

noda

# LONDON LATEST

## News and Updates from the London Region

August 2013

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### Councillor's Comments

Welcome to this edition of London Latest. I am pleased that we got such a positive response to our first newsletter. However, I understand that some of you didn't receive it for various reasons, one of which may be that we do not have your correct email address. If you have recently changed emails can you please let our Membership Secretary, Barrie Theobald, know so that we can update our records. ([barrietheobald@rdg12.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:barrietheobald@rdg12.wanadoo.co.uk)) or [barrie.theobald@noda.org.uk](mailto:barrie.theobald@noda.org.uk)



It was lovely to see so many of you at our London Conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. We had a super day..... although it was rather hot....and Andy Murray even won the tennis – what a super finish to a very busy day.

A Regional Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet each other in a social arena, swap ideas, network and celebrate our achievements – and have a CD of photographs of the day to remember it by. I am sure a lot of happy people left the theatre yesterday justifiably proud of what they had achieved over the past year. Can I just remind you that if you are sending in entries for the Programme and Poster Competition, they have to be accompanied by an entry form which is on the London pages of the website – **please note the new closing date**. Could I also remind you to ensure that the piece you enter about NODA is up to date – I have seen several programmes this year with the wrong HQ address in, and we moved from Lincoln Road 20 months ago!!!! Unfortunately if these details are incorrect your entry will be disqualified.

There are lots of pictures and bits of news about the conference elsewhere in this edition.

Once again we had the team from BACCES who had a new selection of their wonderful costumes for sale ([www.BACCES.COM](http://www.BACCES.COM)) or call 07767741639. This year also Green Room Productions were showing members the wonderful props hire facility they now have. For further details contact of this service from Green Room contact: [johnhebdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnhebdon@gmail.com)

In an effort to help our groups provide another string to their marketing we have set up a NODA London Twitter account, @NODALondon. If you follow us and tweet about your next show we will then re-tweet it thus taking your message to many more groups who would otherwise not have seen it.

I wish you all a very successful year.

Jacquie Stedman  
Councillor  
NODA London

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>27—29 September</b>	<b>NODA National AGM, Peebles</b>
<b>25 October</b>	<b>Copy deadline for November London Latest</b>
<b>10 November</b>	<b>London Latest distribution</b>
<b>25 January</b>	<b>Copy deadline for February London Latest</b>
<b>10 February</b>	<b>London Latest distribution</b>
<b>6 July 2014</b>	<b>London Conference, Wyllotts Centre, Potters Bar</b>

# NODA LONDON 2013 AWARDS

## 2013 NODA LONDON AWARDS

### Constance Power Trophy of Encouragement

Winner: Marlow Amateur Operatic Society

### The Shinfield Players Scenic Award

Winner: Kingston Vale ODS – Whistle Down the Wind

Runners-up: The Good Companions ADS – All My Sons  
Beaufort Players – The Memory of Water

Highly Commended: Amersham Playgoers – The Flint Street Nativity

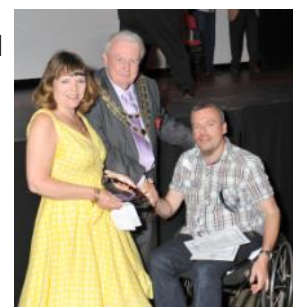


### The Joe Putnam Award for the Best Musical

Winner: Green Room Productions – The Scarlet Pimpernel

Runner Up: SEDOS - Baby

Highly Commended: Forest Musical Productions – Seussical the Musical  
Harrow Light Opera Company - Sweet Charity



### Ken Wirdnam Trophy for the Best Male Character in a Musical

Winner: Starmaker – Matthew Harcourt – Les Miserables

Runner-up: Players 2 – Tim Redman – Mack and Mabel

Highly Commended: GEOIDS – Kevin Sherwin – The Fix

### Molly Harle Trophy for Best Female Character in a Musical

Winner: Harrow Light Opera Company – Kerry Lee – Sweet Charity

Runner-Up: Loughton Operatic Society – Gill Astley – Liza of Lambeth

### The Kathleen Oyler Trophy for Chorus Work

Winner: Harrow Light Opera Company – Sweet Charity

Runner-up: Banbury Operatic Society – Kiss Me Kate

Highly Commended: Eldorado Musical Productions – Whistle Down the Wind  
SEDOS – Guys and Dolls

