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# Welcome



Welcome to the summer issue of Curtain Up! I hope you've managed to survive the heatwaves and are now, possibly, at the beginning of your rehearsal periods.

Looking at the What's On pages on the website, FB and in this magazine, the coming months promise to be very exciting with the range of productions being staged. Please try and support your fellow thespians – we all know the efforts that go into producing a good production

and it's always a joy to perform to full houses.

NODA London held a very successful Regional Celebration Day in June and you can find further information, including the link to the photographs, elsewhere in this issue.

Please keep your articles coming and don't forget to inform Paul Holgate (paul.holgate@noda.org.uk) about your upcoming and future productions.

### Jacquie Stedman - Editor



Thank you for your fantastic 'turn out' at our Celebration Day in June, and I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer and for me, it has been a joy to visit societies. I hope you find this a 'good read' with all the exciting things that have been taking place in the London Region. You will see we have a new Regional Youth Coordinator, Gordon Bird, so if you have a Youth Section, do please ensure you invite him to review your shows. Our

Season is starting in earnest again and I look forward to joining you at your productions.

Pam Armstrong
Regional Councillor – NODA London
pam.armstrong@noda.org.uk

### **An invitation to the National President**

On Saturday 27th September, Kay Rowan (Regional Councillor for the South East) will be installed as the 77th NODA National President at the Presidential Gala in Winchester in Hampshire. The role of President is an ambassadorial role enabling the incumbent to travel around the country visiting NODA societies, seeing productions and encouraging the youngest members of the organisation. I know that Kay is very keen to visit groups who have never had a visit from the National President (no matter the size of the group) and youth groups (who are the lifeblood of amateur theatre). If you would like to extend an invitation to her, Kay can be reached at kay.rowan@noda.org.uk, but please give her plenty of notice as she is likely to get booked up very quickly.



Matt Bentley District 1

From monologues to musicals, satire to sorcery, District 1's theatre lineup this summer has been a full-blown spectacle. I kicked things off with *The Vagina Monologues*, where New Stagers transformed a minimalist set and a dozen black-clad performers into a rollercoaster of emotion, wit, and raw honesty. Each monologue felt like a heart-to-heart with someone you didn't know you needed to hear from. It was empowering, hilarious, and deeply moving.

Then came *Hairspray* at the Bridewell, where SEDOS packed a technicolour mega-musical into an intimate venue and made it sing. The energy was electric, the vocals were fierce, and

the choreography had just the right amount of retro flair. The wigs alone could've had their own curtain call. It was a joyful explosion of rhythm, sass, and sequins that left me grinning from ear to ear.

Things took a dramatic turn with *Vardy v Rooney*, where Southside Players delivered courtroom theatre with a tabloid twist. The staging was clever, the performances razor-sharp, and the whole thing felt like Judge Judy had gate-crashed Match of the Day.

Then came *The Pillowman*, a bold and haunting piece from New Stagers that dove deep into the power of storytelling.

With surreal projections and gripping performances, it was a masterclass in tension and theatrical bravery.

To round things off, Centre Stage's *The Proms Remixed* was a cabaret-style concert that swapped the usual standards for musical theatre gems, all delivered with flair and finesse.

And finally, The Witches of Eastwick with Quay Players brought pastel gossip, flying laundry, and devilish charm to the Greenwood Theatre. The production was stylish, the cast was on fire, and the whole evening was a delicious blend of magic and mischief.



# **Currently covered by Thomas Lennon** District 3

As the holiday period comes to an end, so too does my period of deputising within District L03 - West London. I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude to all the affiliated societies for your ongoing support over the past 18 months. Thank you also to those who welcomed my colleagues, Robin Kelly and Matt Bentley, to their productions when I was unavailable. We were very grateful for the hospitality afforded us and it has been our pleasure to network with you all during our visits. To Robin and Matt - for stepping into the breach at short notice your commitment to assisting was resolute and very much

appreciated.

Since my last update I have attended the following productions;

- BROS Theatre Company Company
- Barnes Community Players -Ladies Down Under

I also had a brief visit to meet some of the St Faith's Players members to deliver their NODA London District L03 Flame Award at their VE Day Murder Mystery Fundraiser.

By the time this edition gets to print we will have had the following performance in August;  Carlton Theatre Group - Cold Comfort Farm

while ahead we have the following scheduled productions to look forward to later in the year;

- Cygnet Players Pippin
- HLO Musical Company -Gilbert & Sullivan's Patience
- Zodiac Musical Society -
- Wimbledon Light Opera
   Society Come From Away
- Worcester Park Dramatic Society - cinderella

Please refer to the respective society platforms for more detailed information on all the productions outlined above.

Finally, I am delighted to handover the reins to your newly appointed district L03 regional representative, Jane Gough, who I trust you will all make extremely welcome as she settles into her new role. I have been liaising with her and I'm sure she will be contacting you all in due course. She can be contacted via e-mail on jane.gough@noda.org.uk.



**Robin Kelly** District 4

After the usual hiatus following the pantomime season, District 4 groups got into gear with a variety of musical and dramatic productions. Bob Hope Theatre presented Ayckbourn's Table Manners and an ambitious production of Mosquitoes. It was good to see their New Stager youth group in Fairytale Courtroom, having missed their previous show.

June's Pride Month is a global celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, its history and ongoing fight for equality and acceptance, raising awareness of the ongoing challenges and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ individuals and calling for people to remember how damaging homophobia can still be. Full marks then to Bob Hope Theatre for their contribution to the process in mounting a compilation show, *Pride at Hope*. The Roan Theatre Company performed the Dickens spoof Bleak Expectations (photo taken from publicity shoot) based on the Radio 4 comedy show. Just down the road, the Priory Players presented Family Planning.

Erith Playhouse's Easter children's show was Annabelle Broom's *The Unhappy Witch.* 

Erith Operatic followed in the same theatre with *The Little Mermaid*.

The WWOS May production at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley was *Spamalot*, which boasted a very strong principal line-up. The saga surrounding the Orchard Theatre and Orchard Theatre West continues. On a positive note, the 1000 seat temporary Orchard West won the Innovation of the Year Award at the Stage Awards 2025 and Temporary Structure of the Year at the Festival Supplier Awards. Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS) will perform Jesus Christ Superstar there in October. The not so good news is that it posted a net loss of £756,000 for the last financial year. The main Orchard Theatre







is scheduled to reopen in May 2026. Kudos to Dartford Borough Council for their recognition of the value of theatre to the community and its contribution to the local economy (an estimated £5m last year). In the meantime, DAODS continue to make good use of their Heathfields Hall HQ capacity of around 120, mounting productions of Little Shop of Horrors and Company, with their youth section performing Absolutely Aesop/Sleeping Beauty - The Ugly Truth.









Whether you are looking for something traditional like

Jack and the Beanstalk or Cinderella, or something a bit different like

The King's New Clothes or Sherlock Holmes there is something for every group

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**Paul Daynes**District 6

As Summer moves into Autumn, we can look back on a busy Spring and Summer for District six.

In April Woodhouse Players enjoyed a very successful Waltham Forest Festival of Theatre winning first place for their two-hander 12-Hour Life, Best Actress for Ashleigh Cole and Best new play for Tom Mallender's Artificial Irritation. Neil Bird and Clovis PJ also received nominations. This was followed up in July by a production of Oscar Wilde's A Woman of No Importance which continued to show their acting talents.

WOADS return to play productions continued with the very funny Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders which gave opportunities for some fine comedy performances. Comedy was also provided by Theydon Bois Drama Society in their open-air production of Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor. This traditionally staged romp was great fun and very accessible for their picnicking audiences.



LADS presented two comedies: The Lady Killers and Ladies' Day. Both were cleverly directed by Jacquie Steadman and Howard Platt respectively. The Greek Players brought historical tragedy to The Greek Theatre in July with Antony and Cleopatra. This was an epic production headed in the lead roles by Nick Savery and Bianca Topor. A large cast of outstanding actors made for an absorbing production on a lovely summer's evening.

CADOS also had success at the Waltham Forest Festival of Theatre winning the Award for Best Stage Presentation for Antigone and a few other nominations. In May, the CADOS creative writing team brought seven original short plays together for their own festival of drama in *Page to Stage*. This gave the opportunity for writers to see their work directed by CADOS colleagues and to be presented to live audiences.

On the musical front Barking Music and Drama presented Sister Act where the demanding lead role of Deloris was played by Naomi Sinclair. Loughton Operatic Society brought Made in Dagenham to the Lopping Hall stage. It was a powerful production directed by Lesley Lewis and led by an outstanding Kyla MacDonald in the role of Rita O'Grady.



