

CURTAIN UP

the newsletter for

noda **London**

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Spring 2024 issue



CURTAIN UP - SPRING 2024

From the Editor
Jacquie Stedman

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Welcome to the Spring issue of Curtain Up!

It's hard to believe that our Regional Day on the 16th June is on the horizon with all the Regional Representatives working hard on gathering information for the judging panels who can then deliberate. Being recognised for the hard work that is entailed in any production, be it drama or musical theatre, is a great boost to the morale of societies, so there is always great excitement when the list of District Winners is announced on Facebook towards the end of April.

The standard of productions in the London Region has always been high and we would like to think that the Regional Reps' show reports have helped to raise the standard of amateur theatre within the NODA London family.

Good luck to all of you!

PLEASE NOTE:

You will notice in the What's On section of this issue that there is a small flyer advertising one of the shows that has been submitted for inclusion. We are very happy to accept a small landscape 'banner' with the details of your production. If you wish to submit one it should contain the name of the show/the name of the group/the website address. It will then be inserted under your normal What's On submission. Let's try and make this section as eye-catching and informative as we can!!!

From the Regional Councillor
Pam Armstrong

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The pace has barely slackened since the panto season and we have a wonderful array of superb musicals and dramas that are being placed before your appreciative audiences. It is a pleasure to see many of your productions and to be enthralled by the artistic and creative talent that is evident in the London region. Society membership renewals commenced on 1st April so do look out for your reminder email and alert your Treasurer. Preparations for our AGM and Celebration Day on Sunday 16th June 2024 at The Radlett Centre are well in hand and watch out for more news.

NODA London AGM 16th June 2024



An invitation from the Regional Councillor

On behalf of the London Regional Committee, I invite you to the NODA London Regional AGM and Regional Day.

It has been an uplifting twelve months with a surge of activity in the Region with so very many Societies taking to the stage and delighting their audiences with imaginative and spectacular productions. What a pleasure it has been to attend shows and appreciate the wonderful talent there is in the London Region.

The regular business of NODA London continues and we will be holding our Celebration Day events on

Sunday 16th June 2024 commencing at 11.00 am

The day will encompass our Celebratory Showcasing Events, our AGM to receive reports and elect Regional Representative, together with our all-important Regional Awards

On our website you will find Nomination Papers for Regional Representatives and the Regional Councillor should you wish to nominate anyone other than the present incumbents.

As with last year, an AGM brochure will be published on the London section of the NODA website and will include the AGM papers. The brochure gives details of the Region's accounts for 2023, the list of District Reps who are standing again for the coming year and reports on membership and long service awards.

May I, on your behalf, take this opportunity to thank the Regional Committee, Officers and Reps. They do tremendous, voluntary work to ensure NODA in the London region runs smoothly and well deserve thanks from us all.

Pam Armstrong
Regional Councillor
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DISTRICT ROUND UP - NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

District L01 - City and Central London

Matt Bentley

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It never ceases to amaze me how resourceful and clever our societies are. Part of that is out of necessity as we attempt to pull together performances that can compete with the West End for audiences but with a fraction of the budget. But equally there are simply some very smart people creating theatre in London.

Over the last few months I have seen some exceptional work, from pantos to Shakespeare to big flashy musicals. Some, such as Centre Stage's production of *Holiday Inn* and *Just So* from Sedos have left me asking why those shows aren't done more often. Others, such as Southside Players' *Hamlet* have given me new ways to see work I know incredibly well. I was lucky enough to be invited to three pantos

this season, all of which brought innovative, refreshing looks at a genre that can feel tired in the wrong hands.

District 1 seems to have gone into hibernation slightly, but those shows that were produced over that time clearly showed we have gone for quality over quantity. Looking ahead, there are some very exciting things on the horizon, with multimedia being filmed for *Richard III*, roller skates being polished for *The Little Mermaid*, and some clever re-imagining going on for classic plays such as *The Memory of Water* and *Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons*. It's going to be a bumper year, and I really can't wait.

District L02 - Part of West London

Mike Smith

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As many of you know Mike Smith is still recovering from a very bad health condition dating from his time in Spain at Christmas. Since being allowed to travel back to England at the end of January he has been very slowly recuperating and getting back into the swing of things. He has been told to cut down on his activities, but for those of you who know Mike well this will be very difficult for him....he does like to keep busy and be involved! Until he is able to fully return to his Regional Reps' duties Des Wilby is covering for Mike, so if you require a visit and show report from Des please contact him at des.wilby@noda.org.uk. Just remember to give him sufficient notice to organise his diary.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mike good progress until such time as he can once again be 'your man from NODA'. (Editor)

District L03 - West London

Stuart James

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What an absolutely delightful experience it has been stepping into my role as the new District 3 Representative. Since becoming a part of NODA towards the end of last year, I've been warmly embraced by all and have been eagerly immersing myself in getting to know the various groups in District 3. It's really heart-warming to see the sheer enthusiasm and dedication that each member exhibits towards their respective groups and I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such passionate individuals who all share a love for the theatre.

During December I took a long overdue holiday with family so wasn't able to attend many productions, however managed to cover two productions. A modernised rendition of *Pride and Prejudice* by Worcester Park Dramatic Society left a lasting impression with its innovative twist, while St Faith's Players pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty* provided a delightful start to the festive season. Also many thanks to my good New Zealand friend, Matt Bentley, for covering PLOS's production of *Alice in Pantoland*, which I understand was yet another enchanting production from this group.

The new year has kicked off with a bang and I've had the pleasure of attending Barnes Community Players' heartwarming *Ladies Day* and Cygnets Players' electrifying fan favourite *Fame: The Musical*. Both groups were a delight to visit and it was clear they poured their hearts and souls into each production.

As the year unfolds, I'm looking forward to connecting further with my District 3 groups, being a supportive force and seeing some brilliant productions. The stage is set for an extraordinary journey ahead and I couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of it all.



Barnes Community Players production of *Ladies' day*.

Left to right are Clare Catford, Marie Bushell, Ali-May Hignell, Elizabeth Williams

Photo by Francesca Stone

District L04 - Part of South-East London and part of Kent

Robin Kelly

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As the days grow lighter, the pantomime season becomes a distant memory. Visits to Bob Hope Theatre and Dartford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society (DAODS) saw home-grown productions while The Priory Players (*pictured below*) chose the commercial option. Don't forget that NODA supports and stocks a range of pantomime scripts all vetted for quality! The good news for DAODS is that good progress is being made on repairs to the Orchard Theatre, with an autumn re-opening very much on the cards. In the meantime, following an excellent production of School of Rock, West Wickham Operatic Society are still able to mount productions at the Churchill Theatre, their next show being Oliver!

Apart from their own productions (their most recent being Our Town) Bob Hope Theatre also host a number of other local societies. These include Bromley Players, currently rehearsing for 9 to 5 and excited to have obtained the rights for Everybody's Talking About Jamie for April 2025. The John Roan Theatre Company used BHT facilities for their December production of Clue, while Eldorado Musical Productions have sold out for their March production of Sister Act – an excellent way to mark their 100th anniversary!

District 4 is blessed with a number of groups with their own facilities. DAODS have their own Heathfields Hall, which recently hosted their Youth Group in a Murder Mystery evening. Erith Playhouse continue to mount a range of productions, their most recent being the outstanding Constellations, which rotated two casts for the two hander. Erith Operatic will be using the playhouse facilities for their May production of beauty and the Beast.