### The Dorothy Lawson G&S Award

Winner: East Berkshire Operatic Society (EBOS) – The Gondoliers

Runner-up: Hounslow Light Opera Company – The Yeoman of the Guard

Highly Commended: Mayhem Musical Theatre Company – The Pirates of Penzance

### The Malcolm Rose Trophy for the Best Male in a G&S

Winner: Havering Music Makers – Nick Ford – The Mikado

Runner-up: Radlett LOS – Steve Brown – The High School Mikado

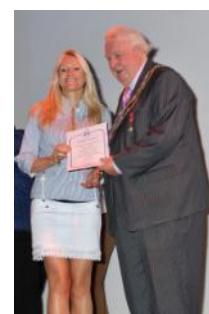
### The Malcolm Rose Trophy for the Best Female in a G&S

Winner: Maidenhead Operatic Society – Sian Oxley – Iolanthe

### The Pat Redhead Drama Award

Winner: Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society – My Boy Jack

Runners-up: Beaufort Players – The Memory of Water  
Amersham Playgoers - The Flint Street Nativity



# NODA LONDON 2013 AWARDS

## **The Charles Sumner Award for the Best Male in a Play**

Winner: Argosy Players – Paul Friend – Calendar Girls  
 Runners-up: Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society - Iain Howland – My Boy Jack  
 Quince Players – Huw Mordecai – Black Coffee

## **The Sybil Conway Award for the Best Female in a Play**

Winner: New Stagers – Joanna Dodd – Kindertransport  
 Runner-up: Argosy Players – Yvonne Stroud – Calendar Girls

## **The Eric Watsham Award for the Best Cameo in a Play**

Winner: Ruislip Dramatic Society – Martin Sawyer – Calendar Girls  
 Runner-up: Amie Macura – Joking Apart



## **The Youngstars Award**

Winner: ROS Stageworks – Fame  
 Runner Up: Starmaker – Les Miserables

## **The 'It's Behind You' Pantomime Award**

Winner: Twyford & Ruscombe Theatre Group – Wind in the Willows  
 Runner Up: New Stagers - Cinderella

## **The Louise English Trophy**

Winner: Heather Morgan – Marlow AOS

## **The Shelley Lemesh Trophy for the Unsung Hero**

Winner: Christine Eckley – Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society  
 Runner-up: Diane Capel – Shinfield Players Theatre



## **Dumayne Warne Trophy for Poster Design**

Winner: Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Theatre Company - Hair  
 Runner-up: British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainments Society - Aladdin

## **June King Memorial Trophy for Programme Design (Basic Class)**

Winner: BreakaLeg Productions – The Importance of Being Ernest

## **Whitebread Trophy for Programme Design (Standard Class)**

Winner: HEOS – Follies  
 Runner-up: Chesham Musical Theatre Company – Kiss Me Kate  
 Highly Commended: Loughton Operatic Society – Music Man



## **F Leslie Cowham Trophy for Programme Design (Souvenir Class)**

Winner: British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainments Society – Aladdin  
 Runner-up: Chesham Bois Catholic Players – Annie  
 Highly Commended: West Wickham Operatic Society – Titanic – The Musical



# NODA LONDON CONFERENCE

## 7 JULY 2013



*Kerry Lee of Harrow Light Opera Company wins the Best Female in a Musical award for her portrayal of Charity Hope Valentine in Sweet Charity*



*Harvey Kesselman, Regional Rep for District 9 hands over to his successor, Bill Baynes, watched by Jacquie Stedman, Tony Austin and Paul Holgate*



*Alistair Woodgate collects the Joe Putnam Award for Best Musical Production on behalf of Green Room Productions, winners for their production of The Scarlet Pimpernel*



*Make Up and Costume Workshop*



*Ruislip Operatic Stageworks hear that they have won the Youngstars Award for their production of Fame*



*Drama Workshop*

# NODA LONDON CONFERENCE

## 7 JULY 2013

### FLAME AWARDS 2013

District 1  
**New Stagers**

District 2  
**GLOC**

The Chorus of The Wedding Singer

District 3  
**Hugh Jones**

Worcester Park Dramatic Society

District 4  
**Sophie Sweeney, Chris Wan and  
the cast of Whistle Down The Wind**

Eldorado Musical Productions

District 5  
**Wallington Operatic  
& Dramatic Society**

Dad's Army

District 6  
**Lee Kenneth**

Loughton Operatic Society

District 7  
**Colin Davis**

Southgate Opera

District 8  
**Harrow Light Opera Company**

Oliver and Sweet Charity

District 9  
**Good Companions Amateur  
Dramatic Society**

All My Sons

District 10  
**Potters Bar Theatre Company**

Crazy For You

District 11  
**Ellen David**

Wendover Theatre Society

District 11a  
**Lauren Shepherd** as Julie Jordan,  
in Carousel

Chesham Musical Theatre Company

District 12  
**Musical Youth Company of Oxford**

District 13  
**David Savage**

Starmaker Theatre Company

District 14  
**Howard Faulks and Maidenhead  
Operatic Society**

The Magic Flute





# NODA LONDON CONFERENCE 2013

## NEW AWARDS

Following last year's conference, we were delighted to be approached with the offer of four new trophies to add to the list of Awards.

