

SPT BOARDREADER

SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

April 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

Welcome to the latest edition of the Board Treader.

Spring is now upon us and we are down to our last few shows of the year. Anything Goes is in full sail, Matt has cast our new June play, Farndale Avenue's Chase Me Up Farndale S'il Vous Plait and the Youth Groups have cast their summer shows.

Please come and support these shows – you will have great entertainment and we need your support to ensure we continue as a theatre. Our costs continue to rise and the best way of ensuring we keep our membership fees and ticket prices low is by selling as many tickets as possible.

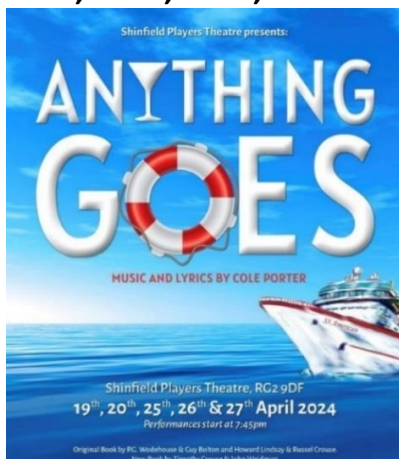
We continue to look for volunteers backstage and front of house - so please once again help out your theatre by coming along and helping out.
I look forward to seeing you at our fast-paced and dazzling musical Anything Goes.

Gordon
Gordon Bird

Come Along and Enjoy...

Anything Goes

19th, 20th, 25th, 26th and 27th April 2024



Don't Miss a Spectacular Show - Tickets on Sale Now!

Anything Goes rehearsals are in full swing with only three weeks to go until curtain up. The principals and ensemble are working hard and having a lot of fun together learning the songs and dances.

Do come and join amongst others, nightclub singer Reno Sweeney, stowaway broker Billy Crocker and Moonface Martin Public Enemy Number 13 on the SS American for this musical comedy written by Cole Porter.

We have a full live band, a whole cast tap dance and much much more.

Performances are on April 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th and 27th April with a British Sign Language signed performance on the 26th. Book your tickets now!





Cast Announcement for
The Farndale Avenue Townswomen's
Chase Me Up Farndale S'il Vous Plait

David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.
5th – 8th June 2024

Shinfield Players Theatre Presents

*Chase Me Up
Farndale Avenue,
S'Il Vous Plait!*
by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr

5th – 8th June 2024
All performances start at 7.45pm

- **Mrs. Reese** - Gilly Meek
- **Thelma** - Susan Brown
- **Minnie** - Karen Bird
- **Felicity** - Nadine Masseron
- **Gordon** - Simon Trinder

The French farce has arrived at The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society, and the formidable ladies do it like no one else! An unintelligible plot, a plethora of doors and a grand range of characters make this Farndale offering as bubbly as a glass of champagne.

Shinprov – an improv/comedy night

13th April at 7pm



As some of you may have already heard we will be hosting an **improv comedy night** at the theatre on April 13th dubbed **“SHINPROV” - Saturday 13th April at 7pm**

The ugly younger brother of Theatreke, we will be looking to emulate the safe environment but replace the singing with laughing. There will be an opportunity to play improv games, suggest scenarios and even get up and do a couple of minutes of stand up if you feel brave enough.

So please come along from 7pm on Saturday 13th April for a night that’s bound to make you laugh, even if not on purpose!

Donation to Sue Ryder in memory of Philippe Duquenoy

The theatre has sent a £100 donation to Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent hospice in memory of Philippe.

We are also making Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent hospice Charity of the Year for next season.

NODA report for Night Watch

is attached to the email for this month’s Board Treader

FREE DANCE WORKSHOP! - Sister Act themed!

Saturday 4th May @ 6pm-7:30pm



YES! It's completely free! Plus there will be cake...

After a hugely successful tap workshop last year, we are hosting another dance evening, this time our choreographer will be teaching you a routine based on a 'Sister Act' the musical song! Come along, bring your friends and family and lets have a dance! Whether you are a complete beginner or experienced dancer we want to welcome you to our friendly theatre to join us. We will teach you a dance routine (jazz/theatre/street style) to a 'SISTER ACT' classic! Please just bring yourself and your trainers/comfy shoes to dance in!

- JUST TURN UP - NO NEED TO BOOK
- ALL AGES WELCOME!
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!
- COMPLETE BEGINNERS WELCOME!
- EXPERIENCED DANCERS WELCOME!
- SPT MEMBERS AND NON SPT MEMBERS WELCOME!

Sister Act is on at Shinfield Players Theatre in October this year, we wanted to run a dance workshop for people to come and try/join in prior to starting the show. You do not need to be involved in theatre or Sister Act to join this workshop! This is just for fun!

We cannot wait to meet you... Please feel free to email jessicaelwilkins@hotmail.co.uk if you have any questions at all!

Link to the facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/188YRZy0>

CHOREOGRAPHER is Millie Wilkins

(previous choreography credits at SPT - Saturday Night Fever, Senior Youth Group reviews, Grease, AG Tap workshop, Footloose, Anything Goes - current)

Theatreoke

Saturday 18th May 7pm



We had an amazing turn out for our March Theatreoke.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in every capacity. And a particular thank you to everyone who performed.

Our next evening is planned for Saturday 18th May. It was really useful to have an idea of just how busy we would be in advance so please respond to the event in the SPT private Facebook group or let Lara know you're coming.

If you haven't been to Theatreoke before and want to know more about it then have a look in the Facebook group

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

or contact Lara (ldsavory@gmail.com).

A Date for Your Diary - 20th May 2024

SISTER ACT - INTRODUCTION NIGHT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SISTER ACT

INTRO NIGHT

Monday 20th May

7:30pm, Shinfield Players Theatre, RG2 9DF

OTHER PREVIEW/AUDITION DATES
Wednesday 22nd May, 7:45pm, Preview/workshop / Sunday 26th May, 2pm, Preview/workshop /
Monday 27th May, 7:30pm, Preview/workshop / Wednesday 29th May, 7:45pm, Auditions /
Saturday 1st June, 5pm, Auditions
SHOW DATES - 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th & 12th October 2024

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

"Bless our show!"

Sister Act is coming to the Shinfield stage for the first time EVER! Do you want to be involved? Pop these dates into your diary, **we would LOVE to see you!**

On the introduction night (Monday 20th May, 7:30pm) we will be able to tell you all about the show, vision, characters, and audition material! Following on from the intro night, see below the other preview dates where you can go through the audition material with the team.

Sister Act Previews and Auditions

Sister Act is coming to the Shinfield stage for the first time EVER! Do you want to be involved? Pop these dates into your diary, we would LOVE to see you! On the introduction night (Monday 20th May, 7:30pm) we will

be able to tell you all about the show, vision, characters, and audition material! Following on from the intro night, see below the other preview dates where you can go through the audition material with the team.

**Intro Night - Monday 20th May @7:30pm / Preview/workshop -
Wednesday 22nd May @7:45pm / Preview/workshop - Sunday 26th
May @2:00pm / Preview/workshop - Monday 27th May
@7:30pm / Auditions - Wednesday 29th May @7:45pm / Auditions
- Saturday 1st June @5pm**

CHARACTER LIST... who takes your fancy?

- *Deloris Van Cartier (F)*
- *Mother Superior (F)*
- *Sister Mary Robert (F)*
- *Sister Mary Patrick (F)*
- *Sister Mary Lazarus (F)*
- *Monsignor O'Hara (M) (auditions open to all genders)*
- *Curtis (M)*
- *Eddie (M)*
- *TJ (M)*
- *Joey (M)*
- *Pablo (M) (auditions open to all genders)*
- *Sister Mary Martin-of-tours (F)*
- *Sister Mary Theresa (F)*
- *Michelle (F)*
- *Tina (F)*
- *Ernie (M)*
- *Ensemble includes: Nuns, Bar maids, Waitresses, Drag Queen, Janitor, Hookers, Fantasy/Glitter Dancers, Homeless people etc. A HUGE amount to do for the ensemble in this cast!*

Link to the facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/545qO5UY9>

Production Team: Director: Jessica Wilkins / Musical Director: Heather King / Choreographer: Millie Wilkins / Assistant Director: Beth Green

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to Jess on email: jessicaelwilkins@hotmail.co.uk or text: 07841037341. We are more than happy to help!

#SisterActIsComingToShinfield #BlessOurShow #TakeMeToHeaven

A Few Words from Mikhail Franklin (Assistant Director) on the Night Watch Production

My dear comrades

I would like to write to state my sincere thanks to everyone at SPT for the tremendous support and practical assistance in bringing Philippe's production of Night Watch to completion. I am certain I speak on behalf of the whole cast in stating this. Without this, it would have proved almost insurmountable and as you may know it had its moments.

The tragic illness and loss of Philippe was of course the worst of our mishaps. As he was briefly under my care at the hospice, I was determined to bring his play to fruition in my role as assistant director as a testament to his large body of work at SPT and the esteem in which he was held. Everyone did their best to assist me in this endeavour.

To name a few. Matt Chishick, who had been shepherding the show until I took over and showing his usual imperturbable calm talked me through everything (often several times patiently), arranged the production meeting, lighting and sound (with his excellent crew Pete, Graham and Tom) and acted as stage manager.

Di, Nat, Tim, Yvonne, Sam and others meanwhile had built a brilliant intricate set faithfully based on the script with a magnificent backdrop outside the window, a beautiful Picasso reproduction by Nat and perfectly functioning double doors and a staircase - no mean feat. (Though Di, I'm a tiny bit disappointed the functioning fountain at centre stage didn't materialise - just kidding!)

Props were ably handled by Debbie and Sarah as were costumes by Carol and Debbie with the usual efficiency for which SPT has rightly gained its reputation.

Graham and Carol were once again so supportive not only in running front of house but also to me when I had a few bad moments. I'm grateful. In all these matters I was admirably assisted and supported by Chris Havercan to whom I am, as ever, in her debt. I encountered valued support, Lara in box office, Rachel and Maggie come to mind.

Also, of course, to my cast in coping so well with everything, the loss of Philippe, Chris's heart attack on stage and me taking over his role (which terrified me and I couldn't have done it without them my dear comrades and my children).

I mention Lucy and Sarah of said cast as Heroines of The Soviet Union for their work in sourcing and carrying a sofa in for us, working on the programme with Jessica who kindly took photographs including a personal favourite of me in command as it were.

So thank you all for having me and overlooking my barrack room language and vaping constantly indoors for 2 weeks.

I'm glad we pulled it off not just for Philippe and family but also for Brian who was retiring from acting, Martin Hood whom I brought back onto the stage after almost 20 years and Chris Pett who has made an excellent recovery. Thank God.

I'm much obliged to you all my dear comrades and to any I've forgotten apologies the omission is purely accidental be advised.

I have just been informed that the committee have selected Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent hospice as the charity of the year for next season. On behalf of Sue Ryder whom I volunteer for on the ward, I would like to thank them and you for this kind gesture. It costs some £500 a day to accommodate a patient and there are 15 rooms on the unit and it is often full. I am certain the money raised will be put to excellent use. Nastroyve tovarich!

Mikhail Franklin

LOOKING FOR A MUSICAL!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A MUSICAL!



Fancy directing a musical?

Send Matt your ideas and musical choice:

matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

YOU CAN DO IT!

We are looking for a musical for our April 2025 slot. Fancy directing? Musical directing? Choreographing?

Please GET IN CONTACT WITH US! 

Whether you are new to it, have done it before, or fancy trying something new, please get in contact with us, we would love to hear from you and hear what show you would like to do! There's so many to choose from!

Support will be given to you should you want/need it through the process. Go on.. you can do it!

Email Matt your ideas and any questions: matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

*please note, not all shows in this artwork are available on license.

Thanks!

Jess

Health and Safety at the Theatre

There have been a number of projects on-going at the theatre to make it safer and update old policies.

- There is a new evacuation policy (mainly for show nights) and evacuation training will be advertised once the new fire alarm install is completed
- We are in the process of rolling out new Front Of House policies along with a cleaning policy, and FoH training on food, hygiene/evacuation/safety.
- We will have specific Bar training objectives for practical bar training.
- We are currently reviewing our policies on handling hazardous substances, equipment, and some other aspects of safety, and you may have seen posters about the use of portable heaters and bringing in your own electrical items. Members who work in small to medium/large organisations will notice many of the policies are similar to their work as they are implementing Health and Safety Executive advice.

Video

We have a code of conduct and a short video of general information and safety training for all members. The link to the video will be circulated in the May Board Treader.

Put Your Creative Talent to the Test! ... Direct a Play at SPT



We are soon to complete the 2024/2025 season of plays so please contact Matt Chishick at matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk.

Put the Date in your Diary for the SPT Working Weekends 2024

July 20th/21st and 3rd/4th August

Our lovely theatre needs plenty of love and care. So, we have two social weekends 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 four days, would be great.

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.

Looking forward to seeing you!

For more information email Maggie at Maggie@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

2024 Productions

Anything Goes	19th-20th and 25th-27th April
Chase Me Up Farndale S'il Vous Plait	5th-8th June
Sister Act	4 th , 5 th , 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th October
Zoom! by C Hawes Junior/Middle Youth Group	29 th and 30 th June
Footloose Senior Youth Group	13th & 14th July

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

May Board Treader by April 28th to:

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