



# BOARDREADER

**October 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 Chair**

Welcome to the start of our 2024/25 season at SPT!

The theatre is already very busy with two productions in rehearsal and our youth groups are back after their summer break. The backstage team continue to beaver away busily, and our new committee are working together ready to take the society forward into the new season.

We are very excited to open with our first musical 'Sister Act' this week performing to a run of full houses. Thank you to everyone involved and to all of you watching the show.

This is followed by our first play 'Safari Party' which is in rehearsal and will be coming to the stage in November.

Previews and auditions for this season's pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' are booked for October and I am sure that many of you will come along to join in the fun... 'oh yes you will' 😊

Dates for the March play 'Lilies on the Land' are in this edition and those for our April musical 'Just So'.

Our June play 'And Then There Were None' will be coming soon in BT.

It was lovely to see so many people at the AGM and the Shinnies award ceremony last month and thank you to Mark and Jess for organising the awards ceremony again this year.

Lastly, can I say how much I am looking forward to working with the committee at SPT and all members as the new Chair of the society. I really want to encourage you to have your say and welcome your comments and questions.

You can contact me by email: [chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

**Cate Naylor**  
**Chair of Shinfield Players Theatre**

**WOW!**

## All tickets are sold out for **Sister Act**

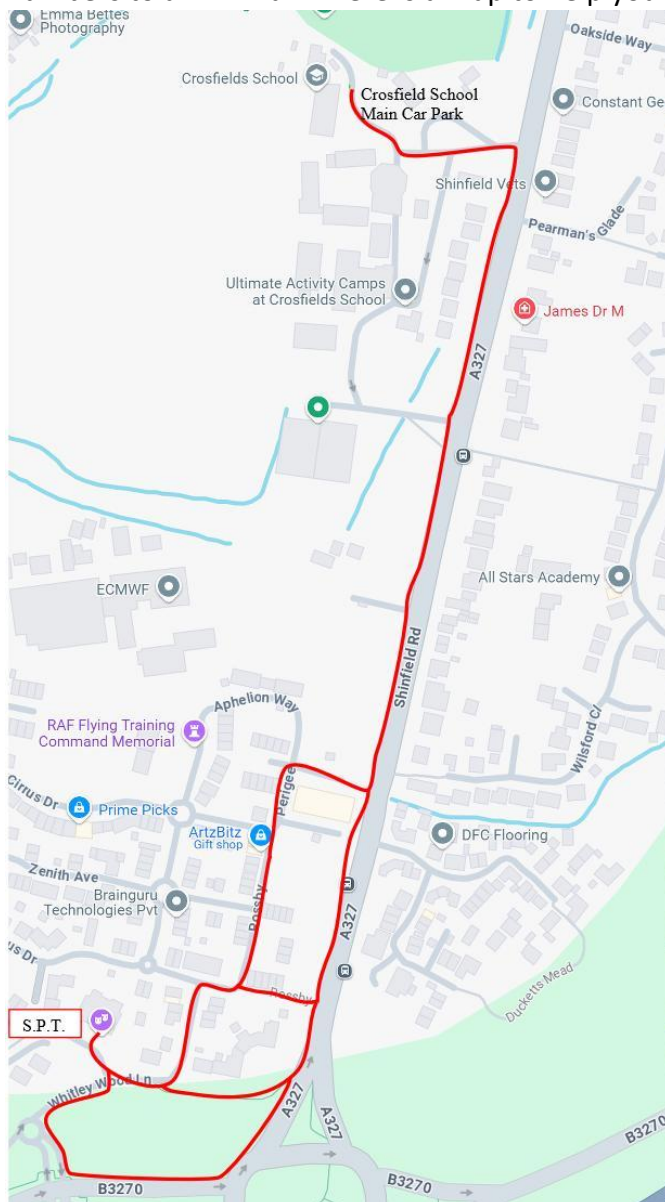
4th, 5<sup>th</sup> (matinee and evening), 10th, 11th and 12th October  
(11th October is a BSL signed performance)

Congratulations to all involved. We're all looking forward to seeing the show.

## Important Notice about Parking

There is no longer any parking available at the Shire Hall/ Foster Wheeler/ Wood building).

**We are pleased to say that parking is now available at Crosfield School but not for the Sister Act matinee.** Please arrange to share lifts when attending the matinee wherever possible to assist with keeping car numbers to a minimum. Here is a map to help you locate the car park.



## Come along to the Introduction and Read Throughs for **Sleeping Beauty**

Performances on January 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm, 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm & 6.30pm, 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm, 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm, 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm & 6.30pm 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm.

(Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Relaxed Performance)



**Introduction and Read throughs** - 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm and 7<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

**Introduction to Music** - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2.00pm

**Auditions** - 14<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

- 16<sup>th</sup> October 7.45pm

- 20<sup>th</sup> 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 a rose 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 headstrong	Female
King Gustav	Father of Rose , kind-hearted 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, headstrong 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 19<sup>th</sup> October**



October Theatroke isn't too far away now. We will be holding this on Saturday 19th October. It won't be specifically Halloween themed, but if spooky fancy dress is your thing then please go ahead! Maybe you can even think of a suitably scary musical theatre number...

If you're new to SPT or haven't been to Theatroke before it's a great excuse for a social evening with added chances to sing songs from the shows for those who wish to, somewhere between karaoke and open mic with added group numbers for anyone to sing along with. Find a backing track (or maybe an accompanist!) and let us know what you'll be singing. It's a great chance to improve your vocal confidence in front of a friendly audience. 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>. Please also let Lara know you'll be attending either by contacting her directly or responding to the event.

Also, advance notice for this year's Festivoke (like Theatroke but with festive songs instead of musical theatre numbers, because many of us love any opportunity for a seasonal sing!) will be held on **Saturday 21st December**. If you don't already have plans for that day and you'd like to

come along, get it in your calendar now. We will be running this slightly differently this year, see 'Christmas update' below.

## Christmas Update

This year we are hoping to try something a little different at Christmas. Instead of the SPT Christmas Concert, we are looking to adapt Festivoke on 21st December to include some pre-rehearsed festive group numbers. The evening will still be run in the relaxed Theatreoke style that you have all become accustomed to, we're just shaking it up a bit as the date is so close to Christmas.

If you're interested in singing in a seasonal group number or two then let Lara know and when we have more details she'll be in touch. Further details will be available in next month's Board Treader.

## Make Sure you Buy your Tickets for

## 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'

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

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

## Read through and auditions for this captivating play **Lilies on the Land**

5th - 8th March 2025



Hi everyone,

I want to let you all know the plans so far for Lilies of the Land, which is our production for next March.

**Read through date** is **Saturday October 26th at 5pm** at Shinfield Theatre.

**Audition date** is **Saturday 2nd November, 10 am**, Shinfield Theatre.

There is also a reserve audition date of **Saturday 16th November** in case I can't cast it on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The play was devised by the Lions part group from interviews with ex land girls, in 2010. So, all the events portrayed are true and have been dramatised for the stage. There is a fair amount of singing of war time era songs.

I have had a lot of interest from a wide age range of people so my thoughts on casting have become more flexible.

**I'm looking for 4 or 8 women 18-55** to play either  
4 land girls who play their older and younger selves  
**or**

4 older land girls in 1967 reminiscing after the death of Winston Churchill and 4 younger land girls who will play their younger selves (memories).

They will all also double up as all other characters in the play, such as farmers, soldiers, boyfriends, friends, etc.

If I cast 4 older women, they will go backwards in time to portray their young selves during the Second World War, as land girls. If I cast 4 younger women, vice versa.

From the interest people have shown, my preference would be to cast 8, that is 4 older women who are reminiscing, and 4 younger women as their wartime selves.

All ages will play many other characters and partake in whatever activities the land girls are doing. E.g. one of the girls lives with a farmer and his wife who were “not very kind” to her.

**Margie**...from a large family in Newcastle. She describes herself as having a liking for makeup and rollers. County Durham or Newcastle accent needed which we can work on, but not essential for the audition.

**Peggy**...a happy, confident, cockney from a large family in the east end. She knows nothing about farming but soon acquires ploughing skills second to none.

**Poppy**...from a happy privileged family, who expected her to join the WRNS, but the romantic posters entice her into signing up for the land army, which she throws herself into with energy and enthusiasm.

**Vera**...a complex character escaping her snobby stepmother. Competent and hearty, she is the loneliest one of the four land girls and probably the only one to have read Virginia Woolf.

There are 28 other characters also portrayed by the cast.

**Performance dates are 5-8th March 2025.**

As usual, tech and dress rehearsal will be the weekend and week before hand. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursdays at 7.30, as soon as Safari party has finished ( end of November) and will involve workshopping on war time culture and characters. Due to a personal interest in land girls I would like this to be a tribute to the largely unrecognised back-breaking work these girls did and am so looking forward to telling their amazing stories.

If you want to read a script, give me a shout or if you can't make any of the audition dates let me know and we'll work it out. ( I'm away 3-12th November)

Linda Bostock  
07716013925  
[Bostockl@btinternet.com](mailto:Bostockl@btinternet.com)

## **Bar Work and Sound Training**

### **Sunday 20th October from 7-9pm**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October, we are holding training for bar work and for sound at the theatre.

The bar training must be done by everyone who wants to work behind the bar including those who already do. We need to ensure our training records are complete.

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.

Please email [Treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:Treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) if you are intending to attend, and all are welcome!

## Dates for Your Diary in 2025

### Just So

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



**Monday 20 January @7.30pm** Welcome, Character Profiles & Full Read/Fun Sing Through...

**Wednesday 22 January @7.30pm** Learn Singing Auditions / Complete Dance Auditions

**Monday 27 January @7.30pm** Learn Singing Auditions / Complete Dance Auditions / Early, Early Auditions

**Wednesday 29 January@7.30pm** 1930 Early Auditions

**Sunday 02 February** Time not yet set. Main Singing and Character Auditions

Director Jamie Milburn

Musical Director Christopher Cherng

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 several flexible lead roles and lots of opportunities for ensemble.

Kipling's original work is a collection of fables focusing on how 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.”

## **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, 18<sup>th</sup> (two performances), 19th, 24th, 25<sup>th</sup> (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**

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Christopher Churng

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

### **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 Sandra Miall, [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

**The next committee meeting is to be held on October 21st**

## **Board Treader News Items** Please email items for the

Material for the October Board Treader to be sent by October 26th to:

[boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk); [shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk);