

SPT BOARDREADER SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

December 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 December's edition of Board Treader.

We've had another busy month with our November play *The Safari Party* hitting the stage. In this dark comedy we joined three households attempting to enjoy a mobile dinner party only for disaster to strike. It was lovely to welcome a new directing team and new members to the cast. Well done to everyone in the show.

In December we have our two Youth Group Reviews where we get the opportunity to enjoy watching the youngsters show off their theatre skills, before they embark on their summer shows. Later in the month, we have Festivoke; our regular Theatroke but with a festive feel giving everyone the chance to join in the festive fun and to sing some carols together.

Rehearsals for our pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* are in full swing and Director Carol and Musical Director Christopher are putting the cast through their paces. This will be lots of fun with the usual mischief and hilarity from the dame, a principal boy and girl who fall in love and a wicked fairy determined to foil all their plans.

Our March play *Lilies on the Land* has now been cast and I send my congratulations to everyone in the show. This is a very interesting play set

20 years after World War II with four land girls from very different backgrounds looking back on their time working on the land. I look forward to catching up with the cast and encourage you to come and watch the show.

Our April musical Just So got going last weekend with a dance workshop introducing some of the choreography for the show. Auditions are coming up and I wish everyone auditioning good luck. Dates for the rest of the season's shows are in this edition.

It just leaves me to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cate Naylor

Cate Naylor

chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Announcing the Cast for

Lilies on the Land

5th - 8th March 2025



Helen Cuthbertson - Margie

Lucy Watkins - Peggy

Debora Rochfort - Poppy

Benita Venables - Vera

Many Congratulations to Helen, Lucy, Debora and Benita!

We are looking forward to seeing you in this fascinating, funny, and moving portrait of Britain's unsung heroes during World War II.

Festivoke

Saturday 21st December from 7pm



December is here already! Which means it's nearly time for our charity Festivoke evening.

Have you told us you're coming along yet?

Festivoke will be held from 7pm on Saturday 21st December. The informal evening for members and friends will be used to raise funds for our charity of the year, Sue Ryder for palliative and bereavement support. This charity was chosen in honour of Philippe Duquyen in consultation with his family.

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. Singing is not compulsory, if you'd rather just come along to listen then that's fine too!

So that we know how many people to expect and can accommodate everyone, please complete the Google form below or message Lara if you would like to attend.

If you would like to perform a festive song on the night then please let Lara know as soon as possible and not later than 14th December as the schedule will be planned in advance.

It's not quite too late to get involved in the pre-rehearsed seasonal songs - please complete the form or contact Lara as soon as possible though or you may miss the rehearsals.

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.

Let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending by completing the form:

<https://forms.gle/UbwKEzzLwCQjNuk8> If the link does not work then please copy and paste it into your web browser.

As always, if you have any questions about the event then please get in touch with Lara (ldsavory@gmail.com).

(And - as requested - we will be including the 'SPT version' of The Holly and The Ivy!)

NODA Review for The Safari Party

is attached to the email with this December BT.

Make Sure you Buy your Tickets for the Panto – Always Great Fun!

Sleeping Beauty

**January 17th 7pm, 18th 2pm & 6.30pm, 19th 2pm, 24th 7pm,
25th 2pm & 6.30pm, 26th 2pm.**

(Sunday 19th Relaxed Performance)



Everyone is working hard at rehearsals for a great show in the New Year... don't miss it.



And to get you in the Panto spirit... Get ready to Groan!

Q:What happened when the ship carrying blue paint and the ship carrying red paint crashed into an island?

A: The sailors were marooned.



Why can't you tell a kleptomaniac a joke?

They always take things literally



You heard the rumour going around about butter?

Never mind, I shouldn't spread it.

Box Office Help During Panto



Can you offer some time to help us during panto?

Several of the box office team are performing in Sleeping Beauty and others will also be needed to chaperone younger members of cast so we would really appreciate some more box office volunteers.

It's not tricky and only takes an hour or so per performance. The more people we have to help, the fewer of the 8 shows any one person will be needed for!

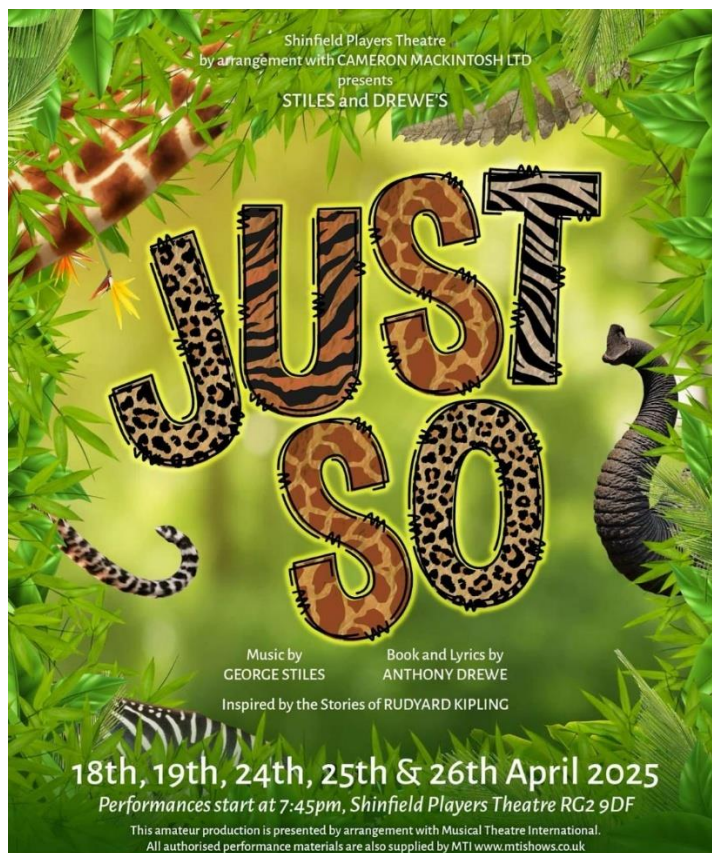
No experience required - I will give you training and written instructions. And you can have the chance to work with someone else if that would help your confidence.