Having watched their excellent productions in an unofficial capacity over many years, I am delighted to welcome Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre into the NODA fold and very much look forward to being able to attend officially in future. GWT was formed in 1948, its first permanent 1951 base being a hut in the middle of a cabbage patch. This was replaced by a purpose built 150 seat theatre in 1957 opened by Dame Sybil Thorndike, accompanied by husband Sir Lewis Casson and their friend Donald Pleasance. Facilities have been continually improved over the years as a result of active membership support. A very young Michael Gambon trod its boards in the 1960s!

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that my Prostate Cancer treatment continues to go well but, as a result of side effects, I shall not be unhappy to see its conclusion next year. However I count myself extremely lucky that diagnosis came in time for treatment. I make no apology for mentioning it again in the hope that it might encourage other men over 50 to get themselves tested. Fortunately it has not curtailed my visits to productions (nor has my recent knee surgery) and I look forward to attending many more in District 4 in the coming year.



Publicity photos of Robinson Crusoe from Priory Players

District L05 - South London and part of Surrey

Phil Wilcox

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Things have been fairly quiet to date since my last round-up.

Purley-based Pantaloons put on a fun-filled and well-cast version of Aladdin, where I was somewhat taken aback to be included in the dame's (the excellent Simon Vines') list of attendees, as well as being involved in a little business with him later on. That will teach me not to sit in the front row!

Unfortunately, this time around, the script was not co-written as usual by him and regular collaborator Ros Tunbridge. Instead they and John Hallahan provided "additional material" to Ben Crocker's imported script. This meant that the joints showed and the insertions were all too apparent. However, this did not detract from the enjoyment of a truly enjoyable family night out.

I also attended Mayhem's Anything Goes, which had a strong line-up and was well up to the company's customary high standard. As is essential in this show, there were several well-choreographed dance numbers. I did feel a little sorry for the stuffed dog being thrown around and being used as a prop, though!

Finally, Edge Hill Players' superlative panto, The Sleeping Beauty, shone out. Well-written, directed and choreographed, the production as usual made full use of a large number of young children - many of whom were allocated individual lines or spoke in unison - in charming costumes. The leads, ranging in age from teens to, ahem, a little more mature, were outstanding and the musical numbers, some appropriately adapted, were well-chosen. As a church-based society, members of the local clergy also participated successfully in a small manner as usual. Truly, a show bursting at the seams with talent.

Phil will be stepping down as a Regional Representative this year. We thank him for many years of faithful service to the London Committee and District 5.

See the [advert](#) later in this issue for details of how to apply as a Regional Representative.

District 6 - North-East London and part of Essex

Paul Daynes

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Since last Autumn, District 6 have had some excellent productions that have sold well and seen audiences flock to the theatres. The pantomimes brought out the families and children's parties, an Agatha Christie showed how she can still pull in the punters, an Essex musical brought in the locals, and some clever self-penned plays delivered some train enthusiasts.

In January LADS continued their centenary season with A Murder is Announced, adapted from the Agatha Christie novel. This was a luscious production with a wonderful set that transported the audience back to 1940's middle England. The standard Christie characters were well portrayed with Miss Marple leading the field. The suspense of this 'who done it?' was resolved by the amateur sleuth herself whilst all around red herrings swarm in and out. LADS put great details into their

productions in costumes, props, furnishings and voice. This was also evident in their March production of *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. This is a demanding play to make successful but the talented cast and high production values made for a wonderfully moving performance. The part of Willy Loman was superbly played by Andrew Rogers and with a phenomenal supporting cast, the LADS audiences were treated to a play of high quality and a one of those special nights at the theatre.

The Woodhouse Players performed a Triple Bill in three one act plays, two of which were written for them. Quintinshill explained the train crash in 1915 which is still Britain's biggest transport tragedy. Set in a signal box, the causes of the train crash are played out and some of the audiences were invited to give their verdict at the end as to who was responsible. *Mint Tea in Marrakesh* was a delightful piece about people meeting in a Moroccan market. All have a story to tell and this clever play, written by member Vanessa Cutts, brings out some interesting reflections of passers-by. *Goldfish Girl* is an extraordinary radio play that director Neil Bird adapted for the stage. It deals with the amnesia of Ally, and her husband trying to get her to remember their life together. It was beautifully acted and directed and a real treat for the audiences which went on to win Best Play in the Waltham Forest Drama Festival.

Panto season saw Woodford Pantomime with their lavish family entertainment continuing to get the large audiences cheering and booing. This year they staged *Robin Hood and his Merry Men* with all the Christmas trimmings..... another triumph for this traditional part of the Woodford landscape. CADOS treated their friends and families to a splendid version of *Sleeping Beauty*. Wicked witches battled against the Prince, comedy duos messed up and mucked about and rainbow fairies fluttered to bring goodness back to the forest. The musical numbers were terrific with excellent singing and dancing.

Just five miles from the Ford factory, Havering Music Makers gave their superb production of *Made in Dagenham*. This was a special show because so many of the cast and audience had personal links with the factory and the workers of 57 years ago. This was an energetic musical with great show numbers and dance scenes, but the story of the struggle came across with delicacy and compassion. Led by Ami Harman-Robinson as Rita, this stella cast told the story of these real people and portrayed the lives of working women in the late 1960's. A social history lesson wrapped up in an extravagant musical.

The Spring looks busy in our corner of the London Region and we hope the audiences will continue to support the productions in the numbers they have been doing recently

District L07 - Part of North London and SW Herts

Thomas Lennon

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To round off 2023, my only planned excursion for December was a visit to the Beck Theatre in Hayes - District L02. I had the honour of being invited to deputise for my representative colleague in the district and attend my only scheduled pantomime of the season, a production of **SLEEPING BEAUTY - A curse of a tale**, by our friends from British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainment Society. My heartfelt thanks to the committee for the invitation and the hospitality afforded me during my visit. A totally enjoyable evening of entertainment.

With my schedule for the month completed, I settled down to complete my outstanding show reports ahead of the festivities.

Then ... out of the blue on 18 Dec ... I had a request from a group who were mid-run performing their pantomime and wished to become affiliated within our district.



Subsequently, my second excursion for December, albeit at short notice, was a visit to the Halo Theatre in Southgate to attend my second pantomime of the season, a production of **CINDERELLA**, by Orsi Productions.

As a newly affiliated society to NODA, I am delighted to welcome you, not just to the London Region but particularly, to District L07. It was a pleasure to meet with you at your production and I look forward to us getting better acquainted in the year ahead. www.orsiproductions.co.uk

As we have now officially stepped into 2024, I want to extend a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our District societies and their respective memberships. Here's to a prosperous 2024 for everyone, particularly as we are celebrating 125 years of NODA following the association's formation in 1899.

Historically within the district, January has proved a quiet month therefore I decided to utilise my Spring report to outline the schedule of district productions for the year ahead.

Kick starting the year, Garden Suburb Theatre, (GST), were our first group to tread the boards in 2024 with their production of the comedy **GOING DUTCH** by John Godber, performed Upstairs At The Gatehouse from 01 Feb 24 to 04 Feb 24. www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk

Next into the spotlight, Mill Hill Musical Theatre Company, (MHMTC), who are this year celebrating 70 glorious years, hosted their annual Patrons' Party on 22 Mar 24 & 23 Mar 24 at Hartley Hall. Their production, **OUR PLATINUM YEARS**, celebrated their early operatic roots and more recent West End hits, decade by decade. www.mhmtc.co.uk



The above two shows completed our district productions for the 2023 / 2024 Season.

Regrettably, prior to the start of the new season, I was informed that after 102 years, Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society, (FFBOS), had been dissolved. A very sad day for all those involved and I would like to extend our best wishes to everyone who has been associated with the society and involved in an impressive list of productions over the years. www.ffbos.com

Springing into April, GST got our 2024 / 2025 Season underway with their second production of the year, **SILVER LINING** by Sandi Toksvig, performed Upstairs At The Gatehouse from 18 Apr 24 to 21 Apr 24.



On the opera front, HGO presented a fully staged production of Henry Purcell's **THE FAIRY QUEEN**, sung in English and supported by the HGOAntiqua Orchestra. There were 6 performances between 19 Apr 24 and 28 Apr 24 at Jacksons Lane Theatre. www.hgo.org.uk

On 20 Apr 24 I had an extended visit with our colleagues at Wonder Theatre Training Academy. Thank you to Joanne for the invitation and arranging the schedule for the day. www.wondertheatretrainingacademy.co.uk

Hot on their heels, ELODS presented the Stiles & Drewe musical, **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**, based on the book by Kenneth Grahame, at Wylyotts Theatre from 23 Apr 24 to 27 Apr 24. www.elods.org.uk

As a Regional Representative, one of the two most significant dates in our annual calendar is the **NODA London AGM & Celebration Day**, which this year is scheduled for Sunday 16 Jun 2024 at The Radlett Centre. Full details will follow in due course so keep a watchful eye on the London Region section of the website. www.noda.org.uk/regions/london

For their next venture, GST, our society with the most annual projects, will stage their family friendly summer panto **ROBIN HOOD IN THE WOOD**. Appropriately, this production will be staged in the Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre from 21 Jun 24 to 29 Jun 24.

On Friday 28 Jun 24 MHMTC will continue their Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a semi-staged version of the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta **RUDDIGORE**, to be performed at Hartley Hall.

For those of you familiar with my monthly district e-mails, you will be aware that the **NODA Theatre Summer School 2024** will take place from 03 Aug 24 to 10 Aug 24 at Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffordshire. Following my attendance as a day visitor last year, I am delighted to confirm that I have booked to attend as a student this year and am very much looking forward to the experience. Several courses have already filled however, there may still be places available on some. Immediate booking is advisable to avoid disappointment. Full details are available on the respective section of the NODA website. www.noda.org.uk/summerschool

September will present us with our second significant date in our annual calendar, the **NODA Presidential Gala & AGM Weekend**. This year the weekend is scheduled to take place at the Crowne Plaza - Plymouth from 27 Sep 2024 to 29 Sep 2024. Full details will be uploaded to the NODA website once they have been confirmed. www.noda.org.uk

Returning to district news, ELODS have secured the rights to the divine musical comedy, **SISTER ACT**, for their Autumn production with performances scheduled to take place at Wylyotts Theatre from 15 Oct 24 to 19 Oct 24.

As a culmination of their Platinum Jubilee celebrations, MHMTC will present the popular Gary Barlow and Tim Firth musical, **CALENDAR GIRLS**. The show will be performed from 30 Oct 24 to 02 Nov 24 at their regular venue, Hartley Hall.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of the next production from Orsi Productions, (OP), our newest affiliated society. I will provide and update once performance dates and a location have been finalised.

As you can see, a generous cross section of productions / NODA events already this year and even more to look forward to in the months ahead. I would ask you all, when and where possible, to support your neighbouring societies. Please refer to the respective society websites for more detailed information on all the events outlined and I look forward to possibly meeting with some of you at one or more of the productions listed.

With so much district activity I didn't have to bore you with my own personal West End outings which, I am sure, most of you are thankful for.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or there is something you think I may be able to assist with, just drop me a line at the usual e-mail, thomas.lennon@noda.org.uk.

District L08 - Part of West London

Tony Austin

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I bid a fond farewell to the District which has put up with me since September 1995, giving me a huge variety of theatrical experiences and great delight in the process. Some of the ten societies I inherited have of course departed in the meantime, leaving fine memories of *Harrow Light's* musicals, *Pinner and Hatch End's* mostly G & S, *Players 2's* premieres of new US shows among many others, and *Raglan Players'* ones, some written by Janice Hallett, now a leading writer of thrillers, some with amateur theatrical settings (with disclaimers!), who featured in a recent issue of NODA Today, though not under London.

Of the nine societies I leave behind, five have been with me all through and are probably responsible for the special spirit of our fairly small District, with groups sharing members and storage facilities and willingly providing

others with actors, FoH staff and audiences. *Argosy Players* and *Arrow Players* have delighted me with their January Pantos, only two miles or so apart but not stealing each others audiences and only once with the same title, and a good variety of straight plays. *Bishopshalt (School) ODS* annually have given me a pre-Christmas musical treat, as well as being the basis of several short-lived societies formed by ambitious pupils, who sometimes come back to District 8 to star after further education. They have also been mentioned further back in the history of another



society. And *Ruislip Operatic* and *Dramatic Societies*, founded 100 and 99 years ago, continue to provide rich selections of their chosen fare and are showing no signs of acting their ages.

The other four are *Proscenium*, who are also celebrating their centenary this year with a triumphant large-scale thrust-stage *Julius Caesar* and are at last seeking NODA reports; *Harefield ADS*, adding a real village feeling when they joined us in 2003, with high points for *Journey's End* in 2015 and their home-written 2024 play about 1940 War preparations, whose Director and technical expert had only recently retired from Bishopshalt School; *Encore Theatre Company*, formed in 2014 by an *Argosy* member with Musical ambitions and producing a glorious sequence of them, before a change to straight drama in 2023; and *Rickmansworth Players* transferred in 2017 from District 10 and showing expertise in all aspects of theatre with fine musicals and dramas from both adults and their juniors.



I thank them all for the joy they have given me through the years. I shall miss the invitations from societies but hope to remain on their mailing lists and enjoy future performances without having any further responsibilities.

Tony Austin

At the time I became the Regional Councillor for London in 2006 Tony Austin was an established Regional Representative looking after the NODA societies in District 8 which is part of West London, and, accompanied by his wife Paddy, he has always been a welcome guest at his societies. Because the Councillor sees a copy of every show report that is written I soon realised that Tony was a true wordsmith.....and that this skill was much appreciated by all the societies he looked after. His knowledge of theatre and his in-depth assessment of what he saw enabled me to re-live the experience of any show to which he was invited.



When the London Regional Committee agreed that each Regional Representative should have an individual award that could be presented to any of their groups for whatever area of theatre which enhanced the theatrical experience for the audience, it was, indeed, Tony who came up with the magic words which have appeared on the Flame certificates ever since. Throughout my time as Regional Councillor there have been many occasions when his experience has proved invaluable in one capacity or another, and for that I have been very thankful.

Tony was presented with Honorary Membership of the Association in 2020 recognising that he had served on the Regional Committee for 25 years.....quite an achievement! Tony.....you will be sorely missed.....
.enjoy your retirement.

Jacquie Stedman

District L09 - North-West London

Carole Baynes

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Despite the cold and the wet, evidence is telling us that Spring has sprung - the pantomimes have closed and the daffodils are in bloom.

I have seen more pantomimes than usual this winter due to Tony Austin (District 8 rep) being indisposed and my covDespite the cold and the wetering his groups from mid January, and I am learning to appreciate this genre of entertainment more and more.

My own group The Chameleons ADS performed "Dick Whittington" at a new intimate venue which was ideal for this clever story of Dick, his cat, Alice, Alderman Fitzwarren, pirates, rats and coffee!!! District 8's pantomimes -also written by company members - were "Little Red Riding Hood" by Arrow Players and "Cinderella" by Argosy Players. Each of these was hugely entertaining, well received, innovative takes on the original stories and all gave a warm glow on a cold winter's evening. The Chameleons ADS followed "Dick Whittington" with a revue "Radio Times 3" including sketches, monologues and music before commencing rehearsals for their summer presentation " 'Allo, 'Allo" which will be performed at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham in July - this is a busy group who love to perform.

Following their amazing production of "Private Peaceful" Pump House Theatre Company are in rehearsal for an updated version of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" which will be on stage mid-April - it sounds intriguing.

I am pleased that East Lane Theatre Company decided to rejoin NODA in time for me to see their delightful production of "Von Ribbentrop's Watch" which I attended at the end of February. It was very well received by their capacity audience and I look forward to their next production - "Abigail's Party" in May. This company are lucky enough to own their theatre so are free to present several productions if desired - but it does mean that their core team are very busy, need to be dedicated and committed and have a wide range of talents - maintaining the theatre as well as performing in it.

Musical societies are normally building up to their Spring shows at this time of year but this year neither of my District 9 groups are booked for a big musical. WOS Productions will be performing "Show Offs" a compilation of songs from shows that the members would like to sing but would not normally have the chance to - this should be an entertaining programme. KLOS Musical Theatre were also planning a compilation production this Spring following their Autumn 23 show "Bad Girls - The Musical" but no further information is available as yet. Harrow Opera Workshop have not performed for more than a year now but are due to present two short operas in April at the Compass Theatre Ickenham - namely Puccini's "Il Tabarro" and Menotti's "The Medium". Which will be most interesting - both are new to me.



*The Chameleons in rehearsal for Dick Whittington.
Photo supplied by Robert Spolander.*

To place an advertisement for your society in the NODA London AGM and Celebration Day Brochure, please contact Paul Holgate

paul.holgate@noda.org.uk for a rate card.

Full page, half page and quarter page ads are available

Copy date is May 10

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Be inspired by amateur theatre
NODA LONDON AGM & CELEBRATION DAY
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Be inspired by amateur theatre
NODA LONDON AGM & CELEBRATION DAY 2023
18th June 2023
Radlett Centre

District 10 - Part of North London and part of SW Herts

Iain Fowles

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Just a very brief update from me this time.

As usual I have seen some amazing productions over the past few months – I am immensely proud of all of my groups and the exceptional quality of theatre that they present. I'm looking forward to seeing some new shows in the coming few weeks.

Just advance warning that the NODA London AGM and award ceremony will be held on 16th June this year. I'm really excited to be able to reveal the winners within

Region 10 – watch this space! Hopefully some of my winners may go on to triumph overall.

I apologise that my usual turn around of reviews has been slower than normal recently, I've been suffering with some health problems which has meant that things have taken longer than normal – please bear with me and normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

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

Look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks!

District L11 & L11A - Buckinghamshire and part of NW London

Judith Watsham

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During the pantomime season, this time it ran from November to nearly the end of February, I saw a total of five shows in this category. I know that the received wisdom is that in-house written pantos can be, and often are, a mistake but not so in my districts when three of the groups produced in-house versions, and all were excellent. I have suggested that Lane End Players submit theirs to NODA Pantomimes to see if they would be interested in adding it to their selection of scripts - original writers must take care not to lose copyright over the material especially when it is that good. Launton Players and The Young Theatre also take note please!

A quick roundup of some of the other shows I have seen over the last four months includes:

An excellent puppet show season from Beaconsfield Musical & Operatic Society in November when they performed Avenue Q and Little Shop of Horrors back to back. An ambitious programme which really worked well.

St Peter Players gave a beautifully costumed performance of The Jungle Book - not a Disney song in sight I was glad to note - in November.

Tring Youth Theatre Project excelled themselves with their production of Lord of the Flies in February. ([see the article in this issue of Curtain Up](#)) To be believable this piece does have to be performed by youngsters, but

younger, inexperienced actors do not always have the experience to convey their emotional disintegration as this TYTP cast did so very well.

Two more musicals complete my shows to date, both excellent, one from Tring Theatre Company, Urinetown, and the other from Panda Players - Sweet Charity. Very different shows too of course both musically and dramatically.

Many of the groups in the Districts are gearing up to their Spring and Summer productions so I wish them all well with their rehearsals and performances. Keep inviting me, and, if you have read this far, take note of our NODA London Gala on Sunday June 16th in Radlett. Many of you will have won District Awards and, as a result, will be considered for a London Regional Award and Trophy! Yes, I know it is Father's Day but please, please, try and find someone to represent your group.

Watch out for email concerning ticket ordering for this event. Seating is limited and last year some Award Winning groups ran the risk of being unable to attend and collect their certificates and trophies because they simply left it too late.

District L12 - Oxfordshire

Andrew Walter

andrew.walter@noda.org.uk



You might imagine that the winter season would be dominated by pantomime, but the evidence in District 12 does not bear this out. Of six productions by NODA-affiliated societies to be staged so far this calendar year, just two have been pantomimes: The Sinodun Players' "The Adventures of Sinbad" and Faringdon Dramatic Society's "The Ruby Slippers". The former was an accomplished retelling of the familiar tales – The Sinodun Players are fortunate to be able to call on some very experienced performers who understand this genre

thoroughly; while the latter was an imaginative and ambitious presentation that sought to combine characteristics of pantomime and musical theatre. You might think that pantomime is constrained by its heritage and the audience's expectations, but it was great to see local societies testing the boundaries and producing innovative work.

Three of the shows staged so far this year have been musicals. Odyssey Juniors in Banbury spent half term at the North Oxfordshire Academy, rehearsing and then staging "The Wind in the Willows", which proved to be utterly charming and packed with promising performances. Meanwhile, down the road at the Wykham Theatre in Banbury, Banbury Operatic Society staged that perennial favourite, "Calamity Jane". The Society also had time pressures to contend with as their previous production ("Kinky Boots") had only closed at the end of October, but as always the depth and quality of the Society's work shone through. Neatly bridging the gap between Junior and Senior productions, Oxford Operatic Society put on the 2010 reworking of Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" at the 1785-seat New Theatre. With almost 60 children and a similar number of adults involved on stage, this was musical theatre on a big scale. It was a particular pleasure to sell out the Saturday matinee and evening performances, and to welcome Judith Watsham (District 11) and Pam Armstrong (our Regional Councillor) to the theatre that day.

Last but by no means least, the Thame Players staged Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" in their intimate but well-equipped theatre. Sound direction and some excellent performances were complemented by a set design that made the best possible use of the compact stage; the technical skills showcased in Oxfordshire venues are often quite remarkable.

The coming months promise a heady blend of plays and musicals, some familiar, others less well known. The terrific Musical Youth Company of Oxford will be kicking things off with their presentation of "Me and My Girl" at the Oxford Playhouse from 6th April; Avocet Theatre Company's production of "Frozen the Musical Junior" and Abingdon Operatic Society's staging of "9 to 5" are on the following week. In July, Oxford Operatic Society will be bringing "Funny Girl" to the Oxford Playhouse stage, while Youth of Banbury Operatic Society's "show in a week" this year is "School of Rock" in August.

Banbury Cross Players will be staging "Home, I'm Darling" in July, after flood damage to their venue forced the postponement of their production of "Our Country's Good". Faringdon Dramatic Society will be returning to the beautiful surroundings of Buscot House with their production of "Enchanted April", which won't in fact be opening until May, and in the same week the Bartholomew Players are putting on "Pack of Lies". Finally, The Sinodun Players will be staging "The Invisible Man" later in May, and they will be pleased to learn that this is something I haven't yet seen ...



