

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

## **November 2023**

**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**

After a very successful run of *Betty Blue Eyes* earlier in October, we look forward to hosting Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in November. This production has had a few problems owing to storm Eunice so it is wonderful to finally be able to produce this wonderful show.

There are quite a few new members participating in this show and I would like to extend a very warm welcome and hope to see them in one of our future productions.

We still are having difficulties in finding front of house volunteers for our shows and urge you to find some spare time to help filling one of the vacancies. Have a lovely month and see you soon.

Gordon

**Gordon Bird**

### **Thinking of Directing a Play?**



We are looking for submissions for next season, if you are thinking of directing a play, please contact Matt Chishick at [matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk).

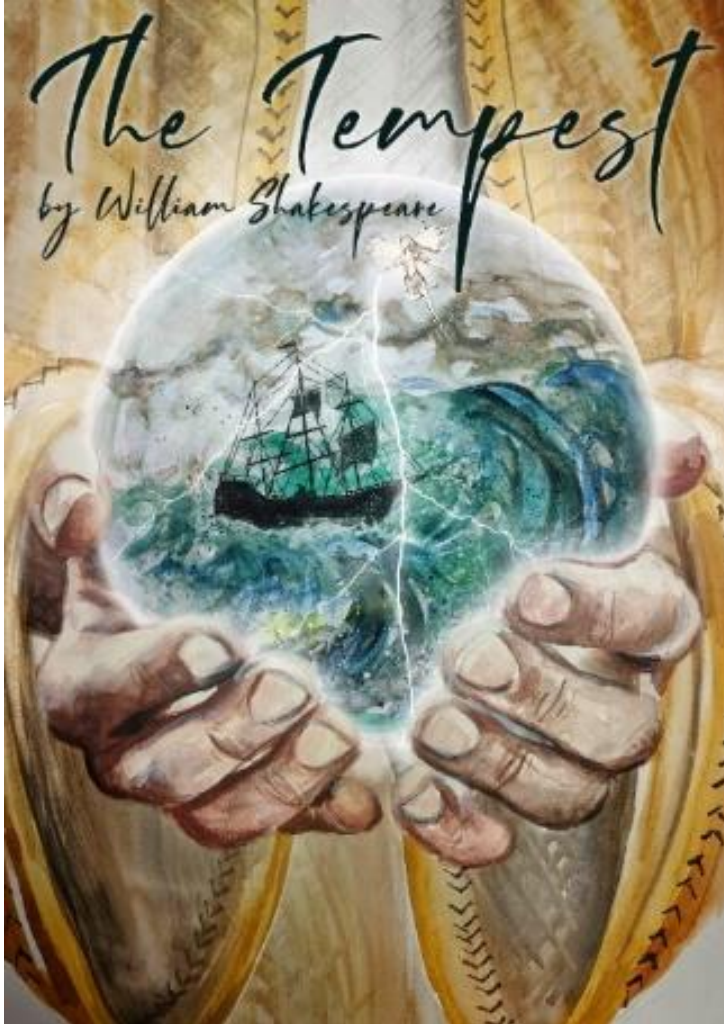
All submissions for the 2024/25 season need to have been sent for review by 31st March 2024 at the latest.

**Book Your Tickets Now for a Fabulous Evening and See**

## **The Tempest**

**William Shakespeare**

**22nd-25<sup>th</sup> November**



**A play of revenge, love, magic and forgiveness...**

Make sure you come along to see this wonderful production.

'The Tempest' is a famous play written in the final years of Shakespeare's life. The setting is a remote island in the Mediterranean Sea where an exiled duke, Prospero, and his daughter Miranda live.

Prospero uses his magical powers to create a great storm causing a ship at sea to be wrecked upon the island's shore. Surviving the wreck is Prospero's treacherous brother, Antonio the Duke of Milan, along with Alonso the King of Naples, his son and others.

Prospero seeks revenge on his brother and the King for their betrayal and to regain his title of the Duke of Milan. Throughout the play, Prospero uses magic and manipulation to control others and get what he wants.

# The Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 10th December



Now is the time to start booking your tickets for this year's Christmas Carol Concert: *Connecting at Christmas*. The concert is on **Sunday 10th December at 7pm**, and you can book via the box office as usual.

Don't forget, proceeds go to our nominated charity, currently the very valuable Wokingham Link Visiting scheme - <https://www.linkvisiting.org/>

If you want to be a last-minute addition to our choir, you're welcome to still come along when rehearsals start **this Sunday**, but the programme and solo pieces are now all sorted, so you join us as part of the ensemble.

**Sun 5th Nov** - 6 to 8pm

**Sun 12th Nov** - 6 to 8pm

**Sun 26th Nov** - 6 to 8pm

**Thurs 30th Nov** - 7.30pm

**Thurs 7th Dec** - 7.30pm

**...plus, a run-through late afternoon on the 10<sup>th</sup> itself.**

Email: [carabroadhurst57@gmail.com](mailto:carabroadhurst57@gmail.com)

Merry November!

