

 **BOARDREADER**
SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

October 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

Welcome to the start of our new season! With three shows already in rehearsal. it is certainly very busy.

Betty Blue Eyes is in the final stages of rehearsal and is looking very good already. The Tempest had a slight set back in that it needed to recast a couple of roles, but it is now in full swing. And the youth groups have started back after the summer break and the seniors are now rehearsing for their December review.

With all that going on you could be excused to think that is it - but of course we are still busy building sets, maintaining the theatre and requiring front of house personnel for Betty Blue Eyes and The Tempest. Please help by volunteering as many hands make light work.

October also sees the start of our pantomime read throughs - so please come along and join the fun!

Dates for Anything Goes auditions and show preparation are available soon and will be in the next edition of BT.

It was lovely to see so many people at the AGM and Shinnies award ceremony last month. Thank you once again to Mark and Jess for organising the awards so well. There's plenty going on this season and it is going to be another busy year. Hopefully, we can look forward to celebrating with another award ceremony next September.

See you soon

Gordon

Gordon Bird

Don't Miss this Funny and Delightful Musical – Buy Your Tickets Now.

Betty Blue Eyes

6th 7th and 12th - 14th October 2023



Will they kill Betty? She's a poor defenceless pig... will she escape?
She has such beautiful beguiling eyes! More than one man has fallen for her charms!

This is a brilliant and entertaining production set in 1947, it's all about a plot to slaughter a sow to provide a meaty feast in honour of the Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Betty Blue Eyes is the most whimsical of musical comedies – a jolly comedy written originally by Alan Bennett that really brings home the bacon! Ron Cowne and Daniel Lipman's script and music with plenty of one-liners is great fun.

Don't miss it and get your tickets now.

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

Backstage Help!

Please come along and support us backstage - there's lots to do and we need your help!

Contact Graham Vockins on graham@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

The Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 10th December



The concert is on **Sunday 10th December** this year and rehearsal dates are now finalised:

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 10th itself.

I need to know NOW (by Weds 4th Oct) if you'd like to be in the show this year and, very importantly, if you have any song requests or an urge to sing a solo/duet. Reminders have been going out in our Facebook group, but just in case you aren't fed up of them, ahem... I mean, you haven't seen them, there's a link to a very short form with only four questions, so it's really easy to let me know.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/TwN4xmmm3B>

Alternatively, email me at: carabroadhurst57@gmail.com

All voices welcome - merry form filling!

Cara

Rapunzel – Readthroughs and Audition Notice

12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st January 2024 (2 shows each Saturday)



Rapunzel – Readthrough and Audition notice

Get ready to let your hair down because it is nearly time to climb into this season's pantomime, Rapunzel – written by Toby Bradford and Tina Webster. This is a traditional pantomime and a fantastically funny script with some great comedy characters. Key dates for the calendar as well as a breakdown of the characters are below. Please contact Matt Chishick via matt@shinfieldplayers.co.uk if you have any questions.

Readthroughs and Auditions are open to everyone from Year 11 students and older. We will only invite other members of the youth group to join the chorus following auditions when we know how many chorus spaces are available, this will be confirmed after October half-term.

Readthroughs:

Sunday 8th October @2:00 and Monday 9th October @19:30

Auditions:

Monday 16th October @ 19:30 and Wednesday 18th October @19:45

Rehearsals:

Monday and Wednesday evenings from 23rd October, Sunday afternoons from 26th November

Show Dates

12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st January 2024 (2 shows each Saturday)

Cast:

Prince Frederick (F/M) – Principal Boy – Usually played by a female. Gorgeous and charming, but a little arrogant and immature. Wants life to be fun, with no responsibilities but his parents have other ideas! Luckily, he is about to meet someone who will change everything. Needs to be a confident singer.

Rapunzel (F) – Principal Girl – She's been locked in the tower her whole life but while she may be naïve, she is studious and clever from years of reading books. Needs to be a confident singer.

Dame Beatrix (Trixie) Bouffant (M) – A traditional panto dame. A poor but glamorous hairdresser, trying to earn an honest living. Mother of Rapunzel, who was snatched away as a baby. Also the mother of Frankie.

Frankie (M) – Valet to the prince and Dame Trixie's son (Rapunzel's brother). Big part that needs to build a good rapport with the audience. Some singing involved.

Witch Gothel (F) – The 'Baddie' – the evil witch who stole Rapunzel from her mother. Needs to be able to work the audience and encourage the boos and hisses. Some physical activity needed. One song.

Fairy Flora (F) – The good fairy...she has only just completed her training – this is her first job. Sweet, with a touch of comedy. All of her lines are in rhyme.

Curly & Bob (M/F) – The 'Comedy Duo'. Dim-witted henchmen to Witch Gothel. Both are bungling idiots – good comedy talent needed, including physical comedy.

King Geoffrey (M) – Worried that his son is irresponsible heir to the throne. Assertive and regal but with some comedy moments.

Queen Gertrude (F) – Prince Frederick's mother - she spoils her son and thinks the King is too hard on him.

Captain of the Guard (M) – Serious and authoritative, but often the target of dame Trixie's advances,

Lacie, Macie and Gracie (F) – Prince Frederick's social secretaries. They follow him around, hanging on to his every word, although Gracie may actually have her eyes on his valet! Singing required as these 3 will lead some of the chorus numbers.

Chorus – Chorus members will be required for villagers and palace courtiers as well as some other minor roles.