Andrew onstage at the New Theatre

District L13 - West Berkshire

Cate Naylor

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The Spring season in District 13 has been quite quiet, but I have still had chance to travel around the district, seeing a variety of shows. As usual, I have seen a mixture of plays and pantomimes and musicals and have enjoyed meeting members of the societies.

I started December at Progress Theatre for an excellent production of The Hogfather.

The large cast, many playing multiple characters transported me to Terry Pratchett's Discworld for this Christmas fantasy. This was followed by my only Gilbert and Sullivan of the year; The Pirates of Penzance performed by Woodley Light Operatic Society. Set on the Cornish coast, the group delivered this lovely operetta complete with sailors, sisters, and a most ingenious paradox!

In January, I saw my first pantomime; Treasure Island with a different set of pirates brought to the stage by Twyford Drama. The show had a good mix of corny jokes a jolly dame and a scary baddy with lots of audience participation and was enjoyed by a very enthusiastic audience. I then returned to Progress Theatre, for Albion, a modern take on Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard. Interwoven into the play were issues of identity, social class, nostalgia and patriotism, and the cast cleverly brought out all the hidden undercurrents in the story.

In February half term, I had a busy but enjoyable weekend seeing three shows. First was Jack and the Beanstalk, my second pantomime performed by Kintbury St Mary's Drama Group. There was so much enthusiasm from the entire cast of 18 children and 7 adults as they performed together with some very impressive performances from the young cast members. This was followed by two musicals. First was Oliver by The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company, again with a large cast of youngsters. This show had particular poignancy for the director and it was a fitting tribute to the society's late chairman David Clayton who had first directed the show in 1991 at the start of his thirty years of directing for them. The following day, I saw Fiddler on the Roof, by Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society. This is one of the all-time greats, which is no longer put on very frequently and I very much enjoyed travelling to Anatevka for this powerful performance.

In March, I was lucky to enjoy two theatre supper productions. The first was at Aldermaston Players' with their performance of Ghost Train a comedy thriller. It had many twists and turns and was brilliantly performed by the group around a delicious dinner. My second tasty theatre supper this time with a French theme accompanied Henley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's performance of 'Allo 'Allo 2 – The Camembert Capers. It was an hilarious romp around Rene's café and had all the expected innuendos and catchphrases that you expect from the show and was great fun.

Thank you to all the societies who have invited me to your shows, I have really enjoyed seeing them and look forward to joining more of you in the months to come.

District L14 - East Berkshire

Nick Humby

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Recent Productions

The winter months brought the usual mix of Pantomimes to see in East Berkshire as well as some G & S and Shakespeare with eight of the fourteen societies on stage. It has been wonderful to see full houses at these shows although the financial challenges of amateur theatre remains at the forefront of everybody's minds.

Maidenhead Operatic Society presented the G & S The Sorcerer. Their fine singers were accompanied by an excellent seven-piece band that did full justice to the G & S sound and with delightful comic touches sprinkled throughout the show that gave it a fresh zany comic feel so appropriate for this unique genre of musical theatre.

Shinfield Players staged The Tempest with its magical island setting strange or drunken characters and underlying theatricality. They rose to the challenge well with an excellent versatile Island setting, interesting use of shadow puppets, a delightful soundtrack of voices, music and sound effects and some wonderful costumes and make up to define the characters.

Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society's annual pantomime included some classic comic routines including the Kitchen baking sketch, the Ghost bench, and the twelve days of Christmas and some of the oldest Pantomime gags you will hear. But what made this Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs stand out was having two Dames as the Queen and the Cook and a puppet as the man in the mirror as this freshened up the story telling and drove the show.



Riverside Players are very fortunate to have a creative leadership that is brave enough to write their own script for the society and their latest production of Old Mother Hubbard delivers a fresh take that cleverly weaves familiar children's nursery rhymes with some classic traditional pantomime business into a very polished production.

CAST is an amateur society that seems to embrace and connect with its local community with a vibrant academy of young performers and an enthusiastic cast who clearly simply want the fun of performing in front of an audience and their production of Rapunzel was a fun show enjoyed by the cast and audience together.

MDG Snow Queen in Holyport presented Snow Queen, a fresh pantomime with an excellent production. It created a collection of fun characters who combine to defeat Frostina with two excellent running gags about the music of Frozen not being used and about the Mayor not likely to turn up in the new location. It is also full of good jokes and some classic Pantomime comic business with a good chocolate pun run, a fresh take on the Ghost scene and even a Panto horse.

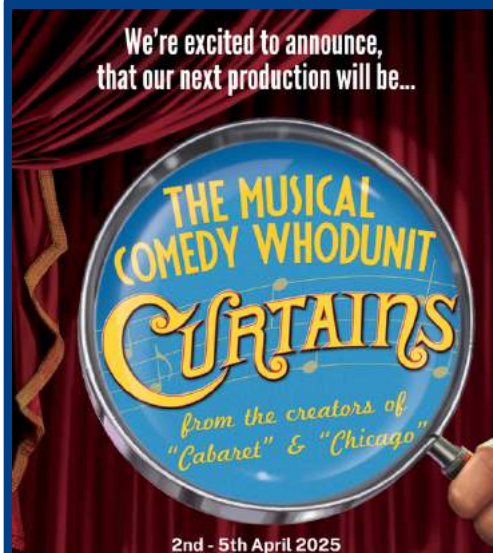
Quince Players proudly presented the world premiere of their own pantomime written by two members based on a collection of well-known nursery rhymes, and incorporating many traditional elements of the genre. The result, Ba Ba Land, was a fun and entertaining evening delivered by an enthusiastic and young cast.

Shinfield Players staged Rapunzel at their own venue in Reading. The central performances of the story were very strong and drove the story telling well and with a good vocals and music mix the audience were able to enjoy a very good-looking production.

Wraybury Players presented Jack and the Beanstalk. This was a well-cast production, and it was good to see everyone working as a team to create hilarious situations, together with some excellent work with the audience. The younger members of the cast who took the parts of the villagers, goblins and various insects gave brilliant, assured performances of obvious enjoyment.

Coming up

In March **Shinfield players** stage the thriller Night Watch at their own venue in Reading and **Crowthorne Musical** players present Ghost at the Wilde Theatre in South Hill Park. **CAST Academy** take on the exciting challenge of Les Misérables at the end of the month. In April, **SWMTC** are staging Sister Act at the Old Court in Windsor, and the week later **Crowthorne Amateur Theatre** are doing Murdered to Death at the Parish Hall.



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Email us at klmtc@outlook.com to find out more

Kings Langley Musical Theatre Company

klmtc.com

District L05 - South London and part of Surrey

PASSIONATE ABOUT THEATRE?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



We are looking for a new Regional Representative in district 5 to help support the vibrant societies within the area.

The role of the Regional Representative is to support the groups when necessary and keep them abreast of happenings in the world of amateur theatre. They are also required to attend productions, when invited, and write a report acting as a critical friend.

We all want to improve our theatrical skills and as a Regional Rep you are in a unique position to encourage members to do just that.

If you enjoy, and have a good knowledge of theatre, we would really love to hear from you with a view to joining

our
team.

If you are interested please contact your Regional Councillor

pam.armstrong@noda.org.uk

We would love to hear from you



RECTORY FOUNDATION GRANT MEANS THAME PLAYERS' SHOWS ARE BETTER LIT

New brighter lighting has been installed at the Players Theatre in time for this year's pantomime *Aladdin*. This has been made possible thanks to a grant from the Rectory Foundation.

The new lights are a lot brighter than the old ones due to improved optics and they use less energy, which means they are more environmentally efficient. They also produce less heat as the wattage is significantly lower than the old lights, they're lighter, more flexible, and easier to maintain. Other advantages include the ability to alter focal length, zooming the lens in or out, as well as being able to project hundreds of lighting images, such as lightning or moonlight. It's even possible to focus on a single actor's face by using a device called an iris that slots into the lamp to make the beam of light even smaller.

Sarah Vickers of the Rectory Foundation said, "We are delighted to have awarded Thame Players Theatre Company a grant towards the installation of energy-efficient lighting. Through this project they are keeping the theatre up to date with modern requirements and energy standards. With a green conscience, and through the use of local businesses to fulfil the project, Thame Players Theatre Company will continue to shine as a beacon for the arts within the local community. As they say, on with the show!"

Sarah continued, "We have supported many local charities and community groups with grants over the last 14 years. Creating the Rectory Foundation was the next step to allow us to support even more community organisations with their vital work, building and strengthening communities beyond bricks and mortar. We are looking to give opportunities in places where they may be lacking, helping community projects that improve the local environment, accessible community areas or buildings, and green spaces."

Steve Lambell, a director of Thame Players, said, "The grant we have been awarded by the Rectory Foundation is very welcome as we upgrade our lighting. Not only will shows be better lit, audiences will be more comfortable too, because the new lights dissipate heat rather than concentrating it over the audience's heads. Pantomime audiences will be the first to benefit from the new lighting, but we're looking forward to it enhancing future performances of both in-house productions and visiting shows. Grants such as this help to ensure the theatre's long-term survival as a popular and valued cultural resource in the town."



(left to right) Steve Lambell and Phil Holland (Thame Players), Poppy Bethell-Vickers and Sarah Vickers (Rectory Foundation), in front of some of the new lights.

TRING YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT

LORD OF THE FLIES



First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is a haunting tale where innocence is lost, and primal instincts are unleashed. Fear, desperation, and the darkness within human nature intertwine, painting a harrowing portrait of societal breakdown.

Nigel Williams, adapted the classic book for the stage, which was debuted by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1995

Choosing to put on *Lord of the Flies* was a no-brainer for me. It is one of those stories that everyone has a nodding acquaintance with, but experiencing it live is a whole different beast (pun very much intended).

It digs into power, society, and the wild side we all try to keep in check.

While the original text centres solely around boys, we chose to cast a mixture of boys and girls in order to allow for a richer examination of how different individuals, regardless of gender, navigate the challenges of survival, leadership, and mortality.



We opted for a minimalist and stark industrial aesthetic for our production. Chains and ropes were re-purposed to symbolise vines, while piping doubled as spears.

Rather than a literal interpretation of a jungle, our set consisted of steel decking at various organic angles and heights, allowing lighting and sound to assume pivotal roles in portraying the island, effectively transforming them into dynamic characters rather than mere backdrop elements.



The plot and themes explored in *Lord of the Flies* are relatively dark, particularly for a youth cast to tackle. We worked hard throughout the rehearsal process to find personal connections to their character's personalities and relationships rather than actions (as luckily none of our cast had been marooned on an island!). We also dedicated time exploring the nuanced shifts in personalities and emotions as the plot unfolds - something we particularly focused on in an emotion-led pre-performance warm up, which centred on guiding the cast through emotional exploration and character development exercises.

I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who helped bring *Lord of the Flies* to life: the cast for their unwavering passion, dedication, and commitment (they all have very promising futures!); my fellow production team members for their expertise, creativity, and tireless efforts; and of course the audience for being a vital part of our journey.

Here's to the power of storytelling through theatre to unite and inspire us all. This is an experience I'm extremely proud of, and will stay with me forever.

Cam Wilson (Director)

Photographs in this article are by Rosalind White Photography.

KINGS LANGLEY MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

THE MATCHGIRLS

'The Matchgirls', is a musical written by Bill Owen (of COMPO fame) and with music by jazz musician and composer Tony Russell. With six named parts for men and fourteen named parts for women this is an ideal show for groups with lots of talented ladies! The chorus of matchgirls and dockers can be any size. Based on the facts surrounding the Bryant and May matchgirls strike of 1888 the show has many rousing and energetic songs and dance routines as well as some more poignant songs.

The show is based on the inspirational story of the workers at the matchmaking company Bryant and May. Formed in 1843 the factory later re-located to Fairfield Road in Bow, East London. By the 1880s they employed

nearly five thousand mostly female, workers. They were paid a pittance and fines were deducted from their wages including 3d. for having dirty feet, 5d for being late, and other fines for talking or dropping matches onto the floor.

The phosphorus that was used in the process of match making caused a disease known as 'phossy jaw'. Symptoms included toothache and abscesses leading to tooth loss, flu-like symptoms were also reported and death could occur, as a long-term consequence of the inhalation of phosphorus vapour.

Following a mass meeting in 1871, up to ten thousand matchmakers, mostly young women and girls, marched to the Houses of Parliament. They repeatedly went on strike throughout the 1880s over the long working days, poor pay, fines and the detrimental effect on their health.

In 1888, as a social activist, Annie Besant, encouraged by her friend George Bernard Shaw, published an article entitled: "White Slavery in London" about the girls in her weekly newspaper: *The Link*. The Bryant and May management, tried to make the workforce sign a paper saying that the accusations were untrue but they refused. One worker was dismissed as a result and this triggered strike action. By 6th July, the whole factory had withdrawn their labour. About a hundred women went to Annie Besant, asking for her assistance and support and she spoke at several meetings on their behalf. The factory owners were nervous about the negative publicity. Terms were drawn up and agreed whereby fines and unfair deductions were abolished and meals were taken in a separate room where food could not be contaminated by the phosphorus. Thus, the strike ended. *The Union of Women Matchmakers* was formed later in 1888. In 1908, the House of Commons passed



an Act prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in matches.

Both Annie Besant and George Bernard Shaw are leading characters in the show along with the leading matchgirl called Kate Slater. Another famous matchgirl, called Sarah Chapman, does not appear in this show.

KINGS LANGLEY MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY (KLMTc) broke Box Office records with their recent production of *The Matchgirls* at the end of April. Not only that, the company was honoured and thrilled to welcome two daughters of the composer Tony Russell, two great granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter of Sarah Chapman, the great grandson and the great-great granddaughter of Annie Besant to their performances on their last day!

The families are associated with *The Matchgirls* memorial <https://www.matchgirls1888.org> which works tirelessly to gather factual information about this pivotal period of our social history. The memorial group also loaned KLMTc banners which were used to decorate the foyer at the venue. To complete the right atmosphere the society had sourced

hundreds of empty matchboxes as well as posters of pictures taken at the time.

Many props and costumes are now available to purchase or hire to groups doing this fantastic show. Contact klmtc@outlook.com

Going forward KLMTc members are ditching their drab, grey costumes and hair styles of the late 1800's and putting on the glitz and glamour for their next production, a cabaret called *SHOW PEOPLE* on October 10th, 11th, and 12th. This will be followed by *CURTAINS* in April 2025. For more details about joining KLMTc, future shows and summer workshops, contact us at the address above or visit our website klmtc.org.

Photographs in this article are by Amie Bailey and James Cullen



GILLIAN SOMERSCALES 1958 – 2023



Gillian joined Bartholomew Players in 2013, when she stepped in to take the lead role in *Calendar Girls*, which remains to this day the most successful show the Players have ever put on. I directed that play (and had a small part in it). Gillian was a delight to work with – always positive and full of good ideas. Her humility belied her prodigious acting talent. Next, she famously took over the role of Jill (gender change!) Hacker in *Yes, Prime Minister*, when the previous two leads had dropped out – the second only three weeks before the performances! She mastered the lines in double-quick time and was a tour-de-force in this demanding role. As Sir Humphrey, it was a privilege for me to be on stage with Gillian. There followed starring roles in *The Constant Wife*, *The Safari Party* and *Dangerous Corner*.

More recently Gillian spent time caring for her elderly parents while her own health deteriorated. Eventually her condition was diagnosed as motor neurone disease. This is incurable. It is a cruel wasting disease which affected Gillian's ability to breathe, swallow, eat and ultimately speak. I went to see her and her husband John, together with two other members of the Players, on 13th June 2023. Despite having to communicate by using a device that converted her typed words into her voice, she was as chirpy as ever and we all enjoyed reminiscing about Bartholomew Players and Gillian's various triumphs. She sent us an email saying "it was such a treat to see you this morning ... let's keep in touch". I can't quite bring myself to delete it, as four days later Gillian was dead.

Many Eynsham residents remember Gillian on stage here. She was charming and modest as well as talented. Bartholomew Players have lost a great friend. We will cherish her memory.

Gareth Hammond

WHAT'S ON IN THE LONDON REGION

New details of productions appear regularly on our [website](#)
and on our [Facebook](#) page

UNDER MILK WOOD by Dylan Thomas
26 Apr 24 - 04 May 24
Progress Theatre
Progress Theatre RG1 5HL
<https://rb.gy/34599g>

THE WATSONS by Laura Wade
27 Apr 24 - 04 May 24
Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre
Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre DA1 4NP
www.thegwt.org.uk/

ON THE TOWN
30 Apr 24 - 04 May 24
St Albans Musical Theatre Company
Alban Arena AL1 3LD
Box Office: 01727 844488
<https://rb.gy/ffykeo>

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
30 Apr 24 - 04 May 24
Erith Operatic Society
Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY
www.ticketsource.co.uk/eos

MURDERED TO DEATH by Peter Gordon
01 May 24 - 04 May 24
Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society
Crowthorne Parish Hall RG45 7BW
www.ticketsource.co.uk/crowthornecats

PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitmore
02 May 24 - 05 May 24
Croydon Operatic & Dramatic Association (CODA)
Selsdon Hall CR2 8LA
<https://codashows.co.uk/>

BEAUTIFUL the Carole King Musical
07 May 24 - 11 May 24
Green Room Productions
Wyllyotts Theatre EN6 2HN
<https://rb.gy/oz9cvk>

GYPSY
07 May 24 - 11 May 24
East Berkshire Operatic Society (EBOS)
Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA
Box Office: 01344 484123
<https://rb.gy/j3vxfw>

ME AND MY GIRL
07 May 24 - 11 May 24
Vale Musical Society
David Evans Court Theatre HP23 5QY
<https://courttheatre.co.uk/>

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME adapted by Simon Stephens
07 May 24 - 11 May 24
Rickmansworth Players
Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP
<https://rb.gy/zgosgl>

SWEET CHARITY
08 May 24 - 11 May 24
Loughton Operatic Society
Lopping Hall IG10 4LF
Box Office: 07907 028155
www.ticketsource.co.uk/los

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN
08 May 24 - 11 May 24
GLOC Musical Theatre
Questors Theatre W5 5BQ
Box Office: 020 85675184
www.glocmt.co.uk/whats-on

THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT by Philip Goulding

09 May 24 - 11 May 24

St Faith's Players

St Faith's Church TW8 9NA

www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-faiths-players

THE MR MISTY MYSTERY by Martin Clare

09 May 24 - 11 May 24

Twyford Drama

Loddon Hall RG10 9JA

Box Office: 01183 282825

www.ticketsource.co.uk/twyforddrama

READING BETWEEN THE LINES by Geoff Bamber

09 May 24 - 11 May 24

Arrow Players

St Edmunds Hall HA6 1QS

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

www.arrowplayers.org.uk/tickets

MOVIE MUSICALS in cabaret

10 May 24 - 11 May 24

KLOS Musical Theatre

Church of The Most Sacred Heart HA4 8NN

<https://rb.gy/0ojpkl>

ELECTRA by Nick Payne

09 May 24 - 18 May 24

Quince Players

Cordes Hall SL5 9NE

www.ticketsource.co.uk/quinceplayers

RICHARD III by William Shakespeare

09 May 24 - 18 May 24

Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society (SEDOS)

Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ

www.sedos.co.uk/shows/2024-richard-iii

AN IDEAL HUSBAND by Oscar Wilde

14 May 24 - 18 May 24

Carlton Theatre Group

Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre SW19 1QG

<https://rb.gy/fg45zz>

ENCHANTED APRIL by Matthew Barber

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Buscot Park Theatre BN7 8BU

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk/

BEYOND THE BRICKS a new musical

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS)

Mornington Hall E4 7ER

Box Office: 07445 650935

www.cados.org

RADIUM GIRLS by D W Gregory

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Cygnets Players

St Barnabas Church SW18 5EP

<https://cygnetsplayers.com/tickets/>

PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitmore

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Bartholomew Players

Eynsham Village Hall OX29 4QW

Box Office: 07721 744020

<https://rb.gy/dxwji4>

KIPPS the new Half a Sixpence musical

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Sainsbury Singers

Hexagon Theatre RG1 7QF

<https://rb.gy/vj94tj>

THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS

15 May 24 - 18 May 24

Chesham Musical Theatre Company

Elgiva Theatre HP5 1HR

<https://rb.gy/17t37r>

TRIPLE BILL - The Attic/White Lies/Carrot

16 May 24 - 18 May 24

Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society (WADS)

Woodcote Village Hall RG8 0QY

Box Office: 07956 136750

<https://woodcotedrama.co.uk/box-office/>

A PLAY OF 2 HALVES Alternative Accommodation/
Rude Awakenings

16 May 24 - 18 May 24

The Centralian Players

Henderson HUB WD5 0AR

<https://rb.gy/mrl4vb>

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED by J B Priestley

16 May 24 - 18 May 24

Parish Players

St Marys Parish Hall SW19 3HJ

Box Office: 07546 065267

www.parishplayers.net/boxoffice

THE WIZARD OF OZ

16 May 24 - 18 May 24

Woodmansterne Operatic & Dramatic Society

St Peters Church Hall SM7 3NR

Box Office: 07849 762294

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wods

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE by Jim

Cartwright

16 May 24 - 18 May 24

Kings Langley Players

Theatre @ The Nap WD4 8ET

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

SHOW-OFFS! Our Musical Daydreams

18 May 24 - 18 May 24

WOS Productions

Ickenham Village Hall UB10 8DG

Box Office: 07391 988077

www.wos-productions.org.uk

ABIGAIL'S PARTY by Mike Leigh

15 May 24 - 19 May 24

East Lane Theatre Club

East Lane Theatre HA0 3HG

Box Office: 07762 622215

www.eastlanetheatre.co.uk/



84 CHARRING CROSS ROAD by Helene Hanff

17 May 24 - 25 May 24

Mortimer Dramatic Society

St Johns Hall RG7 3TF

<https://rb.gy/b7albc>

MURDER ANYBODY? murder mystery evening

23 May 24 - 24 May 24

Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society

St Marys Church Hall UB9 6BX

Box Office: 01895 253346

www.harefieldamdram.org/

OLIVER!

