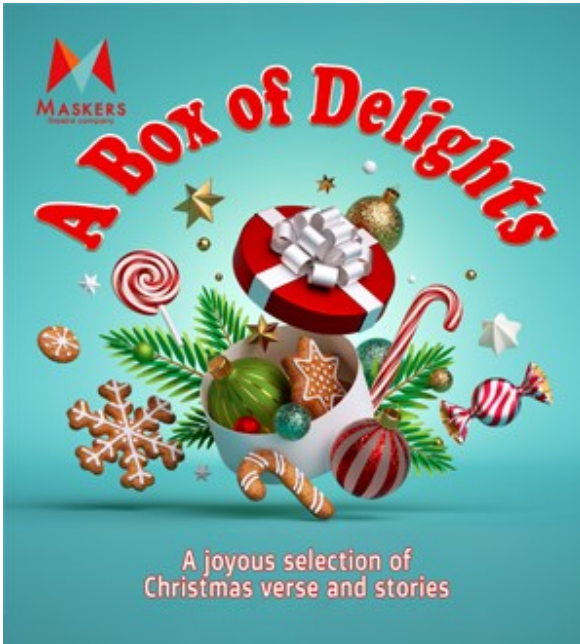


FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



A Box of Delights

6 - 11 December
2021

Come and join us for a traditional helping of Christmas fun and nostalgia as we treat you to an evening of Christmas verse and stories, and possibly some occasional music.

at The Maskers Studio

Four weddings and an Elvis

31 Jan - 5 Feb 2022

Come and enjoy this hilarious and heart-warming romantic comedy set in a Las Vegas wedding chapel.

at The Maskers Studio



BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366
maskers.org.uk



Programme

22-30 October 2021

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

It is a great pleasure to have been given the opportunity to direct once again for the Maskers Theatre. For me it had to be another fast-paced comedy. Among my favourite playwrights are Patrick Barlow, Martin McDonagh, Michael Frayn and Ben Elton but Alan Ayckbourn is the name that shines out as being **the** favourite. His natural everyday conversation shows us characters that remind us of someone we know. So, I decided to have a look around and find a comic playwright new to the Maskers.

I discovered Peter Gordon, a man from York, with that special northern humour. This had to be a winner. I spoke to him! He was so happy to have one of his plays performed in the city. A man who has written many plays but none as yet using Maskers Theatre Company as a platform. ***Out of Focus*** is a classic; fast-paced, with dry humour; about a group of people from all walks of life, who would never have met, but for their individual interests bringing them to the over-booked church hall. We find sports, Brownies, a community speaker, a jealous wife, the husband's sexy secretary, Linda, happy to play with young gorgeous Wayne, our ladies' man, and shy, nervous vicar's wife Evonne with her homemade SUPER Pantomime, keen to start rehearsing. For goodness sake, don't give her a drink at the aftershow party! I found a fabulous group of actors who don't miss a trick. In one of our rehearsals we laughed so much we were politely asked not to make so much noise by another play in rehearsal next door. This is what I've loved about this piece, laughing and inventing more opportunities to engage with the audience. Goodness knows we laughed a lot. Enjoy with me and escape for a few hours with this funny play - listen carefully or you'll miss the next joke!

Hazel



Directed by Hazel Burrows - Hazel has been a member of Maskers since 1977, taking on some lead roles in ***The Beauty Queen of Leenane***, ***Our Lady of Sligo***, ***Pygmalion***, ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** and, most recently, ***Quartet***, a most enjoyable play, just before Covid forced us to shut down. Hazel directed several productions in a row at the Nuffield Theatre, including ***An Italian Straw Hat***, ***Ten Times Table*** and ***Sitting Pretty***; all light-hearted pieces. The writer of ***Sitting Pretty***, Amy Rosenthal, daughter of Maureen Lipman, came to see it. She said it was better than her mother's production, also at the Nuffield before it was taken to New York. Hazel's last production at the Studio was ***A Bunch of Amateurs***, which sold out and played to rave reviews.

There will be one twenty minute interval

MASKERS
theatre company

OPEN DAY

Technical demos, costume displays, behind the scenes chats & more

Shirley's own studio theatre opens its doors to everyone!

FREE ENTRY - All welcome!

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 2021:

Saturday 6th November

Saturday 4th December

Running from 10am – 1pm.

The Production Team

Director	Hazel Burrows
Production Manager	Robert Osborne
Stage Manager	Maddie Witkowska
Lighting Designer	Tony Lawther
Sound Designer	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting and Sound Operators	Robert Osborne, Kathryn Salmon, Tony Lawther
Set Design	Clive Weeks, Hazel Burrows
Set Construction	Clive Weeks, Peter Hill
Set Painting	Hazel Burrows
Set Dressing	Alison Tebbutt
Coach Design and Construction	Hazel Burrows, Andy Burrows
Costumes	Susan Wilson, Chris Baker, Hazel Burrows
Props	Alison Tebbutt, Adam Taussik
Photography	Anna Hussey, Ian Nicholls, Hazel Burrows
Rehearsal Prompt	Val Struthers

Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks to:

Susan Wilson and Sheana Carrington for assistance with the pantomime costumes.
Rob Robinson for support and making tea during evening rehearsals in the director's garden.



For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Team:-** Angela Stansbridge, Abigail Caveney, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; **Front of House and Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

EXTRACT FROM CHURCH NEWSLETTER No. 73

Friends

Once again the time has come for me to put pen to paper for our monthly newsletter. We have a packed programme of events for the coming month and I hope to see you all making a valuable contribution to our local community. Apologies for the recent spate of over bookings at the hall. This was caused by an administrative error which should now be resolved as I have personally resumed responsibility for booking arrangements.

