



# BOARDREADER

**November 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**

### **From The Chair**

Welcome to November's edition of Boardtreader, and what a busy and successful month we have had! Performing to six full houses and standing ovations, the Sister Act cast and production team really "Raised their Voices" to give us a tremendous show. Well done to all involved and thank you to everyone who came to see the show.

Opening in three weeks our next production 'Safari Party' is well in the swing of rehearsals and our set-build team are busy creating the set. Do come along and follow our cast in this funny play as they travel to each other's houses to enjoy a three-course dinner.

The pantomime Sleeping Beauty has now been cast and is starting to rehearse. Well done to everyone who auditioned. I am looking forward to watching the show come together over the next few months. Our next play Lilies on the Land is about to audition, and I wish everyone involved good luck. Dates for the rest of the seasons show are in this edition and the productions team are busy working on putting together a schedule for next season's shows.

The new committee has set up some working groups and we have been working hard together to get to grips with all that is going on at the theatre. You will find a list of the committee roles at the end of this edition. We have also established an online membership form and code of conduct for members. Our membership secretary will shortly be contacting all members to give details of the online form and membership section.

Please do feel free to contact me with your comments and questions and have a good month!

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

**Cate Naylor**

**Chair of Shinfield Players Theatre**

**Make sure you audition – don't miss your chance to be in this wonderful 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.

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

There is also a reserve audition date of **Saturday 16th November** and possibly another to be announced.

My thoughts on casting are 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)

**Come Along to See this Great Comedy...**

**The Safari Party** by Tim Firth

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



Message from the co-directors of The Safari Party.

Here is a subliminal message-

**BUY TICKETS!!!** ....(did you get it?)

Just wanted to say that last weekend I hosted my daughter's BIG birthday party with games and a big tea and kids running around, just like Christmases past, and I had set up a WhatsApp group for contributors to the catering.

Meanwhile Krysia has set up a WhatsApp group for Safari Party Chat, and the contents of both groups look remarkably similar, you'd think we were a family.

So, thanks guys, it's great fun, and I'm looking forwards to seeing what Shinfield Theatre audiences find funny – bet there'll be some surprises!!

Steve and Krysia

**'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>

We are Pleased to Announce the Cast for

## **Sleeping Beauty**

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)



**Many congratulations to the cast:**

**Dame Flora**

**Grumboil**

**Opal / Tilly**

**Sapphire**

**Topaz**

**Rose**

**Ruby**

**King Gustav**

**Gordon Bird**

**Derek Lockwood**

**Rosie Mott**

**Nadine Masseron**

**Gilly Meek**

**Aimee Driscoll**

**Karen Bird**

**Scott Fyfe-Jamieson**

Queen Charlotte	Muireann O'Donnell
Lady Helena	Barbara Richards
Cedric	Karen Payne
Dimley	Wilson Lang
Herald	Csenge Kertesz
King Karl	Brian Nixey
Queen Isabella	Sherrie Carslake
Stephon	Alana Smith
Old Woman	Rachel Lockwood
Wolfee	Laurel Taylor
Moonstone	Charlie Clark (Front end)
Moonstone	To be Cast (back end)
Red Riding Hood	Kadyn Ellis Graham
Ensemble	

Benita Venables, Joseph Boardman, Lynda Fox, Rowan Taylor, Sue Brown, Tiena Elliot

## Theatreoke



Thanks to everyone who attended October's Theatreoke evening - our busiest yet!  
We will be taking a break from Theatreoke now until 2025, but please look out for information about future Theatreokes in the BT and on the Shinfield Players Theatre private Facebook group

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193343420739561>**

# Festivoke

Saturday 21st December from 7pm



As mentioned last month, this year we will not be performing our usual charity Christmas concert at SPT but instead we will be holding a charity Festivoke evening on Saturday 21st December from 7pm to raise funds for our charity of the year, Sue Ryder for palliative and bereavement support. This charity was chosen in honour of Philippe Duquenoy in consultation with his family.

Festivoke will be held from 7pm on Saturday 21st December. It will be a chance for people to perform a seasonal solo or duet in 'Theatreoke' style, to join in some audience carols and Christmas numbers, to have a drink, socialise and donate some money to charity at the same time.

There will also be an opportunity for anyone interested to rehearse and perform a few Christmas group songs, as we would normally at the SPT Christmas concert.

Tickets for the charity concert have previously been £5. There will be no entrance fee for the event but we would ask everyone to donate what they can on the night. Donations can be made either in cash or by card.

As this is a new event and we are not sure on numbers, please could you click on the link below and complete the form to let us know if you intend to come as soon as possible. <https://forms.gle/UbwKEzzLwCQJiNuk8> (if the link does not work then please copy and paste as URL).

If you'd like to get involved in the pre-rehearsed numbers, please ensure you complete the form **before Sunday 10th November** or contact Lara directly before then ([ldsavory@gmail.com](mailto:ldsavory@gmail.com)).

And, as always, if you have any questions about the event then please get in touch with Lara.

## Just So Dance Workshop

Saturday 30th November 6pm-730pm

**FREE**

**JUST SO**

**DANCE WORKSHOP**

Saturday 30th November 2024  
6pm - 7:45pm

**COMPLETELY FREE - JUST TURN UP!**  
**ALL AGES, COMPLETE BEGINNERS & EXPERIENCED DANCERS WELCOME!**  
Come along to our dance workshop where we will teach you a dance routine to a 'Just So - the musical' CLASSIC!  
Plus... it's completely free! No booking needed, just turn up at the theatre and join us! (free parking)  
--Shinfield Players Theatre, RG2 9DF--

### **JUST SO, the musical - FREE DANCE WORKSHOP!**

Come along to our Just So dance workshop and learn some choreography that will be featured in our next musical at Shinfield Players Theatre. It is completely free to attend whether you are a beginner or experienced. Come and get a feel for the sort of dancing that will be involved in this musical prior to the auditions!

#### **Just So production team:**

Director **Jamie Milburn**

Musical Director **Chris Cherng**

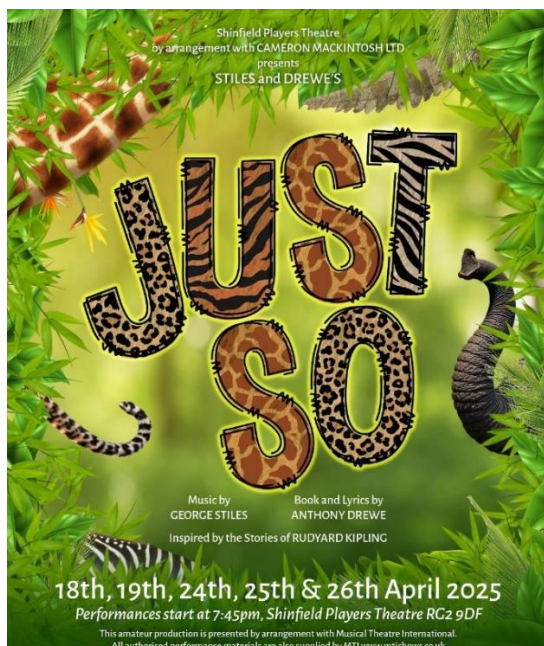
Choreographer **Millie Wilkins**

Assistant Choreographer **Alana Smith**

Here's the link for the FB event: <https://fb.me/e/2t3PBVO9s>

# 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

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 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.”

## Looking to the Future

**Do you want to direct a play, musical or panto for next season?**



We are currently looking at proposals for the 2025 and 2026 season and beyond. We welcome all ideas from new directors and those with experience! There is a proposal form on our website and we are also happy to help with any queries or any questions that you may have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact [productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);

# Introducing Your Technical Team

...Just one at a time!

## Pete Ashton



**The New**

**and The Old!**

Hi,

We ( well I ) had the idea of creating a background bio for the membership about those in the supporting roles at the theatre. I am getting the ball rolling from the Tech Team, and we would like to encourage all members from their areas to do the same. Not everyone knows what other background support exists within the theatre, so, hopefully you will hear more from the Backstage, the Wardrobe, the props, the FOH etc. So...

### **Pete**

Lately by day, a bus driver. By night, currently a member of the SPT Tech Support Team, Pete has been associated with SPT for 30 years now. He has appeared both on and off the stage. (Even in a couple of shows that he has sung in, but we don't mention those! ) But he might mention the Blue Flame NODA Award now and then!

Pete holds a BTEC in Stage Management and more recently has gained a self-taught YouTube insight to expand into Qlab Lighting & Sound design. This has resulted in a couple of Shinnies and work with other societies in the Sound design arena especially the South Hill Park professional pantomimes.

Pete is a Senior Youth Group leader and has had the privilege to have seen members move into the world of theatre both in the West End and around the world. He has just taken on the role of co-ordinating the tech team to filling the necessary support roles for sound and lighting for this season.

In his very (limited) spare time you can find him on a dancefloor showing off his moves that came from being a demo in the world of Ceroc dancing. ( that's modern jive partner dancing to you )

Kind regards  
Pete Ashton

## **SPT Committee Members**

**Cate Naylor** (Chair) chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

**Sandra Miall** (Secretary) secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

**Sue Gowen** (Treasurer) treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

**Graeme Rhodes** (Marketing and Publicity) marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

**Jess Wilkins** (Social Media and Publicity) socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

**Maggie Smith, George Apap, Becca Read and Mark Read** (Productions Team)

**Phil Gowen, George Apap and Neil Coupland** (Facilities and Maintenance Team)

## **The 2024/2025 Season**

### **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 November 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the

Material for the December Board Treader to be sent by November 26th

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