Judith Watsham donated the Eric Watsham Award for Best Cameo Performance in a Play, The Malcolm Rose Trophy for Best Male in a G&S Role donated by Brian Rose in memory of his son, and also in memory of Malcolm and donated by some of the groups he worked with, Best Female in a G&S Role.



*Martin Sawyer, Eric Watsham Award for Best Cameo Performance*

*Sian Oxley, The Malcolm Rose Trophy for Best Female in a G&S*



*Christine Eckley receives her Award from Eleanor Glazer (left)*

Christine can always be relied on to give the director fantastic guidance on not only costume but also style of designs and deportment of actors. Not being a fan of the internet this impressive knowledge has been created from her commitment over the years to research through her collection of books and paper cuttings, the outcome of which is that her costumes always garner very favourable comment from NODA critics amongst others and this praise is well deserved.

Another job that Christine took upon herself was to look after the garages which house all of LADS' props, wigs and furniture. These she purchased for this purpose, but only occasionally can she be persuaded to take rent for them. The reason for this may be because before these were purchased she used a considerable amount of space in her own flat to store this enormous collection!

Not only does Christine save LADS expenditure but she also improves the other side of the balance sheet as well. When there are not LADS costumes to create (and sometimes when there are) Christine uses her skills to create costumes for, and organise the hiring of costumes to other local societies, thus bringing in income to the society. Adding to this she is currently in the process of painstakingly going through the vast costume collection to find the garments that will no longer be of use and are fit for sale. So far this project has made over £200 but every estimate is that by it's completion it will raise in excess of £1000. This is a testament to both Christine's eye for style and her meticulous approach to saving things.

Every society has someone that helps out and wants no thanks for the hard work that they do. However without Christine's contributions over many years LADS would be much poorer in style, presentation and of course, financially. Christine has quietly gone about the business of dressing LADS shows for four decades, sewing into the night and during performances, to get each costume just right. Her contribution has been enormous, from this quiet, modest, gentle, friendly and hugely valued colleague. Next season will be the last that Christine does as LADS' Wardrobe Officers but I know that even without the position she will still be very much involved giving needed advice, casting an acute eye and lending a skilful hand for many more years to come."

Our fourth new award was given by Eleanor Glazer in memory of her daughter, Shelley Lemesh. Eleanor suggested an award recognizing the work of backstage members or helpers who, without payment and when not appearing on stage, have made an exceptional contribution in the last year to their production(s) whether stage crew, in the fields of props, costumes, sound, lighting or other fields. We decided to name this the Unsung Hero Award, and for the nominations to come directly from societies. We were overwhelmed by the response, and extremely impressed with the recommendations, all very worthy nominees.

The eventual winner was Christine Eckley of Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society. This is the citation her society sent in:

"Christine Eckley became a member of Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) in the 1960s and was an excellent actress, dancer and singer. She acted in many of LADS plays and participated in musicals with other local groups such as Loughton Operatic Society and Thistles Musical Society. Unfortunately a number of years ago she retired from treading the boards due to ill health, as she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. This however did not stop her being an integral part of the society as she continued her role of LADS Wardrobe Officer that she has held since the early eighties.

Christine almost single-handedly produces all the costumes for LADS productions sometimes creating four costume plays a year from different periods, eg Tudor, Georgian, Victorian and 1920s, for up to 20 actors, often with several changes of costume. She does all this on a shoe string budget and is extremely skilled in adapting costumes, meaning that there is rarely any need to create things from scratch or hire costumes which would cost the society a lot of money.

# THE YOUNGER GENERATION HONOURED IN QUEENS AWARDS



In conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of The Queen's Coronation, 117 outstanding UK volunteering groups have been honoured as recipients of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2013.

This unique UK national honour was created over a decade ago by Her Majesty to mark the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and to recognise the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers; it has an equivalent status for voluntary groups as the MBE has for individuals.



*Some of the Management and Production Team with some of the cast for this year's show*

Winners will receive a certificate signed by The Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants in their counties at special ceremonies arranged by the Lieutenancy offices.

The Younger Generation Theatre Group had their first show at the Ashcroft Theatre in 1988 Called 'Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance'. It was the brainchild of Frank Graves who used to produce the South West London Gang Shows at Wimbledon Theatre. He wanted to give the opportunity to all young people, not only those associated with scouting the chance to appear on the stage. Unfortunately earlier this year Frank passed away without knowing what accolade the group he had created had obtained.

The group rehearse at every Sunday during the Summer at St Mark's Church Hall, Purley. For the last two years they have been part of the winning entry from Merton in the London Borough's New Years Day Parade Competition. Dancing their way through the streets of London ending up in Whitehall and Parliament Square.

This year they will have a cast of 70 young people aged 9 to 18 in their show which consists mainly of singing and dancing. The show will be called "Silver Stars" and will be all about events from the last 25 years through music and song. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June it was announced that they were one of the 117 voluntary groups from the UK that were to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2013. This year is their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and at the end of their matinee performance on the 31<sup>st</sup> August they will be presented with their certificate and a commemorative crystal, by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Croydon on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, in front of the audience.

The citation on the certificate will read "For Giving Young People aged 9 to 18, the opportunity to appear on a professional stage."

*Diane Rexstrew-Berry*

*Editor's Note: This article will also appear in the NODA National Autumn magazine*



## WHY DOOLITTLE?

### Vale Musical Society Choose A Show With A Difference



*Alan Munt (Doctor Dolittle) with a Pushmi-Pullyu*

Vale Musical Society will be the first NODA affiliated society in the south of England to perform the musical Doctor Dolittle when they take to the stage of The Court Theatre, Tring, Hertfordshire 13—16 November.

Following on from the success of Half a Sixpence in November 2012, the society (formerly Vale Gilbert and Sullivan Society) recognised there was a niche to be filled in the local area and chose to rebrand themselves at the end of 2012, and promote the society as 'the best in family musical entertainment'.

Fiddler on the Roof was going to be their next choice of show, but once Craig Revel Horwood announced a national tour of the show for late 2013 an alternative needed to be found.

Chairman Jackie Farrow remembers, as many of us do, being delighted with the film adaptation of the books by Hugh Lofting. Rex Harrison and Anthony Newley starred in the 1967 film which was adapted from the books by Leslie Bricusse. When Jackie saw on the Josef Weinberger website that the stage musical is now available to amateur societies, she researched the logistics of staging the show. Once Director and Music Director were on board the committee voted to apply for the license.

Director Neil Gurney is a very experienced director and has many innovative ideas up his sleeve. The musical numbers are delightful, we all know Talk to the Animals and I've never seen Anything Like It. There is plenty of chorus participation required on stage as villagers, circus acts, islanders and not to mention some younger members portraying some of the animals. Neil and MD Deborah Davies are also planning to involve the chorus in a few more of the musical numbers.

The cast have planned a day trip to the beautiful village Castle Combe which was the film location for Puddleby-in-the-Marsh. There they plan to take publicity shots and enjoy Sunday lunch in The Castle Hotel. Jackie is also producing the show and is liaising with Ray Martindale of Abbey Musical Society, Barrow in Furness who successfully staged Doctor Dolittle in March 2012. She is hoping to hire some animal costumes and props from AMS and director Neil will also be interested to hear of Ray's experience of the show.

In a nutshell, VMS are very excited about this show and if you are local to Tring and would like to either join the chorus or come along to support the show (you may even be looking for a different idea for your next production) please contact Jackie Farrow 07905282341 for details.

For tickets contact Pat Rose 01296 662745. Evening performances 7.30pm, Matinee 2pm.



## STANDING IN THE SHADOW OF THE SHARD



It's not often that an amateur dramatic society becomes a victim of its own success. But when it happens, it's cause for celebration – and change.

The Quay Players, based in South East London, are coming into their 16<sup>th</sup> year this year. Over the past decade and a half, the society has gone from strength to strength, and grown in numbers from its handful of founding members back in 1997 to casts of over 30, with an even larger membership.

This growth is exactly what every amdram group craves – but it also brings about the need for change, which can leave some members more hesitant. The biggest change is venue: with a larger cast and membership comes need for a larger stage, and bigger audience capacity.



It is with this in mind that the Quay Players have made one of the defining decisions of their history – moving theatres from a church hall in the depths of Bermondsey to a 400-seater space. The Greenwood Theatre has professional level facilities and is located just behind the newly redeveloped London Bridge station, in the shadows of The Shard, Europe's tallest building.

The society is tremendously excited about the move – coming



off the back of a slew of successful shows, from this summer's *Sweet Charity*, to the sold out *Cinderella Ella Ella* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* that formed the society's 2012 programme.

The first show that the Quay Players will perform at the Greenwood Theatre is *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a family pantomime written specifically for the Quay Players by Ian McFarlane, a professional director and writer with a history of penning West End shows.

If you are interested in joining the Quay Players in this exciting new venture, either as an audience member or by joining the talented cast, please visit [www.quayplayers.org.uk](http://www.quayplayers.org.uk) or email [info@quayplayers.org.uk](mailto:info@quayplayers.org.uk).

Fleur Wylie

## RUISLIP OPERATIC SOCIETY CELEBRATE 90 YEARS

Founded in 1923, Ruislip Operatic Society (ROS) celebrated 90 years in the musical theatre business with an afternoon tea party and a night of nostalgia.

The event, which took place at the Great Barn Manor Farm Heritage Site, Bury Street, Ruislip on 14 July, was attended by 100 of the current members of the society. Games old and new were played throughout the afternoon in the courtyard, whilst everyone basked in the sunshine.



The evening events consisted of a musical theatre sing-along, dancing and entertainment provided by different members of the society.



Malcolm Unwin, Chairman of ROS, commented on the event saying 'It was so nice to see members old and new come together to celebrate 90 years of the society, which is a milestone for ROS. Here's to the next 90 years'.

For its 90<sup>th</sup> year, ROS have already performed *Oklahoma!* and will be performing Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, 2 to 5 October. Further information can be found on the ROS website: [www.ruislipos.org](http://www.ruislipos.org).

Fran Hampson

## WORRIED ABOUT AUDIENCE NUMBERS?

### Forest Musical Company Get Creative With Marketing

As a member of a committee that runs a Musical Theatre group I can honestly say my least favourite task on committee is picking a show; it is so hard to find a show that ticks all the boxes. Can we afford to do it? Can we sell it? Will our members want to do this show? We struggle with this every time. We did find one show that ticked all the boxes for us though and we encourage you to consider this as your show choice.

In April 2013 we performed *Seussical The Musical* at the Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford. After seeing this performed by a youth group some years ago we could really see that this would be an ideal show for our group. It's a great company show, there is lots for everyone to do, lots of parts, even for women, it's great fun and has a superb score, the cast were all thrilled to be in it, you can costume most of it yourselves (we did) and it need only have a simple composite set. The main expense is sound, although we managed to get it down to 16 radio mics from the 26 we had originally been warned of.



We did have some reservations though, the main one being whether we could sell it. We decided that if we were going to do this fabulous show we needed to get creative with our marketing. We had learnt from our experience of publishing *Honk!* a few years earlier that it was vital to pitch a show like this to children and families rather than trying to 'hedge your bets' and go for both markets. The adults who would come will pick up on the marketing anyway.

Here are some of our ideas to increase ticket sales:

1. We added children to the 'Whos' chorus and double cast so there were teams doing alternate performances (we had 23 children in total).
2. Using a grant (from the London Borough of Redbridge to develop a new audience) we wrote and delivered an Outreach Programme. This included booklets for teachers and parents to use with the Dr. Seuss books and/or the show which explored the educational themes of the show for use before and after the show. We also wrote a booklet for children with fun exercises in (and our flyer on the back). These were distributed by the Theatre, the Redbridge Library Service and by ourselves at flyering events or Outreach



events. We also ran free 'Story time with Dr. Seuss' events. These involved cast members, sometimes in costume reading Dr. Seuss stories and, depending on the age of the audience, craft and art activities. We would have flyers, booklets and banners advertising the show at each event.

3. We had a lot of support from the Kenneth More Theatre who allowed us to open the box office early for Seussical, run an Early Bird offer and promote the show through the Theatre's pantomime period. We advertised in the pantomime programme and flyers were handed out at the end of each performance of the pantomime. They also allowed us to display a large banner in the foyer of the theatre throughout the selling period and a stand inviting people to take our Outreach Programme booklet.

4. The Redbridge Central Library also displayed a taller banner for us and distributed our flyers and posters through all their branches. They allowed us to run a 'Story Time' session at their central library. They also ordered in extra copies of the Dr. Seuss books and, when they weren't borrowed, displayed them prominently.

5. We contacted other groups that we knew were going to do 'Seussical' directly and suggested they come to see the show.

6. We advertised to an audience we knew had an interest in child related matters. For example we run Baby and Toddler Nearly New Sales to fund raise each year and we sent information to all those contacts and the places we advertise at, so hospitals, doctors surgeries, playgroups, community halls etc. (We also ran a Story Time event in the hall adjacent to our sale at the same time.)

7. We ran an extensive Facebook and Twitter campaign throughout the selling period.

We also did all the normal things we do for shows too, flyering, putting posters up in the locality (we allocate cast members individual areas to put posters up in), sending out flyers to our mailing list, to our members and asking them to pass on, advertng on various websites, adverts in local publications, press articles and press releases to radio stations.

All of this proved very successful and we sold the show at 90% with 2 of the 4 performances sold out (and made a profit). This was a huge achievement for this show at this Theatre. We estimate, based on information from the theatre that 43% of ticket sales were to a new audience. The Cat in the Hat and Dr. Seuss stories have a huge profile and appeal generally at the moment and it is worth recognising that this is highly advantageous in bringing a new audience in. The company and production team brought such enthusiasm and commitment to the production that we were also nominated for Best Musical for the NODA London Region and were Highly Commended. (Our Cat in the Hat, Richard Sheepwash, was also nominated for Best Actor).

We do encourage you to perform this show and are happy to share our outreach materials with you and discuss any aspects of the show or its marketing. Contact [alison@forestmusical.co.uk](mailto:alison@forestmusical.co.uk). Our next show is Oliver! 1 - 5 October, at Lopping Hall Loughton, tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/forestmusical](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/forestmusical). Follow us on twitter @FMTC\_tweets [www.forestmusical.co.uk](http://www.forestmusical.co.uk)



*Alison Buckingham  
Forest Musical Company*



## MARINA BANFIELD



Societies in West Berkshire were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Marina Banfield in June. Marina was one of those larger than life characters who everyone knows and loves. She had a wonderful soprano voice and was a member of ProMusica Chorus of London for nearly 20 years, performing at prestigious venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and the Festival Hall, as well as touring in Europe.

However, it was on stage that we all got to know her. Marina had a wicked sense of humour and I can remember lying helpless with laughter on a cold school hall floor one winter's night while she gave a somewhat risqué running commentary on a decidedly over-ambitious warm up we were being put through. She starred in many local productions during the 70s and 80s, but in recent years was more likely to be seen in the chorus – usually in the front row! And why not – she had a charisma that led the eye to her however minor the role.

In previous years she had run Crescendo Costumes with a couple of friends, and put her experience to good use in helping whatever society she was performing with on costumes and alterations. She had a seemingly endless supply of wigs, gloves, jewellery which she quite happily lent, kitting out the cast with whatever they were short of. The other thing she had in endless supply was encouragement. It didn't matter how little talent you had, Marina would be genuinely supportive. She believed there was potential in everyone.

A couple of years ago she heard that Dustin Hoffman was to make a film locally and was looking for 'mature' actors and actresses with singing experience. With no filming experience, and in her 70s, she applied, auditioned and was cast as one of the residents in the film Quartet, alongside Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins and Tom Courtney. When the curtains open on the 'Verdi concert' – the climax of the whole film - there is Marina, centre front of course. The experience opened up a whole new world for her. She got herself a casting agent and was soon travelling across the country filming programmes such as Casualty and Countdown to Murder (to be screened in September). To say she was in her element was an understatement. I bumped into Marina on a railway platform a couple of months after the filming of Quartet finished. I was off to a sedate night at the Proms, Marina was dressed to the nines, looking amazing, her dancing shoes in her bag, on her way to the Wrap Party featuring a heavy metal band!

Her final Act was a lesson to us all, that it is never too late to do something that you love, or to pursue your dream. Asked in hospital by a doctor if he had a star as a patient she replied "No, I'm just a lady who got lucky". You're wrong, Marina, you truly were a star.

*Rosemary Roberts*

## ST JOHN'S AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY LAUNCH RECRUITMENT DRIVE

One of Sidcup's longest established musical groups is launching a campaign to recruit new members, under the slogan 'Act Now!'.

St. John's Amateur Operatic Society was founded back in 1951 when a bunch of enthusiasts built a stage, made lights out of old oil drums and put on Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore to glowing reviews. Since then the Society has put on two or more shows a year, branching out from G&S in 1984, and performing My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, and Calamity Jane in recent years. The Society performs and rehearses at St. John's Hall in Church Road, Sidcup, rehearsals are every Thursday evening at 7.45pm. Auditions are open and there are many social events. Standards are high and the Society has twice won the NODA trophy for Chorus Work, but in recent years numbers have slipped and they are now actively seeking new members.

For more information please phone 07806 657 672, or visit their website [www.ssjaos.co.uk](http://www.ssjaos.co.uk) or twitter @sjaos\_Sidcup.



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

Can I draw your attention to the What's On pages. Feedback from the NODA Conference was that societies really welcomed not only advertising their shows in the newsletter, but being able to see what other groups were performing. Don't just rely on your Rep sending me the information. To make sure you group is included and the details are correct, please send me the name of the show, the dates you're performing, the name of your society, the venue, and a website address. Please include all these details, you've no idea how many hours I spent googling societies to find venues and website addresses! Check the What's On Page to see the format.

One comment at the Conference was that we should be including all the (often very lengthy) legal, contractual requirements for each show in our listing. This is not the case. As a society you are required to put this on all marketing and publicity material. As the What's On section is only a listing **we** put together of shows in the London area, we do not need to do this. Check out any theatre or cinema listings, particularly those in newspapers, and you'll find none of them are including these contractual clauses. Hope that clarifies the situation.

