



BOARDREADER

August 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

And just like that another season is over. And what a successful season we have completed.

Well done to everyone involved - be it front of house, backstage, or on stage.

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

As reported on Yahoo news, Reading Chronicle and Wokingham Today, I am pleased to let you know that our theatre was recognised in parliament in the maiden speech made by the recently elected MP Yuan Yang. She is the first Member of Parliament for the new Earley and Woodley constituency and has been supporting the theatre. She came to see *Anything Goes* and *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue S'il Vous Plait*. So SPT is now recorded in Hansard for posterity!

The theatre is not closed as we have *Sister Act* and *The Safari Party* in rehearsal and, more importantly, we have our working weekends. The first one was very well attended and we have another one planned this coming weekend, 3rd and 4th August. Please do come along and support - any time you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

SPT Working Weekend 2024

3rd and 4th August

Join us for our second working weekend. This is a social weekend to meet up with fellow members for plenty of fun and some work. Any time that you can spend with us to help, be it one hour or all two days, would be great.

Many thanks to everyone who came along to our first working weekend. A wonderful amount of work was undertaken and here are a few photos of SPT hard at work - **the second working weekend is this weekend.**



Some jobs require no previous experience - just your enthusiasm, a sense of fun and a willingness to join in. Other jobs need a bit of experience, a willingness to have a go or some strength.

Come along to support the theatre and meet up with everyone.

We look forward to seeing you!

Summer Theatroke

Saturday 10th August



Where has the time gone? Our summer Theatroke evening (Saturday 10th August) is rapidly approaching. Members and friends are all welcome to attend this relaxed social event with added musical numbers!

All the details are on the Facebook event but it's basically an opportunity to sing, listen or a bit of both. There are group numbers you can sing along to if you don't fancy performing a number of your own. If you would like to sing then please let Lara know via email (ldsavory@gmail.com) or on the Facebook event (<https://fb.me/e/22OjRcekC>) - we sing to backing tracks via the Bluetooth speaker, not a karaoke screen, so you'll either need to source your own or Lara will help you find one.

Any questions do get in touch. Doors open at 7.00pm but we have no formal start or end time - just arrive and leave as fits with the rest of your evening.

Announcing the Cast list for

The Safari Party by Tim Firth

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



Adam	- Alex Hobbs
Dan, his sister	- Natalie Gaunt
Lol	- Gordon Bird
Esther, his wife	- Mary Keenan
Bridget, his daughter	- Cara Broadhurst
Inga	- Jane Harris

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!

Sister Act

4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 12th October

🌐 ★ **EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT** ★ 🌐



By POPULAR DEMAND we have added a Sister Act matinee performance on Saturday 5th October, 2pm but there are only 19 tickets remaining so be quick!

4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 12th October
(11th October is a BSL signed performance)

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

Remember to book your tickets now!

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



‘Something old, something new, something borrowed, but nothing blue.’

Well, they say find an attention seeking headline so let us explain:

Something old, well Carol who is directing this year’s Pantomime has been involved in Am dram for 56 years and has also written the script. She actually did this seventeen years ago but has now up-dated and modernised this production.

She did not direct that show, Sam Rawdon did, whilst Carol performed.

We will leave you to guess what part she played when you read the script.

Carol will use her knowledge she has gained on stage for many years to guide and encourage the cast to achieve a magical performance to enthrall our audience.

Something new, 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.

Also new we will be holding a relaxed performance on the first Sunday for those who are sensitive to loud noises (no pyrotechnics etc.).

Something borrowed, Carol will not admit to borrowing ideas, but if they work why not collect them up and enhance the show.

We can assure you there is **nothing blue** in the script, but we have not yet told you the title of this year's Pantomime it's Sleeping Beauty!

Here is the synopsis.

In this traditional family pantomime, King Gustav and Queen Charlotte desperately want a child. But when their daughter Rose is born, the evil fairy Ruby casts a spell on the baby that before her seventeenth birthday the young Rose will prick her finger on her namesake and die.

Although the terrible spell can't be undone, one of the three good fairies announces that when it does come to pass, Rose – and the Kingdom in which she lives – will fall asleep. The only way to awaken them all will be by the kiss of her true love.

Will Rose find her true love and be awoken from her slumbers?

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 , 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, 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

Songs

1	It's a Hap-Hap-Happy Day	Chorus
2	Why Should Spring Have All The Flowers	Dame Flora & Grumboil
3	Magic (From xanadu)	Opal, Sapphire & Topaz
4	Isn't She Lovely	Helena, Cedric and Chorus
5	I'm Not At All In Love	Rose, Tilly, Dimley and Gypsies
6	My Girl	Strephon and Gypsies
7	The Voice Within	Rose
8	All You Need Is Love	Gypsies & Chorus
9	Hero	Strephon
10	Dream A Little Dream Of Me	Opal, Sapphire & Topaz
11	Thank You For Being A Friend	Ruby
12	A Gypsy Rover	Audience Participation
13	Welcome	Gypsies & Chorus
14	Reach	Ensemble

Carol and Christopher are currently finalizing the Audition scripts and song pieces and will announce read through and introduction dates in the September Board Treader.

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, 19th, 24th, 25th and 26th January 2025

Sunday 19th Relaxed Performance

Lillies on the Land (Licence to be confirmed)

Dir: Linda Bostock

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

Musical (To be confirmed)

Dates - 18th, 19th, 24th, 2nd 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 Rachel Lockwood secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Board Treader News Items

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

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