

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



JUNE 2016

EDITOR'S BULLETIN

Well it's a busy time for ODN with our annual Drama Festival next week! Do try to get along one evening or preferably every night and vote for the Punter's Prize award winner!

Not so many things on over the next few months in am-dram, but we have a few reviews to read.

If you are sending details of your events please check everything is there, you'd be surprised how often people don't state what time it starts or even where it is and how to find it (a Post Code helps people from afar with Sat-Navs), and how to get tickets.

Mike Davies

Chairman's Thoughts

I've been to several entertaining productions in the last two months, not as many as I would have liked, so many Groups have their productions on at the same time it's impossible to get to all of them. Five plays in mid-May and five at the end of May - incidentally only four Reviews out of eighteen shows. Please remember to ask for a Reviewer in time.

We've been busy setting up the One-Act Drama Festival for this month, Sunday June 5th through to the Gala Night on Friday 10th June, starting at 7.30. Once again ODN has had to move the Gala Night from Saturday to Friday as Abingdon Council are closing some of Abingdon's roads for the 'Bun Throwing' in the Market Place on the Saturday.

Anyway, happily, our Civic Guests are able to attend the Friday Gala Evening and I'm sure, as usual, it will prove to be an entertaining, fun evening.

Please come and support other ODN Societies strutting their stuff on the Unicorn stage, there is always a varied selection of plays to choose from.

See you next week

Deidre

ODN Drama Festival of One Act Plays

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon
Sunday 5th to Friday 10th June.

See page 2 for full details

The deadline for the August issue is 21st July 2016
Contributions to info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

JUNE

5-10 ODN Drama Festival
Unicorn, Theatre Abingdon

12 Stanton Harcourt Drama Group
Pirates of the Thames
– **The Devil's Quoits**

13-17 Wallingford Drama Festival

22-25 Abingdon Drama Club
VENOM

JULY

1-2 Didcot Phoenix Drama Group
'The Ladykillers'

5-9 Thame Players
Macbeth

13-16 The Sinodun Players
The Chalk Garden

19-29 Oxford Theatre Guild
Twelfth Night

AUGUST

12-13 Youth Of Banbury Operatic Society
Legally Blonde The Musical

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ODN One Act Play Festival

ODN Drama Festival of One Act Plays

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

Sunday 5th to Friday 10th June - 7.30pm

2 one act plays per evening **Sun-Thur**, the **time-table of plays is shown below.**

3 plays from the week are called back for **Friday** Gala night.



A rare feature of the ODN drama festival is that after each adjudication, there is a short workshop with the cast - given by our adjudicator- this year Ben Humphrey (GODA).

Tickets: £6 each for Sun-Thur, £8 Friday Gala night
Punters Season ticket £25 for Sun to Thur tickets.

Tickets: from 'The Bookstore' in Abingdon precinct,
email info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org
or telephone 01235 821351

A map of how to find the Unicorn Theatre can be found on the ODN website Drama Festival page.

We regret that there is no wheel-chair access to the seating area of the Unicorn Theatre as it is a Listed Building.

----- Sunday 5th June -----

The ODN Playwriting Competition 2016 1st 2nd & 3rd results will be announced and prizes presented by Ben Humphrey. This will be followed by a *Play-Reading*.

After the Interval:-

Dynamo Flo by Wayne T. Brown - *Oxford Theatre Guild*

----- Monday 6th June -----

Fragile by Mark Padbury, Tasha Moar and Daisy Norton
- *Didcot Phoenix Youth*

Too Long an Autumn by Jimmie Chinn - *Sinodun Players*

----- Tuesday 7th June -----

The Regina Monologues

by Rebecca Russell & Jenny Wafer - *Banbury Cross Players*

Like Us by Stephen Bean - *Henley A.O.D.S.*

----- Wednesday 8th June -----

Daffodils at Dawn by Barbara Neville - *St Peters Players*

Still Life by Noel Coward - *BreakaLeg Productions*

----- Thursday 9th June -----

Deckchairs - Cupboard Love & Shoppers

by Jean McConnell - *Chiltern Players*

California Suite - Visitors from Philadelphia

by Neil Simon - *Bartholomew Players*

----- Friday 10th June - Gala Night -----

3 plays from the week, chosen by the adjudicator, Ben Humphrey, to repeat their performances.

