

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

THE SECRET GARDEN

by ELIZABETH NEWMAN
Adapted from the novel by
FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

maskers.org.uk
Tickets £16.50

26 June to 5 July

Evening and matinee performances
- see website for details & times

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

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Registered charity no.900067

From the works of P.G.Wodehouse

Jeeves & Wooster
in
'PERFECT NONSENSE'

by
The Goodale Brothers

Poor Bertie Wooster! In the soup again. Jeeves to the rescue!

Programme

29th May — 6th June 2026

Maskers Studio Theatre

This amateur production of *Perfect Nonsense* is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

I have loved P.G. Wodehouse's Jeeves & Wooster stories since I first discovered them as a teenager, reading them in the school library and being advised by my English Teacher that they were "trivial nonsense" and that I would be better occupied reading genuine classic novels. "But they're funny, Sir" I said. But he wasn't amused. I bet he read them in private though!

Then along came the first television portrayal by Ian Carmichael and Dennis Price in the 1960s followed by Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry in the 1990s. (Yes, that was over 30 years ago!) I loved them all.

How can you not love those beautiful 1930s stereotypes? The slightly dim, but harmless upper-class twit; the super smart, manipulative gentleman's gentleman, the bossy aunt, the bumptious magistrate and country gentleman, the dippy young women, the slightly crazed fascist politician and a newt loving geek! I wonder if Wodehouse based any of them on people he knew? I'm sure he did!

So, I leapt at the chance to direct the Goodale Brothers' latest adaptation, even though it presented some challenges. Just three very strong actors, playing a multitude of parts, with many settings and loads of very quick costume changes. Rehearsals have been chaotic, exhausting, but lots of fun.

I hope you enjoy our efforts this evening, but whatever you do, don't take anything too seriously.

Brian



Directed by Brian Stansbridge — Brian has been a member of Maskers for over fifty years and during that time has performed in many, many productions. His most recent performances have included **Time & Tide** - an anthology of poems, songs and readings celebrating Southampton's maritime history – and Falstaff in **The Merry Wives of Windsor**. Brian is also a regular director for the Maskers. In recent times, he has directed: **The Man in The Iron Mask**, **The Servant of Two Masters**, **The Comedy of Errors**, **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Much Ado About Nothing** and **Romeo & Juliet**, as well as several of the ever-popular Christmas productions at the Maskers Studio in Shirley.

During Covid lockdown, when theatre performances weren't allowed, Brian wrote a short play (**Parklife**) which a small team of Maskers presented in parks in and around Southampton, to general acclaim. The play saw a friendship develop between a couple of slightly lost souls enjoying the sunshine in their local park, whilst bemoaning the way lockdown impacted on their daily lives. That probably sounds a bit grim, but there were many comic moments!

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!

Upcoming Production from our friends in SOS

A poster for the production of Oklahoma! featuring a silhouette of a man in a cowboy hat and a woman in a long dress embracing in a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the field.

An amateur production of
Rodgers and Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Based on the play "Green Grow the Liliacs" by Lynn Riggs
Original Choreography by Agnes de Mille

**Wed 8 - Sat 11
July 2026**

Evenings 7:30 | Saturday Matinee 2:30

Mayflower Studios
mayflower.org.uk

This amateur production of OKLAHOMA! is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of the Rodgers and Hammerstein organisation. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk, SOS Charity No. 25730

Acknowledgements

Maskers are grateful to:

RAODS for some costume and furniture pieces

Jack Fenerty for the cow creamer

Jackie Foyle for the rainstick



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MASKERS theatre company

OPEN HOUSE

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

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

FREE ENTRY - All welcome!

Next sessions
Saturday 6th June/4th July
10am – 1pm.

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; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson; **Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photographers:-** Clive Weeks, Donald Coe, Ian Wilson; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

Tuesday Set-Building Team:- Clive Weeks, Brian Stansbridge, Martin Caveney, Martyn Welch, William Baggs, with help from other Maskers

P.G Wodehouse



P.G. Wodehouse was born October 15, 1881, in Guildford, Surrey, England and died February 14, 1975, Southampton, New York, U.S.A. He was a comic novelist, short-story writer, lyricist, and playwright, best known as the creator of Jeeves, the supreme “gentleman’s gentleman.” He wrote more than 90 books

and more than 20 film scripts and collaborated on more than 30 plays and musical comedies.

Wodehouse

was educated at Dulwich College London, and, after a period in a bank, took a job as a humorous columnist on the *London Globe* and wrote freelance for many other publications. After



Ian Carmichael and Dennis Price
‘The World of Wooster’

1909 he lived and worked for long periods in

the United States and in France. He was captured in France by the Germans in 1940 and spent much of the war interned in Berlin. In 1941 he made five radio broadcasts from there to the United States in which he humorously described his experiences as a prisoner and subtly ridiculed his captors. His use of enemy



Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie in
Jeeves and Wooster



Matthew MacFayden and Stephen
Mangan in Perfect Nonsense



Adam Taussik and Sam Hussey in this production

broadcasting facilities evoked deep and lasting resentment in Britain, however.

After the war Wodehouse settled in the United States, becoming a citizen in 1955, but retaining British nationality. He was knighted in 1975.

The Cast



Bertie Wooster played by **Sam Hussey** — Sam is thrilled to be back on the Maskers' stage once again, and very grateful for the opportunity to play another classic character in Bertie Wooster.

Sam has previously appeared in a number of comedic roles in Maskers' shows, notably as Texan convict Fist in *4 Weddings and an Elvis*, as well as Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He also directed the well-received farce, *Cash on Delivery* at the studio.

Having been stabbed to death in his last 2 outings for Maskers (as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* and Mr Flay in *Gormenghast*) he is very much hoping Bertie Wooster can survive to the end of this show, despite the threats of Roderick Spode!



Jeeves played by **Adam Taussik** — Since joining Maskers 22 years ago, Adam has played characters of many ranks, from peasants to kings (with a smattering of vicars, chefs and bears), and many a servant – though none so treasured in the national heart as Jeeves; the epitome of service! Following the 10 parts he played in last year's *Notes from a Small Island*, Adam is pleased to limit this production to just five (including several members of the Bassett family at the same time!).



Seppings played by **Johnny Carrington** — Johnny made his stage debut at the tender age of ten... as the back end of a donkey in the school nativity! A year later he was making his Maskers' debut at the Nuffield as a paperboy in *Oh What a Lovely War*. Having parents who were founding members meant he was always around the theatre and he started appearing with the Maskers Youth Theatre whilst at college.

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 most recent appearances with Maskers were in *A Bunch of Amateurs* (Jefferson Steel) and *Out of Focus* (Bob Enfield) and the central role of Billy Bryson in *Notes from a Small Island*.

The Production Team

Director

Production Manager

Stage Manager

ASM

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Lighting and Sound Operators

Projection operator

Set Design

Set Construction

Set Painting

Set Dressing

Costume

Dressers

Properties

Poster Design

Show Photography

Rehearsal Prompt

Brian Stansbridge

Angela Stansbridge

Kathryn Salmon

Emily Smith

Emily Smith

Jamie McCarthy

Ashley Martin,

Kathryn Salmon

Brian Stansbridge, Rob Iliffe

Clive Weeks, Tuesday Team

Rob Iliffe, Lisa Halpin, Molly Halpin-Iliffe,

Hazel Burrows

Angela Stansbridge

Susan Wilson, Meri Mackney, Sheana

Carrington

Meri Mackney, Susan Wilson, Alison

Tebbutt

Adam Taussik, Martin Crawley, Angela

Stansbridge,

Rob Iliffe, Clive Weeks

Ian Wilson, Donald Coe, Angela

Stansbridge

Anna Hussey, Angela Stansbridge, Rob

Iliffe



THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES