

# **SPT** SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE **BOARDREADER**

## January 2025

**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**

As we look forward to 2025, it is good to reflect on the successful year that we had at SPT in 2024. In total, we put on 8 productions and welcomed many new members and welcomed back many returning members. Our annual January pantomime was Rapunzel which brought much fun and games to the stage. We staged three plays, Nightwatch a gripping thriller in March, The farce Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue (s'il vous plait) in June and The Safari Party a dark comedy in November. Our two musicals were the iconic tap-dancing musical Anything Goes in April, and our sell-out production of Sister Act in October. We also had two very successful youth group productions; Zoom from the Junior and Middles youth group in June and Footloose from the Senior youth group in July. As well as these productions, there have been many successful Theatroke social evenings, our Shinnies and Celebration Evening and the youth group reviews.

Thank you to everyone who has performed in shows, built sets, helped front of house and backstage and generally kept the theatre going. Thank you also to everyone who has come and watched our shows.

So, looking forward to 2025, we already have two productions in rehearsal: our pantomime Sleeping Beauty and the March play Lilies on the Land. Previews and auditions for our spring musical Just So are set to start in January and we have a full season to come through the year. We look forward to welcoming audiences to all of our shows thorough the year and to enjoying watching live theatre together.

Outside of the productions, there will be some necessary building work to the toilet block which will start in the next few months. It is inevitable that there will be some disturbance at the theatre due to the building work. We hope to keep disruption to a minimum.

The committee will be writing to members with more information on the work as soon as possible in the New Year.

**Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.**

Cate Naylor

**Cate Naylor**

[chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

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

## **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)**





Looking forward to a great show ... don't miss it!

Get your tickets now.

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



**OK - now get ready to groan.. yes you will!**

What's cold, white and smells minty?

A polo bear.

What do you call Paddington without an umbrella?

A drizzly bear.

What's the best way to catch a spy bear?

In a honey trap.



Come and see this play... it combines humour and poignancy.  
It's amazing what the Land Girls did during the war!

## **Lilies on the Land**

5th - 8th March 2025



This play shines a light on part of our history which is so often overlooked. We don't actually know much about the wonderful Land Girls and the crucial role they played— they, sadly, really are 'The Forgotten Army'."

Rehearsals for Lilies on the land are underway and we're looking forward to telling this story about the lives of the land girls who worked as farm hands when the men went to fight during WW2.

### **4 TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF 3!**

Grab yourself 4 tickets for the price of 3 for the opening night of 'Lilies on the Land' (Wed 5th March 2025)

Book early to get your favourite seats! <https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets>

Simply put 4 tickets in your basket for the opening night of Lilies on the Land on 5<sup>th</sup> March and it will be discounted at the checkout



## Key Dates for

# Just So

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



Shinfield Players Theatre  
by arrangement with CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD  
presents  
STILES and DREWE'S

**JUST SO**

Music by  
GEORGE STILES      Book and Lyrics by  
ANTHONY DREWE

Inspired by the Stories of RUDYARD KIPLING

18th, 19th, 24th, 25th & 26th April 2025  
Performances start at 7:45pm, Shinfield Players Theatre RG2 9DF

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Musical Theatre International.  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**SCAN HERE**  
  
Patron: Jodie Prenger  
Registered Charity Number: 1154841

**BOOK NOW**  
[www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk)  
Whitley Wood Lane, Reading, RG2 9DF  
Box office: 07482553923

  

**SPT**  
SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE  
*noda*  
Be inspired by amateur theatre

## What Could You Be? ...

**Could you be our Leopard? Our Zebra? Our Giraffe? Our Kolokola Bird?  
Our Eldest Magician? Our Elephant's Child?**

Take a look at the Just So Information Pack - just click through to the links below

There are so many wonderful roles to play in this 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 and enjoyable for an audience of all ages.

**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\\_jQj4bDvGF5fUGUrUAW2P-SokTOW08i](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m_jQj4bDvGF5fUGUrUAW2P-SokTOW08i)

Information pack:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bOS\\_zgucEMg8BmDSK4fsxaX\\_7hQTdC3U1KDvOaQmnHY/edit?usp=drivesdk](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](mailto:jamiemilburn08@gmail.com) – 07817750339

**Dates for your Diary -**

**Read Throughs and Auditions for**

**And Then There Were None**

**Agatha Christie**

**4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June**



A dark thriller and one of Christie's darkest tales. A masterpiece of dramatic construction, its growing sense of dread and unfaltering tension will keep you guessing to the very end.

Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, they are murdered, one by one, in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

**Directors:** Maggie Smith and Cate Naylor

**Read Throughs:** 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Auditions:** 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February

**Cast breakdown:** 8 male and 3 female parts:

- Fred Narracot, Boatman, short role, 40s- 60s
- Anthony James Marston, 20s-30s
- Thomas Rogers, the butler 30s-60s
- Ethel Rogers, the cook/housekeeper 30s-60s
- General John Gordon MacKensie, retired 60 plus
- Emily Caroline Brent, pious spinster, 50s -60s
- Edward George Armstrong, a Doctor mid 40s – 60s
- William Henry Blore, private investigator, 30s -50s
- Captain Philip Lombard, 20s-40s
- Vera Elizabeth Claythorne, secretary, 20s–30s
- Sir Lawrence John Wargrave, a retired judge 50s to 60s

## Festivoke



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Festivoke. We had members old and new, youth group, youth group alumni, friends and family in attendance. Many a seasonal number was sung, stage debuts made, new songs discovered (and a few lyrics escaped!) and drinks consumed. But most importantly, a lot of festive fun was had!

Many thanks to Sarah Beth Lockwood for accompanying and to Sue Gowen for manning the bar. **Happy New Year!**



## Planning Next Season's shows!

### Would you like to direct *The November Play* 2025?

We are looking for a Director for *It's a Wonderful Life* – a Christmas Classic that will introduce our audiences to the spirit of Christmas and goodwill before the commercial rush that comes later in the season.



We welcome all ideas from new Directors and those with experience!  
We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact [smaggie63@yahoo.com](mailto:smaggie63@yahoo.com)

## SPT Committee Members

### **Committee Members**

Cate Naylor (Chair) [chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Sandra Miall (Secretary) [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Sue Gowen (Treasurer) [treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Graeme Rhodes (Marketing and Publicity) [marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Jess Wilkins (Social Media and Publicity) [socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

Maggie Smith, George Apap (Productions Team) [smaggie63@yahoo.com](mailto:smaggie63@yahoo.com);

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

[facilities@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:facilities@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## **The 2024/2025 Season**

### **Pantomime: Sleeping Beauty**

Dir: Carol Vockins

MD: Christopher Cherng

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 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](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

The next committee meeting is to be held on **January 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**

## **Board Treader News Items**

Please email items for the Material for the February Board Treader to be sent by **January 28th** to:

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