Followed by a Gala Night buffet for *all* performers & crew from the week, in the Long Gallery

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

LETTERS



Dear Deidre and other pals,

Have been meaning to thank you all - my production of Enid Bagnold's 'the Chalk Garden' (July 13-6, Corn Exchange, do come) was saved by your help. The splendid Alex Reid, an old chum from the Guild etc., responded when Blewbury Players forwarded it, and she is coming from Bicester no less to play the part. I had belatedly another offer too. So the system works!

Many thanks,
Chris Harris

Sinodun Players, Wallingford

SPOTLIGHT ON....

Didcot Phoenix Drama Group



How long has your Society been in existence? *1983*

How many members do you have? *20-50*

Where do you perform?

Didcot Civic Hall or Northbourne Centre

Do you have a 'clubroom' or other venue where you meet socially to rehearse? If so, where is that?

Northbourne Centre, Church St, Didcot

Have you/have you had any famous members in your Society? Have any of your members gone on the professional stage?

Some have gone on to Drama School, Drama Teaching Training

How are you financed? Do you fundraise? If so, how?

Membership fees, Fundraising, Quiz, Murder Mystery Nights.

Do you have sponsorship? *No*

How do you choose your plays? Is your choice influenced by your audience?

Director normally chooses, then committee approves.

How many productions do you do each year? *3*

Have you won any trophies/prizes?

YES - Drama Festival Awards

Do you have a Youth Group? *Not Specifically, although we have a very strong youth presence.*

What and when is your next production?

"The LadyKillers" in July

Are there any other interesting facts that you would like to tell us about your Society?

Isla St Clair once performed with us.

Contact Details:

Karen Carey KarenCarey@me.com

or DidcotPhoenixDrama@hotmail.co.uk

The Sinodun Players are pleased to present A Workshop for Directors “Playing with Direction”

The Corn Exchange Studio,
Wallingford, Saturday, June 25th, 2-5pm Led by Lucy Pitman-Wallace



The workshop will look at techniques for directing actors. These will include rehearsal games, status and text analysis, note giving, rehearsal planning and tips from Lucy's own experience. There will be practical work on scenes.

Directors will need to dress in clothes they can move in. The scenes will be taken from Twelfth Night. Copies will be available on the day, but bring the play if you have it. Be aware that all participants must be willing to “play” actors as well as directors!

Lucy is a freelance director, who trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has worked at the RSC. She runs Three Legged Company, and her productions include Dossier: Ronald Akkerman (Gate), A Special Relationship (co-production with York Theatre Royal) and The Kingdom (a TLTC commission, Upstairs Soho Theatre). Her most recent productions included She Stoops to Conquer and Joking Apart (Nottingham Playhouse), Mary Stuart and Much Ado About Nothing (Malmö, Sweden), Elektra (Lund, Sweden) and Pygmalion (Uppsala, Sweden). Her Cyrano played at Grosvenor Park Chester, over summer 2013 and The Shawshank Redemption was the hit of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013. Community projects include The Ashampstead Dream. Recently Lucy directed The Bright and Bold Design for Lamda. She is working with Stella Duffy on The Matilda Effect.

There will be a £10 participation fee. Places are limited so book early.

To reserve a place or for further details, please contact Sarah Enticknap, email: ntknp@pdq

Teacher at the Downs School in Compton, and just over a year later joined the Compton Players, his first appearance on stage for them being in 1967. He also worked with the Stockwell Players, Blewbury Players, Boundary Players and the Berkshire Shakespeare Players. It was during a BSP production that he met Liz and they married in 1969. He always involved himself in Downs School productions and was instrumental in getting drama onto the timetable. He has been involved in the majority of Compton Players productions over the last 50 years, either as Actor, Director, Designer, or Stage Manager, and was, for many years the players' Chairman. He retired from the Downs in 1996 and has since become a keen local historian.

Among Eric's memorable achievements are “Under Milk Wood” in 2002 which he directed and played the narrator; “The Entertainer” in 2006 where the critic said this about his Archie Rice: “Eric Saxton is a gifted actor and gave an excellent portrayal”; and the lead role in “Beyond Reasonable Doubt” in 1992: “As Sir David Metcalfe, Eric Saxton must have given the performance of his life, with some fine acting of professional standard”.

Eric's artistic talents come to the fore in Compton Players' set designs. The initial detailed models, some of which were on display at the Players' last production of “Blue Remembered Hills” (directed by Eric!), are a joy to behold, and to watch Eric effortlessly bring the set to life with a few well-chosen brush strokes is always a delight.

Compton Players are looking forward to many more years working with Eric.

Anniversary Eric Saxton 50 years with Compton Players



2016 marks Eric Saxton's fiftieth year as a member of Compton Players, where he has been a mainstay of the society in an acting and directing career spanning nearly seventy years.

Eric went to school in Oxford, where he started his acting and directing career at the age of nine. He persuaded some classmates to learn a short play, rehearsing in the playground, which the school then put on. This led to more school productions, followed by youth and adult groups, during which time he got to play half a dozen Shakespearean roles. In 1964 he was appointed Art

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

National Stage Technology is recruiting Theatre Installation Engineers



NATIONAL
STAGE
TECHNOLOGY

Do you have an interest in technical theatre?

If you have a basic understanding of technical knowledge and have an interest in this area then get in touch!

We're looking for theatre installation engineers to join our team.

For more information call Reg Berry 01865 722 468 or email reg.berry@nstage.co.uk.

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA WARDROBE

Our new opening hours are:-

MON WED SAT 10AM TO 2PM

Also other times by arrangement.

We would like to welcome our new volunteers who are Georgina, Steve, Sue, Sarah and Sarah.

Donations of costumes and vintage clothes are always welcome.

Please **CONTACT US** at odwc1938@gmail.com

Or **DROP IN** and see us at :-

Unit 25 Steventon Storage Depot, Hanney Rd, Steventon, OX13 6AP



CASTING NEWS

HAODS

Henley Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society. are looking for the following cast for this amazing play " **The Innocents**" by William Archibald

Miles - a self-confident 12 year old - (Could be 11 - 15yrs) He is every inch the young gentleman, but is caught up too early in an adult world

Miss Giddens - a young governess on her first appointment. Used to being in a small, busy house with all her family - suddenly finding herself in sole charge of not only two children but also a vast, daunting house.

We will be transforming the Studio to make this an astonishing production which will make the audience jump out of their skin!

Production dates: 27 – 29 October 2016

More details are available on the ODN website.

If you are interested in the above, please email me, The Director on hunting311@aol.com

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

Open Auditions for "The Crucible" -
Arthur Miller's challenging play,

Details of the play and Roles available are shown on www.BanburyCrossPlayers.org.uk

There will be a read through at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury on 7 June 2016 at 8pm – all welcome.

Open Auditions are on Thursday 30 June 2016, 7.30pm, also at The Mill Arts Centre.

Performance dates are 2-5 November 2016 at The Mill Arts Centre.

Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 1st August 2016

For further information (or if you are interested but cannot attend the above audition) please contact the Director, Chrissie Garrett on 01295 810412, 0755 723144 or chrissiegarrett@btinternet.com.

THAME PLAYERS

Auditions for **Peter Pan the Panto**
on 15th June at 7.45pm at The Players Theatre.

A second audition will be held on Sunday 19th June - time and venue to be confirmed.

Performances are 2nd to 4th and 7th to 11th December at The Players Theatre, Thame.

Pat Shepherd

01296 747017 Mbl: 07970 450136

Chairman Thame Players Theatre

ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

REVIEWS

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

The Hollow

by Agatha Christie

The Mill, Banbury 20th – 23rd April 2016



The Hollow made no dent (!) in the reputation of Banbury Cross Players, its third production of their 2015/16 season. They delivered an excellent rendition of this wordy and lengthy whodunit by Agatha Christie with huge parts for some members of the cast

The Hollow is the name of the house in which the play is set. The Set itself was excellent; a combination of attention to detail yet leaving the audience room to use their imagination. Congratulations go to Linda Shaw and Andy Sutton. Directed by Liz Riley the play is set in the 1930's so there is plenty of Art Deco and cigarette smoking and people calling everybody 'dahling'. Great stuff..

So, enter Henrietta and Sir Henry Angkatell. Now practically everyone in this play is related to each other but alas I lost the plot a tad regarding who are cousins, siblings, aunts, uncles etc. Anyway, Tara Lacey plays Henrietta. She played the part with great style and grace and certainly convinced me she was the artist niece (I think) of Sir Henry portrayed by BCP stalwart John McCormick. Credit to Mr McCormick who made a worthy effort as the up-market Sir Henry with his nose-in-the-air performance and subtle eyebrow raising at every opportunity. Sir Henry's wife, the forgetful Lady Lucy was also superbly acted by Janice Lake who looked sounded and acted just as you would expect from the Lady of such a house.

Another niece (I think) Midge Harvey arrives for a weekend house party. Midge, played by Kate Groves, is employed in a London dress shop. She scurries about in a dress she had borrowed from the shop and is very keen on another cousin (I think) Edward Angkatell who had inherited the family home of Ainswick and was eligible bachelor of the family. Peter Griffiths portrayed Edward and was clearly initially nervous in the part. Prompts were evident from a number of the cast throughout the performance but in fairness it was the first night and many of the parts contained acres of dialogue.

As I mentioned the play is extremely wordy and little happens in the first act save for introducing the characters. So now we meet the serving staff, Debbie Andrews as Doris the chatty maid and Nik Lester as Gudgeon the faithful retainer who looked as though he had been understudying Carson in Downton Abbey and could certainly 'bottle' for a living.

Enter John Cristow, a doctor, and Gerda his wife, the final guests arriving for the weekend. He is clearly a bit of a rotter and in short time we learn that Henrietta is his mistress. Lucky fella. Rob Hall was Cristow and had the characterisation off to a tee. Lauren Dunn, who again was totally convincing in her role, played Gerda, his rather dull wife.

Continued overleaf

So the scene is set, all have arrived at The Hollow and then we learn that Hollywood star and former beau of Dr Cristow has moved in just down the road. Hannah Smart played Veronica Craye, the local girl made good, and she had set her cap once again at Cristow by inviting him back to her place to fix a light bulb (that old chestnut).

We understand that Dr Cristow did indeed go back to Veronica's and returned to Gerda's bed at 3am. We could see where this was going and Dr Cristow got his comeuppance in the form of a .38 calibre bullet at the end of the first act, but from whom?

The plot line of Act Two is simple, who did it? The main protagonist in the Act is Inspector Colquhoun of Scotland Yard, entirely convincing as the man in charge of the case. Intelligently played by Roger Riley, the Inspector is aided and abetted by Lee Dwyer as Detective Sergeant Penny, and the duo proceed to interview the guests and staff of The Hollow.

It should be said here that the scene changes involved two maids who added to the entertainment immensely with a touch of humour as they moved the props swigging the left over wine and pinching the chocolates, a brilliant touch whoever thought of it. The music throughout the performance was spot on too and enhanced the mood of the period. Top marks to Mark Neale on Sound. Where were we – oh yes - the inspector is stumped as Ms Christie uses bluffs, twists, turns and double bluffs in her script leading us to believe any one of the characters could be the murderer. Of course eventually we find out who the swine was that shot Dr Cristow and I won't say who it was but the end of the play is highly original and brought a more than satisfactory end to the evening's entertainment.

Lance Bassett

JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Annie - The Musical

April 2016



The show depends on a believable Annie and a supportive team of orphanage children and this we got. Two teams, no less than 22 children, and 2 Annies with choreographer Karen Brind, attacked their parts with gusto (although in 1933 orphaned or abandoned children would have been more cowed and sad). But hey this is a musical, generally a stranger to reality.

This musical takes us from the orphanage, run by gin-soaked Miss Hannigan, beautifully played, sung and danced by Linda Collins Stock to the shanty town inhabited by victims of the Great Depression - the chorus all looked a bit too clean and well fed but they used the stage and sang well.



ODN website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org

Millionaire Oliver Warbucks (Rob Bertwistle) encouraged by his secretary (Christine Jones) invites an orphan - Annie - to spend Christmas at his mansion. His servants and butler sing a warm welcome.

At NBC Radio Studio Mr Warbucks offered a large reward to try and find Annie's parents.

Mr Warbucks attended a Cabinet meeting at the White House with President Roosevelt (Nigel Thornbury) and took Annie with him (as I said this is a Musical). Annie persuades the President that 'The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow'

The four musicians were ably controlled by Jevan Johnson Booth and Bryan Proctor built a very impressive set on wheels which was speedily rotated and unfolded for different scenes.

Director, Jill Morgan had great support from Assistant Director, James King and the carefully thought out Wardrobe, as usual, by Christine Jones.

As in all musicals it all turns out happily and sends the audience home singing the songs and feeling they've had a good evening out.

And that's what it's all about.

Deidre Jones

COMPTON PLAYERS

Blue Remembered Hills

by Dennis Potter 20-23 April 2016



I had doubts about this play, when I heard that it was adults playing 7 year olds, but those doubts quickly evaporated when the play got underway. The cast skilfully portrayed the group of children and we became convinced with their characters. Accents were good and maintained throughout, giving emphasis to the childhood humour. Willie (Nick Roberts) displaying the childlike traits of awkward hand gestures and fiddling with his clothing was a good start, closely followed by Peter (Pete Watts) the local bully, who, typically, resorted to cowardice when bullying did not work after his fight with John (Dave Hawkins). John was the more serious member of the group and challenges the cheating Peter, whilst being protective of the stammering Raymond (Phil Prior). Raymond was played sympathetically for his slight affliction and perceived immaturity compared to the rest of the group.

Angela (Tracey Pearce) and her friend Audrey (Jasmine Gartshore) befriend the lonely and mocked Donald (H

Connolly) in the barn, where he eventually meets his demise. Donald is desperately unhappy because his father is a Japanese prisoner of war. He seeks solace in the company of the girls rather than being accepted as part of the boy's gang. Donald's solitary playing with matches, which result in the fire was very poignant and the fire scene was very effective. This could have been enhanced if the fire effect had been maintained, even though the action had moved to the round, where recriminations and excuses were being explored. This would emphasise the seriousness and ongoing nature of the disaster.



Playing the majority of the action in the round was a clever use of space and gave the cast room to run, play, fight and express themselves, using the stage for the barn. The area below the stage was ingeniously used as a hiding place when they were frightened on hearing the escapee siren from the POW camp.

Interaction was good between all of the cast members. Peter's fights with John and with Audrey were well staged and difficult when you are inches from the audience.

The play was well cast and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the Director, Eric Saxton.

Nigel James

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

Relative Values

by Noel Coward 11th – 14th May 2016



What a set! The curtains opened to reveal the Library of a country house, with everything in keeping with the style and period.

The Butler, Crestwell, (Steve Ashcroft) was delightfully crusty and formal, which was maintained throughout. He was particularly officious to the long-suffering Parlour-maid Alice (Eloise Sheffield), who gave a steady performance. It was a nice touch when she, literally, let her hair down, whilst playing up to Lucas. Moxie (Mary Drennan) the Lady's-maid was delightfully, simply played and a good foil

to Crestwell, until finding her strength when confronting Miranda's lies. Felicity, Countess of Marshwood (Deborah Lisburn Diacon) was a tour-de-force, having the lion's share of the dialogue and on stage for what seemed 90% of the time. She made her presence felt when standing up to the petulant, social-climbing Miranda. She had good comedy timing and looked right for the part. It was a pity about her first dress, which made her look as though she had been consumed by a poppy field.

Sir John and Lady Hayling (Gareth Hammond and Lesley Robinson) were both stately in their support roles of neighbouring aristocracy. Peter Ingleton, Felicity's nephew (Laurence Tuck) was solid and dependable in his role of peace-keeper in the madness of the household. Nigel Marshwood (Joe O'Connor) was the testy one, being very defensive of his new American, film star fiancée, Miranda, in the face of opposition from his mother when he made a good transformation from wimp to forceful. Miranda (Claire Johnson) maintained her American accent well and gave a very believable performance, looking stunning in her costumes. Her change of personality from sweet to feisty, when confronting her mother-in-law to be was very well done. Don Lucas (Ed Miller) also maintained a very good American accent and played Miranda's happy-go-lucky, lovelorn, ex-boyfriend with gentle charm and maintained his character well.

I was a little confused regarding time of day, as two of the men were wearing 'morning coats' when dressed for dinner and Crestwell changed to wear a dinner jacket in the morning (?).

The lighting was good, however, the sound was a little indistinct and carried on over the dialogue in one of the scenes. Overall, the play was well performed and presented, despite a number of prompts. It was good to see new members of the group perform. Congratulations to you all.

Nigel James

Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

'Thoroughly Murdered Millie'

a Murder Mystery Evening

Dastardly deeds were afoot in the Village Hall on 23rd April as Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group presented Thoroughly Murdered Millie, a Murder Mystery evening with accompanying fish & chip supper.