Advance Notice Dates 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

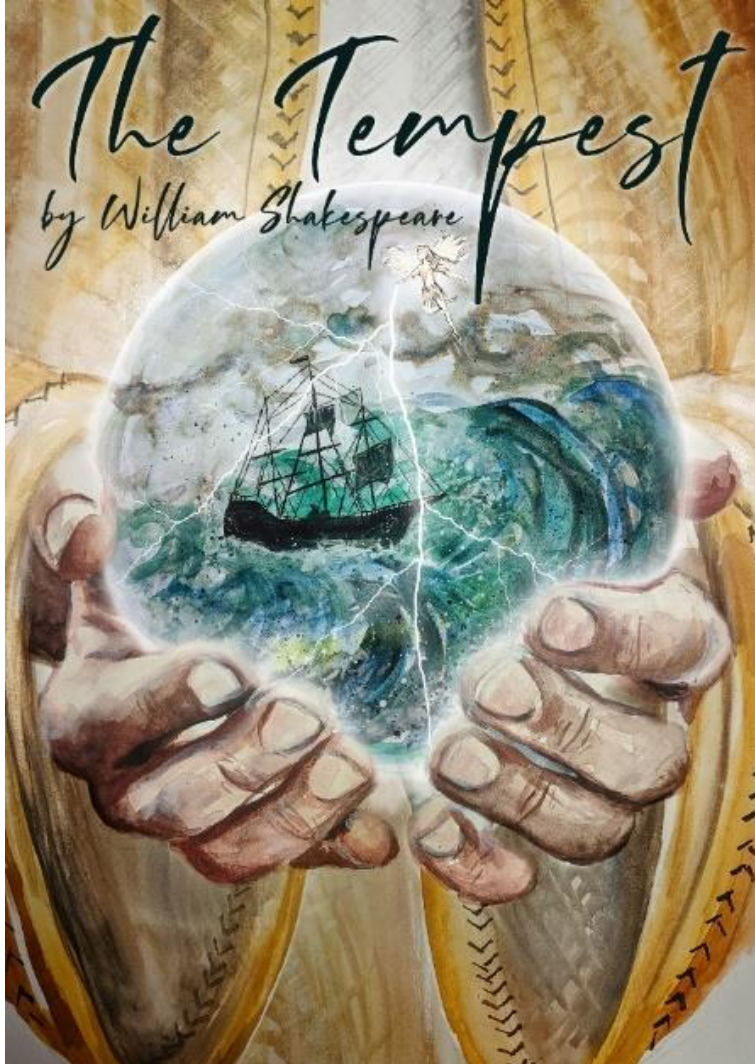
Any queries, please contact Philippe - philippe.duquenoy@btinternet.com

Book Your Tickets for a Fabulous Evening to see

The Tempest

William Shakespeare

22nd-25th 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.

Box Office Support – Join Us

We would like to set up a small team to take responsibility for 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.

If we have several people involved and willing, a rota could be set up to take over the Box Office phone to handle calls to the theatre.

No previous experience required.

Please contact Derek Lockwood on lockwoodderek@hotmail.com

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

The Shinnies 2023... The Results

Our very own version of the Oscars!



Thank you to Mark and Jess for organising the awards so well. What a splendid occasion!

Here are the results:

The Henry Hawes Award for Best Lead Role in a Musical/Panto - Matt Oxley - 'Joe Casey' in Our House

The Best Supporting Role in a Musical/Panto - Gordon Bird - 'Widow Twankey' in Aladdin and the Valley of the Dragon

The Lew Davies Award for Best Lead Role in a Play - Ashleigh Wells - 'Inspector Drake' in Inspector Drake and the Black Widow

The Best Supporting Role in a Play - Lara Savory - 'Mrs Ravenscroft' in Ravenscroft

The Rosemarie Daves Award for Best Lead Role in a Youth Group Production - Daniel - 'Danny' in Grease

Best Supporting Role in a Youth Group Production - Jack - 'Doody' in Grease

The Dorrie May Award for Best Achievement in Costume Design goes to Cher Billins, Heather Seery (Steward) and Emily Pyke - Grease

Best Achievement in Sound Design - Pete Ashton - Grease

The Pat Barr Award for Best Achievement in Lighting - Pete Ashton - Grease

The Martin Wheeler Award for Best Achievement in Set Design - the team for Aladdin and the Valley of the Dragons Team

Best Achievement in Choreography - Millie Wilkins - Grease

The Joff Hamilton Award for Best Achievement in Musical Direction - Lara Savory - Our House

Best Achievement in Direction - Gordon Bird - Grease

The Margaret Ann Award for the Best Show of the Season - Grease

The Best Moment of the Season Award - 'the final night of Beauty Queen of Leenane after Covid, damaged roof and cast sickness cancellations'

The SPT Spotlight Award - Mark Read for all his contributions to the youth group

The SPT Spirit Award - Camilla Fillingham



A New Date for your Diary!

Festivoke

Saturday 16th December from 7pm



I know it's a bit early but here's a December date for your diary before it gets packed with seasonal celebrations.

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!

All welcome as always.

Lara

2023/2024 Productions

Betty Blue Eyes	6th - 14th October 23
The Tempest	22nd-25th November
Rapunzel	12th-14th & 19th-21st January 2024
Night Watch	6th-9th March 2024
Anything Goes	19th-20th & 25th-27th April 2024
Three Bags Full	5th-8th June 2024

Committee Meetings

If you have any questions or comments for the committee, please send them to Rachel Lockwood, secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Please email items for the October Board Treader by September 25th to:

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

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