IODS brought Sondheim's Company to the Redbridge Drama Centre is a superb production directed by Dylan Lee. Company is a terrific musical and demanded much from the talented and skilful cast.

Havering Music Makers returned to The Queens'
Theatre Hornchurch for a lavish production of Shrek the Musical which ensured a visual feast on costumes, makeup, sets, lighting and props. This talented company had great strength in depth that made for a lively and energetic production.

Most groups are now back in rehearsals and looking forward to an active autumn of theatre productions.







# **Thomas Lennon**District 7

With the continuing glorious weather into August, the second of our two most important dates in our diary as a Regional Representative is the annual NODA AGM & Presidential Gala which this year is being held in Winchester on Saturday 27 September. Full details are available on the NODA wesbite.

We look forward to the possibly of seeing some of you there.

After all that networking with colleagues from all the Regions, it will be back to 'home territory' Part of North London and South-West Hertfordshire.

With the evenings already beginning to steal back precious minutes of light day by day, let's take a glimpse at what's in store between now and the festive season.

- Garden Suburb Theatre
   Accidental Death Of An Anarchist
- ELODS Oklahoma!
- Mill Hill Musical Theatre Company - Made In Dagenham
- Garden Suburb Theatre The Moonstone

Please refer to the respective society platforms for more detailed information on all the productions outlined above.

On a business note, some housekeeping reminders for the year ahead.

a) please ensure you are
utilising the new updated NODA
logos and downloads for
your posters and programmes
moving forward - the
information is available on the
NODA homepage

b) please submit attendance requests for your next society production at the earliest possible opportunity as it may not always be possible to accommodate late / short notice requests - if in doubt, give me a shout!

c)nif there are any changes to your society officers - chairperson, secretary and treasurer, for those of you with an AGM in the pipeline - please forward the updated details to ensure your Representative's records and mailing lists are up to date.

In the meantime, if anyone has any concerns or queries, please do contact me at your convenience at the usual e-mail address - thomas.lennon@noda.org.uk.



Carole Baynes
District 8 & 9

Summer is usually a quiet season for amateur theatre – everyone being in holiday mode!

Just before the official summer period (late spring), when we had all the heatwaves, we are usually very busy, and this year was no exception with so many high-quality productions - mostly light-hearted comedies to match the pre-summer spirit. A worthy exception was East Lane Theatre Club's (9) The Revlon Girl a real-life

drama concerning mothers of children killed in the Aberfan mining disaster of 1966. This beautiful, compassionate play was sensitively presented with enough laughter and humanity to make it entertaining, however heartbreaking the story.

The stage musical *Big Fish* was cleverly presented by the talented team at Rickmansworth Players (8) - a delightful, colourful, imaginative production with effective

graphics and some tuneful music. The following evening, I saw Arrow Players present an entertaining ghost story skilfully written by one of their members. Also in May the amusing seasonal play by Richard Harris Outside Edge was well presented by Ruislip Dramatic Society (8) and in the same week Ruislip Operatic Society (8) entertained with a fun-packed, toe-tapping extravaganza 9-5 The Musical Later in May WOS Productions (9) performed a classic Music

Hall production I Say, I Say, I Say along with a 'pie and mash' supper enjoyed by their audiences. The final production in May was the amusing play about an amateur light operatic society Trivial Pursuits by Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society.

June was less hectic with just two productions, firstly Proscenium (8) performed Alan Ayckbourn's linked vignettes Confusions- an interesting collection of stories - some really funny, some a little amusing and some rather strange - in other words typical Ayckbourn. The second play that I saw in June was similarly enjoyable - a mix

of wry smiles, clever humour and slapstick capers written by Ben Elton. This was *Gasping* well performed by Argosy Players (8).

Summer certainly seems the time for comedies and in July I saw East Lane Theatre Club perform their third production of the year - Alan Ayckbourn's crazy comedy Improbable Fiction- quite a challenge to take on especially the madness of Act 2 - but they succeeded delightfully. The final production of July was a most impressive drama - the military court-room drama A Few Good Men. The Chameleons ADS rose to this challenge brilliantly presenting a thrilling stage production of

this highly successful film written by Aaron Sorkin. In complete contrast they will go straight into rehearsals for their pantomime on stage in December - Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Before the autumn takes a hold, I will be seeing Pump House Theatre Company produce Whose Life is it Anyway in September. Following this will be WOS Productions (9) perform Calendar Girls - The Musical on 22-25th October and another musical on 19-22nd November from Rickmansworth Players (8) Treasure Island both of which I look forward to seeing.



# Iain Fowles District 10

I hope you are all enjoying the Summer and managing to see some sun and enjoy some time off – I'm off to Cornwall for a couple of weeks, so you can be sure that will have rain!

I have only seen 5 shows since my last article, Rules for Living by Abbotts Langley Players, The Addams Family by Potters Bar Theatre Company, A Chorus Line by St Albans Musical Theatre Company, Caught in the Net by Kings Langley Players and finally Carousel by Green Room.

As can be expected in my

district, these were all quality productions, but I must just commend St Albans, for a truly stunning and professional production of *A Chorus Line* – the talent of the performers and creative team blew my mind!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the NODA London Celebration Day and Awards ceremony. Region 10 was lucky to win a couple of awards. Huge congratulations to all of the winners – I know choosing the winners are very difficult decisions and take the panel a great deal of time.

I was unable to attend on the day as I was tied up with the band call and technical rehearsal of my own production of Sister Act. This production was for my own society, Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company (HHTC). We were delighted to welcome both Pam Armstrong and Graham Liverton (NODA President) to our opening night. HHTC are celebrating 100 years this year and Graham was on hand to present us with our NODA 100 years certificate. Pam also presented her Councillors' Award for the year.



Judith Watsham District 11 & 11a

One of the joys of being one of London's Regional Reps is that not only do I get to see some wonderful productions from all of you in Districts 11 and 11A but occasionally I find myself covering a show in another District. This has been the case recently when I have seen three excellent performances from groups in Districts 10 and 14, including Potters Bar Musical Society's two-handed Educating Rita, beautifully staged in a small studio venue, and, as a complete contrast, Hemel Hempstead's Sister Act with more than 40 musicians and singers on stage. I also covered Marlow Amateur Operatic's recent showcase celebrating their Platinum Anniversary – a joy from start to finish – and congratulations again for reaching this milestone!

Another well directed and performed compilation show from Launton Players, *Heroes and Villains*, was well compiled and certainly satisfied the enthusiastic audience in a barn in rural Oxfordshire.

Turning to the drama side of NODA, first of all my grovelling apologies to Lane End Players as, entirely due to the fact that I had not kept my diary up to date, allied to my appalling lapse of memory, I missed their Murder Mystery evening – a play written for them by their own talented Tom Everett – especially galling as I had been looking forward to it. That will teach me to be more careful with reconciling my on-line calendar and my pocket diary in future.

On the play front I did enjoy Tring Theatre Company's version of an Agatha Christie 'whodunnit' – A Murder is Announced and the hilarious Black Adder II from St Peter Players.

May is one of the popular months for staging the big productions which have been rehearsed over the winter and this year there were two exceptional ones, The Vale's *Drowsy Chaperone* and Chesham Musical Theatre's version of Spamalot.

Finally, to the brilliant award-winning younger members of the Tring Youth Theatre Project whose *Annie Jr* was packed full of sheer energy, enthusiasm and talent as they sang and danced their way through the hour-long show.



**Andrew Walter** District 12

I recently completed my one hundredth report since taking on the role of Regional Representative for London District 12 almost four years ago, and in a few days I expect to write report number 101 when I return to the scene of my very first assignment - the annual Youth of Banbury Operatic Society summer show. As a Regional Representative I have been privileged to see so many fabulous musicals, entertaining and thoughtprovoking plays, and traditional pantomimes. I am grateful to

you all for welcoming me to your productions, and hope that I have given adequate recognition to the excellence of much of what you do, while also perhaps offering a few constructive and supportive thoughts to provoke reflection and discussion.

It was great to see so many local groups represented at the London Region Celebration Day at Radlett in June, and lots of our District Award Winners were able to take to the stage to receive their certificates. Particular

congratulations are due to
Banbury Cross Players who
scooped the Regional Award for
the Best Drama for their powerful
production of *Our Country's Good*.

Banbury Cross Players most recent production was *Puck*, written and directed by local author Hannah O'Donnell. It's good to see groups take a risk with original work and give opportunities to new creative talent, and in the last four years I have also seen several new adaptations of traditional

pantomimes penned by group members. It's certainly an effective way of avoiding the expense of licensing agreements! More generally, I know that lots of groups in the Region are finding that securing the rights to sure-fire box office hits can be almost prohibitively expensive, while some classic shows just don't draw the crowds any more. Choosing the right show for your group, your venue and your audience has surely never been more difficult.

Some popular shows can also be challenging to stage, but you're a resourceful bunch. For example, the technicolour fantasy that is the second act of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* may require a West End budget to realise, but Abingdon Operatic Society demonstrated what can be achieved through projections when they presented the show in April, and Odyssey Theatrical Productions largely depended, appropriately

enough, on pure imagination when staging the show earlier this month. I look forward to seeing how YOBOS recreate the Parisian barricades and Javert's plunge into the River Seine when they present Les Misérables. Abingdon Operatic Society will be returning to the Amey Theatre stage at the end of October with their production of Hello, Dolly!, and that same week I am looking forward to seeing Chiltern Musical Theatre for the first time as they stage Avenue Q at the Players Theatre in Thame. The Sinodun Players will be presenting the first ever English production of The Inheritance |A Partilha) by Miguel Falabella in September. The original work has been translated and adapted by group member Len Pannett, and will be staged in the Studio Theatre at the Corn Exchange in Wallingford. The Players will return to the main auditorium in October with a production of Florian Zeller's The Father. The Thame Players will be staging

Alan Bennett's *People* at the Players' Theatre in September, and the Bartholomew Players will be concluding their 50th Anniversary Season with a production of Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector* in November.

Before you know it, it will be Panto Season again! Banbury Cross Players will be kicking things off with a new version of Aladdin by group member Liz Riley at the end of November, the same week that Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society plans to stage *Alice in Cuckoo* Land. The following month will see Thame Players bring Ben Crocker's Camelot the Panto to the Players Theatre, and of course the New Year will see several more local societies joining in with the fun. But I think the details of those productions can wait until the next edition of Curtain Up!, don't you?



Cate Naylor District 13

This summer season has flown by, and I've been so lucky to be invited to a variety of plays, musicals and youth group productions. One of the joys of being a NODA representative is that I get the opportunity to meet so many people who have a love of theatre, and I continue to be impressed by both by the quality of the performances and by the feeling of camaraderie in the societies. Since my last report, we have enjoyed the Celebration Day, and I would like to congratulate all the District 13 winners as well as those who went on to win Regional Awards. I also had the privilege of presenting several NODA Lifetime awards to members of The Sainsbury Singers at a

celebration and afternoon tea.

I am a great lover of plays, and I am so lucky to have seen some excellent productions. In April, I saw A Bunch of Amateurs performed by Wargrave Theatre a play I have seen a few times, and I enjoy seeing how each society brings something new and the addition of a mobility scooter driving across the stage brought much hilarity to this production. This play was followed in May by Progress Theatre's production of The Cripple of Inishmaan, an altogether much darker play. I was new to Malcolm McDonagh when I started out as a NODA rep four years ago, but I find myself being drawn to his stories and

character development. My next play was the classic Noël Coward play Blithe Spirit from Twyford Drama, an altogether more ethereal production and full of humour and special effects. Finally, I saw the play The 39 Steps performed with perfect timing and character changes by KATS. This excellent play was accompanied by a ploughman's supper in the interval and a chance to chat to other members of the audience.

I am also treated each month to the joy of musical theatre. Recently, I saw for the first time, the poignant show Everybody's Talking About Jamie performed by ROS which whilst full of glitz was the story of one boy's strength to rise above prejudice. In complete contrast, my next musical was the feel-good show Shrek brought by The Sainsbury Singers. It was light-hearted and full of colourful performances and costumes. After that came Grease from HAODS. I have seen this show many times and still love it, finding myself singing along in my head. My last musical was Me and My Girl performed by WLOS filled with old favourites and plenty of great dance routines.

District 13 is lucky to have

several Youth Groups, and I have enjoyed three productions over the last few months. Sister Act Jr performed by Newbury Youngstars was a wonderful production and I was so impressed by the performances they gave of these great songs. I had not so long ago seen an adult performance of the show and I have to say that the young girl playing Deloris certainly gave the adult Deloris a run for her money! This was followed by Our House by Starmaker, another show often performed by adult societies and these youngsters

produced a quality show which was full of talent. Most recently, I saw Matilda Jr performed by the youth section of The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company. These youngsters also gave tremendous performances as well as coping on stage with the heatwave in June. It is wonderful to see how much talent we have in our youth theatre societies which bodes well for the future of amateur theatre.

# A new representative Jane Gough - district 3



I have been involved with amateur dramatics, since I joined Barnes Community Players in 2015.

I have always enjoyed live theatre, although it's become a very expensive outing. But what a richness we have in amateur theatre in the London region.

I have done many exciting things in BCP, from selling programmes to Directing Ladies Down Under at the OSO Theatre in July 2025. It was through BCP that I learnt about NODA.

I enjoyed meeting the rep when they came to our shows and was always struck by their friendliness. When I saw the advert for the position, I really wanted to apply. I did and was accepted.

I very much looked forward to meeting the companies I review and other members of NODA.

# A new youth coordinator Gordon Bird



Gordon's first involvement in amateur dramatics was when his girlfriend asked him to step into a small role when someone had to withdraw from a show. Those first steps on stage started a forty plus love affair with the theatre (and his girlfriend who became his wife!) Since the he has been involved in over 150 shows in the Reading area as either a director or an actor. The last twenty two years he has been running a successful youth group at Shinfield Player Theatre for teenagers aged from 14 to

18 years old. They produce two shows a year, a concert review in December a full production in July. They also participate in the Class in Action festival in Prague, winning many awards in this unique competition for students from all over Europe. He is excited to take up the role of youth co-ordinator with NODA and has already attended his first show watching Annie Junior in Berkhampstead.

# Ease and Excellence at the NODA Theatre

# **Summer School**

# Experiences of a first timer in the class of 2025

I nearly didn't go...

A few months earlier I had signed up for my first ever NODA summer school. After years of musical directing, I had agreed to direct our youth company's next production and thought I needed some help. I read about a course at the next NODA summer school which promised to give me ideas for using the ensemble and I signed up. Then the information arrived – and it said I needed to bring a yoga mat ... I immediately questioned my life choices.

I shouldn't have worried. I stepped into the workshop room and spent the next six days in a whirlwind of creativity. My group had a huge mix of experience - youth theatre, Shakespeare, challenging modern drama -, but we all wanted to be challenged and inspired. Our leader was the amazing Grace Goulding, a professional choreographer and movement director who filled the room with energy and joy. We learnt through instinct, impulse and play, danced to music together, looked at using physical

punctuation in speaking, explored how movement helped bring characters to life, and how use of the ensemble is so much better than a black out when transitioning between scenes. We became commedia dell'arte players and mud creatures and walls, and played mind melt games to show us how to layer what the ensemble is doing. And who knew how important breathing was? An ensemble breathing together is a powerful thing! Yes - my mind was spinning at the amount I was taking in, but it happened in an atmosphere of support, encouragement and happiness.

There was so much to take home. (And I wished I could bottle Grace's energy and take it with me!). Our group has kept in touch since and we are all starting to use the techniques we have learnt. There are amateur groups all over the country breathing together, playing together and learning to release their individual creativity to contribute to the overall performance.

Everyone was friendly, the

organisation was smooth and for those that wanted there were social activities. (I was personally pleased to retire to my room to process the day's learning, but the good thing was that nobody minded that either!). I did two evening workshops which gave me a chance to learn from other excellent tutors.

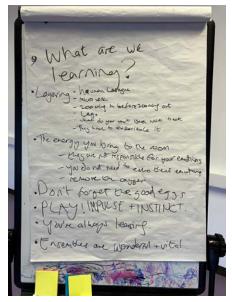
Where else but NODA summer school would you wander into dinner and see people dripping fake blood from their make-up course, or walk past a room full of others dancing their hearts out? So many people just love the joy that theatre brings to their communities.

If you have the chance and see a course at the next summer school to inspire you then book it.

I'm very glad I went.

Julie Todd
Director for Musical Youth
Company of Oxford production
of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the
Oxford Playhouse April 1st-4th.





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# Have you heard about NODA's individual membership?

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As a member, you'll also receive three copies of **NODA Today** delivered right to your door, access to the amazing **NODA Theatre Summer School**, PLUS you'll have **voting rights** at your regional AGM and the national AGM! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity—simply visit our website to sign up!

Already an individual member - log into the NODA website and add your details to the Theatrical Services Directory!





# Intimacy in amateur theatre



Selecting shows is not easy. From selecting something that will fit your space to selecting something that will fit your membership, it is very tough to select the "right" show. What we often forget about in Amateur Theatre is content. Most (if not all) shows have some form of intimacy in them and navigating intimacy on the stage can be rather daunting and scary.