The play is set in the 1920's in the well-to-do home of the Harper-Smythes. We can straightaway see trouble brewing when author Millie Harper-Smythe, played by the very capable Sarah Curran, announced she was going to sell the ancestral home she now owned as her husband had died. She was off to the States to live with her new soon-to-be-husband, who was also her publisher, and this meant her family was on the streets and having to get jobs. Shock horror all round.

No one then was best pleased about this revelation. Jimmy Harper-Smythe used to be Millie's beau, but he was thrown over for his father as he had the cash. Rob Bateman was Jimmy and can always be relied on to put in a fine performance and tonight was no exception. He was aghast at the thought of having to get a job. Same for his sister Anna. Anna was deftly played by Rebecca Bellis in, I believe only her second venture on stage, who was a pure

delight looking and sounding like the rather spoilt upper crust flapper of the time. She played the part with great style and enthusiasm.

Now Virginia Harper-Smythe, the sister of the defunct family head, is also a tad upset about the new arrangements although she is self sufficient with money. Her companion is the mysterious Ruth Boyd, portrayed here by reliable KBDG stalwart Sally Lacey. William Jones, the butler, secretly writes the books Millie passes off as hers. He also does everything around the house as all the other servants have been directed towards the Job Centre.

So, it's obvious who is going to get the chop and sure enough in short order a scream backstage indicates someone has bitten the dust. We didn't need telling who it was; you've got it, Millie the rotter, her body discovered by Anna. But who shot her?

KBDG are becoming adept at putting on Murder Mystery Nights. The set tonight was excellent. Bearing in mind it's a one-performance show it painted the period well. There was a detective quiz on every table, a raffle of course and the whole evening was well stitched together by the garrulous Neil Browning. Directed by Mike Lacey & Emily Eastham, Thoroughly Murdered Millie was a fairly typical whodunit with the script littered with clues suggesting that any of the cast could have been the culprit. Tales of blackmail, and hidden letters abounded.

The audience was invited to question the show's characters and then complete the provided form with the murderer's name and the motive. Only one team got the correct miscreant, I was completely wrong and never considered the person responsible thinking she was far too nice to commit such a foul deed. Naughty Anna.

There is an awful lot of hard work in putting on a play and in many ways it's a shame a Murder Mystery can only run for one performance. On the negative side there were some serious prompts during the show, but that didn't take away the entertainment and fun of the evening, well done KBDG.

Lance Bassett

Kennington ADS 'Alice'



We're all mad here....

On a wet weekend in May, Kennington ADS brought the tale of Alice in Wonderland to life in a musical, colourful production. Adapted from Archie Wilson's script, Alice (played by youngster Gemma Helm) followed the White

Rabbit to Wonderland, where she met well-known characters, along with a very forgetful fairy. Wonderland was a bright, unusual place, with toadstools and giant flowers adorning the set, ably transformed between scenes by cast and crew. Musical numbers were inspired by Queen, Wanda Jackson, and Disney's Enchanted - plenty of chorus numbers to get the audience tapping their feet.

The show was put together in just under four months of rehearsals, set-building, and making costumes for the 30-strong cast. Aimed at a younger audience, we chose to have two matinees and one evening performance, and this seemed to go down well with families as it was very well supported. We also had a longer interval, serving a Hatter's Tea with cakes and treats, in keeping with the Wonderland theme.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ODN Drama Festival - Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

2 one act plays per evening Sun-Thur, 3 plays called back for Friday Gala night. Adjudicator for 2016 is Ben Humphrey, a GODA member.

After each adjudication, there is also a short workshop with the cast!



See page 2 for full details.

When: Sun 5th June - Fri 10th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Website: www.OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org.uk

Stanton Harcourt Drama Group Pirates of the Thames



- The
Devil's
Quits

Come and meet our band of swashbuckling, time-travelling pirates, led by Capt'n Zach Sparrow.

Will they save the village from the disastrous developers, Ronald Rump and Sadie Slopkins?

What part will Orville the Devil have to play?

Join us and find out. Fun for all the family!

When: Sun 12th June at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Where: Stanton Harcourt Village Hall

Tickets: available via

www.StantonHarcourtDrama.com or

01865 880306 info@StantonHarcourtDrama.com

WALLINGFORD DRAMA FESTIVAL

Wallingford Corn Exchange
One Act Drama Festival

Adjudicated by Colin Dolley.



See ODN Website for list of plays, groups and dates.