Cara

**Read Throughs and Auditions for**

## **Nightwatch**

**6th to 9th March 2024**

**Written by Lucille Fletcher**

**Directed by Philippe Duquenoy**



**Read Throughs:** Sunday 12 November at 2pm and Wednesday 15th November at 8pm

**Auditions:** Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th November at 7:45pm

**Rehearsals** will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will commence on Tuesday 5th December at 7:45pm

**Plot:**

Unable to sleep, Elaine Wheeler paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse, troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Her husband tries to comfort her, but when he steps away for a moment, Elaine screams as she sees (or believes she sees) the body of a dead man in the window across the way. The police are called but find nothing except an empty chair. Elaine's terror grows as shortly thereafter she sees another body—this time a woman's—but by now the police are sceptical and pay no heed to her frantic pleas. Her husband, claiming that Elaine may be on the verge of a breakdown, calls in a lady psychiatrist, who agrees with his suggestion that Elaine should commit herself to a sanatorium for treatment. From this point on, the plot moves quickly and grippingly as those involved—Elaine's old friend and house guest Blanche; the inquisitive and rather sinister man who lives next door; and the nosy German maid Helga—all contribute to the deepening suspense and mystery of the play as it draws towards its riveting and chilling climax.

**Cast of Characters:**

(all ages are irrelevant, but some cast should be of a similar age, e.g. Elaine, Blanche and John)

Although the play is set in Manhattan, not all accents need to be American. Elaine and John, for example, could be British Expatriates. For those characters marked with an asterisk, an accent would be preferred.

If accents prove to be a problem, the play can be set in England, but a lot of references would have to be changed. Helga would still need to have a German lilt

**Elaine Wheeler** – Protagonist, emotionally unstable, feels betrayed  
**Blanche Cooke** – Elaine's best friend, nurse, efficient, tailored  
**Helga\*** – Wheelers' German maid, suspicious  
**Jessica Appleby\*** – Busybody neighbour, amateur sleuth  
**Dr Tracey Lake\*** – Noted psychologist, professional  
**John Wheeler** – Elaine's husband, stocks and bonds broker, he's all business  
**Lt. Walker\*** – Homicide detective, has no time for crazy women  
**Vanelli\*** – Italian Brooklyn patrolman, has an eye for art  
**Sam Hoke\*** – Owner of local deli, working class, murder is hurting his business

This is a cracking play and will have the audience guessing - right up to the final line.

Any queries, please contact Philippe - [philippe.duquenoy@btinternet.com](mailto:philippe.duquenoy@btinternet.com)

**Date for your Diary!**

**Festivoke**

**Saturday 16th December from 7pm**



To help you get in the Christmas spirit we will be holding a Festivoke on Saturday 16th December from 7pm. This is exactly the same as a Theatreoke evening except we widen the song choice to include seasonal numbers as well as dramatic ones!

You can come and sing on your own, with a friend, in our group numbers or just listen and appreciate the bar prices!

It is really helpful to have an idea of numbers, so please let us know you're going on the Facebook Event (<https://fb.me/e/1IsEvilC9>) or contact Lara directly ([lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)). You can also find out more about Festivoke via either of those methods!

Lara

**Announcing the cast for:**

## **Rapunzel**

**12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (2 shows each Saturday)**



Thank you so much to everyone who came along to audition for Rapunzel, we saw some fantastic performances which made casting quite a challenge but I can now share our cast below for the 2024 Pantomime below.

### **THE CAST:**

Rapunzel - Grace Page  
Prince Frederick - Helen Cuthbertson  
Frankie - Caitlin Lammin  
Dame Trixie - Matthew Lugg  
Witch Gothel - Emma Fuller  
Curly - Karen Bird  
Bob - George Apap  
Fairy Flora - Nadine Masseron  
King Geoffrey - Dan Walford  
Queen Gertrude - Karen Todd  
Captain of the Guard - Steven King  
Gracie - Raveena Patel  
Lacie - Lucy Bolton  
Macie - Benita Venables

## **Box Office Support**

Come along and join our small team looking after the Box Office during and between shows. On show nights, this includes receiving audience members and taking payments/issuing tickets for walk-ins and completing the finance reports for show takings.

It will also include adding new shows on TicketSource and maintaining the Customer database.

No previous experience required.

Please contact Derek Lockwood on [lockwoodderek@hotmail.com](mailto:lockwoodderek@hotmail.com)

Derek will hold as many training sessions as needed and will be on hand to assist if required.

## Help Needed for Front of House

The Front of House team at Shinfield Players Theatre need more volunteers to staff future shows. Bar staff (training can be provided), Coffee shop, Raffle / Programme sales and general front of house people to look after our paying customers. You can sign up for just one night or as many nights as you are available.

Email Carol at [Carol@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:Carol@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) to be put on our list to be notified of dates for shows.

## 2023/2024 Productions

<b>The Tempest</b>	<b>22nd-25<sup>th</sup> November</b>
<b>Rapunzel</b>	<b>12th-14th &amp; 19th-21st January 2024</b>
<b>Night Watch</b>	<b>6th-9th March 2024</b>
<b>Anything Goes</b>	<b>19th-20th &amp; 25th-27th April 2024</b>
<b>Three Bags Full</b>	<b>5th-8th June 2024</b>

## Committee Meetings

If you have any questions or comments for the committee, please send them to Rachel Lockwood, [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the December Board Treader by November 25th to:  
[editor@boardtreader.org.uk](mailto:editor@boardtreader.org.uk); [editor@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:editor@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);  
[boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk); [shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shinfieldboardtreader@hotmail.co.uk);