21 May 24 - 25 May 24

WWOS Musical Theatre

Churchill Theatre BR1 1HA

<https://rb.gy/i2fp70>

SEUSSICAL

21 May 24 - 25 May 24

BROS Theatre Company

Hampton Hill Theatre TW12 1NZ

<https://rb.gy/d1czg3>

THE INVISIBLE MAN adapted by Derek Webb

21 May 24 - 25 May 24

Sinodun Players

Corn Exchange OX10 0EG

Box Office: 01491 825000

<https://rb.gy/r0hhzs>

A NIGHT AT THE CABARET

22 May 24 - 25 May 24

Marlow Amateur Operatic Society (MAOS)

Wycombe Arts Centre HP11 2RQ

Box Office: 07767 403178

www.maosmarlow.com/box-office

THE DOCTOR IN SPITE OF HIMSELF by Molière

27 May 24 - 30 May 24

Erith Playhouse

Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

<https://rb.gy/2otwxl>

TWO & THE ROSE AND CROWN by Jim Cartwright/J

B Priestley

25 May 24 - 01 Jun 24

Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre

Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre DA1 4NP

www.thegwt.org.uk/

FOLLIES

28 May 24 - 01 Jun 24

Wimbledon Light Opera Society

John McIntosh Arts Centre SW6 1RX

www.wlos.org.uk/tickets

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY by Ian Gower & Paul

Carpenter

30 May 24 - 01 Jun 24

St Peter Players

Chalfont St Peter Community Centre SL9 9QX

www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peter-players/

THE DEEP BLUE SEA by Terence Rattigan

30 May 24 - 01 Jun 24

Theydon Bois Drama Society

Theydon Bois Village Hall CM16 7ER

Box Office: 01992 919038

www.theydondrama.org/**SPEAKING IN TONGUES** by Andrew Bovell

05 Jun 24 - 08 Jun 24

Proscenium

Compass Theatre UB10 8PD

<https://rb.gy/sepqod>**A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL** by Alan Ayckbourn

12 Jun 24 - 15 Jun 24

Ruislip Dramatic Society

Compass Theatre UB10 8PD

<https://rb.gy/568q7k>**SILVER LINING** by Sandi Toksvig

12 Jun 24 - 15 Jun 24

Belmont Theatre Company

Pump House Theatre WD17 2JP

Box Office: 07917 324179

www.belmonttheatre.co.uk/box-office.html**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 NODA London 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

- Title of show and show dates
- Venue, including postcode
- Society name
- Box office number (if applicable)
- Website

Please give an indication of the type of show eg. musical, play, panto, cabaret, etc.

Your society must be a paid up member of NODA and in the London Region

Send submissions to paul.holgate@noda.org.uk

THE ROUNDABOUT by J B Priestley

06 Jun 24 - 08 Jun 24

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS)

Lopping Hall Loughton

Box Office: 07552 736110

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lads**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

12 Jun 24 - 15 Jun 24

Woodley Light Operatic Society

Kenton Theatre RG9 2BS

www.wlos.co.uk/**PROGRESS PREMIERES: MOLES AND DIRT** Two new plays in a double bill.

12 Jun 24 - 15 Jun 24

Progress Theatre

Progress Theatre RG1 5HL

www.ticketsource.co.uk/progressstheatre**FAMILY ALBUM** by Alan Ayckbourn

13 Jun 24 - 15 Jun 24

The Priory Players Amateur Theatre Company

Progress Hall SE9 1SL

Box Office: 07798 625820

www.ticketsource.co.uk/theprioryplayers

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

19 Jun 24 - 22 Jun 24

Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company

Boxmoor Playhouse HP1 1NP

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

www.hhtheatreco.com/whats-on

ROBIN HOOD in the woods

21 Jun 24 - 29 Jun 24

Garden Suburb Theatre

Little Wood Open Air Theatre NW11 6QS

<https://rb.gy/rdat6a>

NELL GWYNN by Jessica Swale

22 Jun 24 - 29 Jun 24

Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre

Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre DA1 4NP

www.thegwt.org.uk/

STEPPING OUT by Richard Harris

24 Jun 24 - 29 Jun 24

Erith Playhouse

Erith Playhouse DA8 1QY

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

<https://rb.gy/f6pbuk>

UNPROMPTED a new play by Matthew Dye

28 Jun 24 - 29 Jun 24

Panda Players

Elgiva Theatre HP5 1HR

www.pandaplayers.co.uk/productions

ALLO 'ALLO by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

04 Jul 24 - 06 Jul 24

The Chameleons Amateur Dramatic Society

Compass Theatre UB10 8PD

Box Office: 01895 250615

<https://rb.gy/2bhnpt>

FUNNY GIRL

09 Jul 24 - 13 Jul 24

Oxford Operatic Society (OXOPS)

Oxford Playhouse OX1 2LW

<https://rb.gy/ynd6ez>

BARNUM

11 Jul 24 - 13 Jul 24

Havering Music Makers

Queens Theatre RM11 1QT

www.queens-theatre.co.uk/whatson/barnum/

IT'S SHOWTIME!

20 Jul 24 - 21 Jul 24

Launton Village Players

Big Shed Theatre OX26 5AB

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp

THE WEDDING SINGER

23 Jul 24 - 27 Jul 24

Centre Stage London

Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ

www.centrestage.london/theweddingsinger

THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare

24 Jul 24 - 27 Jul 24

Greek Theatre Players

Open Air Greek Theatre E17 9RZ

www.greektheatreplayers.co.uk/

AGATHA CRUSTY AND THE VILLAGE HALL MURDERS

by Derek Webb

25 Jul 24 - 27 Jul 24

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society

Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall RG7 6QH

www.ticketsource.co.uk/katsorguk

HANSARD by Simon Woods

26 Jul 24 - 30 Jul 24

East Lane Theatre Club

East Lane Theatre HA0 3HG

Box Office: 07762 622215

www.eastlanetheatre.co.uk/

TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

31 Jul 24 - 03 Aug 24

Croydon Operatic & Dramatic Association (CODA)

Wandle Park Bandstand CR0 3RD

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

SCHOOL OF ROCK

16 Aug 24 - 17 Aug 24

Youth of Banbury Operatic Society (YOBOS)

Wykham Theatre OX16 9HY

www.yobos.co.uk/

MUSICAL MEMORIES - 100 Years of Eldorado

10 Oct 24 - 12 Oct 24

Eldorado Musical Productions

Bob Hope Theatre SE9 5TG

<https://rb.gy/wkzav9>

9 TO 5 the musical
30 Oct 24 - 02 Nov 24
Sainsbury Singers
Wilde Theatre RG12 7PA
Box Office: 01344 484123
<https://rb.gy/s5fo0k>

BARE
12 Nov 24 - 16 Nov 24
Centre Stage London
Bridewell Theatre EC4Y 8EQ
www.centrestage.london/bare

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD by Timberlake Wertenbaker
21 Nov 24 - 23 Nov 24
Banbury Cross Players
Mill Arts Centre OX16 5QE
<https://rb.gy/qxwh3t>

THE GRINNING MAN
19 Nov 24 - 24 Nov 24
Wimbledon Light Opera Society
New Wimbledon Theatre SW19 1QG
<https://rb.gy/x8y8ti>

NATIVITY the musical
05 Dec 24 - 07 Dec 24
Avocet Theatre Company
Wykham Theatre OX16 9HY
www.avocettheatre.co.uk/tickets

CINDERELLA
19 Dec 24 - 31 Dec 24
Smash Arts Theatre Company
Centenary Theatre HP4 3BG
rb.gy/9hi03q

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO
13 Mar 25 - 15 Mar 25
Harrow Opera
Compass Theatre UB10 8PD
Box Office: 01895 250615
Hillingdontheatres.uk

SHREK the musical
14 May 25 - 17 May 25
Sainsbury Singers
Hexagon Theatre RG1 7QF
<https://rb.gy/lia291>