The awards on offer this year include:-

Best Overall Production, The Commended Award, Best Junior Production, The Harris & Jones Salver, The Punters' Prize, The Susan North Memorial Trophy

When: Monday 13th to Friday 17th June at 7.30pm

Where: The Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG

Tickets: are £5 per night or £20 for the omnibus ticket (which entitles you to vote for the winner of the Punter's Prize).

Tickets: from the Corn Exchange box office, 01491 825000, or online at :-

Website: www.CornExchange.org.uk/drama-festival

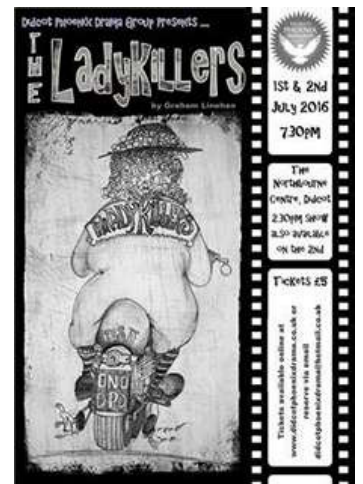
Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

'The Ladykillers'

by Graham Linehan

A classic black comedy. A sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing.

Posing as amateur musicians, Professor Marcus and his gang rent rooms in the lopsided house of sweet but strict Mrs Wilberforce. The villains unwittingly, in Marcus' brilliantly conceived heist job. The police are left stumped but Mrs Wilberforce becomes wise to their ruse and Marcus concludes that there is only one way to keep the old lady quiet. With only her parrot, General Gordon, to help her, Mrs Wilberforce is alone with five desperate men. But who will be forced to face the music?



When: 1st and 2nd July at 7.30pm, with a 2.30pm matinee on the 2nd,

Where: at The Northbourne Centre, Church Street, Didcot, OX11 8EQ.

Tickets: from WeGotTickets

Email: DidcotPhoenixDrama@hotmail.com, or by ringing 07813 831040

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

VENOM

By Fred Owen.

A wonderfully comic, bawdy and colourful restoration - style costume comedy, set at the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666 and tells the tale of Peter Pepper, a



tortured manipulative soul, ready to do almost anything to get revenge for what he sees as his curse, and the curse is a secret that will not be revealed until the nights of the show!

We also meet the seven deadly sins, Wrath, Avarice, Lust, Envy, Sloth, Gluttony and Vanity - all huge, vivid and outrageous characters and just waiting to tempt the audience.

Join us for a lively evening that will be sure to make you laugh out loud.

When: Wed 22nd to Sat 25th June 7:30pm

Where: The Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, students, ADC members) & Groups of 10 or more

from: The Bookstore, the precinct (15 Bury St), Abingdon.

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Telephone: 0845 4636638

Website: www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Email: enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com



THAME PLAYERS

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare.

Outdoor Production at the Elms

Picnics available to order from Kirsty's kitchen

When: 5th - 9th July + matinee Sat at 2.30pm.

Where: The Elms, Park St, Thame, OX9 3HX

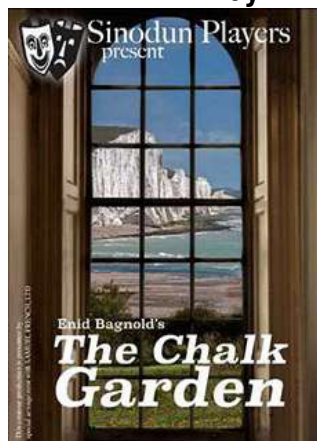
Tickets from Spear Travels 01844 217228 or

Online: from www.thameplayers.co.uk

THE SINODUN PLAYERS

The Chalk Garden

by Enid Bagnold.



An English country house. A time - the mid-1950s - when England's aristocracy and empire are alike in decline. A child upon the cusp of womanhood, the mother from whom she is estranged, the formidable grandmother.... Suddenly, out of the blue, there arrives the governess from Heaven! Or is she? "You have not a green thumb, Mrs St Maugham. With a girl or with a garden".

Enid Bagnold's play (most recently revived in 2008, at the Donmar Warehouse with a star cast) combines eccentric characters with scintillating dialogue, vividly evoking a world which, though vanished, is still well within living memory. It is part high comedy, part mystery, partly a compelling exploration of love - and, always, a unique parable of growth and decline in nature.

The comparisons with Congreve and Chekov are surely not misplaced. The Chalk Garden is a neglected masterpiece of the English theatre.

Let us neglect it no longer!

When: Wed 13th - Sat 16 July at 7.45 pm

Where: Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Tickets: £10.00 from Corn Exchange,

Tel: 01491 825000

Online: www.cornexchange.org.uk

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

If music be the food of love, play on...

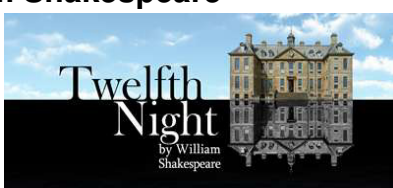
Capturing the vitality and style of the 1920s, this sparkling new production of

Shakespeare's beloved comedy is certain to captivate audiences. With stylish costumes, a new score and Shakespeare's witty script, it is going to be a feast for eyes and ears.

A Shakespearean classic in the gardens of Trinity College, in the heart of Oxford — the perfect setting for Shakespeare's tale of love, loss and misbehaving servants.— not to be missed.

This is an outdoor production, please dress warmly. Blankets are available for hire. Chairs with backs (no cushions) are provided. The performance will be on a raised stage.

There is no lower age limit for attendance but parents are advised to accompany younger children. Babies in arms can be admitted without a ticket, as long as they do not require a seat.



An alternative indoor venue with reduced capacity is available in the event of rain. Refunds or tickets for other nights will be offered to any audience members who cannot be accommodated.

No picnics can be allowed in the garden but refreshments will be on sale on site.

Part of Shakespeare Oxford 2016

When: 19th to 29th July at 8pm (2:30pm Sat 23 July)

Where: The gardens of Trinity College, in Oxford

Box Office: www.ticketsoxford.com - 01865 305305 - or on the door from 30 minutes before performance

YOUTH OF BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY Legally Blonde The Musical

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name, Legally Blonde tells the story of perennially perky Elle Woods - a girl who loves to be pampered and shop for the latest all-pink outfits (and



matching accessories, of course!). But don't let this seemingly blonde ditsy fashionista fool you – this sorority sister is smarter than she looks and doesn't take 'no' for an answer. So when boyfriend Warner dumps her for someone more "serious", Elle sets out to win him back by putting down the credit cards and hitting the books. Ready to revamp her image, Elle goes where no Delta Nu sorority girl has gone before: the hallowed halls of Harvard Law School. At first, she struggles to fit in but, with a little help from her friends, our heroine in heels completes her journey to Harvard Law graduate, proving along the way that staying true to yourself never goes out of style!

When: Friday 12th August 7.30pm, and
Saturday 13th August 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Where: Wykham Theatre, Banbury Academy,
Ruskin Road, Banbury, OX16 9HY

Tickets: (available mid-June) from
www.yobos.co.uk/tickets

STOP PRESS

The Gap Festival Presents Woop & Holler –
A Voice Workshop with Ginny Avery

Saturday 18 June, 2pm Lardon Chase,
Streatley or St Mary's Church Streatley if wet.

Your voice is a powerful tool – you can use it to persuade people, project ideas, to perform, impress and inspire. But when you're stressed, emotional or tired, your voice can let you down.

Learn how to free and empower your voice and give your it a real workout. Learn some simple techniques you can use at any time. This will include a technique known as "the voice of violence"! Intrigued? Come and find out more.

To find out more, read the full details at:-

www.TheGAPfestival.org/woop--holler



OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK COMMITTEE 2016-2017

Chairman	Deidre Jones	01235 527865	deidredawnjones@gmail.com
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Domino Players	Charlotte Browning	01235 766798	charlottesweb222@gmail.com
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Hanney Drama Group	Mike Page		mikepage777@googlemail.com
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Wantage Junior Show Stoppers	Debbie Poole	01235 762366	info@wantagejuniorshowstoppers.co.uk
Wantage Stage Musical Company	Pete Curtis	0773 4823984	info@wantagestagemusical.co.uk
Witney Dramatic Society	Penny Price	01993 779192	penny@price1962.freemove.co.uk
Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society	Pauline Bainbridge	01189 842504	paulinebainbridge@yahoo.co.uk
Wootton Players	Mike Varnom	01865 383343	mike.varnom@tiscali.co.uk
WOPA (West Oxford Pantomime Association)	Karen Starr	01985 248957	Starr_Karen@hotmail.com
Wychwood Players	Rose Hartley	01993 830776	rose@rhartley.net