Rev. D. Duckworth

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues. 4th: Don't miss this one. A talk by Miss Partridge entitled, 101 things to do with your turkey left overs.

Mon. 10th to Sat 15th:

It's panto time!
"Super Cinders" written
And directed by
E Duckworth. Book early to avoid disappointment as seating capacity is limited to 140 for each performance.

Wed. 19th: Monthly tea and crumpet morning. All welcome.

Fri. 28th: Open to all. An illustrated talk by L. Trotter "Toad breeding for Fun and Profit".

Appeal funds in our church bell appeal now stand at £37.41 only £2962.59 to go!

BROWNIE NEWS

We regret to announce the resignation of our Brownie pack leader Miss H Beever. This has been caused by the previously mentioned over booking problems and we are still hopeful that Miss Beever will reconsider her position. In the meantime, all enquiries regarding Brownie events should be directed to E. Duckworth who has temporarily assumed responsibility for the group.

Church Parade: Sun 23rd.

Would Brownies meet at the Church Hall at 10.30am in order to parade to the church for the service. Service commences at 10.00am.

E. Duckworth

L Trotter would like to announce his availability for presentation of slide shows/talks to interested groups. He has a fine and varied selection of material to suit all age groups and interests. Contact L. Trotter

42 The Ramblings

Public Notice

Would users of the hall kindly refrain from smoking. There have been several recent incidents of sickness amongst our 3 to 5 year old Tuesday playgroup.

Mrs Butterfield, the group organiser, feels certain that lingering fumes are responsible.

Thank you

The Cast in order of appearance



Helen Beever is played by **Chris Baker** - Chris Baker is a long-standing member of the company, having been involved with many productions both on and off stage; she is currently the treasurer and can usually be found running the box office. Chris is pleased to be appearing in this production.



Sue Dixon is played by **Angela Stansbridge** - Angie has been a member of Maskers since 1973 and has enjoyed playing a wide range of parts, most recently as a member of the Watch in *Much Ado about Nothing*. Other highlights have been: *Twelfth Night*, *Don Quixote*, *Ten Times Table*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Treasure Island* and various Christmas shows. Angie is enjoying the challenge of playing Sue who has her hands full trying to keep everyone happy in this riotous comedy. Angie is currently Chair of Maskers so is also busy working with the committee on the smooth running and creativity of The Maskers.



Evonne Duckworth is played by **Sue Dashper** - During Sue's time in Maskers, she has been involved in many productions including: *Contractions* and *Metamorphosis* in the Studio and *Sitting Pretty* and *An Italian Straw Hat* at the Nuffield theatre. Sue particularly enjoys the open-air productions and was last seen as part of the Watch in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Previous outdoor performances were in *Don Quixote*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Jungle Book*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Treasure Island* and *Twelfth Night*.



Cath Enfield is played by **Marie McDade** - Marie has been a Masker since 2011 and has appeared in a wide range of productions at the Studio, the Nuffield Theatre and outdoors. Her last role was as Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Townhill Park House this summer. Marie has played many parts from a Shakespearean Midsummer fairy to Kipling's jungle Panther and assorted eccentric sea captains travelling *Around the World in 80 Days*, the Angel Gabriel in *The Flint Street Nativity*, Granny Weatherwax in *Wyrd Sisters* and Lauren Bell in *A Bunch of Amateurs*.



Bob Enfield is played by **Johnny Carrington** - Johnny has been in numerous shows both in traditional venues and outdoors, but four of his favourites have been *The Rover* (Willmore), *The Three Musketeers* (D'Artagnan), *The Man in the Iron Mask* (also D'Artagnan) and *The Wind in the Willows* (Toad). He also began directing with the Maskers with the tribute play to the Spitfire, *Mitchell's Wings*, in 2011 (which he also wrote). His last appearance with Maskers was in *A Bunch of Amateurs* (also directed by Hazel Burrows) as the fading Hollywood heartthrob, Jefferson Steel.



Leonard Trotter is played by **Ian Wilson** - Ian has been with Maskers for a fair while now and his varied roles have included a usurping King of England (*Richard II*), an Irish barman (*The Weir*), a crazy ham actor (*Silly Cow*), a lepidopterist (*Butterfly Kiss*) and a school kid (*The Flint Street Nativity*). He is looking forward to getting back on stage after the enforced hiatus and what better way than as a know-it-all and a bad actor, which shouldn't stretch his acting skills too much?



Wayne Bryant is played by **Lee Taylor** - This is Lee's second show with Maskers, following his debut as the messenger in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Lee is also a member of the National Youth Theatre and has his own YouTube channel, Leeewithane. Lee is enjoying rehearsing *Out of Focus* and having actual lines!



David Wright is played by **Chris Williams** - Chris has been a Masker for nearly 35 years and yet this is his first time performing in a play at the Maskers Studio. He's been "a bit busy" for the last 20 years. Chris appeared briefly as Balthasar in this year's open air production of *Much Ado About Nothing* and before that in *Treasure Island* at Hamptworth Lodge. As a younger man he appeared regularly for Maskers at The Nuffield Theatre in (amongst others) *The Owl and The Pussycat*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and *Lock Up Your Daughters*. He also performed at Mottisfont Abbey for Maskers in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Ring Round The Moon*. Other Maskers productions include *Murder on the Nile* and *Rose*. Away from the theatre, Chris runs his own business, loves walking the hills of The Lake District and sings with a rock & roll covers band.



Linda Hammond is played by **Emma Kirkpatrick** - Emma has recently joined Maskers and this is her first performance with the company. She studied Drama at university before training to become a primary school teacher. On top of working and rehearsing for *Out of Focus*, she is also a mum to three children!