*Rosemary Roberts*  
Editor  
[roberts.noda@btconnect.com](mailto:roberts.noda@btconnect.com)

# WHAT'S ON

## NODA London Region Fixture List

### SEPTEMBER 2013

#### KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

9 – 14 September  
Erith Playhouse  
[www.playhouse.org.uk](http://www.playhouse.org.uk)

#### OKLAHOMA!

11 – 14 September  
Geoids  
[www.geoidsmt.co.uk](http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk)

#### FAME – THE MUSICAL

11 – 14 September  
Stage One Youth  
Desborough Suite, Maidenhead SL6 1RF  
[www.stageoneyouth.com](http://www.stageoneyouth.com)

#### THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK

19 – 21 September  
Hillingdon Musical Society  
[www.hillingdonmusicalsociety.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonmusicalsociety.co.uk)

#### MAOS presents Stages

20 - 21 September  
MAOS- Marlow Amateur Operatic Society  
Liston Hall, Marlow  
[www.maosmarlow.com](http://www.maosmarlow.com)

#### GREASE

25 - 28 September  
Reading Operatic Society  
The Hexagon Theatre, Reading  
[www.readingops.co.uk](http://www.readingops.co.uk)

#### SNAKE IN THE GRASS

25 - 28 September  
Bob Hope Theatre  
[www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk](http://www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk)

#### PASSION KILLERS

30 September – 5 October  
Erith Playhouse  
[www.playhouse.org.uk](http://www.playhouse.org.uk)

### OCTOBER 2013

#### LOVE STORY

1 - 5 October  
Sedos  
Bridewell Theatre, London EC4Y 8EQ  
[www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

#### OLIVER!

1-5 October  
Forest Musical Company  
Lopping Hall, Loughton  
[www.forestmusical.co.uk](http://www.forestmusical.co.uk)

#### GREASE

2- 5 October 2013  
Nomads Musical Theatre  
Corn Exchange, Newbury  
[www.nomadsmusicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.nomadsmusicaltheatre.co.uk)

#### LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS

2 – 5 October  
East Berkshire Operatic Society  
Pinewood Theatre, Wokingham  
[www.ebos.org.uk](http://www.ebos.org.uk)

#### INTO THE WOODS

2 - 5 October  
Ruislip Operatic Society  
Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip  
07905 932366  
[www.ruislipos.org](http://www.ruislipos.org)

#### CATS

8 - 12 October  
Starmaker Theatre Company  
Wilde Theatre, Bracknell  
[www.starmakeuk.org](http://www.starmakeuk.org)

#### MACK AND MABEL

9 – 12 October  
Eldorado Musical Productions  
Bob Hope Theatre, Wythfield Road,  
Eltham, SE9  
[www.eldoradomusicalproductions.co.uk](http://www.eldoradomusicalproductions.co.uk)  
[www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk](http://www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk)

#### ROUND THE WORLD

11 – 13 October  
Ferrier Operatic Society  
Carlton Centre, Sidcup  
[www.ferrieroperatic.co.uk](http://www.ferrieroperatic.co.uk)

#### THE DRACULA SPECTACULAR

16 – 19 October  
Elstree Productions  
The Radlett Centre, Radlett  
01923 859291

#### IT'S A SIN

16 – 19 October 2013  
Chesham Musical Theatre Company  
Elgiva Theatre, Chesham HP5  
[www.cheshammusicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.cheshammusicaltheatre.co.uk)

#### THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

17 - 19 October  
Sidcup Light Opera Group  
[www.sidcupoperaticsociety.com](http://www.sidcupoperaticsociety.com)

#### IRA LEWIN'S DEATHTRAP

21 October – 5 November  
Erith Playhouse  
[www.playhouse.org.uk](http://www.playhouse.org.uk)

#### WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

22 - 26 October  
ELODS  
Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar  
[www.elods.org.uk](http://www.elods.org.uk)

#### WEST END BLOCKBUSTERS III

23 - 26 October  
Watersmeet, Rickmansworth  
[www.harrowlight.org.uk](http://www.harrowlight.org.uk)

#### MY ROMANTIC HISTORY

23 – 26 October  
New Stagers  
[www.newstagers.co.uk](http://www.newstagers.co.uk)

#### A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

23 - 26 October  
Belmont Theatre  
The Pump House Theatre, Watford  
[www.belmonttheatre.co.uk](http://www.belmonttheatre.co.uk)

#### HARVEY

24 - 26 October 2013  
Garden Suburb Theatre  
The Bull Theatre, Barnet  
[www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk)

#### WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

24 – 26 October  
Theydon Bois Village Hall, Theydon Bois,  
Essex  
[www.theydondrama.org](http://www.theydondrama.org)

#### MACBETH

29 October - 2 November  
Sedos  
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London  
EC4Y 8EQ  
[www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

#### ALL MY SONS

30 October - 2 November  
Southside Players  
Chestnut Grove School, Balham  
[www.southsideplayers.org.uk](http://www.southsideplayers.org.uk)

#### ORFEO

Isleworth Baroque  
30 October - 1 November  
[www.isleworthbaroque.co.uk/](http://www.isleworthbaroque.co.uk/)

#### SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ

30 October— 2 November  
GLOC Musical Theatre  
[www.glocmt.org.uk](http://www.glocmt.org.uk)

#### OUR GRACE

31 October – 2 November  
Belmont Productions  
Wickham Hall, West Wickham  
0208 355 8607

### NOVEMBER 2013

#### THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS

5 – 9 November  
East Berkshire Operatic Society  
The Wilde Theatre  
SouthHill Park, Bracknell RG12 7PA  
[www.ebos.org.uk](http://www.ebos.org.uk)

# WHAT'S ON

## NODA London Region Fixture List

### HIGH SOCIETY

5 – 9 November  
Centre Stage  
Bridewell Theatre  
<http://www.centrestagelondon.co.uk/>

### WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

6 - 9 November  
Ruislip Dramatic Society  
Compass Theatre, Ickenham, UB10 8PD  
[www.ruislipdramatic.org](http://www.ruislipdramatic.org)  
[www.compassstheatre.co.uk](http://www.compassstheatre.co.uk)

### THE HAUNTING by Charles Dickens

11 - 16 November  
Erith Playhouse  
[www.playhouse.org.uk](http://www.playhouse.org.uk)

### FOOTLOOSE

11 - 16 November  
Cassio OS  
Watford Palace Theatre  
[www.cassioos.co.uk](http://www.cassioos.co.uk)

### OKLAHOMA!

12 - 16 November  
WWOS at the Churchill Theatre  
[www.wwos.org.uk](http://www.wwos.org.uk)

### PRIDE AND PREJUDICE THE MUSICAL

13 - 16 November  
Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society  
Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames  
[www.henleyplayers.com](http://www.henleyplayers.com)

### THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY

13 - 16 November  
Purple Theatre Company  
The Compass Theatre, Ickenham  
[www.purpletheatre.org.uk](http://www.purpletheatre.org.uk)

### DOCTOR DOLITTLE

13 - 16 November  
Vale Musical Society  
The Court Theatre, Pendley, Tring  
[www.valemusicalsociety.co.uk](http://www.valemusicalsociety.co.uk)

### THE PAJAMA GAME

13 - 16 November  
WOS Productions  
Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip  
[www.wos-productions.org.uk](http://www.wos-productions.org.uk)

### YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

20 - 23 November  
MOS  
Desborough Suite, Maidenhead  
[www.mos-uk.org](http://www.mos-uk.org)

### LA BELLE HELENE

20 - 23 November  
Julian Light Operatic Society  
[www.julianoperatic.org](http://www.julianoperatic.org)

### BIG NIGHT OUT

26 – 30 November  
Wallington Operatic and Dramatic Society  
[www.wallingtonoperatic.co.uk](http://www.wallingtonoperatic.co.uk)

### HOT MIKADO

27 November - 7 December  
Sedos  
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ  
[www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

### PANTOSTEIN

28 – 30 November  
Beaufort Players  
[www.beaufortplayers.org.uk](http://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk)

### PUSS IN BOOTS

28 November - 7 December  
Riverside Players  
The Memorial Hall, Old Windsor  
[www.riversideplayers.com](http://www.riversideplayers.com)

### TREASURE ISLAND

28 November – 1 December  
Garden Suburb Theatre  
Upstairs at the Gatehouse, London N6  
[www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk)

## DECEMBER 2013

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

2 - 7 December  
Erith Playhouse  
[www.playhouse.org.uk](http://www.playhouse.org.uk)

### DICK WHITTINGTON

3 - 8 December  
BACCES  
[www.bacces.com](http://www.bacces.com)

### SHE LOVES ME

10 - 14 December  
Geoids  
[www.geoidsmt.co.uk](http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk)

### THE FIZZ

13 - 15 December  
W11 Opera  
[www.w11opera.org](http://www.w11opera.org)

### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

19 – 21 December  
Quay Players  
Greenwood Theatre, London Bridge, SE1 3RA  
<http://www.quayplayers.org.uk>

### PANTOMIME

29 - 30 December  
HEOS Musical Theatre  
[partridge.orpheusweb.co.uk/HEOS](http://partridge.orpheusweb.co.uk/HEOS)