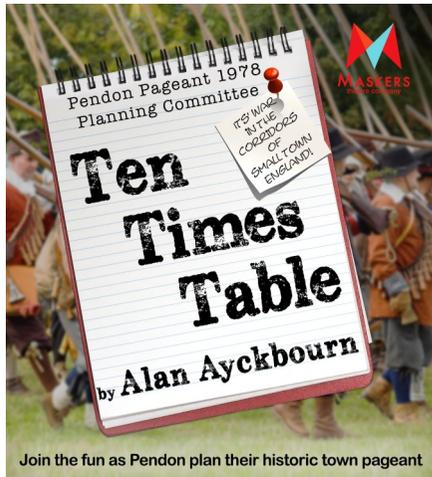


## FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



Join the fun as Pendon plan their historic town pageant

At the Nuffield Theatre  
**Tues 2 - Sat 6 February 2016**

At 7.30pm

A hilariously funny insight into the internal wrangling of life on a committee in 1970s regional England by master of comedy, Sir Alan Ayckbourn. Join the fun as Pendon plan their historic town pageant. It's war in the corridors of small town England!

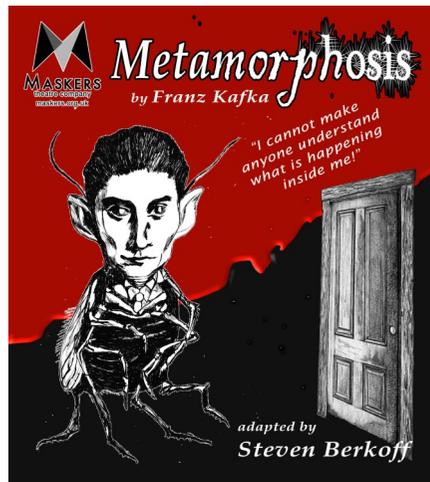
BOOKING:  
via link on our website  
or 023 8067 1771

At the Maskers Studio Theatre  
**Tues 15 - Sat 19 March 2016**  
At 7:30pm

Based on a novel by Franz Kafka and adapted by Steven Berkoff.

Gregor Samsa awakes to find he has transformed into an insect like creature. His family are repelled by his new verminous being... how will he adjust to his new form?

BOOKING:  
Via link on our website  
or 0333 666 3366



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**MASKERS**  
theatre company



**Programme**

Fri 4, Sat 5, Tues 8 to Fri 11 December  
**MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE**

Registered Charity no. 900067

[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk)

## Director's Notes

When requests went out for a director for this year's Christmas Anthology, Brian and I, quite separately, had reached the conclusion that we would like to try a slightly different format for the show. We decided to combine forces, and came up with the idea of setting the show in a Southampton pub, in the Blitz during 1940 (75 years ago). We also wanted the cast to contribute, by improvising the different scenes that we had written for the back story. A challenge for all - but we hope that you think our efforts have been worthwhile and that you enjoy our show with a difference!

Being the home of the Spitfire, Southampton was a target for German bombers. It was the seventh most heavily bombed city in Britain. The first bomb fell on 19th June 1940 and the last, a Doodlebug, on 15th July 1944. Some 2,631 high explosive bombs and 30,652 incendiary bombs were recorded. There were about 60 raids killing 631 people and injuring many thousands. Southampton lost 12.5% of its housing stock – more than any other city in the U.K. There were 3,589 buildings destroyed and about 40,000 damaged. The worst bombing was on the night of 30 November/1 December 1940.

Elements of our show are based on real people and true stories. Although people were worn down and emotionally drained by the bombing, they often managed to "make the best of it". The outlook for Christmas 1940 was grim, but somehow, many people managed to make it a "merry" Christmas of sorts, through creativity and an indomitable spirit!

*Sheana and Brian*

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*There will be one interval of 20 minutes*

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## Acknowledgements

Maskers give their kind thanks to:  
Salisbury Studio Theatre for loan of bar pumps and costume skip  
Chesil Theatre for loan of bar stools  
Bitterne Historical Society for loan of gas masks  
Adam Taussik for his production support  
Jan Spiers for decorating the studio bar  
Bob Beech and The Wellington Arms pub for publicity shot location



### Jonathan Shepherd

This is Jonathan's fourth Maskers production, having appeared in *Pride and Prejudice*, *Anne Boleyn* and *Our Town*. Jonathan has also performed at the Nuffield Theatre with Southampton University Players, appearing in a range of plays over the years. This will be his first Maskers Christmas show and he is looking forward to getting into the spirit of the season!



### Robert Osborne (Stand-in for Jonathan Shepherd, final night)

Robert's first ever role with Maskers was as the Stage Manager for the Christmas show in 2011. Since then he has taken on numerous roles both onstage and offstage. He is happy to return to work on the Christmas show again this year and hopes the show conveys the power of Christmas to bring light to even the bleakest periods of time.

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## The Production Crew

### Director/Production Manager

Brian Stansbridge & Sheana Carrington

### Stage Manager

Tom Foyle

### Assistant Stage Manager

Robert Osborne & David Cowley

### Set Design

Graham Buchanan

### Lighting Design

Kristina Wilde (support from Clive Weeks)

### Lighting Operator

Kristina Wilde

### Sound Designer

Jamie McCarthy & Liam Fowler

### Sound Operator

Liam Fowler, Mike Matthias & Jamie McCarthy

### Properties Co-ordinator

Eric Petterson

### Room Setting

Tom Foyle & Robert Osborne

### Costumes

Sheana Carrington assisted by  
Christine Baker, Angela Stansbridge and  
Susan Wilson

### Set Construction

Graham Buchanan assisted by John  
Hamon and Pete Hill

### Set Painting

John Hamon

### Set Furniture Painting

Jez Minns

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## For the Company

**Technical Manager** --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Ruth Kibble; **Marketing Team** --- Sarah Russell, Angela Stansbridge, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Clive Weeks; **Front of House Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Front of House Display** --- Leah Barlow; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager** --- Jan Spiers

## The Cast Continued



### Maria Head

Maria has been a member of Maskers for many years and was last seen as Sonia Serebriekova in Brian Friel's *Afterplay*. She played Marmee in the 2009 production of *Little Women* and has performed in several open air productions at Mottisfont, including Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She is looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit in wartime Shirley.



### Stuart Muirs

Stuart has been acting on and off for 20 years and he has appeared in several Shakespearean plays. Some of his favourite Shakespearean characters are Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Falstaff in *Henry IV Parts I and II*. Stuart has been a member of Maskers since November 2013. He appeared as Jerry in *The Zoo Story* for Maskers in March 2014 and he is looking forward to devising and appearing in *Room At The Inn*...it should be a lot of fun.



### Pete Liddiard

Although Peter has occasionally been dragged onto the stage as an actor, his principal involvement with Maskers has been in set design, including *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Crucible*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. He has also designed productions for Salisbury Playhouse, Motley Crew, Chesil Theatre, Boil & Bubble, and Southampton Operatic Society among others. He and his wife Ros also brought their nostalgia show, *Thanks for the Memory*, to the Maskers Studio Theatre.



### Leah Barlow

This is Leah's sixth show with Maskers over a 12-year membership, playing anything from Anne Boleyn's faithful friend Lady Celia to a singing strumpet or even controlling puppets deep in the Indian jungle. Leah returns to her singing roots in this role and is looking forward to exploring this character in her first Maskers Christmas show.



### Ruth Kibble

Normally at Christmas time, Ruth and her sister Leah are to be found singing soprano in the local church choir. A lover of WWII history and traditional Christmas music, she can't wait to recreate the festive season in a Southampton pub steeped in local memories. Ruth has been singing from an early age, appearing in many musicals in the south before joining Maskers at age 18. Normally wearing her Marketing hat, she's looking forward to donning some vintage clothes this Christmas.

## Christmas Anthology with a difference...

Devised, compiled and directed by Sheana Carrington and Brian Stansbridge.



The first show Maskers performed was Shakespeare, *Much Ado about Nothing* in which Sheana played Hero, so she is a founder member. Directing came later, with Sheana steering a Mottisfont production of *Wind in the Willows* and then *Little Women* at the Nuffield Theatre. Sheana has compiled and directed several Anthologies, but this is the first joint anthology venture for herself and Brian, who both wanted to try something a little different and challenging this year.



Brian has been a member of Maskers for over 40 years, as an actor, director and general mover and shaker. Directing credits are many and include 2014's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. His most recent acting role was Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*, a part which he said he would give his right leg to play! *Room at the Inn* has been an opportunity to remember and draw upon the stories told by his parents about the Blitz in war time Southampton, but... maybe the best bit was just having the chance to collaborate with Sheana!

**Musical Director and Pianist** - Rosa Longman. Maskers are once again grateful to Rosa for leading us with the vital musical elements of the Christmas show. She will also be providing the musical accompaniment during the performances.

## The Cast



### Johnny Carrington

Being in this show brings back memories from Johnny's first appearance with Maskers aged 10 in *Oh What a Lovely War* and he still remembers the songs... even the rude bits! Since then, he has been in many productions at venues ranging from the Nuffield Theatre to the open air at Mottisfont. Johnny's most recent acting credit was playing Finbar in *The Weir*. But perhaps his most rewarding production was writing and directing *Mitchell's Wings*, the story of the Spitfire.



### Angela Stansbridge

Angela is delighted to be playing the 'blousy barmaid' Phyllis (based on a real barmaid from the Rover Pub in 1940s Shirley). Over the past 40 years Angela has played many roles at the Maskers Studio, The Nuffield and in the open air summer productions. She is rarely seen without bundles of publicity flyers as part of the hardworking marketing team!



### Alan Watson

Alan has been a Masker for 40 years and has appeared in productions at the Maskers Studio Theatre, the Nuffield Theatre, the Theatre Royal Winchester, the Tudor Merchant's Hall and in the open air at Mottisfont and Hamptworth. The wartime setting of this current production prompts Alan to pay tribute to his parents' hope in starting a family during the dark days of 1942.

# Rehearsing Room at the Inn

