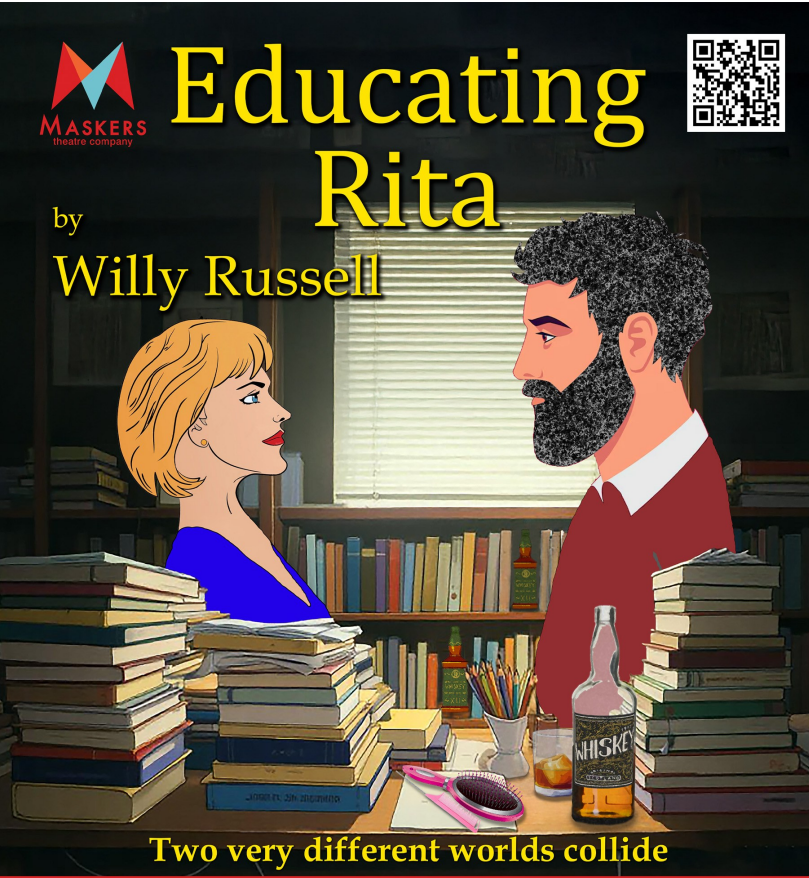


OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



The poster for 'Educating Rita' features a stylized illustration of a blonde woman in a blue dress and a bearded man in a red sweater standing in a room filled with books. A bottle of whisky and a glass are on a table in the foreground. The background shows bookshelves and a window with blinds.

Educating Rita
by Willy Russell

Two very different worlds collide

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 2 - Sat 7 February
Performances at 7:30pm


Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £16.50
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

This amateur production of "Educating Rita" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



The poster for 'Merry Maskerade' features a festive illustration of a fireplace decorated with a garland of red berries and a wreath that says 'Yuletide '25'. The mantelpiece is adorned with candles, a glass of red wine, and a small framed picture. A basket of logs sits in front of the fireplace, and several wrapped gifts are placed to the right. The background is a deep blue with white stars.

Merry Maskerade

Let Christmas begin at Maskers!

Programme

5th — 13th December 2025

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

This year's **Merry Maskerade** is something of a reversion to tradition - not a play, but an anthology of appropriately 'Christmassy' pieces - some serious, but most humorous in tone. We do hope you will enjoy not only the variety and contrasts of the poems, prose items and songs as presented by our performers - but also the warm, nostalgic atmosphere induced by the stage show, the mulled wine and the mince pie!

And you will have your own chance to out-sing us all in the Communal Carols at the end!

Your Festive Season begins HERE!

I would like to thank Jill Desborough for all the extra help she has given me with this show. She has gone above and beyond.

Philip



Gill Buchanan, 1941- 2025

As we prepare for this show, we remember with love, Gill's particular talent for the setting and decoration for Christmas shows. Gill was a founder member of Maskers. She is much missed.



Directed by Philip de Grouchy — A member of The Maskers for over 50 years, Philip has played quite a variety of parts over those years - latterly several 'cameos' in **Notes from a Small Island**, the Public Prosecutor in **Murder in the Citizens' Jury**, Lord Montague in **Romeo and Juliet** and, most recently, the alternately unctuous and irascible General Tilney, owner of **Northanger Abbey**. Philip has been in the Christmas shows many times and directed quite a number of them. The last 'straight' play he directed was **Blithe Spirit**.



Musical Director Juliette Ribí — Juliette studied Music at Anglia Polytechnic University in Cambridge where she was also on stage for music-based productions. She has worked in the teaching and music teaching profession for over 25 years, has played for amateur dramatics and is a Music Worship leader. As well as playing and teaching the flute and piano, Juliette also enjoys singing. Juliette joined Maskers for our tour of **Northanger Abbey** in the summer.



Assisted by Allegra Carlton — Allegra will be taking over the piano to accompany the carols on some shows. She has been involved in theatre for fifty years as actress, wardrobe mistress, singer and musician. She joined Maskers in 2007.

POP IN AND GET TO KNOW MASKERS BETTER



Ever wondered what goes on off-stage 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 explore 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 on the first Saturday of every month.

Saturday 6th December

Running from

10am – 1pm.

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REG CHARITY 1154717

SOS Presents
SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
A MUSICAL THRILLER

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY
HUGH WHEELER

21-24 January 2026
Wed-Sat 7.30pm / Sat 2.30pm

SOS Presents
AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
From the Adaptation by
CHRISTOPHER BOND
Originally Directed on Broadway by
HAROLD PRINCE
Orchestrations by
JONATHAN TINKIN

Mayflower
Studios
mayflower.org.uk

Originally produced on Broadway by Richard Barre, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lee Johnson, Martin Richards in association with Deon and Judy Monos. Strong language and adult themes. Suitable for ages 15 and over. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk. SOS Charity No. 252295

The Production Team

Director	Philip de Grouchy
Production Manager	Jill Desborough
Stage Manager	Emma Loughnane
ASMs	Carrie Forster, Maddy Cope, Robert Osborne
Lighting Design	Tony Lawther
Sound Design	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting and Sound Operators	Tony Lawther, Max Margereson, Brodie Popovic, Ashley Martin
Set Design	Clive Weeks
Set Construction	Tuesday Team
Set Dressing	Angela Stansbridge, Lucy Lockyer
Costume	Cast
Properties	Lucy Lockyer
Poster Design	Clive Weeks
Show Photography	Ian Wilson, Clive Weeks, Donald Coe, Jenni Prior



For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Tash Priddle; Maddy Cope, Nataliia Prymak; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson;

Box Office Manager:- Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

The Performers



Angela Raistrick — This is Angela's first production with Maskers. She has been performing from a young age, dancing for the first time as a sugarplum in *The Nutcracker* at the age of 3 and taking part in junior performances at the Nuffield Theatre. She has studied many different styles of dance from the age of 3 right up until notably dancing a paso doble at 8 months pregnant! She studied Performing Arts at College and has performed with a choir throughout Southampton, including a Christmas flash mob inside John Lewis.



Jill Desborough — Jill joined Maskers in 2014 and has been involved with many shows in a variety of roles, both on and off stage. Acting highlights have included: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Sharks in the Custard*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and several Christmas Shows, including last year's *Winter Sparkles*. She is looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit with this year's *Merry Maskerade*.



Sue Dashper — During Sue's years in Maskers, she has been involved in many and varied indoor productions including: *Northanger Abbey*, *Winter Sparkles*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Out of Focus*, *Contractions*, *Metamorphosis*, *Sitting Pretty* and *An Italian Straw Hat*. Her open-air appearances include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Don Quixote*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Jungle Book*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Treasure Island*, *Twelfth Night* and *Jane Eyre*.



Graham Buchanan — Graham is a founder member of Maskers and has been very actively involved throughout the fifty-seven years of our existence. Graham has been involved in every type of play and part, from playing Don Pedro in the first Maskers' production of *Much Ado about Nothing* in 1968/1969, through directing such shows as *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Lock Up Your Daughters*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, playing parts in very many shows, taking care of Maskers' business and marketing, building and painting sets and generally being an amazing all-rounder, to playing a lovely cameo in *Sharks in the Custard*.



Ken Hann — Ken joined the Maskers in 1969. His first acting role was as Vermin in *The Soldier's Fortune*. Vermin, being an old and decrepit servant, meant a great deal of aging makeup and a bald pate. No aging would be required now if he played it again! In the intervening years Ken has acted in many plays and directed for the company at the Nuffield, the Studio, Open Air and on tour. Ken has always enjoyed anthologies as an opportunity to play a variety of characters in one evening.

Programme – Part 1

Item	By	Performed by
Opening Music	Various	Juliette
The Morning of Christ's Nativity	John Milton	Jill
The Booking	Unknown	Angela
Called Him Barabbas	Unknown	Graham
Slouching towards Bethlehem	Unknown	Graham, Ken, Angela, Sue and Jill
Coventry Carol	Traditional	All
Christmas Cabaret	John Hegley	Ken
Christmas at the Bethlehem Arms	Gareth Owen	Jill
Joseph's Letter to his Brother	Unknown	Graham
The Infant Nativity	Unknown	Angela
Roles	Unknown	Sue
Spider's Web	William Barclay	Angela
Kid Stuff	Frank Horne	Ken
Distant Sounds	Juliette Ribí	Juliette
News Broadcast	Unknown	Sue, Graham, Angela
Mrs Claus	Unknown	Jill
A Christmas Story for People having a Bad Day	Unknown	Sue
Arabella, Darling	Unknown	Sue, Ken
Tight Christmas	Morecambe and Wise	Ken, Graham
The Holly Bough	Anon	Jill
Christmas at Sea	Robert Louis Stevenson	Ken
Closing Music	Traditional	Juliet

There will be one interval of 20 minutes

Please collect your mulled wine (or fruit punch) and mince pie from the bar.

If you need a Free From mince pie, please tell the bar staff

Programme – Part 2

Item	By	Performed by
Musical Medley	Various	Juliette
How to Cook a Turkey	Unknown	Angela
The Turkey	Richard Digance	Jill
Christmas Dinner	Michael Rosen	Sue
Guest from Hell's Christmas Ode	Unknown	Ken
Carol: Adore Him		Angela and Juliette
Grandpa's Chair	Brian Bilston	Angela
Senior Citizens' Dinner	Unknown	All
Dad's Diet	Gervaise Phinn	Angela
The Princess and the Frog	Unknown	Sue
Carol (Instrumental)		Juliette
Wenceslas' Letter	Unknown	Ken
The Mistletoe Bough	Thomas Haynes Bayly	Jill, Angela, Ken
A Seat in the Stand	Smilezilla	Graham
Uncle Bill's Christmas	Unknown	Angela
Christmas Story	Gervaise Phinn	Ken, Angela
Carol: A-wassailing		All
Hogmanay Reminiscence	Frank Muir	Graham
Pantomime at Boulton Wynfevers	Beachcomber	Jill
A Christmas Epilogue	William Makepeace Thackeray	Graham
Carols— O Little Town of Bethlehem Silent Night Once in royal David's City Away in a Manger Good King Wenceslas O Come all ye Faithful We Wish you a Merry Christmas	Traditional	All, with audience