Intimacy is defined as "a state of closeness, openness, and emotional connection between people, often involving trust and vulnerability" (so not just kissing or sexual content!). Bringing in a trained Intimacy Director to choreograph your intimate moments can (and is) very costly, but it doesn't have to be!

There are many free resources online from the free starter kits via IDC (https://www.idcprofessionals.com) to free courses on YouTube, you can find enough material to give you the groundwork for intimacy directing in your show. This is exactly how I started and

explored intimacy for the recent production of Company which I directed for IODS Productions.

I began by signing up for free starter guides and after getting to grips with what materials I might need when directing intimacy, I began the search for intimacy courses. To really invest in a full intimacy course, it is likely to set you back around £3k!

YouTube has just about everything you can think of... videos of cats being silly, videos of your favourite celebrity, and even video courses on Intimacy Training for Theatre!

I came across a very useful channel which was dedicated to just this. The videos on the channel took you on a step-bystep guide to directing intimacy in your theatrical production. Just like a normal class, I spent time across all fourteen eightminute videos noting everything down so that I had a guide to work from when I got into rehearsals.

I am going to share with you some of the basics here to help you get started on your own journey. The most important thing to remember when directing intimacy is "The 3 C's"...

CONSENT:Establish boundaries and ensure the actors are enthusiastic with their consent. Open Questions allows actors to think about how they feel rather than just going to the default of "yes". Instead of asking "Is this ok?" ask "How do you feel about...?"

COMMUNICATION: Use Desexualised language. Allow for your actors to change their boundaries and keep checking in with open questioning.

CHOREOGRAPHY: All intimacy must be blocked in desexualised language in a closed intimacy call. This call should include the actors involved, the Intimacy Director, and one other person (usually the Stage Manager) so that it's professional and not private.

Throughout your production, from blocking to performance, all intimacy choreography should be referred to using desexualised language and should be kept as clinical and scientific as possible. You should never say things like "now you're going to snog each other for thirty seconds".

Some other super quick basics for you are Levels of Touch. Not all touch is the same so how can we verbalise differences? Describing touch is important. It helps with giving clear direction to actors so that intimate scenes look realistic but feel safe.

LEVEL 1: This is the lightest touch also known as powder or skin touch. Use this level for an action like a quick peck a gentle caress or a hesitant touch.

LEVEL 2:This is a firmer touch it's also known as paint or muscle touch. Use it for actions such as a kiss or a hug.

LEVEL 3:Actually, the same as level 2 but with a deeper connection. It's known as clay or bone touch. The reason for not doing a firmer touch than a level 2 is safety, you don't want to leave marks on your actors! This level of touch is used for passionate, intense or sometimes even violent scenes.

A level 3 kiss should be blocked with lots more body contact, the kiss is likely to last longer and there would possibly be more movement in it as well. You want to be as clear and detailed as possible to avoid demonstrating the action, you also want your language to be completely de-

sexualised so a term like gentle caress is not going to be a great one to use. Instead, you might say "use your right hand to move from the cheekbone to the lower jawbone using a level one touch".

When you're looking at the context and emotional side of the scene however, a term like gentle caress is completely fine

Being able to provide a safespace to my team of actors was (and is) really important to me and I am so proud to have taken great care with them to ensure that those involved in intimate scenes felt confident and comfortable with each other. I feel that this is the standard that we should all be striving to when staging any production which includes any intimacy. Intimacy Direction doesn't need to be expensive, but does need to be explored and set in motion.

Dylan Lee - Director of *Company* for IODS



# Mo Jones - plenty of props



For over twenty-five years the person to whom many societies in Essex and East London have turned to for Props is Mo Jones. If you need a 1970's trim telephone Mo will ask "in what colour?", if your script requires a weekend bag Mo will ask "embroidered or leather?

With an inventory of over five thousand items, Mo's garage and garden sheds are full of carefully itemised and numbered crates of props. She enjoys making and repairing things to order and has just learned how to burn letters onto wood to make a Badger's House sign for Wind in the Willows. She is also an excellent seamstress and can often be found backstage letting out a tight waistcoat or knitting a blanket.

Mo loves a challenge, whether that is creating the menus for Titanic or finding sixty matching glasses for a banquet. For 'Allo 'Allo, she managed to source a blow-up Hitler with the help of Ann Summers. For Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, she made hundreds of toot sweets.

Mo says "I love working in both large theatres and smaller more

intimate venues. It's all about having a ball and working with like-minded people who have an attention to detail and want to produce good quality shows."

As for advice to anyone interested in coordinating props, Mo would suggest "Read the script, borrow what you can, research the era the show is set in, be authentic but above all have fun!"

Mo has so many people who would like to thank her for all her help and expertise over the years. Mo really is a diamond (which she can also provide if required).

Paul Daynes

# London societies march with pride

# — and purpose



For the fourth year running, three of Central London's leading amateur theatre groups—
Sedos, Centre Stage London, and Geoids Musical Theatre—
joined forces to take part in the London Pride Parade. Marching together from Hyde Park Corner to Whitehall Place, the groups celebrated not only LGBTQ+ pride but also the vibrant, inclusive spirit that runs through London's amateur dramatics scene.

It's become an annual tradition: music, glitter, dance routines, and plenty of showtunes, as members from all three societies come together to celebrate identity, community, and creativity. But it's also about connection—across groups, across backgrounds, and across the city's rich theatre scene.

What started in 2021 as a series of collaborative workshops has grown into a lasting partnership known as London Drama Societies, focused on making theatre more inclusive and welcoming for everyone. Since then, the societies have shared resources, ideas, and values to better reflect the diversity of the city on stage and off.

Their joint commitment? To keep evolving—breaking down barriers, opening doors, and making sure anyone who wants to get involved in theatre feels they can. Whether on stage, backstage, or in the audience, everyone should feel part of the story.

Ruben, a first-time Pride marcher

and member of both Sedos and Centre Stage, summed up the spirit of the day perfectly: "It was a real joy for me—such a welcoming, cheerful and caring community. Celebrating love, identity and freedom felt so energetic and full of life. The best part? The people! Yep—classic theatre vibes: singing, dancing, laughing from start to finish. I'll definitely be back next year!"

The Pride march is just one example of how these groups are coming together to support each other and create space for more voices to be heard. It's about celebration—but also collaboration, creativity, and making London's amateur theatre as diverse as the city itself.

Want to know more or get involved? Visit Centre Stage, Sedos, or Geoids, to explore shows, auditions, and events across the three societies.



# Twyford Drama's 'Diamond Gems'

Sixty years ago, in 1965, village stalwart Sybil Stephenson gathered some friends together and put on a production of the comedy, 'Quiet Wedding', in the URC hall in Twyford. This led to the creation of Twyford & Ruscombe Theatre Group, the main aim of which was to provide staged entertainment for the local region.

The group has, since then, provided regular shows in the form of pantomimes (from 'Dragon's Egg' to 'Cinderella'); comedy ('Noises Off' and 'Allo 'Allo'); murder mystery ('Rope' and 'Time to Kill') and drama ('Lady Windermere's Fan' and the recent 'Blithe Spirit'), as well as productions by a variety playwrights – from Shakespeare to Terry Pratchett.

We rehearsed, built sets, created props and stored costumes in the Polehampton Old Boys' School (now converted to Twyford's new library) for more than fifty years. Now known as Twyford Drama, our new home is at Loddon Hall (where we have staged our productions ever since the early days). This year Twyford Drama is proudly celebrating its Diamond Anniversary.

Consequently, our October production in 2025, 'Diamond Gems' will not be a single play. We will instead be decorating the hall and transforming it to a cabaret-style layout with tables for four to six people, and inclusive tickets that will provide every audience member with entertainment, refreshments and a souvenir programme. In recent years Twyford Drama has formed a playwriting group and five of their diamond-themed short plays will be performed, along with some other well-known drama and musical items of song and dance, with live music accompaniment and an MC

to lead you from one act to the next.

Jocelyn Robinson, one of our very experienced members will be organising the overall programme of performances, as well as directing one of the plays. One major challenge for Jocelyn has been to make sure the transitions between the acts are as smooth as possible. To this end, actor and director, Peter King has been appointed as Master of Ceremonies and will expertly lead the audience through the show, while Stage Manager, Rakhi Drennan, works her magic in transforming the set fluidly from song and dance numbers from the Musicals to hotel bedrooms ... and back again.

The whole event will involve a large number of local people pulling out all the stops to bring to you a show to remember- a sparkling cocktail of song, dance and drama.

There will be three performances
– two evening events and a
matinee with tea and cakes.
Booking in advance is essential.

So put October 10th or 11th in your diaries and come and join us for our special celebration at 8pm on 10th, and 2pm and 8pm on 11th. Tickets can now be purchased online at www. twyforddrama.co.uk or you can contact our booking office on 0118 3282825.

With thanks to Joanne Davis and Jocelyn Robinson for this article.



Golden Variety Show - 2015



Rapunzel - 2021



Cinderella - 2019

# 100 golden years of Eldorado Musical Productions



100 Golden Years of Eldorado Musical Productions

Eldorado Musical Productions Celebration Centenary year has come to an end, which is sad, but what an amazing, exciting and magical year it has been.

The Society was founded in 1924 by Rosie Hardiman funded by her own cash. The first production was 'lolanthe' in 1925, and the venue was the Blackheath Concert Hall. In the orchestra was a young cellist who as the saying goes said to Mrs. Hardiman "I hope you find your Eldorado" meaning "a place of great riches or fabulous opportunity" and so Eldorado was born! One hundred years have passed since then, but the sentiment seems still as relevant today.

The early 30's saw a beginning of a 'golden age' with performances of scoop releases such as 'The Vagabond King', 'Rose Marie' and 'The Desert Song'. At this time, a new concert hall was opened in Catford seating in excess of 1000 people. Then the war came, and the Society was disbanded

for 6 years. The post war years produced many great shows such as 'Oklahoma', 'Annie Get your Gun' and 'South Pacific' which Eldorado performed to packed houses. In common with other amateur groups, Eldorado was placed in dire financial straits by the Entertainment Tax of that era which by 1954 had reduced assets to under £20. It was decided that if the Company were to remain solvent they would have to apply for affiliation to the then London County Council Evening Institute which, while robbing the Company of complete independence, would allow for rehearsal accommodation and assured fees for a production team in return for institute fees.

There have been many moments of drama and comedy - as early as 1929 the appearance on stage of a donkey who nipped at the chorus girls during the crowd scenes and lashed wildly with his hoofs at the unfortunate stage hands, who had to manhandle him over the footlights every night, actors being stabbed in a duel, others sustaining broken ribs, a safety curtain getting stuck halfway up and the second

act having to be played right down stage so that the audience could see the cast, gun practice for 'Annie Get Your Gun' with very ancient Winchesters taken out to an old chalk pit for Annie and Frank Butler to practise, the cast and audience of 'South Pacific' being evicted from the theatre due to a bomb scare and the cast dressed as nurses, sailors and Polynesian women standing out on the pavement in Catford amidst folk queuing at the bus stop!

In 2002 the Company changed its name from Eldorado Operatic Society to Eldorado Musical Productions, a move which was felt reflected the Company's appeal.

In 2004 Eldorado Youth
Productions was formed. The
group ran for several years, its
crowning glory – 'Les Misérables'
in 2007. Sadly, the group fell by
the wayside when members
moved off to university or found
other hobbies. Times changed
again; costs increased and
audience numbers fell so a
smaller venue had to be found.
This resulted in hiring the Bob
Hope Theatre in Eltham in 2005,
where Eldorado has continued

to perform very successful shows. We have diversified by performing plays and comedies in addition to musicals and this has been a very successful and welcome move for members and gudience alike.

To celebrate our Centenary, we chose the uplifting and inspirational show 'Sister Act' to perform in March 2024 as it had been a sell out and a huge success when we performed it in 2015. It didn't disappoint, and we had another sell out show and another runaway success.

In June we held an Eldorado@100 Reunion Afternoon Tea – a wonderful celebration of past and current members, stories and memories galore and a fabulous photo display of shows which have been performed during the last 100 years. Pam Armstrong, NODA London Councillor, joined us for the

afternoon and presented our NODA Centenary Certificate.

In October we performed 'Musical Memories' a compilation of songs from shows which have been performed by Eldorado over the last 100 years. There were forty in the cast - made up of past members from a while back, not so far back, the present and a new member – and what a glorious sound we made. We were very pleased to welcome Pam Armstrong along to the show and were thoroughly delighted when she told us she thought it was absolutely outstanding. We received so many heartwarming accolades about the show; we were really thrilled. There were several people in the cast whose parents had performed with Eldorado in the past and we are sure they would have been proud that Eldorado had reached its Centenary and still performing great shows.

We couldn't perform any of our shows without our fabulous and dedicated behind the scenes crew – backstage, props, costumes, front of house; all of whom give their services for free and we are forever in their debt. We also couldn't perform any of our shows without our fabulous audience and thank them constantly for their support.

Eldorado Musical Productions is proud of its achievements and reputation over 100 years, which is built upon good camaraderie, loyalty and a friendly atmosphere and we look forward to the future with optimism, love of music, entertainment and friendship and hope that our team of helpers and audiences will come with us on our next adventure and, hopefully, long journey towards our bicentennial.

Dawn Adcock Eldorado Musical Productions



# One hunded years at HHTC



2025 marks a momentous occasion for Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company – we're celebrating one hundred years of providing quality theatre for the local community.

First formed in 1925, we have successfully produced quality theatre every year, with the exception of the War Years and we hope that 2025 will be another very successful year.

During 2025 we are going to be performing more shows than we have in recent years. We kicked off with the wonderful Alan Ayckbourns play, Bedroom Farce. Following on from this, we presented the Broadway and West End hit, Sister Act, the musical.

Soon after Sister Act our Youth Summer School presented Disney's Frozen Jr. In the Autumn, we have a Centenary Concert, celebrating the music, plays and comedy from the last one hundred years. We will be rounding off the year with our very popular family pantomime; this year Babes in the wood.

A very full year for our members, friends and audiences.

We are very lucky to own our own little theatre, The Boxmoor Playhouse. This was bought in the early 1990's from St Johns Church, when they decided to build their own hall, attached to the church. We will forever be grateful to the many members and friends who raised money, gave personal loans to enable this purchase to take place. To have our own theatre is a massive blessing, but also a burden in equal measure. We are run entirely by volunteers and have to raise a significant amount of money each year, just to cover the running costs.

We passionately believe that the arts should be available to everyone. Consequently, in 2024, performances were given with British Sign Language interpretation and there was a relaxed performance of our panto. As well as the above, we made a successful commitment to donate 15% of panto tickets free to underprivileged children.

In addition, our Patronage scheme funds a bursary, ensuring that people from all walks of life and economic backgrounds can experience the joys of theatre, without having to worry about any financial burden.

As you can see, we are all very passionate about theatre and the local community, we hope this will continue for the next 100 years. Our only challenge this year is finding a cake big enough for the 100 birthday candles!

Iain Fowles - Chairman







# **Theydon Bois centenary**



Theydon Bois is a large village on the edge of Epping Forest in South West Essex with a population of about 4,000 and a station on the Central Line. It has two churches, two pubs (one of which dates from the sixteenth century) and boasts a splendid modern Village Hall, which is truly the hub of the community.

It also proudly hosts a vibrant NODA-affiliated drama society, which is celebrating its remarkable centenary this year. Founded in 1925 as the Theydon Bois Village Drama Society, it has delighted audiences for a hundred years with an impressive 288 productions—including an exciting mix of plays, musicals, pantomimes, and variety shows. This milestone marks a century of creativity, community, and a true love of theatre.

In its earlier years the Society was relatively insular, with membership and audience being entirely drawn from the village. However, more recently, both these elements have expanded. Some of our active members live as far away as Hertfordshire, North East London and central and south Essex. For this reason, added to the fact that our shows were, by then, attracting people from many miles away, the word "Village" was dropped from our title about 25 years ago.

The Society began as a group of friends who regularly gathered to read plays together. Inspired to take their passion further, they decided to form an official society and perform in front of an audience. Their first productions were staged at Yates' Retreat—a venue that served refreshments to the many visitors arriving in Epping Forest, most of whom travelled via the steam railway from Liverpool Street. A makeshift stage was created using planks laid across beer crates, and

electricity was supplied through a cable run across the main road. The Society later moved to a Scout Hut, which at the time also functioned as the Village Hall for Theydon Bois. In 1966, a dedicated Village Hall was built, though it was fairly modest. This was eventually replaced in 2000 by a larger, multi-purpose Village Hall. As the new facility was constructed adjacent to the old one, the Society was able to continue staging its productions without interruption.

The new Hall offered vastly improved facilities for the Society and the comfort of its audiences. It has sufficient storage for all props, staging and costumes to be kept on site. Beside the Hall is a large stretch of grass, on which we have staged two outdoor productions: Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2023 and The Merry Wives of Windsor in June of this year.

Over the years there has been

a strong family element at TBDS. To mention just two, our President, Carol Freeman, who began her acting career at Tottenham Library in the early 1950s, has been a member for 57 years and her son Frazer, whose wife Jan has directed and performed many times, has been on stage at Theydon, and other places, since the 1970s. Betty Gilbert, whose performance as Madame Arcati in Blithe Spirit is the stuff of legends, was Secretary for 35 years and in her final years was President, and her son Simon and wife Nicola were hugely involved in the Society until they relocated to Norfolk a few years ago.

Carol and Frazer have many fond memories to share. Not all of the Society's performers have been human—one production of Cinderella even featured a live Shetland pony to pull the carriage. At one point, the Society's Box Office operated out of the Village Bakery, where members sold tickets from behind the counter. Sales were brisk, especially when customers spotted photos of their favourite actors on display.

Although a relatively small Society TBDS has consistently punched above its weight. One of our most ambitious productions was achieved in 2022 when our present Chairman, Teresa Greener, directed Talking Heads, in which three actors gave spellbinding monologues.

TBDS is one of 14 societies within District 6 of NODA's London Region. Over the years, our productions have earned numerous Regional Award nominations, and we've been honoured with several prestigious wins. In 2005, The Roses of Eyam received the Pat Redhead Award for Best Production of a Play or Drama—an ambitious production featuring a cast of 36, including guest performers from neighbouring societies. In

2009, our staging of By Jeeves! earned the Joe Putnam Award for Best Production of a Musical. Most recently, The Deep Blue Sea brought home two awards: Sara Thompson received the Sybil Conway Award for Best Female

Character in a Play, and Paul Vine won the Dumayne Warne Trophy for Poster Design.

John Haylett



Rumours (2016) L-r Rebecca Manning, Simon Gilbert, Suzie Correya, Bernie Paveley, Nicola Gilbert, Paul Daynes, Gill Newlyn, Martin Oliver, Angei Beckett-Franks, Paul Arber



President, Carol Freeman (left) and former President Betty Gilbert at the 80th Anniversary Dinner in 2005



Lock Up Your Daughters (2016)

# **NODA London Celebration Day**

June 22nd saw representatives of London groups gather at the Radlett Theatre to celebrate amateur theatre within the London region, and what a successful day it was!!

Following the official business of the AGM, the assembled company were entertained by ROS Musical Theatre and WOS Productions. The audience was also given an insight into the magic and mystery of NODA Theatre Summer School supported by two previous members of the School spoke about their stimulating experiences. Following the address by the National President, Graham Liverton who was attending with his wife Ann, ROS Musical Theatre once again took the stage.

The audience was not allowed to be complacent however, and Simon Payne took us all through our paces with a big sing before we broke for lunchtime refreshments.

To start the afternoon the region bade a sad farewell to Annie Hertler-Smith (Regional Secretary and Youth Co-Ordinator) and Margaret Partridge (Regional Treasurer). Presentations were made to both retirees amid smiles and some tears as they come to the end of their official duties. We hope that we will see them in the future as they were told ......'don't be a stranger!'

The Presentation of the Regional Awards by the National President, showed the extent of the talents across the region. The Awards ceremony brought us to the end of another exciting day, which brought together groups from across the region and enabled the Regional Committee to meet and greet those members whom they normally only see across the footlights.

All photographs of the Regional Day are by Michael Bird Photography. If you would like to have a photographic memory of the day, please use https://shorturl.at/ZuMIY





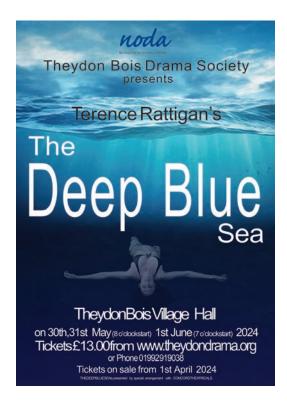


# **Programme and Poster Winners**

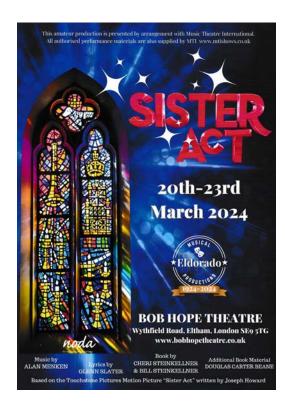
These will be entered into the national competition.

Entries are already arriving for this year. There will be more information in the next issue of Curtain Up!

Entry forms are available by clicking here or email paul.holgate@noda.org.uk









# Winners Of The NODA London Flame Awards And The Councillor's Trophy

Councillor's Trophy Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company

**London District 1** 

Karina Zakharyan of SEDOS

**London District 2** 

**HEOS Musical Theatre** 

**London District 3** 

St Faith's Players

**London District 4** 

**Bromley Players** 

**London District 5** 

Mayhem Theatre Company

**London District 6** 

Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS)

**London District 7** 

The Warren

**London District 8** 

**ROS Musical Theatre** 

**London District 9** 

Harrow Opera

**London District 10** 

John Hebden of Green Room Productions

**London District 11** 

Vale Musical Society

**London District 11A** 

Beaconsfield Musical and Operatic Society (BMOS)

**London District 12** 

**Avocet Theatre Company** 

**London District 13** 

**Progress Theatre** 

**London District 14** 

East Berkshire Operatic Society (EBOS)

























## List of member groups

A list of all fully paid up groups at the time of going to press

Abbots Langley G & S Society Abbots Langley Players Abingdon Operatic Society Aldermaston Players

Argosy Players Arrow Players

Avocet Theatre Company Banbury Cross Players Banbury Operatic Society Barking Music and Drama Barnes Community Players Bartholomew Players

Beaconsfield Musical and Operatic Society (BMOS)

Beaufort Players Beck Youth Theatre

Belmont Theatre Company Berkhamsted Theatre Company Berkhamsted Youth Theatre

Bob Hope Theatre

British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainment Society

(BACCES)
Bromley Players

**BROS Theatre Company** 

**Buckingham Community Pantomime** 

Carlton Theatre Group Centre Stage London

Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society Chesham Musical Theatre Company

**Chiltern Musical Theatre** 

Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS)

Chipperfield Theatre Group

Colnbrook Amateur Stage Theatre (CAST)

Court Theatre Limited

Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society

Crowthorne Musical Players

Croydon Operatic & Dramatic Association (CODA)

**Cygnet Players** 

Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society

(DAODS)

East Berkshire Operatic Society (EBOS)

East Lane Theatre Club Edge Hill Players

**Eldorado Musical Productions** 

**ELODS** 

Elstree Productions Theatre Company

Erith Operatic Society Erith Playhouse

Faringdon Dramatic Society First Impressions Theatre

Forest Musical Theatre Company

Garden Suburb Theatre Garsington Players

Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre Geoids Musical Theatre GLOC Musical Theatre Greek Theatre Players Green Room Productions

Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society

Harrow Opera

**Havering Music Makers** 

Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company

Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society

(HAODS)

Henley Players (Oxfordshire)
HEOS Musical Theatre
Hillingdon Musical Society
HLO Musical Company
IODS Productions
Jolly Good Company
Julian Light Operatic Society

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society

Kennet Opera

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company

Kings Langley Players

Kingsbury Amateur Operatic Society Kintbury St Marys Drama Group

KLOS Musical Theatre Lane End Players Launton Village Players London Youth Opera

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)

Loughton Operatic Society Magdalene Players Maidenhead Drama Guild

Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society

Maidenhead Operatic Society

Marlow Amateur Operatic Society (MAOS)

Masque Players of West Wycombe Mayhem Theatre Company Mill Hill Musical Theatre Company Mortimer Dramatic Society

Musical Youth Company of Oxford (MYCO)

**New Stagers Theatre Company** 

Newbury Youngstars Newbury Youth Theatre Nomads Musical Theatre

Nortonians Amateur Dramatic Society

Oakley Players

Odyssey Theatrical Productions Oxford Operatic Society (OXOPS)

Panda Players Parish Players Pavilion Players

Potters Bar Theatre Company

Progress Theatre Proscenium

Pump House Theatre Company Putney Light Operatic Society

Quaintwood Players Quince Players

Reading Operatic Society Rickmansworth Players Risborough Youth Theatre

Riverside Players ROS Musical Theatre Ruislip Dramatic Society

Sainsbury Singers

Sanderstead Dramatic Club

Shinfield Players Theatre

Shiplake & Dunsden Dramatic Organisation

Sinodun Players

Slough Windsor Maidenhead Theatre Company

Southside Players

Spotlights Musical Theatre Group

St Albans Musical Theatre Company

St Faith's Players

St James Music & Drama Society

St Peter Players

Starmaker Theatre Company

**SEDOS** 

Stonesfield Players

Teatr Syrena - The Polish Children's & Youth Theatre

Thame Players

Centralian Players, The

Chameleons Amateur Dramatic Society, The

Community of Hungerford Theatre Company, The

Pantoloons, The

Priory Players Amateur Theatre Company, The

Quay Players, The

Renegades, The

Roan Theatre Company, The

Warren, The

Theydon Bois Drama Society

**TOPS Musical Theatre Company** 

Tring Theatre Company

Tring Youth Theatre Project

Twyford Drama

**Uffington Players** 

Vale Musical Society

Valley Players Hughenden

**Wargrave Theatre** 

Wimbledon Light Opera Society

Wonder Theatre Training Academy

Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society (WADS)

Woodford Operatic & Dramatic Society

**Woodford Pantomime** 

Woodhouse Players

Woodley Light Operatic Society

Woodmansterne Operatic & Dramatic Society

**Wootton Players** 

Worcester Park Dramatic Society

**WOS Productions** 

Wraysbury Players

**WWOS Musical Theatre** 

Younger Generation Theatre Group

Youth of Banbury Operatic Society (YOBOS)

**Zodiac Musical Society** 

### **What's On In The London Region**

### You may submit show listings for inclusion at any time

There is always a lot going on in the London region. Make sure that your next show is listed. You may send your show listing as long in advance as you like. It will be listed on the London section of the NODA website immediately, and in the next issue of Curtain Up. Listings also appear on the NODA London Facebook page, between 6 and 8 weeks before show date.

### Please include:

- Venue, including postcode
- Dates
- Society Name
- Box Office Number (if applicable)
- Website

Please give an indication of the type of show eg. Musical, play, panto etc. Your society must be a paid up member of NODA in the London region. Send submissions to paul.holgate@noda.org.uk

### **PIPPIN**

03 Sep 25 - 06 Sep 25 Cygnet Players Putney Arts Theatre SW15 6AW Box Office: 020 8058 7581 https://cygnetplayers.com/ tickets/

### THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

by Ian Gower & Paul Carpenter 03 Sep 25 - 06 Sep 25 Potters Bar Theatre Company Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN Box Office: 01707 645005 https://shorturl.at/nL128

### A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

by Tennessee Williams 03 Sep 25 - 06 Sep 25 Tring Youth Theatre Project DEMBE Theatre HP23 5QY https://shorturl.at/H0V8c

### **BEAUTIFUL THING**

by Jonathan Harvey 08 Sep 25 - 13 Sep 25 Erith Playhouse Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY Box Office: 0333 666 3366 https://shorturl.at/xF2fk

### **PEOPLE**

by Alan Bennett 09 Sep 25 - 13 Sep 25 Thame Players Thame Players Theatre OX9 2DP www.thameplayers.co.uk/ events/people

### WHODIDIT?

by Neil Harrison 10 Sep 25 - 13 Sep 25 East Berkshire Operatic Society (EBOS) Pinewood Theatre RG40 3AQ https://shorturl.at/NGlgz

### **ANNIE**

11 Sep 25 - 13 Sep 25 Edge Hill Players Sacred Heart Parish Hall SW19 4LU

www.edgehillplayers.com/annie

# WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?

a night at the musicals with TOPS 12 Sep 25 - 13 Sep 25 TOPS Musical Theatre Company Whitton Community Centre TW2 6JL https://shorturl.at/jDg7e

# THE SOUND OF MUSICALS (concert)

15 Sep 25 Crowthorne Musical Players Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA Box Office: 01344 484 123 https://shorturl.at/jymnh

### **SECRETS, SEX AND OVER 60**

by Rachel Feeny-Williams 12 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25 Woodhouse Players Welsh Church Hall E11 1HR www.woodhouseplayers.co.uk/ tickets

### WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?

by Brian Clark 16 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25 Pump House Theatre Company Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP https://shorturl.at/BnouF

### THE INHERITANCE

by Miguel Falabella 16 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25 Sinodun Players Wallingford Corn Exchange OX10 0EG https://shorturl.at/O2PKx

### THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller
16 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25
SEDOS
Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ
https://shorturl.at/LvsRR

### **CLUEDO**

by Sandy Rustin 17 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25 Quince Players Cordes Hall SL5 9NE www.ticketsource.co.uk/ quinceplayers

### **SEX CELLS**

by Anna Longaretti
18 Sep 25 - 20 Sep 25
The Priory Players Amateur
Theatre Company
Progress Hall SE9 ISL
www.ticketsource.co.uk/
theprioryplayers
ASSASSINS
23 Sep 25 - 27 Sep 25
SEDOS
Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ
https://shorturl.at/R5BI8

# MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

by Anne Washburn 24 Sep 25 - 27 Sep 25 Bob Hope Theatre Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG Box Office: 020 88503702 www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/ burns.html

# THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL

24 Sep 25 - 27 Sep 25 Hillingdon Musical Society Winston Churchill Theatre HA4 7QL https://shorturl.at/lcpKT

### **AVENUE Q**

24 Sep 25 - 27 Sep 25 Reading Operatic Society Kenton Theatre RG9 2BS www.readingops.co.uk/

# WRAYSBURY'S GOT TALENT! 2025 variety show

27 Sep 25 Wraysbury Players Wraysbury Village Hall TW19 5NA www.wraysburyplayers.co.uk/

### **CURTAIN UP!**

by Adam Croft 26 Sep 25 - 28 Sep 25 Aldermaston Players Aldermaston Parish Hall RG7 4LW Box Office: 01189 712530 https://shorturl.at/7xxRc

### **GAGARIN WAY**

by Gregory Burke 29 Sep 25 - 04 Oct 25 Progress Theatre Progress Theatre RGI 5HL https://shorturl.at/6VHEw

### **JANE AUSTEN'S EMMA**

a new version by Aidan Steer 30 Sep 25 - 04 Oct 25 Southside Players Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre SW19 1QG https://shorturl.at/DuEFv

### SISTER ACT

01 Oct 25 - 04 Oct 25 Nomads Musical Theatre Newbury Corn Exchange RG14 5BD https://shorturl.at/x2oLM

### **PATIENCE**

01 Oct 25 - 04 Oct 25 HLO Musical Company Hampton Hill Theatre TW12 1NZ www.ticketsource.co.uk/hlo

### **BLEAK EXPECTATIONS**

by Mark Evans 02 Oct 25 - 05 Oct 25 IODS Productions Redbridge Drama Centre E18 2RB www.iodsproductions.co.uk/

### **LADIES' DAY**

by Amanda Whittington 03 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Mortimer Dramatic Society St John's Mortimer Hall RG7 3TF https://shorturl.at/Sld91

### **CALENDAR GIRLS**

### the musical

03 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Shinfield Players Theatre Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF https://shorturl.at/D9vxa

### **DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE**

by Sarah Ruhl 06 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Erith Playhouse Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY Box Office: 0333 666 3366 https://shorturl.at/xF2fk

### **GREASE**

07 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Zodiac Musical Society Hampton Hill Theatre TW12 1NZ https://shorturl.at/GGCLF

# 'ALLO 'ALLO 2: THE CAMEMBERT CAPER

by David Lovesy & David Pibworth 08 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Eldorado Musical Productions Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG Box Office: 02088 503702 www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/

# SHOW PEOPLE II bringing West End musicals to your table

09 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company Theatre @ The Nap WD4 8ET www.ticketsource.co.uk/klmtc

# HHTC PRESENTS; OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATION!

10 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company Boxmoor Playhouse HP1 1NP https://shorturl.at/lc6Uh

### **DIAMOND GEMS**

a sparkling selection of music and drama 10 Oct 25 - 11 Oct 25 Twyford Drama Loddon Hall RG10 9JA Box Office: 01183 282825 www.twyforddrama.co.uk/ current-show

### HEROES & VILLAINS A Musical Theatre Showdown Like No Other!

10 Oct 25 - 12 Oct 25 Havering Music Makers Tweed Way Hall RM1 4AZ https://shorturl.at/XWF7a

### **TEN TIMES TABLE**

by Alan Ayckbourn 10 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25 Lane End Players Lane End Village Hall HP14 3JE https://www.laneendplayers. com/

### **OKLAHOMA!**

14 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25 ELODS Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN Box Office: 01707 645005 www.elods.org.uk/

### **RENT**

15 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25 Bromley Players Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG https://shorturl.at/ceg3b

### JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

15 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25 Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS) Orchard West DAI 1BX https://shorturl.at/IGoCW

### LITTLE WOMEN the musical

15 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25 Starmaker Theatre Company Alan Cornish Theatre RG5 4JZ www.starmaker.org.uk/boxoffice

### **THE GONDOLIERS**

16 Oct 25 - 18 Oct 25
Julian Light Operatic Society
Questors Theatre W5 5BQ
Box Office: 020 85675184
www.julianoperatic.org/next\_
show.html

### **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**

21 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Berkhamsted Theatre Company Centenary Theatre HP4 3BG https://shorturl.at/pfsLI

### **GUYS AND DOLLS**

22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS) Mornington Hall E4 7ER Box Office: 07445 650935 www.ticketsource.co.uk/ cadoschingford

### **COME FROM AWAY**

22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Slough Windsor Maidenhead Theatre Company Old Court Artspace SL4 3BL https://shorturl.at/Qcjkl

### **LADIES' DAY**

by Amanda Whittington 22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Belmont Theatre Company Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP Box Office: 07917 324179 www.belmonttheatre.co.uk/

### **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**

by Oscar Wilde 22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Henley Players (Oxfordshire) Kenton Theatre RG9 2BS Box Office: 01491 525050 https://shorturl.at/Hgqt2

### **CARMEN - THE MUSICAL**

22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 Maidenhead Operatic Society Norden Farm Centre for the Arts SL6 4PF https://shorturl.at/COv3t

# CALENDAR GIRLS the musical

22 Oct 25 - 25 Oct 25 WOS Productions Winston Churchill Theatre HA4 7QL Box Office: 07391 988077 www.wos-productions.org.uk

### **TITUS ANDRONICUS**

by William Shakespeare 27 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Progress Theatre Progress Theatre RG1 5HL www.ticketsource.co.uk/ progresstheatre

### **HELLO DOLLY!**

28 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Abingdon Operatic Society Amey Theatre OX14 1DE www.ticketsource.co.uk/ abingdonoperatic

# THE AMAZING TECHCOLOR GLOC SHOW

29 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 GLOC Musical Theatre St Benedicts School W5 2ES www.glocmt.co.uk/

### **GREASE**

29 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Mayhem Theatre Company ACT Theatre KTl 2AQ www.ticketsource.co.uk/ mayhem

### **MADE IN DAGENHAM**

29 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Mill Hill Musical Theatre Company Hartley Hall NW7 2JA www.ticketsource.co.uk/mhmtc

### **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**

by Oscar Wilde 29 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 New Stagers Theatre Company New Wimbledon Theatre SW19 1QG https://shorturl.at/xKjfz

### **BAD GIRLS THE MUSICAL**

29 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Sainsbury Singers Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA https://shorturl.at/XEnGP

### HOME, I'M DARLING

by Laura Wade 30 Oct 25 - 01 Nov 25 Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) Lopping Hall IG10 4LF https://lads.org.uk/tickets/

### **SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM**

by Guy Unsworth
03 Nov 25 - 08 Nov 25
Erith Playhouse
Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY
Box Office: 0333 666 3366
https://shorturl.at/xF2fk

### **ALL SHOOK UP**

04 Nov 25 - 08 Nov 25 Green Room Productions Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN Box Office: 01707 645005 https://shorturl.at/mSTID

### **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**

by Oscar Wilde 05 Nov 25 - 08 Nov 25 Proscenium Compass Theatre UB10 8PD https://shorturl.at/CrurB

# CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

06 Nov 25 - 09 Nov 25
East Berkshire Operatic Society
(EBOS)
Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA
https://shorturl.at/64HOA

### RENT

11 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 Geoids Musical Theatre Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ www.ticketsource.co.uk/geoids

### **GYPSY**

11 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 Potters Bar Theatre Company Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN Box Office: 01707 645005 https://shorturl.at/QgdXC

### WHITE CHRISTMAS

11 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 St Albans Musical Theatre Company Alban Arena AL1 3LD Box Office: 01727 844488 www.samtc.org.uk/

### **WE WILL ROCK YOU**

12 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (HAODS) Kenton Theatre RG9 2BS Box Office: 01491 525050 https://shorturl.at/Rbisc

# DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

12 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 ROS Musical Theatre Winston Churchill Theatre HA4 7QL https://shorturl.at/md41s

### **COME FROM AWAY**

12 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25 Wimbledon Light Opera Society Arthur Cotterell Theatre KT1 2AQ www.wlos.org.uk/tickets

### INTO THE WOODS

13 Nov 25 - 15 Nov 25
Beaconsfield Musical and
Operatic Society (BMOS)
Curzon Centre HP9 1RG
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmos

# SWEENEY TODD the demon barber of Fleet Street

11 Nov 25 - 16 Nov 25 WWOS Musical Theatre Churchill Theatre BR1 1HA Box Office: 0343 3100020 https://shorturl.at/TB6jB

### SPIDER'S WEB

by Agatha Christie 13 Nov 25 - 16 Nov 25 Croydon Operatic & Dramatic Association (CODA) Selsdon Hall CR2 8LA https://shorturl.at/nGsFV

### **BLITHE SPIRIT**

by Noël Coward 13 Nov 25 - 16 Nov 25 Havering Music Makers Tweed Way Hall RM1 4AZ https://shorturl.at/XWF7a

### **TREASURE ISLAND**

adapted by Bryony Lavery 19 Nov 25 - 22 Nov 25 Rickmansworth Players Watersmeet WD3 1EH www.rickyplayers.co.uk/

### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson 19 Nov 25 - 22 Nov 25 Shinfield Players Theatre Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/ booktickets

### **ALADDIN**

20 Nov 25 - 23 Nov 25 Banbury Cross Players Mill Arts Centre OX16 5QE https://shorturl.at/X3DM5

### **DREAMGIRLS**

19 Nov 25 - 29 Nov 25 SEDOS Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ https://shorturl.at/YKZtQ

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (pantomime)

27 Nov 25 - 29 Nov 25 Masque Players of West Wycombe West Wycombe Village Hall HP14 3AB Box Office: 07810 838327 https://shorturl.at/wrtpE

### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

adapted by Patrick Barlow 01 Dec 25 - 06 Dec 25 Erith Playhouse Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY Box Office: 0333 666 3366 https://shorturl.at/xF2fk

### **COME FROM AWAY**

03 Dec 25 - 06 Dec 25 Loughton Operatic Society Lopping Hall IG10 4LF www.ticketsource.co.uk/los

### **HMS PINAFORE**

03 Dec 25 - 06 Dec 25 Woodley Light Operatic Society Alan Cornish Theatre RG5 4JZ Box Office: 03336 663366 www.wlos.co.uk/

# ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

by Dario Fo 03 Dec 25 - 07 Dec 25 East Lane Theatre Club East Lane Theatre HAO 3HG www.eastlanetheatre.co.uk/ booking.html

### **BABES IN THE WOOD**

05 Dec 25 - 14 Dec 25 Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company Boxmoor Playhouse HP1 INP Box Office: 0333 666 3366 www.ticketsource.co.uk/ hhtheatreco

# SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARVES

12 Dec 25 - 14 Dec 25
The Chameleons Amateur
Dramatic Society
Church of the Ascension
Wembley Hall HA9 9QL
www.thechameleons.co.uk/
tickets/

### **ROBIN HOOD**

16 Dec 25 - 21 Dec 25
Maidenhead Drama Guild
Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
SL6 4PF
https://norden.farm/events/
robin-hood

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (pantomime)

19 Dec 25 - 21 Dec 25 Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society Edgbarrow School Hall RG45 7HZ www.ticketsource.co.uk/ crowthornecats

### **RED RIDING HOOD**

03 Jan 26 - 17 Jan 26 Erith Playhouse Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY Box Office: 0333 666 3366 https://shorturl.at/xF2fk

### **THE WELKIN**

by Lucy Kirkwood 15 Jan 26 - 17 Jan 26 Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) Lopping Hall IG10 4LF https://lads.org.uk/tickets/

### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

13 Jan 26 - 18 Jan 26 Oxford Operatic Society (OXOPS) New Theatre Oxford OX1 2AG https://shorturl.at/rRCrJ

### SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

18 Mar 26 - 21 Mar 26 Eldorado Musical Productions Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG Box Office: 02088 503702 www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk/

### **THE HERD**

by Rory Kinnear 26 Mar 26 - 28 Mar 26 Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) Lopping Hall IG10 4LF https://lads.org.uk/tickets/

# JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

11 May 26 - 16 May 26 Erith Operatic Society Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY www.ticketsource.co.uk/eos

### **AFTER LIFE**

by Jack Thorne
12 Jun 26 - 14 Jun 26
Loughton Amateur Dramatic
Society (LADS)
Lopping Hall IG10 4LF
https://lads.org.uk/tickets/



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