



BOARDTREADER

September 2024

Shinfield Players' Theatre's mission is to provide a venue for creating and experiencing theatre in all its forms. We aim to continue to train and develop our membership so that everyone enjoys socialising, working together and participating in theatre.

From the Chairman

Welcome to the September edition of the Board Treader. This will be my last one as Chairman as I will be stepping down at this AGM following my six years in office. I will be sad to leave after some nine years on the committee but pleased to hand over to a new committee and Chairperson. Both candidates for Chair have so much stage experience and theatrical knowledge that either will be an asset to our society and I have every faith in their abilities to ensure our future. Both have my endorsement, but the decision is down to your vote.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the trustees that worked alongside me during my term. Each one gave their assured assistance in keeping our wonderful theatre moving forward during the challenges we faced. It has been a pleasure to see the theatre through some difficult times. Not only the period of shut down for Covid but also when the storm took away most of our theatre's roof, the stage soaked, carpets ruined, and electrics left in a dangerous state. I admired the wonderful way we worked together to overcome these problems and delighted that we are now back in business and are once again a thriving community theatre producing excellent shows.

There are of course challenges that lie ahead: our theatre is in constant need of maintenance, our box office for our shows is only around 50% - so we need to think how we can improve our appeal and sell more tickets whilst our running costs continue to rise. I have every confidence in our new committee and our vibrant membership to meet these challenges with our usual verve and enthusiasm.

You should already have received notices for our AGM and the Shinnies to be held on Thursday 5th September. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our achievements from the last season and I hope to see you all there.

We are looking forward to the start of our new season, beginning with Sister Act and followed by The Safari Party which are both now in rehearsal.

Thank you one and all for your support, enthusiasm and time during my time as Chairman. I shall look forward to continuing to participate at the theatre with my next appearance on stage in The Safari Party.

Look forward to seeing you all.

With very best wishes

Gordon

Gordon Bird

The AGM and The Shinnie Awards

Thursday 5th September at 7.30pm



The bar will be open, and we look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Fire & Evacuation Training

Saturday 14th September

On Saturday 14th September, we will be holding training on “Fire and Evacuation for key persons” to cover our responsibility to have “fire warden” training. The training is aimed at people who may need to take the lead in a fire or evacuation or who are in a position of responsibility at the theatre such as: Committee Trustees, Directors, Producers, Backstage (for working evenings), FoH managers, technical staff (for setup/working days), Backstage managers, Youth leaders.

We will keep the training as quick as possible, and we reserve the right to provide you with nice biscuits...(!)

We are also planning to have an optional training/briefing/workshop for Front of House Managers following the fire training. Bar volunteers/FoH staff and anyone considering volunteering for FoH manager role would be very welcome.

Please email Treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk if you are intending to attend, and all are welcome!

Important Notice about Parking at the Theatre

We have heard from the new owner of Shinfield Park (former Wood building) that due to renovation work being undertaken, their car park will not be accessible for SPT to use, and this will likely be the case for the whole of the up-coming season. We are looking into alternative options and will keep you informed when we have identified possible options.

For now, please arrange to share lifts when attending shows at SPT wherever possible to assist with keeping car numbers to a minimum. Once the renovations are completed, we should be able to continue to use the car park on show night

Book your tickets now before they're all gone!

Sister Act

4th, 5th (matinee and evening), 10th, 11th and 12th October

(11th October is a BSL signed performance)



SPT are now on TikTok!

Click the link below to follow us

https://www.tiktok.com/@shinfieldplayers?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc

Tickets are selling fast!

<https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets>

Sleeping Beauty

January 2025

Friday 17th 7pm, Saturday 18th 2 & 6.30pm, Sunday 19th 2pm,
Friday 24th 7pm, Saturday 25th 2 & 6.30pm Sunday 26th 2pm.
(Sunday 19th Relaxed Performance)



Introduction and Read throughs - 6th at 2.00pm and 7th October 7.30pm

Introduction to Music - 13th October 2.00pm

Auditions - 14th October 7.30pm

- 16th October 7.45pm

- 20th October 2.00pm

King Gustav and Queen Charlotte want a child. But when their daughter Rose is born, the evil fairy Ruby casts a spell on the baby, saying that before her seventeenth birthday she will prick her finger on her namesake and die. Although the spell can't be completely undone one of the three good fairies says Rose, and the Kingdom in which she lives, will fall asleep until she is kissed by her true love. Will Rose find her true love and be awoken from her slumbers?

