

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



**Much Ado About Nothing**

by William Shakespeare

**14-18 July 2020**

In the beautiful grounds of Townhill Park House, Southampton

Watch the website for more details: [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk)



Four ageing opera singers.  
Can they recreate past glories?

**Programme**

**3 - 8 February 2020**

**MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE**

Registered Charity no. 900067

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

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

## Director's Notes

I was drawn to **Quartet** for my first foray into directing by a number of features. It is warm and humorous, observing the frailties of its well-drawn and individual characters with sympathy as well as acuity. I am slightly surprised to find myself approaching the supposed age of those characters so am fully engaged in the play's consideration of the problems of aging. How much, as we get older, are we the same person we were twenty, thirty or forty years ago? How do we continue to live lives that are full and meaningful? I also love the theatre and the music of Verdi and particularly relished the challenge set by the ending of the play.

I have been enormously fortunate in having the support of a very talented team. Huge thanks to Sheana, who has been my mentor as well as Production Manager and has patiently answered many frantic emails over the past few months. Huge thanks, too, to the wonderful tech team and brilliant cast.

One of my favourite quotes from the play: "Art is nothing if it does not make you feel." I hope that we will make you feel tonight, and that, in particular, you will leave the Studio conscious of the power of art to sustain and energeise us.

*Jill*



**Directed by Jill Desborough** - Jill has been a Masker since 2014 and has enjoyed acting in a variety of roles. While acting remains her first love, she has recently branched out into backstage roles, including stage manager for last year's Christmas Show. This gave her the confidence to have a go at directing. We'll find out tonight whether or not that confidence was misplaced!

## Acknowledgements

Sophie Carrington for the screen  
Hannah Parsons for suggestions for music  
David Jones, Allegra Carlton and Rosa Longman for musical assistance

*There will be one twenty minute interval during this performance*

## For the Maskers

**Technical Manager:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-**

Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director:** Peter Court;

**Marketing Team:-** Angela Stansbridge, Sarah Russell, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; **Front of House and Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks, Stuart Gray, & Ian Wilson; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

## FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



At the **Maskers Studio**

**30 March- 4 April 2020**

*Can two lonely people overcome their differences and help each other when it counts?*

*Can three art gallery workers devise a way to save their jobs?*

**Suitable for ages 14 & over**

**BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366**



## Come and See Behind the Scenes

Ever wondered what goes on offstage at a play?

Every show has a host of people working away out of sight of the audience. Maskers is welcoming people into the theatre to see the bits the audience doesn't usually get to see. Come and learn a little about the workshop, the technical department, the costume department and how we go about marketing our shows.

Or just drop in for a cup of tea and a chat

### Dates for Open Days 2020:

Saturday 29th February  
 Saturday 27th June  
 Saturday 28th November

Saturday 25th April  
 Saturday 26th September

All running from 10am – 1pm.

## Rigoletto

*Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi, is based, as Reggie tells us, on a play by Victor Hugo, *Le Roi s'Amuse*. Both play and opera scandalised in their day with their plot of a lecherous king (a duke in the opera) aided and abetted in his many seductions by his jester, Rigoletto. Rigoletto has no qualms about his role in the ruin of so many women until his own daughter, Gilda, becomes involved. She falls in love with her seducer and, despite his betrayal of her, eventually sacrifices her life to save his, leaving her father utterly broken. The king/duke, is untouched, quite unaware of the tragedy he has caused.



In the quartet, we witness the betrayal of Gilda. The duke is flirting with Maddalena, a barmaid, (unaware that her brother has been employed by Rigoletto to murder him). Outside the inn, Gilda has been brought by her father to learn the true nature of the man she has fallen in love with. She is heartbroken, hearing the duke utter the same vows and promises he has just made to her. Her father promises vengeance.



## The Cast



**Jean** played by **Jo Barnard** — This is Jo's third show with Maskers, after playing Mrs Joe Gargery in *Great Expectations* and the Duchess in *Wyrd Sisters*, and she is delighted to find herself once again married to Eric – albeit fleetingly! She is also pleased that she found time to take a GCSE in Italian at evening school about 20 years ago because it is finally coming in useful. Lei spera che vi piace lo spettacolo.



**Cissy** played by **Hazel Burrows**— Hazel has been a Masker since the mid-70s, performing in a wide variety of roles - old men, very old women, servants, screaming wives, Americans, dominant mothers - to mention a few. In recent times, she has been either set painting or working as a director. Hazel directed *A Bunch of Amateurs* last May, a sell-out comedy with a team of fun-loving people. Bringing theatre into our community, getting people to laugh and see the funny side of life brings her enormous pleasure. Hazel is thrilled to be cast as Cissy Robson in this heart-warming, joyous play. Whilst learning the lines she has noticed the parallels between her life and this script, often hilarious and sometimes sad enough to make her weep. So, ladies and gentlemen, as the false teeth of time come away in the Granny Smith of destiny - enjoy!



**Reggie** played by **Eric Petterson** — Eric joined Maskers in 2012. He was Joe Gargery, Wemmick and Drummel, sometimes in the correct costume, in *Great Expectations*, and a particularly bolshie guard in *Antigone*. He was considered weird enough for *Wyrd Sisters* and was Len in pyjamas in *Comfort me with Apples*. Eric has just made his highly successful directorial debut with *The Flint Street Nativity*. He is looking forward to being married to Jo Barnard again (albeit for not very long).



**Wilf** played by **Philip de Grouchy** — Philip has been (type?) cast as usual as the loud-mouthed extrovert; in this case, Wilfred, a noisy baritone and thus, in the famous quartet, singing the eponymous hunchback, Rigoletto. Apart from any experience gained in wearing out not only the boards of many theatrical venues, but also the patience of numberless audiences in Southampton over the past 50 odd (!) years, his only qualification for this current role is being for forty years a member of Southampton Operatic Society. Have no fear, he will NOT be regaling us with any live operatic arias in this production - only some tuneless humming! He is looking forward to working in this intimate, four-hander play with such a talented company.

## The Production Crew

**Production Manager and Mentor**  
**Stage Manager**  
**Lighting Designer**  
**Lighting and Sound Operators**

**Sound Designer**  
**Set Design and Painting**  
**Set Construction**

**Set Dressing**  
**Costumes**  
**Props**  
**Photography and Filming**  
**Rehearsal Prompt**

Sheana Carrington  
Kathryn Salmon  
Tom Foyle  
Tom Foyle, Jamie McCarthy, Kal Robinson  
Jamie McCarthy  
John Hamon  
Graham Buchanan, Ken Hann, Clive Weeks  
Angie Stansbridge  
Allegra Carlton, Meri Mackney, the cast  
Jo Fox  
Clive Weeks  
Marie McDade

## Why not join us?

Maskers Theatre Company was founded in 1968 and is firmly established as one of the South's leading non-professional theatre groups. The company has its own studio theatre and workshop space where rehearsals and small-scale productions take place. There is a comfortable bar where members and guests can relax and enjoy a drink. We also have a lively social calendar. We are always pleased to welcome new members. There are opportunities to be involved backstage, front of house, technically, in marketing, and in the many other activities involved in producing quality theatre. To join, complete the membership form on our website, [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk).

## Or Join our Mailing List

To join, complete the form on our website, [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk).



**Kali Mirchi**  
AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE

Offer a **10% discount**  
to patrons of Maskers Theatre  
on presentation of your programme.  
Advanced booking required (please mention this offer when booking).

98 Shirley High Street Shirley, SO16 4FB  
(parking at rear & nearby)  
**023 8070 1038**



Valid for one visit and up to 4 people.  
Valid for one month after the show date.