If you have some time you can spare to help us then please let Lara know as soon as possible - ldsavory@gmail.com

Thanks Lara

Just So

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



SCAN HERE



Patron: Jodie Piregatt
Registered Charity Number: 1154841

BOOK NOW

www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk
Whitley Wood Lane, Reading, RG2 9DF
Box office: 07482553923



noda
By inspired by amateur theatre

The whole production team is looking forward to this imaginative, fun and creative musical and putting it on the Shinfield stage and we hope you are looking forward to it too.

Just So is a truly fun, heart-warming musical that tells the story of the Elephant's Child's adventure to the Limpopo River. The musical is full of catchy rhythms, comedic moments and great life lessons.

Most of the cast will be animals at some point throughout the production but don't expect animal onesies or the cast to be running around "on all fours" throughout the performance... all of the cast are "human" in design but mimicking animal traits, colours and their personalities...

It's an imaginative story bringing the classic stories to life in a fun and comedic way that makes this musical great to be a part of and enjoyable for an audience of all ages.

Five of Rudyard Kipling's tales weave together into a wonderful tale of personal courage, individuality and friendship, written by Anthony Drewe with George Stiles' varied and poppy lyrical compositions. Just So was co-produced by Cameron Mackintosh at Watermill Theatre in 1989 and in 2004 it was recognised as a colourful and uplifting show that points out a simple but important truth: It can take just one small person to have a big idea.

Synopsis:

At the 'Time of the Very Beginnings', the Eldest Magician creates a world of beasts and birds and fishes but notices all the animals look the same. Rather than making a 'Big Magic' to change them, he tells them to go out into the world and find their individuality. Everything seems just so - until Pau Amma the Crab begins playing with the ocean, causing terrible floods that threatens the other animals. To stop the crab, the insatiably curious Elephant's Child goes on a quest to the great, grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, guided by his reluctant new friend, the Kolokolo Bird. On their journey, they discover how the Leopard got his spots, how the Kangaroo got his bounce and how the elephant got his trunk! At the end of his quest the Elephant's Child and Kolokolo Bird bravely confront the Crab and make their own magic. The Eldest Magician is delighted that his creations have now become 'just so'.

QR code to Just So Google Drive Folder:



The Just So Information Pack is in the folder which includes brief character outlines, key characteristics and audition information. The Google Drive is setup by folder so all named cast and ensemble each have a folder which contains relevant libs and sheet music for auditions.

Links rather than QR code listed below:

Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m_iQj4bDvGF5fUGUrUAW2P-SokTOwO8i

Information pack:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bOS_zgucEMg8BmDSK4fsxaX_7hQTdC3U1KDvOaQmnHY/edit?usp=drivesdk

Facebook event for launch:

<https://facebook.com/events/s/just-so-previews-and-auditions/887422010261585/>

As 'Just So' isn't as familiar as some other musicals to potential cast members, the first two key dates we'll have a chance to read and sing through the script to bring its charm to life.

Key Dates:

20th Jan 19:30-22:00

Production team introductions

Get to know the characters

Read through and sing through act 1

22nd Jan 19:45-22:00

Read through and sing through act 2

Learn the singing auditions (1 of 3)

27th Jan 19:30-22:00

Learn the singing auditions (2 of 3)

Learn the movement/dance workshop (1 of 2)

29th Jan 19:45-22:00

Learn the singing auditions (3 of 3)

Learn the movement/dance workshop (2 of 2)

Early singing and lib auditions

2nd Feb 12:00-16:00

Main singing and lib auditions

3rd Feb 19:30-22:00

First rehearsal

There's no harm in asking so if you have any questions please do ask. No questions are silly questions.

Jamie Milburn - Director

jamiemilburn08@gmail.com - 07817750339

Next Season's shows

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 happy to help with any queries or any questions that you may have. We look forward to hearing from you. Contact smaggie63@yahoo.com

Introducing Your Technical Team



Tom Grady

By day a technical support engineer in the two-way radio industry. During my previous 27 years up to today, I have held various radio and

communications related positions including time involved in radio systems at Heathrow Airport and at BBC Outside Broadcasts and BBC Monitoring in Caversham.

It has also been a lifetime passion/hobby being involved in all things radio. Over the last year I have been busy being mentored by the other SPT technical team members in learning “the ropes”

SPT Committee Members

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 (Productions Team) smaggie63@yahoo.com;

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

facilities@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

The 2024/2025 Season

Pantomime: Sleeping Beauty

Dir: Carol Vockins

MD: Christopher Cherng

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

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Christopher Cherng

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

The next committee meeting is to be held on **January 30th 2025**

Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the

Material for the January Board Treader to be sent by **December 27th** to:

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