house production entitled The Darkest Hour – ghostly tales with an unexpected twist, together with a complete contrast of Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood – a traditional family pantomime – my first of the season and really put me in the festive mood.

Green Room

A colourful, well-acted and choreographed production of Holiday Inn– Green Room continue to keep the standard of amateur theatre at the highest level and strive to push boundaries.

St Albans Musical Theatre Company

A stunning visual production of Elf – The Musical. The amazing video set and colourful costumes really boosted this production.

Centralian Players

A good presentation of the comedy A Bunch Of Amateurs – well acted, with some lovely comedy moments.

Radlett Musical Theatre Company

A production of Legally Blonde, showcasing the wonderful talent that Radlett are lucky to call their membership.

Abbots Langley Players

A double bill of two one act plays – Murder in Little Grimley and Old Folk – a great choice of plays for their cast and venue.

Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company

My own company have been busy with our annual pantomime – Dick Whittington. Over a run of 12 performances, we included two BSL interpreted performances, a relaxed performance and an adult only evening – no guess that the adult performance went down very well with cast and audience.



It just leaves me to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If there is anything that I can help with, please do get in touch ian.fowles@noda.org.uk

Look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

District 11 and 11a – Judith Watsham

Nearly everyone seems to be gearing up for pantomime as I write this - so best wishes to all who are currently rehearsing!

I am very sorry to report that two long and well established groups, one a NODA member, the other a lapsed member, have had to shut their doors. Amersham Playgoers, who had been running for over 75 years, found it impossible to continue, due in part to problems with their revamped Community Hall which has proved unsuitable for dramatic performances. Lockdown played its part too with younger members no longer prepared to give time for free to running the group. They will be sadly missed in the area. The other group, Beaconsfield Theatre Group, I understand, has had similar problems with membership issues.

Rumours abound that one of the much used local theatrical venues may not be available from 2024 which will be a great loss to the area.

On a much brighter note I have seen some excellent, and theatrically challenging performances in the Districts this autumn both dramatic and musical including Shakespeare's 'Scottish play' from Berkhamsted Theatre Company which was billed as *Macbeth, as you have never seen it*. Certainly the idea of setting it in a jazz club with the witches as jazz singers singing as a pre-show entertainment and also during the interval was very different! Also, Lane End Players' *Confusions* was superbly staged 'in the thrust' both artistically and visually.

Keep up the good work!

London District 12 – Andrew Walter

The breadth and depth of the productions staged in District 12 continues to impress and entertain in roughly equal measure. As 2023 draws to a close the pantomime season is almost upon us, and the first seasonal offering is Banbury Cross Players' production of "Cinderella" at The Mill Arts Centre, which opened on 23rd November. This will be the first occasion I have reported on the Banbury Cross Players, and I am very much looking forward to it. There are now only one or two groups in the district that I have not reported on, despite my very best efforts to establish contact: if you are one of these then please email me at andrew.walter@noda.org.uk.

The pantomime season continued with The Thame Players' production of "Aladdin", opening on 1st December; The Sinodun Players' presentation of "The Adventures of Sinbad", opening on 12th January, and Faringdon Dramatic Society's staging of "The Ruby Slippers", opening on 26th January. At least a couple of these pantomimes have been written by Society members, so I was looking forward to plenty of local references and humour. Other genres haven't been completely squeezed out of the picture in the next couple of months: The Bartholomew Players' production of Sandi Toksvig's "Silver Lining" opened on 29th November, and Avocet Theatre Company staged an ambitious programme of work – TheatreFest Banbury – from 6th December. As well as a "play-that-goes-wrong" style version of the Nativity, a showcase for local talent and the teen edition of "Six", the group is offering an inclusive workshop, "Embrace The Stage", which hopes to draw in people who may have thought that the theatre wasn't for them.

Young People with an interest in theatre are particularly well served in North Oxfordshire; apart from Avocet Theatre Company, Odyssey Theatrical Productions runs two groups for younger people, and the Juniors will be staging "The Wind in the Willows" from 11th February. Youth of Banbury Operatic Society, winners of the Youngstars award in 2022, have lined up "School of Rock" as their show-in-a-week in the summer, while a bit further south the Musical Youth Company of Oxford will return to the Oxford Playhouse with a staging of "Me and My Girl" in the spring.

Amongst the plays lined up for early 2024 are The Thame Players' production of "Barefoot in the Park", opening 5th March, and Banbury Cross Players' presentation of "Our Country's Good", opening 21st March. Forthcoming musicals include Abingdon Operatic Society's staging of "9 to 5" (from 9th April), following their ambitious and entertaining production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" this autumn, and Banbury Operatic Society's presentation of "Calamity Jane", which I

expect will present significantly different challenges to their recent powerful production of “Kinky Boots”.

Finally, please forgive me for mentioning Oxford Operatic Society’s forthcoming production of “Oliver!”, which opens at The New Theatre in Oxford on 30th January. This new version of Lionel Bart’s classic show was developed for the West End stage about fourteen years ago, and is pure musical entertainment. With 52 adults and 56 children (divided into two teams) in the cast, not to mention the dozens of people involved in the production team and the hundreds ferrying young people to and from rehearsals, it has been a massive effort, as well as an immense privilege, to stage. After almost three years reporting on your productions, I am looking forward to receiving your feedback about this one!

London District 13 – Cate Naylor

The autumn season in District 13 has been very busy and I’ve seen so many good productions with a lovely mix of plays and musicals. I continue to be impressed by both by the quality of performances and the feeling of camaraderie in the societies as they bring their shows to the stage, and I am so grateful for the wonderful welcome I receive as I travel to different societies.

I began the new season in September at Progress Theatre for the play ‘The Effect’ in which scientific research and human impulse are explored. This clever play was brilliantly acted by just four actors who gelled together to deliver the play which challenges many of our perceptions about mental health and the nature and nurture of relationships. This was followed by a return trip to Crowthorne Musical Players on behalf of Nick Humby for their show ‘One Enchanted Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein’ where I was treated to a wonderful mixture of musical theatre songs from this wonderful writing duo. The evening was full of joy and great singing performances.

October brought with it a very busy month of productions with a great mixture of musical and plays. I began by joining Aldermaston Players for three one act plays; ‘Murder Play’, ‘The Rats’ and ‘Bang You’re Dead’ Presented under the umbrella title of ‘Consequences’. All three plays worked well together, combining intrigue, dark humour, good acting and twists and turns galore. Next, I was with Twyford and Ruscombe Theatrical Society, this time for two contrasting one act plays; ‘The Monkey’s Paw’ a haunting tale of the supernatural and ‘Little Grimley presents Strictly X-Factor on Ice’ an hilarious romp with Gordon and Friends. Both casts captured the essence of their plays to deliver two very different but entertaining performances. With a change of genre, I went to Newbury for NOMAD’s annual musical theatre production joining them for a brilliant performance of ‘Shrek’. This huge cast gave one hundred percent with great singing performances, energetic dancing and perfect characterisations.

This was followed by another musical, this time at Shinfield Players Theatre. Having been delayed twice due to Covid and then Storm Eunice and with a change of cast, Betty Blue Eyes finally made it to the stage, although not without a further challenge, having to cancel one performance due to sickness. The cast gave it their all, with some great performances and huge camaraderie which was evident throughout. This was my last review for SPT as they have now moved into District 14. Thank you for welcoming me over the last two years and I know that you will be well supported by Nick Humby going forward.

My next show was Henley Players’ production of ‘A Bunch of Amateurs’ a brilliantly funny play. All the cast acted their hearts out with natural characterisation, which was never contrived or farcical. I then joined Starmaker one of my youth groups for their energetic performance of ‘Cry

Baby'. I am always amazed by the talent in this youth group, and it is a joy to watch the youngsters grow in confidence and performance as they experience performing live on stage.

At the end of October, I was treated to two more plays and a musical. First up was 'And Then There Were None' from Mortimer Dramatic Society. This is such a good Agatha Christie murder mystery, and the society developed their characters very well working together to unravel the mystery of Soldier Island. This was followed by a tremendous production of 'The Addams Family' from The Sainsbury Singers. Everyone in the cast worked brilliantly together with great performances from the principals and ensemble alike. The singing was of very high quality and the characterisation perfect for the iconic Addams Family. My last production for October was 'Death and the Maiden' a dark play which mixes politics, psychology and brutality into the story. Dark though the subject matter, the play was brilliantly directed and performed by just three actors leaving me with lots to think about on the way home.

After a quiet November coming up, I am looking forward to Decembers' productions and to panto season starting. District 13 continues to be very active in theatre productions and I am so lucky to be able to enjoy so many of them, thank you!

London District 14 – Nick Humby

Recent Productions

A quieter period with only four shows to report on before the Christmas season begins. Venue and financial pressures continue to stretch societies but on my recent visits audiences and cast membership seems to be on the rise which is positive sign.

Quince Players' Battle of the Age Bands allowed the cast to throw themselves with bags of energy and a patently obvious sense of enjoyment into the eclectic mix of music, sketches, and monologues. It provides an opportunity to showcase the younger society members outside of the annual pantomime and the individual talents of different members as they play multiple roles in the sketches some of which were written by members.

Stage to screen from EBOS at their Pinewood Theatre was like one of those sampler records that showcased a mix of songs from twenty-two musicals from the 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein hit, *The King and I* to the 2017 Tom McRae show *Everybody talking about Jamie* and might have been called "Now that's what I call ... musical theatre 22 ". It is an interesting and varied selection of songs which showcased the talents of the fourteen singers.

Young Frankenstein from **MMCS** at The Kenton Theatre in Henley provided show stopping opportunities that brought a smile to all the audience and were delivered with excellent routines for the *Brain*, *Please don't touch me*, *It could work*, *Transylvania Mania* and *Putting on the ritz* . The combination of strong casting, good staging, and attractive choreography together with an excellent musical execution makes for a first-class fun production for cast and audience.



EBOS's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was a wonderful showcase for the children with huge roles for Jeremy and Jemima and a Junior and children's Ensemble for the army of displaced kids who rally to Potts's call to assault the Palace who at times out shone the principals with their confident and charming performances. The strong relationship between the two children and their father Caractacus Potts, and Truly Scrumptious is crucial and the EBOS team delivered with a delightful believable quartet, especially in the wonderful

Truly Scrumptious and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* songs which closed Act 1. Wonderful that both the National President and London Chair supported this show.

Coming up

In November, **Maidenhead Operatic Society** presented the G & S The Sorcerer and **Shinfield Players**, now transferred to District 14, are staging The Tempest .

The first two pantomimes are **CATS's** Snow White in Crowthorne while **Riverside player** presented Old Mother Hubbard in Windsor.

In December **CAST** stage Rapunzel and **MDG** Snow Queen in Holyport .

In January **Quince Players** present Ba Ba Land in Sunninghill , **Shinfield Players** Rapunzel at their own venue in Reading before **Wraybury Players** present Jack and the Beanstalk.

Welcome Stuart James - Regional Representative for L03



New Zealand born Stuart is a queer identifying actor, director and reviewer working predominantly in musical theatre with a passion for authentic storytelling, reimagined classics and queer representation within theatre.

Stuart studied at the National Academy of Singing and Drama Arts (NASDA) and his professional acting credits include roles in television's *The Strip*, *Seven Periods with Mr. Gormsby* and UK-Hit *The Tribe* as well as on stage as Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Mark in *Rent* and Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* among others. He owned and operated his own theatre company *Speakeasy Theatre Ltd.* that saw multiple hit productions and conceptualised a Beatles concert production that has now played around the world. Moving to the UK in 2014, Stuart joined *Centre Stage London* in 2016 and directed their sell-out productions of *Fame: The Musical* and *Grease The Musical*. Recently Stuart directed the four star production of cult favourite *The Toxic Avenger The Musical* for *Festoon Theatre Company*. This production was voted best amateur production of 2022 by *MusicalTheatreMusings*. Other directing credits include *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Jonathan Larson's Rent*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (twice) and *Love Happens Here: AN LGBTQIA+ Cabaret* among others. He is a West End critic, reviewing for *West End Wilma* and directs for various professional and amateur companies around London.

Follow Stuart on social media @stuartjamesnz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELODS!



In 1953, a group of like-minded friends got together to celebrate their love of theatre, music and performing. Initially known as *The Wheatsheaf Players*, the society's first contribution to the local theatre scene was Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. The name was soon changed to *Enfield Light Operatic and Dramatic Society*. Throughout the 50s and 60s, there was a varied

programme of G & S and Light Opera classics until the society took on the challenge of producing more modern musicals, starting with *The Gypsy Baron* in 1961. These days we tend to just call ourselves ELODS, as we don't currently put on plays or operas!

In the early days, ELODS performed at the much-loved Intimate Theatre in Palmers Green, working in a theatre with an incredible history. Members recall the joys of cramped dressing rooms down steep stairs, applying make-up beneath the stage and, of course, braving the elements by running outside to make an entrance stage right!

1989 saw the company move to the Millfield Theatre - a brand new custom-built theatre, complete with portacabins in the car park for chorus dressing rooms - there only being three principal-sized dressing rooms within the theatre itself. Oh, how we miss those cold rainy nights in November running from the portacabins to the stage door! Thankfully further dressing rooms were forthcoming - LUXURY! But still we had our 'experiences' - not least the time that a runaway bed, complete with its three occupants, ended up with one corner in the orchestra pit! Thanks to the support of the member of the orchestra who valiantly shoved the bed back on stage, the only injury we sustained was a slightly crumpled trombone!

In 2005, ELODS moved to their current home at the Wylllyotts Theatre in Potters Bar, and today we are proud to be part of the thriving Amateur Theatre scene in the area.

For 35 years (half of ELODS' lifetime) we have been privileged to work under the baton of our resident MD, Mark Newport, whose prodigious skill and endless patience brings the very best from everyone involved. Thanks to his ministrations, and those of countless other talented creatives we have worked with over the years, ELODS is much greater than the sum of its parts. Friendship has always been at the heart of ELODS – a group of friends who put on shows together. As we move into our eighth decade ELODS is going strong!

To honour everything that ELODS is and rejoice in its longevity, a platinum jubilee party was celebrated in the auditorium of our home theatre- the Wylllyotts on September the 9th. The event was very well attended by ELODS' members, both old and new and some friends of the society too. The entertainment was top notch, which is only to be expected by a group with talent in abundance!

An unexpected highlight of the evening was a presentation of an award for 70 years' service to the arts by NODA London Regional Councillor Pam Armstrong.



We now look forward to our future and continuing to bring North London the very finest in amateur musical theatre!

Congratulations to ELODS on your Platinum celebrations....here's to the next 70 years. Ed.

Giving New Writers a Chance!!!



In a corner of east London, members of CADOS (www.cados.org) have formed a new writing group. Along with actors and music makers, the writers are adding another element to the great community theatre presented at Mornington Hall in Chingford

The group originally came together to stage *Creative Streak*, a set of short plays performed as part of the 2022-23 season. Members also credit a devised piece, *The Party* as having sparked their interest in writing –

improvised sessions were held during the development of the show and this started conversations! *Creative Streak* was different to the usual repertoire, since any member of CADOS could submit a piece of writing. Eight short plays were chosen for performance. Along with writers, new directors were also given a chance to try out their skills. It was an ambitious project to coordinate, but provided a rich and entertaining run in May 2023. Styles ranged from the Pinteresque to family drama and farce, with subjects covering regrets about the past, the desire for personal freedom, how learning to dance can change your life and the misunderstanding of basic language!

Now the writers had got the bug, but what to do next? The group decided to continue the Victorian tradition of gathering together on winter evenings to tell spooky stories. The latest venture was a one-off evening of *Ghostly Tales* which took place on 2 December to fundraise for Mornington Hall. Each story was different: the ghosts were good spirits, or vengeful or funny, but there were threads of connections running throughout: some of the writers had revisited aspects of their pieces in *Creative Streak*. These new stories embraced melodrama, romance and comedy in a monologue about a mother, a tale of a Caribbean jumbie (a mythological spirit or demon) or a friendship tested to the limits during a dare. The evening was experimental; the pieces were read aloud from scripts, the first rehearsed reading the group had done.

Talking to some of the writers at a recent meeting, it's clear the opportunity to provide new material for the company was greatly valued, and enabled them to explore and develop their creative abilities beyond acting. One writer felt it helped deepen her skills as a performer, as she's interested in all aspects of theatre: acting, writing and directing. Another added that members could experiment with their plays, and others agreed that the group's strength was its diverse writing in different genres.

In the last few years, CADOS has expanded its membership. The addition of an in-house writing group, with the ability to commission and produce original work can only help it grow further. To misquote an old saying, at CADOS, we think everyone has a play in them!

100 Years Oldand still going strong



This year marks a monumental new chapter for Ruislip Operatic Society (ROS) as they mark their 100th anniversary. Founded the same year as the likes of Disney, Time Magazine and Warner Brothers, the idea for a musical society in Ruislip was proposed at a public meeting on 17th December 1923. After much discussion, the Society was born.

The founding members soon began building the structure of the group - building up their collective repertoire and enlisting volunteers to join their growing list of members - laying the foundations for what it would eventually become.

April 1925 marked a momentous occasion, as the society made its first ever public performance with a concert version of *Merrie England*. The handbills advertising the show stated that the Society *"had spared no pains to do justice to the Opera and hopes it will be the first of many successes."*

In 1939, despite the outbreak of World War 2, ROS made the decision to carry on. With the exception of 2020/21 due to the pandemic, ROS are proud to have put together at least one production per year since 1925 - producing over 130 live theatrical experiences including musicals, operas, plays and concerts to date.

Flash forward to the swinging sixties and ROS had firmly cemented their place amongst the heart of the local community. In 1965, ROS performed at the Winston Churchill Theatre's inaugural launch plus produced the first full show at the venue. This remains the home of Ruislip Operatic Society to this day.

At the start of the new millennium ROS founded ROS Stageworks - a weekly theatre workshop for children aged 6 to 18. Led by Annie Hertler Smith with a talented team of volunteers (*largely composed of ROS members*), the programme was designed to introduce local kids to the world of musical theatre in an inspiring and educational way, helping students to reach their fullest potential and develop their skills. ROS Stageworks Summer School, an annual week-long musical theatre experience for young people, was also launched a few years later.

Alongside talented performers, ROS members are involved in all areas of live theatre including set design/construction - led by Vice President Alan Bailey and his Alphabet Gang. One of the most memorable was the design for *Blitz!* In 2010. This involved constructing a wall that could be blown up every night and reconstructed for the next evening's performance. The set won the Shinfield Players Scenery award that year.

ROS is proud to have won NODA awards for scenery, programme and poster design and chorus work showing they are an all-round society.

The group kicked off 2023 with their highly anticipated production of Gershwin's award winning show *Crazy For You*. Continuing the celebratory spirit, ROS held their Centenary Anniversary Dinner Dance in July, welcoming over 100 guests including members past and present, NODA representatives and more. NODA Regional Councillor, Pam Armstrong commented out *"My heartfelt congratulations to ROS on achieving such a notable milestone. It was such a pleasure for me to celebrate with ROS your 100th Anniversary and the manner in which you made me feel part of you, by the welcoming warmth of your greeting was so much appreciated."*

The beginning of September marked an exciting new chapter with the launch of ROS's brand new website - www.rosboxoffice.co.uk. This coincided with the release of their limited edition 100 Year merchandise.

Closing the year in spectacular style, Ruislip Operatic Society's next production will be the spectacular *White Christmas the Musical*, performing at the Winston Churchill Theatre from 29th November to 2nd

December 2023. This includes one BSL performance, helping to make the magic of live theatre even more accessible to all.

There are thousands of incredibly talented individuals who have worked with Ruislip Operatic Society across the years, many of whom have had a lasting effect on the group. There are certainly far too many people to list individually. As we reflect on the past, we look forward to ROS's future - continuing to entertain audiences for many more years to come.

Congratulations on reaching the grand age of 100 and providing your audiences with superb entertainment over the years. Ed.



**BYT IMPROVISATION
THEATRE**

BYT Theatre c/o: 45 Killyon Road, London, SW8 2XS
Ed Cottrell (Director) 07976 718142
Haris Shah (Secretary) 07725 914454
Email: byt@hotmail.co.uk



PRESS RELEASE - END OF YEAR SHOW

NEW YEAR REVOLUTION

WORLD UNITES

TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

(Fat Chance)

This is BYT's 150th show works have included various exclamatory looks at the last 7 years of political chaos, but, before that subjects included News of The World scandals, technology taking over and the role of women.

Since 1971 the shows have been based on Improvisations which had been driven by different approaches.

For the first 25 years subjects were workshops until a basic structure and form were created, but, performers were encouraged to make changes even on performance. Subsequently the scope of improvisation has been freed and freed. So now "New Year Revolution" will consist of planning and trying different procedures so that performers have experience and confidence about ways to perform. To keep things fresh and the company on its toes the audience are often asked to initiate a scene with choice of performer or stimulus.

BYT has twice represented the UK at Cairo International Festival of Experimental Theatre. BYT has created 2 commissions for The Royal Botanical Gardens and performed at 7 Edinburgh Festivals and in France. Ed Cottrell was the first Director and after 52 years is still.

On - Thursday 28th, Friday 29th December 2023

At - 8pm

In - Castelnau Community Centre, 7 Shillingfleet Road, Barnes SW13 9AQ

Tickets - £10 Concessions £5 from Director Ed Cottrell 07976 718142 or on the

Programme and Poster Competition 2024

The competition's purpose is to encourage the highest standards in programme and poster design. Entries for the current competition have been arriving all year. Please remember that your entries must be received by me on or before the 31 January 2024. If you have not entered before then this year is an ideal opportunity.

Programmes or posters from any shows that took place between 1 January and 31 December 2023 are eligible for the competition.

To enter, you must send five copies of each programme or poster, together with the correct entry form.

Further details with links to the entry forms is here

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

Submitted programmes and posters must all have the NODA Logo with the strapline "Be inspired by amateur theatre". This is a condition of entry.

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.

You may submit electronic copies of posters. Files must be a maximum of 5MB. Posters submitted electronically will be printed at A4 size for judging.

The winners for the NODA London Region will be announced as part of the 2024 Regional Awards and the winners will then be 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>

Paul M Holgate

Chair of Programme and Poster Judging Panel

Making Betty



My offer to make the puppet of Betty the pig for (CADOS) Chingford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society's 2023 production of *Betty Blue Eyes*, was a much bigger task than I had initially imagined. I had a clear image of what I wanted to create. I am commercial artist and I have always loved making things. I spoke to our artistic director Judith Jackson and she was open to me having a bash at making a Betty puppet. She gave me four requirements. The controls for the puppet had to be recessed within the body of the puppet, nothing sticking out. It had to be strong enough to take the punishment of regular performances. The puppet had to be able to sit up on its own, and finally it needed to be "big". All versions of the pig seemed to be on the small side, considering that according to the script it had to feed 150 people. I resolved to make a full-size adult pig.

I made Betty from cardboard, PVA / papier-mâché and doweling. Roughing out her initial shape with cardboard boxes, I realised Waltham Forest municipal recycling bins were the perfect template for her basic shape. During her construction I took Betty to rehearsals, working with Nicole Constantinou the puppeteer to develop how the puppet worked. Being made from paper and cardboard Betty is light enough to be controlled by a single operator. Her physical size became truly apparent when I attached her legs for the first time, prompting the nickname 'pigzilla'. Her legs are articulated, she can kneel curtsy and, sitting on her rump with her front legs locked out, she can sit upright. Betty's ears are on springs which allows them to have a pleasing bounce when she is moving.

The biggest challenges making Betty was her size and the effect that had on drying time for PVA papier-mâché. Betty is now part of the CADOS props archive in case anyone needs her again.

David Pinnell

If you are interested in hiring/using Betty please contact cadoschingford@gmail.com

LONDON REGION WHAT'S ON

We are very happy to advertise your productions under our What's On section below. It acts as another form of advertising and is completely free of charge. Please make use of this and let other London societies know how vibrant the region is.

TERRY PRATCHET'S HOGFATHER adapted by Stephen Briggs

07 Dec 23 - 16 Dec 23

Progress Theatre

Progress Theatre RG1 5HL

www.ticketsource.co.uk/progresstheatre/hogfather/e-mmoqqm

ALICE IN PANTOLAND

13 Dec 23 - 16 Dec 23

Putney Light Operatic Society

Arthur Cotterell Theatre KT1 2AQ

www.ticketsource.co.uk/plos

ROBIN HOOD

14 Dec 23 - 16 Dec 23

The Quay Players

Greenwood Theatre SE1 3RA

<https://quayplayers.org.uk/tickets/>

HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS seasonal entertainment

15 Dec 23 - 16 Dec 23

Zodiac Musical Society

Riverside Arts Centre TW16 5QF

Box Office: 01932 220167

www.zodiacmusicalsociety.org/upcoming-events.html

THE SNOW QUEEN

13 Dec 23 - 17 Dec 23

Maidenhead Drama Guild

Holyport Memorial Hall SL6 2NA

www.maidenhead-drama.org.uk/

DICK WHITTINGTON

16 Dec 23 - 17 Dec 23

The Chameleons Amateur Dramatic Society

Church of the Ascension Hall HA9 9QL

www.thechameleons.co.uk/tickets/

CINDERELLA

21 Dec 23 - 24 Dec 23

The Young Theatre

Curzon Centre HP9 1RG

<https://ytbeaconsfield.org.uk/BoxOffice>

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

29 Dec 23 - 30 Dec 23

HEOS Musical Theatre

Greenford Hall UB6 9QN

Box Office: 07727 448 760

www.heos.org.uk

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

04 Jan 24 - 06 Jan 24

Parish Players

St Marys Parish Hall SW19 3HJ

www.parishplayers.net/jack-and-the-beanstalk

DICK WHITTINGTON

06 Jan 24 - 13 Jan 24

Sanderstead Dramatic Club

All Saints Parish Hall CR2 9AB

Box Office: 07902 480327

www.sdclub.org.uk/box-office/

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN

01 Jan 24 - 14 Jan 24

Woodford Pantomime

Sir James Hawkey Hall IG8 0BG

Box Office: 01992 524371

www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodfordpantomime

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED by Agatha Christie

11 Jan 24 - 13 Jan 24

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)

Lopping Hall Loughton

Box Office: 07552 736110

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lads

1940-THAT GLORIOUS SUMMER by Nick Hardey & Tony Keyho

11 Jan 24 - 13 Jan 24

Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society

St Marys Church Hall UB9 6BX

Box Office: 01895 253346 / 07989 876024

www.harefieldamdram.org/copy-of-winter-production

ICONIC a Pop and Rock Legends Variety Show

11 Jan 24 - 13 Jan 24

Theydon Bois Drama Society

Theydon Bois Village Hall CM16 7ER

Box Office: 01992 919038

www.theydondrama.org/tickets

TREASURE ISLAND

12 Jan 24 - 14 Jan 24

Twyford Drama

Loddon Hall RG10 9JA

Box Office: 0118 328 2825

www.ticketsource.co.uk/twyforddrama

BA BA LAND a Baa-rillicant Rhyming Pantomime

11 Jan 24 - 20 Jan 24

Quince Players

Cordes Hall SL5 9NE

www.ticketsource.co.uk/quinceplayers

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

13 Jan 24 - 20 Jan 24

Arrow Players

St Edmunds Hall HA6 1QS

Box Office: 07719 968 044

www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets

RAPUNZEL

12 Jan 24 - 21 Jan 24

Shinfield Players Theatre

Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF

www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets

ONCE UPON A TIME a fairy-tale pantomime

01 Jan 24 - 27 Jan 24

Bob Hope Theatre

Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG

Box Office: 020 88503702

<https://rb.gy/5qmkux>

ALADDIN

24 Jan 24 - 27 Jan 24

The Pantoloons

Purley United Reformed Church Hall CR8 2LN

www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-pantoloons

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

19 Jan 24 - 28 Jan 24

New Stagers Theatre Company

St Annes Church Hall SW18 2RS

Box Office: 07814 611239

www.newstagers.co.uk/tickets

VIVA musical revue

27 Jan 24

Radlett Musical Theatre Company (RMTc)

Radlett Centre WD7 8HL

www.rmtc.org.uk/tickets

ROBINSON CRUSOE

25 Jan 24 - 28 Jan 24

The Priory Players Amateur Theatre Company

Progress Hall SE9 1SL

Box Office: 07798 625820

www.ticketsource.co.uk/theprioryplayers

SLEEPING BEAUTY

27 Jan 24 - 03 Feb 24

Edge Hill Players

Sacred Heart Parish Hall SW19 4LU

Box Office: 07742 230493

www.edgehillplayers.com

OLIVER!

29 Jan 24 - 03 Feb 24

Oxford Operatic Society (OXOPS)

New Theatre OX1 2AG

<https://oxops.co.uk/shows/recent-shows/>

ALBION by Mike Bartlett

29 Jan 24 - 03 Feb 24

Progress Theatre

Progress Theatre RG1 5HL

www.ticketsource.co.uk/progresstheatre/e-vqjimp

GOING DUTCH by John Godber

01 Feb 24 - 04 Feb 24

Garden Suburb Theatre

Upstairs at the Gatehouse N6 4BD

<https://rb.gy/balfh1>

LORD OF THE FLIES adapted by Nigel Williams

06 Feb 24 - 10 Feb 24

Tring Youth Theatre Project

David Evans Court Theatre HP23 5QY

<https://courttheatre.co.uk/shows/lord-of-the-flies/>

CARMEN

08 Feb 24 - 10 Feb 24

Abbots Langley G & S Society

Watford Palace Theatre WD17 1JZ

Box Office: 01923 225671

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

RAPUNZEL

14 Feb 24 - 17 Feb 24

Launton Village Players

Cooper School OX26 4RS

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp

MADE IN DAGENHAM

15 Feb 24 - 17 Feb 24

Havering Music Makers

Kenneth More Theatre IG1 1BT

Box Office: 0208 708 8800

<https://visionrcl.org.uk/event/made-in-dagenham>

OLIVER!

14 Feb 24 - 18 Feb 24

The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company
John O'Gaunt School RG17 0AN

www.hungerfordtheatre.com/buy-tickets.html

RAPUNZEL

17 Feb 24 - 18 Feb 24

Elstree Productions
Fairway Hall WD6 5BT

www.ticketsource.co.uk/Ep

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED by J B Priestley

22 Feb 24 - 24 Feb 24

Phoenix Players Chesham
Little Theatre by the Park HP5 1HU
Box Office: 07544 368830

www.ticketsource.co.uk/Phxplayers

BLITHE SPIRIT by Noël Coward

28 Feb 24 - 02 Mar 24

Belmont Theatre Company
Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP
Box Office: 07917 324179

www.belmonttheatre.co.uk/box-office.html

GHOST the musical

03 Mar 24 - 09 Mar 24

Crowthorne Musical Players
Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA
Box Office: 01344 484123

www.southhillpark.org.uk/shp-events/ghost-the-musical/

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

05 Mar 24 - 09 Mar 24

Radlett Musical Theatre Company (RMTC)
Radlett Centre WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk/What-s-On/Theatre/Addams-Family?booking

SWEET CHARITY

06 Mar 24 - 09 Mar 24

Panda Players
Elgiva Theatre HP5 1HR

www.pandaplayers.co.uk/productions

THE GREAT GATSBY adapted by Amie Bailey

07 Mar 24 - 09 Mar 24

Kings Langley Players
Kings Langley Community Centre WD4 8ET
Box Office: 0333 666 3366

<https://klp.org.uk/box-office-2/>

SISTER ACT

20 Mar 24 - 23 Mar 24

Eldorado Musical Productions
Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG

www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk

DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller

21 Mar 24 - 23 Mar 24

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)

Lopping Hall Loughton

Box Office: 07552 736110

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lads

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD by Timberlake Wertenbaker

21 Mar 24 - 23 Mar 24

Banbury Cross Players

Mill Arts Centre OX16 5QE

www.themillartscentre.co.uk/book-online/467664/

DISNEY'S FROZEN THE MUSICAL JR.

12 Apr 24 - 13 Apr 24

Avocet Theatre Company

Wykham Theatre OX16 9HY

www.avocettheatre.co.uk/tickets

THE MATCHGIRLS

17 Apr 24 - 20 Apr 24

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company

Kings Langley Community Centre WD4 8ET

Box Office: 01442 268839

<https://klmtc.org/upcoming-dates-events/>

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS the musical

23 Apr 24 - 27 Apr 24

ELODS

Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN

Box Office: 01707 645005

<https://wyllyottstheatre.co.uk/whats-on/the-wind-in-the-willows/>

MATILDA Jnr

26 Apr 24 - 27 Apr 24

Newbury Youngstars

Arlington Arts Centre RG14 3BQ

www.facebook.com/NewburyYoungStars/

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

30 Apr 24 - 04 May 24

Erith Operatic Society

Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY

www.ticketsource.co.uk/eos

ME AND MY GIRL

07 May 24 - 11 May 24

Vale Musical Society

David Evans Court Theatre HP23 5QY

<https://courttheatre.co.uk/>

THE ROUNDABOUT by J B Priestley

06 Jun 24 - 08 Jun 24

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)

Lopping Hall Loughton

Box Office: 07552 736110

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lads

SCHOOL OF ROCK

16 Aug 24 - 17 Aug 24

Youth of Banbury Operatic Society (YOBOS)

Wykham Theatre OX16 9HY

www.yobos.co.uk/

NATIVITY the musical

05 Dec 24 - 07 Dec 24

Avocet Theatre Company

Wykham Theatre OX16 9HY

www.avocettheatre.co.uk/tickets

Why not share news of your next production?**You should include:**

Name of production

From date – to date

Name of Society

Venue, post code

Box office number

Box Office website

Company Website

EXAMPLE**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

25 Sep 23 - 29 Sep 23

Kettering & District Theatrical Society

Lighthouse Theatre, NN15 6PB

Box Office: 01536 414141

Box Office website:

Company website: www.kitts.co.uk

You may submit as many shows as you like and they will be removed when the production has taken place.

The fixture list also appears on the NODA London Facebook page and the NODA website.

Contact Paul Holgate at paul.holgate@noda.org.uk

Thank you – Ed.

