

JUNE 2022

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

This month there is some excellent news to share regarding the future of our theatre.

On Friday 27th May 2022 at 7pm, Graham Vockins and I, witnessed by Jon Chishick, signed a 125 year lease of the theatre thus ensuring our future. This is an amazing achievement that has been frustratingly ongoing for over 20 years. We have to thank the initial efforts of Joff Hamilton & Henry Hawes (now the theatre's president). Our thanks to go to the tenacity of Graham Vockins and Jon Chishick, who have worked tirelessly through many years and set-backs. In more recent times, we have to thank the tremendous assistance from Steven Smith whose professional advice and constant pushing and perseverance with our solicitor has been invaluable.

The signing of the lease provides security of our premises. It provides us the opportunity of making changes to the theatre. It means we can seek lottery grants. It prevents the site being sold from under our noses to developers.

A massive thank you to everyone who has made this happen.

Continuing the good news, the roof is now in place and the insurance company's builders have finished repairing the interior of the theatre. We now wait for the electrical items to be re-installed and the auditorium carpet to be replaced. This will take some time but we are now very close to opening up the theatre for shows. We are already back in the foyer rehearsing and I would like to thank the team of people who made the space available for us to use.

The new toilets are working - and had their first "customers" last weekend when the foyer was hired out for a private party. Thank you to Graham and his team for all his hard work.

SAVE A DATE - the weekend of 23rd and 24th July. Whilst we have all waited patiently and fretted about having our theatre back, a small team have been doing a sterling job keeping it going. Now it is our turn. We need YOUR help to get our theatre for next season. Every hour one of us spends over that weekend helps enormously. All skill levels are needed. A dedicated few have done their bit - now it is our turn to show what we can do and how much we care for our theatre.

Good news just keeps coming this month. I am delighted to report that we have received three NODA district 13 awards:

- Back Stage Team – District 13 Flame Award
- Graham Vockins – District 13 winner – Shelley Lemesh Award for Unsung Hero
- Millie Naylor – District 13 winner – Nigel Gravette Award for Best Performance in a Pantomime

All three are very well deserved and I hope they are successful on 19th June at the NODA London award ceremony in picking up the regional awards as well.

And finally, we have two shows in July! The youth groups are performing their shows: Saturday Night Fever at the Oakwood centre in Woodley and the Junior & Middle Groups Treasure Island at SPT. See the website for all the details. Do come and support - by watching, front of house or chaperoning.

Look forward to seeing you soon
Gordon

Gordon Bird

Historic Moment in SPT History

Gordon and Graham sign the 125 year lease witnessed by Jon Chishick, who was part of the original team some 8 years ago.

The document now goes back to our solicitors and will be passed back to our Landlords for their final signature



You Could Be Watchin'...

Saturday Night Fever

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th July - 7.30pm, Matinees 2pm

at The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4JZ

The Senior Youth Group are performing musical packed with Bee Gee classic songs - Night Fever, Stayin' Alive, Tragedy, How Deep is Your Love and many more.

Re-live the 70s or experience it for the first time - following teenager Tony Manero and his passion of dancing as a distraction from his boring New York life.

Warning that this production does contain themes of adult nature.

More details and how to book your tickets can be found on our website: <https://www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk>

Clean Up Weekend!

Please join us for our Big Clean Up... 23rd and 24th July from 10.00am



Now that the external contractors have finished in the theatre, we have a clean-up weekend planned for the 23rd and 24th July from 10.00am. There will be lots of jobs to do to get the theatre ready for our next season, so do come along. Contact sam@shinfieldplayers.co.uk for details.

Also, if you are free to help before then, please come along on a Sunday 10am-2pm, Tuesday 7.30-10.00 or Wednesday from 10.30am.

Christmas Show

It is time to think about our annual Christmas Show. Would you like to organize a concert-style show? Please let the committee know if you are interested and we will be pleased to hear from you on c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Inspector Drake and the Black Widow

16th to 19th November 2022



Directed by Cate Naylor and Karen Bird

When oil tycoon John Johnson is found with a huge sword in his back, it looks like a straightforward case of dying illegally. But things in Drake's world are never as they seem. Why was Johnson badly disguised as his own wife? Why had he eaten a tortoise? And why do all the women in the house look similar?

Characters

Inspector Drake

Sergeant Plod

Maid, Lady Devonshire, Doctor Foster, Amy Mallard, Miss Marble, Lolita (a triplet) and zoo lady all played by one female actress

To find out more come along to the read throughs for this hilarious play.

Read Throughs

Thursday August 4th 7.30

Sunday August 7th 2.00

Audition prep and character workshop

Tuesday August 9th 7.30

Auditions

Plod and Drake (with female actresses reading in) Thursday August 11th 7.30

Female actress (with cast Plod and Drake) Sunday August 14th 2.00

Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Tuesday August 16th.

Any questions...

email cate.naylor@gmail.com

Looking Great! A Sneak Preview...



So... lots of work has been done and loads of materials have been used **but can you estimate the quantities** and just how much has gone into our lovely new theatre.

'Back-to-the-Boards Refurbishment' Quiz

Your Chance to Win a Bottle of Wine

(Thanks to Di for putting this quiz together and collecting all of the data!)

1. How many staples have been used to secure new hardboard to stage area?
2. How many screws have been used to secure plasterboard, battening to ceiling and ply-board to walls of auditorium?
3. How many sheets of plasterboard make up the new ceiling?
4. How many litres of red paint for the walls?
5. How many litres of black paint used on the ceiling, walls and stage area?
6. How many full days of work with up to 7 workmen on most days?

Answers to Board Treader by 21st June

Fundraising Appeal for Go Fund Me

Thank you everyone for your kind and generous support. We have reached £5,110 which exceeds our initial target of £4,000 for the roof improvements. We are very grateful for your generous donations.

There is still need to raise further funds for the Green Room roof. It is very spongy, probably caused by the wear from gaining access to the auditorium roof plus the weather. The expected cost is £2K so we are hoping to update the Go Fund Me page to raise funds for this important repair.

If you would like to donate. Here is the link <https://gofund.me/30e44f3a>

2022/2023 Productions

Youth Group Shows:

Saturday Night Fever **8th - 10th July - 7.30pm, Matinees 2pm**

Treasure Island **16th 17th July**

Our House - rehearsing, **30th Sept & 1st Oct 22 & 6th- 8th Oct 22**

Inspector Drake and the Black Widow **16th-19th Nov 22**

Youth Group Review **3rd - 4th Dec 22**

Christmas Show **5th Dec 22**

2023

Panto - Aladdin. **13th-15th & 20th – 22nd Jan 23**

Last Tango in Whitby. **1st-4th Mar 23**

A Murder is Announced **April 23**

Beauty Queen of Leenane. **7th-10th June 23**

Youth Group Shows:

Junior and Middles **24th - 25th June 23**

Senior Youth Group **8th - 9th July 23**

Committee Meetings

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

Many thanks

Please email items for the June Board Treader by June 22nd to:

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