We are delighted to bring a new Musical Director to the SPT stage. He is Christopher Cherng and Carol has been working with him for a couple of months preparing the songs and editing them for the song book. Carol is very impressed with Chris's knowledge and skills and is sure you will enjoy working with him and producing a fabulous sounding show.

Cast:

Dame Flora	Palace Nanny and Cook , Bold and Brash	Male
Topaz	Good Fairy, Motherly and sensible	Female
Opal / Tilly	Good Fairy, Palace Servant, Clumsy, Slightly Silly	Female
Ruby	Evil Fairy, Wicked	Female
Rose	Principal Girl, Sensitive, but Head Strong	Female

King Gustav	Father of Rose , Kindhearted and Just	Male
Sapphire	Good Fairy, Sarcastic	Female
Grumboil	A Gardener, Unkempt and Earthy	Male
Dimley	A Palace Servant, Slightly Dim and Effeminate	Male
Cedric	The King's Companion, Uptight and Pompous	Male
Strephon	Principal Boy, Slightly Big-headed	Female
Queen Charlotte	Mother of Rose, Kind and Fair	Female
Karl	King of the Gypsies, Head Strong and Proud	Male
Lady Helena	Queen's Companion, Uptight and Pompous	Female
Isabella	Queen of the Gypsies, Kind and Fair	Female
Old Woman	Gypsy	Female
Herald	An Announcer	M/F
Red Riding Hood	Cameo	Female
Sprite	Cameo	M/F

Non Speaking Roles

Wolfee	Evil Fairies Follower, Silent needs Body Language	M/F
Moonstone	A Unicorn, Silent but needs Body Language	2 people M/F

Chorus and Dancers People of the Kingdom and Gypsies all will be heavily involved in Singing and Dancing

Autumn Theatroke

Saturday 19th October



It was always going to be a gamble to hold a Theatroke evening in August but we still had an excellent (if a little less crowded than recent!) turnout. Thank you to all those who supported the evening with their singing and/or their presence.

Our next Theatroke is planned for Saturday 19th October. It won't be specifically Halloween themed, but if it's your season and you'd like to come dressed up you are most welcome!

We look forward to welcoming back many returning faces and maybe welcoming some new ones too... For more information please contact Lara, ldsavory@gmail.com or have a look at the Facebook event in the SPT group - <https://fb.me/e/5v8cCdt0Q>

Make Sure you Come Along and Enjoy

The Safari Party by Tim Firth

20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd November



For different reasons three households in rural Cheshire take part in a 'Safari Party', moving to a different house for each course of a meal. Adam and Dan are farmers struggling financially, Esther and Lol are retailers struggling with their 'country life' pretensions, Bridget, their daughter, struggles to contain a big secret which wants out, and Inga struggles to provide interesting back-stories to sell her antiques.

'Safari Party' is a hugely funny play by Tim Firth, whose hits include 'Calendar Girls', 'Kinky Boots'. the Madness musical 'Our House', 'The Wedding Video' and 'Neville's Island'



Minor disagreements between the characters!

Tickets are on sale now for 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd November

<https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets>

Forthcoming ... a funny and captivating play

Lilies on the Land

5th - 8th March 2025



A revealing, funny and wonderfully moving portrait of four women who sign up to join the Women's Land Army during World War II.

Based on one hundred and fifty letters and interviews with original Land Girls, along with songs from the period, *Lilies on the Land* charts the personal journeys of four women who join the Women's Land Army – determined to work endless backbreaking hours on farms across the country in a bid to do their best for the War Effort.

But how do these women, all hailing from different walks of life, torn from their families and bereft of all basic home comforts, deal with the hardships of farming life and the pressures of war? Maybe work clothes full of mice and toilet rolls falling from the sky are just what it takes for these girls to get through...

A Note from Linda Bostock (Director)

Hi everyone,

I'm super excited to tell you that I will be directing *Lilies on the land*. This will be our March 2025 production at Shinfield players theatre, **performance dates are 5-8 of March 2025. With rehearsals starting mid November on Tuesdays a Thursdays.**

The reminiscence begins in 1967 with the death of Winston Churchill, so 20 odd years after the end of the war. I have to just say that I have been interested in the life of the land girls during WW2 since we lived in Eastbourne about 20 years ago.

One day whilst walking through a cemetery at Pevensey, we came across a war grave for a young girl called Peggy Harland. On further investigations by my husband, Mike, we found she had been a 17-year-old land girl who had come into Eastbourne with her friend for a shopping trip, on her day off. As Eastbourne is the last town before the German planes reached the channel, any leftover bombs were often dropped there. Due to a load of bureaucracy about sounding air raid sirens, very sadly, Peggy was caught up in one of these air raids.

We often went and visited her grave and Mike wrote a song about her. So, I like to think this will be a tribute to Peggy as well as all the land girls. (and I do love a dungaree)

Linda

A witty and moving, musical coming in 2025

Just So

18th, 19th, 24th, 25th and 26th April



JUST SO is an award-winning musical inspired by Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories and originally produced by Cameron Mackintosh, featuring an upbeat musical score by George Stiles and book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe.

It's a fun, comedic and imaginative musical which celebrates individuality and has friendship at its heart. There are a number of flexible lead roles and lots of opportunities for ensemble.

Kipling's original work is a collection of fables focusing on how certain animals got their signature traits including "How the Leopard Got His Spots" and "How the Elephant Got His Trunk."

In Stiles' and Drewe's empowering musical adaptation, the short stories come together to form one full-length piece incorporating many elements of Kipling's original along the way. "Before the High and Far-off Times... came the Time of the Very Beginnings," The Eldest Magician begins to share a tale about the animals they created and how they all looked the same.

All of the animals got along, except for the giant crab, Pau Amma, whose lifestyle wreaked havoc on the other creatures. Aided in part by the Eldest Magician and the Kolokolo Bird, The Elephant's Child goes on a daring journey to stop Pau Amma from flooding the other creatures out. On the way, the Child learns about courage, individuality, and friendship – and the audience learn how every creature came to be "just so."

Wigs - Lots of Fun for the Kids



Thanks to Debbie Wheeler for her contribution to recycling. The washed wigs are ready for some fortunate playgroups. The kids are going to love them!

Box Office Volunteers

Are you looking for a way to be able to support your theatre?

We are looking for more volunteers to help man the box office on show nights to help spread the work around and ensure we always have people available who are not actually involved in the show that we're running for!

One of the advantages of manning the box office for a show is that you are only needed for limited time for the performance(s) you are assigned to - arrive an hour before the show starts and you should be done within half an hour of curtain up. No previous experience or special skills required, and full training given - including the opportunity to observe a session and/or work alongside someone to gain confidence.

If you are interested in getting involved then please contact Lara (boxoffice@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) for more information.

Thank you!

SPT Working Weekends 2024

We had two very productive weekends with everyone working together to achieve a great result! Thank you to everyone that came and helped - it was really wonderful.

Here's a little story on the flat store:

Before and...



After!



The 2024/2025 Season

Sister Act

Dir: Jess Wilkins

MD: Heather King

Dates - 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 12th October 2024

Friday 11th is BSL supported performance

The Safari Party by Tim Firth

Dir: Steve Atkins and Krysia Blake

Dates - 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd November 2024

Pantomime: Sleeping Beauty

Dir: Carol Vockins

MD: Christopher Churng

17th, 18th (two performances), 19th, 24th, 25th (two performances) and 26th January 2025
Sunday 19th Relaxed Performance

Lilies on the Land

Dir: Linda Bostock

Dates - 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th March 2025

Just So

Dates - 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th and 26th April 2025

Dir: Jamie Milburn

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Dir: Maggie Smith and Cate Naylor

Dates: 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th June 2025

Committee Meetings

If you have any questions or comments for the committee, please send them to Rachel Lockwood secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the Material for the October Board Treader to be sent by September 26th to:

boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk; shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk;