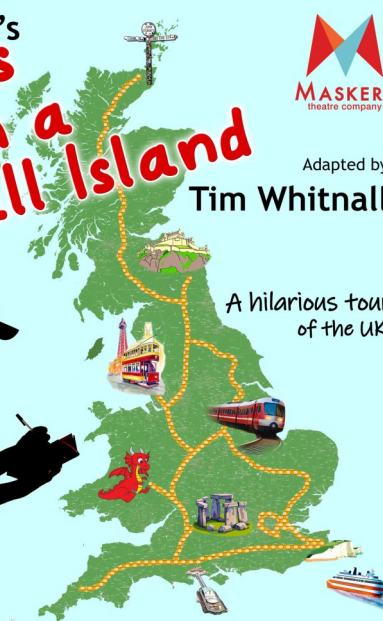


Forthcoming Productions

Bill Bryson's
Notes from a Small Island



MASKERS theatre company

Adapted by
Tim Whitnall

A hilarious tour
of the UK



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

Tue 24 Feb - Sat 1 Mar
Performances at 7:30pm

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

Tickets £15
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

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



Copenhagen

by Michael Frayn


31 March—5th April 2025



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; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson; **Box Office Manager:-** Christine Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



Winter Sparkles

MASKERS theatre company

Start Christmas with the Maskers!

Programme

9th — 14th December 2024

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

I do love the Christmas Show. Whether I am watching, performing or, as in this case, directing, it is always the start of my Christmas celebrations. The Christmas Anthology was a format started by Molly Manns, who has sadly not been with us for many years now. I always think of her when we go back to the anthology style. It is a chance to revisit some favourite pieces and to find some new ones but also to enjoy singing those Christmas songs and carols — a show with the best kind of audience participation. I do hope that you enjoy our selection this year and join in with gusto. You will find lyrics and a list of items on your table for those of you who will be sitting there going, 'who wrote that?' I also hope you enjoy the second half **Maskers' Naivety**, which I had fun writing. Many thanks to Molly McDade for adding dialogue throughout the show. I would be lost without the wonderful support of my Assistant Director, Jenni, -- thanks for keeping me on track — and Musical Director and pianist, Peter. Thanks for keeping them in tune and in time! He has coped admirably with last minute changes of song and a more unusual selection of carols. Thanks to my talented cast for being lots of fun to work with and my equally talented crew for making it look and sound good, and finally thanks to the decorating team for making the whole studio look welcoming and festive.

It only remains for me to wish you the happiest of Christmases and all the very best for 2025. We have an exciting programme of plays planned. I hope to see you all at some (or all!) of them.



Meri



Directed by Meri Mackney —

Meri has been a Masker for more years than she cares to remember and has been involved with many shows both on and off-stage. She most recently appeared in *Murder in the Studio* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and her last production was *Jane Eyre*, which she adapted and directed. She has been a regular performer in the Christmas Shows and thinks this is the third Christmas Show that she has directed. When she isn't in/directing the show (and sometimes when she is!) she will be found in the bar serving mulled wine and mince pies.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes during which mulled wine (or non-alcoholic fruit punch) and mince pies will be served in the bar.

FreeFrom pies available. Please speak to bar staff.

FREE ENTRY All welcome!

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

OPEN HOUSE

Ever wondered what goes on offstage at a play?

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 on the first Saturday of every month.

Saturday 4th January

Running from 10am – 1pm.

SOS PRESENTS

made in Dagenham

THE MUSICAL

Book by Richard Bean Music by David Arnold Lyrics by Richard Thomas

MAST
Mayflower Studios
Southampton
02380 711 811
mayflower.org.uk

15-18 January 2025
Wed-Sat 7.30pm
Sat 2.30pm

Based on the 1946 film 'Made in Dagenham' © Motion Picture
This amateur production is prepared in accordance with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performances must be booked and controlled by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk
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SHINING A LIGHT ON SHIRLEY

YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AT MASKERS

theatre company

Monday, 4:30 - 6:00 (NEW)
Shirley Ensemble (12 - 18 yrs)

Wednesday
LAMDA Tuition (7+), times vary depending on grade. Enquire for details.

Friday, 4:30 - 6:30
Mixed Company (7 - 16 yrs), waiting list only

Coming Soon to the Light UP line-up:

Intro to Tech - register your interest
Junior Company (7-12 yrs) - register your interest
Musical Theatre Company (7-16yrs) - register your interest

MORE CLASSES ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

To get more information or book a free trial visit www.lightupdrama.org.uk or email the team at info@lightupdrama.org.uk



Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

Molly McDade for additional dialogue
The Tuesday Team for the donkey
Lucy Lockyer for the angel wings and star.
Iryna Prymak for last minute alterations



The Production Team

Director	Meri Mackney
Assistant Director	Jenni Prior
Musical Director	Peter Liddiard
Production Manager	Abi Linnartz
Stage Manager	Emily Smith
Lighting Designer	Clive Weeks
Lighting Assistant	Kathryn Salmon
Sound Designer	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting and Sound Operators	Robert Osborne, Ashley Martin
Set Design	Clive Weeks, Meri Mackney
Set Construction	Clive Weeks and team
Set Painting	Hazel Burrows, Peat Burrows, Robert Osborne, Jill Desborough
Set Dressing	Angela Stansbridge
Costume	Meri Mackney and Company
Properties	Angela Stansbridge, Lucy Lockyer
Poster Design	Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey
Show Photography	Jenni Prior, Emily Smith, Clive Weeks, Angela Stansbridge



Assisted by Jenni Prior — Jenni joined Maskers in November 2023 for *Almost Maine*, and has a long history of acting, directing and backstage roles before Maskers. She was the joint director of *Murder in the Studio* and is looking forward to being involved in her first Maskers' Christmas Show.



Musical Director — Peter Liddiard — Peter has been a member of Maskers for nearly 40 years, during which time he has been involved with various aspects of Maskers' productions, including acting, producing and set design & construction. However, this is his first outing as Musical Director, and he hopes people will forgive the odd "bum" note. Peter was also a member of A Motley Crew Theatre Company and has been a very active member of the Chesil Theatre in Winchester for nearly 50 years.

CAST : MASKERS' NA IVITY

Choirmaster/ Narrator

Peter

Mary

Molly

Joseph

Daniel

The Angel Gabriel

Bandy

Innkeeper

Brian

Shepherds

Jill, Dawn, Katy, featuring Shaun

Wise People

Katy, Dawn, Clare, featuring Humpy

Star

Sue

Donkey

Wonkey



The Performers



Clare Britton — Clare is comparatively new to Maskers. She did the costume design for Agatha Christie's *Murder in The Studio* and played Devanika in *Murder in the Citizens' Jury*. Theatre has been very much in her life starting with classical ballet and gaining qualifications in Theatre Makeup, Wig Making and Management. She has been a sound design technician and directed in community theatre. Some of her favourite roles include Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Thelma in *Pack of Lies*, Conrade in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mary in *Flint Street Nativity*, Winsome in *Bombshells* and Alison in *Searching*. Clare is enjoying being in something a little more light-hearted.



Daniel Chopra — This is Daniel's fourth play with Maskers, having previously been in *The Three Musketeers*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and most recently, *Murder in the Citizens' Jury*. Daniel joined Blue Apple theatre company in Winchester in 2017 and appeared in many plays with them before joining Maskers. For Blue Apple, his appearances include: *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Tempest*, *The Railway Children*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Frankenstein*, *A White Christmas*, *Pinocchio* and *Macbeth*. Blue Apple supports performers with learning differences to develop and present high-quality productions. Daniel has cerebellar ataxia.



Sue Dashper — During Sue's time in Maskers, she has been involved in a variety of productions including: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Out of Focus*, *Contractions* and *Metamorphosis* in the Studio and *Sitting Pretty* and *An Italian Straw Hat* at the Nuffield Theatre. Sue has appeared in many open-air productions including: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Don Quixote*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Jungle Book*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Treasure Island*, *Twelfth Night* and *Jane Eyre*.



Jill Desborough — Jill has been involved with many shows in a variety of roles, both on and off stage. Acting credits have included: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Sharks in the Custard*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Christmas with the Cratchits*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Almost, Maine* and, most recently, *Murder in the Studio*. Jill always enjoys performing in the Christmas shows.



Dawn Gatrell — Dawn previously performed in pantos at The Bent Brief pub and in The Shadow Factory, which premiered at the Nuffield City Theatre. Dawn joined Maskers in August 2022 and has since appeared in a variety of productions: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Gormenghast*, *Time and Tide*, *Almost, Maine*, *Cash on Delivery* and, most recently, *Murder in the Studio*. She's looking forward to spreading some festive cheer in Maskers' sparkly Christmas production.



Katy de Haviland — Having acted in the Midlands as a child, Katy studied Drama and Performing Arts at college before joining her local theatre company. After a 20-year break, she joined Maskers last May and has since played Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, Susan in *Murder in the Studio* and Naomi in a brand-new production of *Murder In The Citizen's Jury*. She's now looking forward to being part of something very different with the Christmas show!



Molly McDade — Molly's most recent roles with Maskers Theatre were Florrie in *Murder in the Studio*, Prunesquallor in *Gormenghast*, and Martha in *Christmas with the Cratchits*. Molly has been part of Maskers since 2014. Apart from appearing in various Maskers' productions, including *The Jungle Book*, *A Bunch of Amateurs* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*, she is also a member of Southampton Operatic Society and has appeared in *Legally Blonde* and *Crazy for You* at MAST Studios. She is enjoying the comedy and music in this festive production.



Bandy Smith — This is Bandy's third show with Maskers, having previously been in a couple of pantomimes with another company, He was Bob Cratchit in *Christmas with the Cratchits*, and he played a police officer in *Sorry! Wrong Chimney!* As well as doing shows, he also helps out behind the bar and with catering at our summer show.



Brian Stansbridge — Brian has been a member of Maskers for fifty years and during that time has performed in many, many productions. His most recent performances have included *Time & Tide* and Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Brian is also a regular Director for the Maskers. In recent times, he has directed *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Man in The Iron Mask*, as well as several Christmas productions at the Makers Studio in Shirley. He directed our recent open-air production of *Romeo and Juliet*. When not busy with Maskers and grandparent duties, Brian sings and plays guitar and keyboard in a covers band, which he absolutely loves. We guess that performing is just part of his DNA

