



BOARDREADER

September 2025

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 Chair

Welcome to the September edition of the Board Treader and to our new season at Shinfield Players. Both "Calendar Girls" and "It's A wonderful Life" are in rehearsal and the previews and auditions for next year's pantomime "Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Pantoland" are coming up. Details of these productions are in this edition.

SPT is excited to announce that October will see the launch of a new show format for SPT with our first Hocus Jokus comedy and magic evening on Thursday 16th. Tickets are now available on Ticket Source.

The summer period had been very busy at the theatre and the backstage crew have been getting down to all those essential jobs that need doing in between seasons. There is still plenty to do with set build for Calendar Girls starting and the team would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

We have also had a complete refurbishment of the foyer during August which was led by Pete Ashton. An enthusiastic team joined Pete over a couple of weekends to sand and paint, the ceiling, walls and woodwork with a new colour scheme giving the foyer a fresh look. New lights have been fitted, the doors and worktops have had a face lift, and the new floor tiles are being fitted. A huge thank you goes to Pete for spearheading this project which we will all enjoy as we come to the theatre.

On Thursday the 4th September, we have an opportunity to celebrate the season that has just finished with the Annual General Meeting which will be followed by "The Shinnies" award evening. Many congratulations to everyone who has been nominated for an award, a tribute to the quality of the work that everyone has put into our productions this year. It will be wonderful to see everyone there as we look back and reflect on a successful season and look forward to the next, exciting 12 months that lie ahead.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM and Shinnies and at our productions over the 2025/26 season.

Cate
Cate Naylor
Chair, Shinfield Players Theatre

AGM and The Shinnies

4th September

The AGM

Shinfield Players Theatre AGM will be held at the theatre on Thursday 4th September doors open at 7 for a start at 7.30pm. Open to all members and friends of SPT, although only paid-up members may vote (membership year 2025-2026).

The Shinnies

Following on from the AGM, please join us for a night of joy, laughter, and celebration at The Shinnies - our 3rd annual awards evening at Shinfield Players Theatre!

Whether you've been on stage, backstage, front of house, or cheering us on from the audience – this night is for YOU.

At Shinfield, everyone truly is a winner. The Shinnies are our way of celebrating the incredible passion, talent, and teamwork that makes this theatre so special. From the heartfelt performances to the quiet dedication behind the scenes, it's our people that make the magic happen.

Expect laughs, memories, and maybe a few surprises...

Come along, raise a glass, and celebrate the wonderful community we've built together.

Membership Renewals

Annual membership fees are now due, we have now launched our new membership portal which makes the process super easy and now allows payment by credit card! The annual membership runs from 1st August until the 31st July of each year,

Please do support our theatre by renewing your membership, or if you aren't currently a member then please sign up! It is only £30 for the year. Membership entitles you to discounts off ticket bookings and social events.

<https://membermojo.co.uk/shinfieldplayers>

- For renewals – please select 'login', no password is needed it will send a onetime code to your registered email address
- For new members – please select 'join' and fill in the membership form.

Any questions or problems email Sandra Miall at secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

September Theatroke

Saturday 13th September 7.00pm



You're warmly invited to our next Theatroke evening on **Saturday 13th September**. You are welcome to arrive any time from 7pm. Singing will start around 7.30pm.

No idea what to expect? It's like karaoke except we bring our own backing tracks for musical theatre/film songs and sing to an audience not a screen. If you need help sourcing a backing track then let Lara know a week or so beforehand and she'll help you find one.

Theatroke is a great opportunity to sing something you wouldn't normally get the chance to perform, or maybe to push yourself to sing in front of an audience for the first time. It is also a really fun, relaxed social evening.

People sing songs they've chosen in advance, either on their own or in a duet or small group. We also have large group numbers where anyone who wants to can join in.

If you'd like more information have a look at the Facebook event or contact Lara directly (ldsavory@gmail.com).

If you're coming then please respond to the event and let Lara know if you'd like to sing so she can start getting everything organised.

Family and friends welcome.

Event link: <https://facebook.com/events/s/september-theatroke/1659774148037867/>

Tidy Morning

20th September

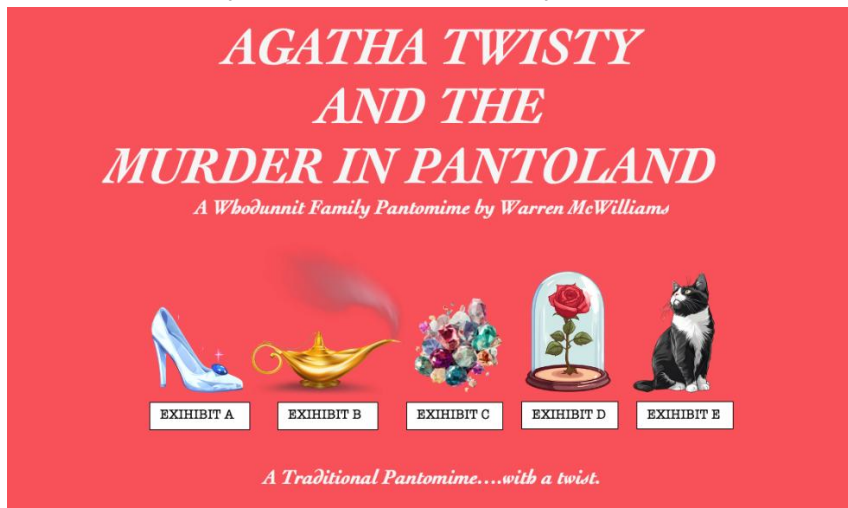


We are planning 1 more of our successful tidy morning (a few hours 9.30am to 12.30) for the outside – please come along to help Outside woodwork paint (window/door frames etc).

Read Throughs and Auditions

Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Pantoland

16th 17th Jan x2, 18th Jan x2 and 23rd, 24thx2 and 25th Jan 2026



Dates for the Diary:

Intro Evening – Thursday 25th September 2025

Auditions – Sunday 5th October and Wednesday 8th October 2025

Show Dates - 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 25th January 2026

Have you ever been watching a pantomime and thought to yourself, “What this needs is a murder”? Neither have we...

...but this year it might just be unavoidable because the citizens of Pantoland are at breaking point dealing with their miserable monarch Queen Jezabella. She's been raising taxes, taking land, placing curses, withholding promotions and even blackmailing her subjects.

Luckily, Agatha Twisty, the world's greatest made-up detective and her trusty assistant Wadsworth are on hand should anyone decide to take matters into their own hands. Join your panto favourites in a traditional family pantomime...with a twist.

Meet the characters (3m, 5f, 13m/f)

The Sleuths

- **Dame Agatha Twisty** - Our Dame and super sleuth (m, 213 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Wadsworth** - Agatha's willing assistant (m/f, 174 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

The Suspects

- **The Seven Dwarfs** - tough miners whose lives depend on their jewel mine (m/f): Dock (33 lines), Happee (9 lines), Doh-pee (8 lines), Sleepie (5 lines), Sneezee (5 lines), Bashfool (6 lines), Grumpee (10 lines) – one group song led by Happee, other dwarfs may have some solo lines.
- **Aladdin** (m/f, 36 - lines) & **Wishee** (m/f, 32 lines). - two lads from old Peking who work in Twankey's Laundry - sing one song as a duet and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Cinderella** - poor girl who is put upon by her wicked stepmother and sisters (f, 41 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Dick Whittington** - came to Pantoland searching for his fortune and was made Mayor (m/f, 37 lines) – sings one song as a duet with Fairy Bowbell and some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Beauty** (f, 39 lines) – a pretty young lady with a cursed partner – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

The Victim

- **Queen Jezabella** - the worst villain of them all and ruler of Pantoland (f, 80 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.

Other characters – all apart from Igor will also be part of the Chorus

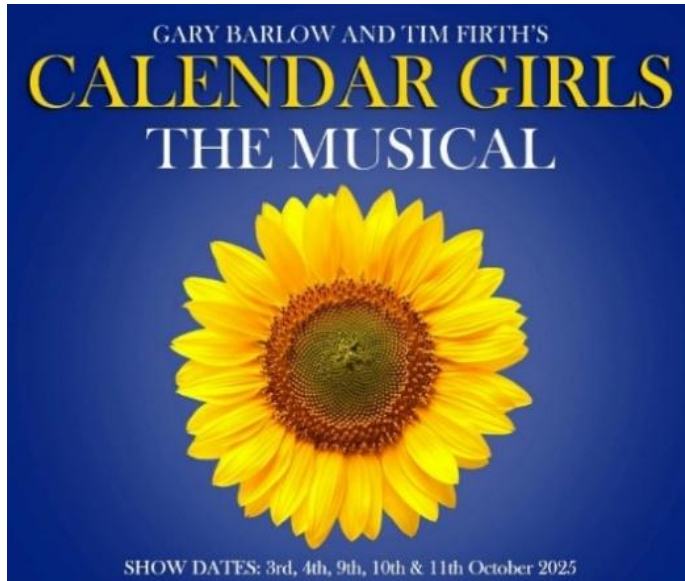
- **Igor** - Queen Jezabella's servant (m, 59 lines) – sings one song and may have some solo lines in group numbers.
- **Postman** - Pantoland's postie (m/f, 12 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Mrs Potts** - Beauty and the Beast's housekeeper (f, 11 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Beast** – Beauty's cursed partner (m, 10 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Tommy** - Dick Whittington's cat (m/f, 3 lines) – no solo singing.
- **Fairy Bowbell** - from 'Dick Whittington', appears in a dream sequence (f, no dialogue, sings one song as a duet with Dick Whittington)

Cameos & Chorus - A variety of Villagers, other recognisable Panto characters and other famous fictional detectives – there will be lots to do!

Calendar Girls

3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th October 2025

Make sure you get your tickets and buy our risqué SPT Calendar!



This musical inspires and empowers everyone who sees it with the true story of Yorkshire's own Calendar Girls. It follows the story of a group of ordinary ladies from their local Women's Institute who achieved something extraordinary together.

The storyline is sensitive and heart-rending, touching on the situations that affect so many people. A group of ladies are brought together by the loss of Annie's husband to cancer. Her friends at the local WI come together to do something positive to help and they decide to re-create their annual calendar to raise money.

Tickets are already selling fast so make sure you book early. Bring your friends, bring your tissues, and prepare to laugh, cry, and cheer. You won't want to miss this unforgettable show!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/shinfieldplayerstheatre>

Buy our own Risqué SPT Calendar!

So, we have decided to create our own Shinfield Players Theatre calendar for 2026! Like the original Calendar Girls, the models will be nude – but the whole point is that you won't actually see anything. The calendar will include 6 photos from the show and we have taken photos around the theatre of brave volunteers who are not in the show

If you would like to know more contact sue@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Hocus Jokus – Comedy and Magic Evening Comes to SPT

October 16th at 7.45pm



We are delighted to be bringing a new type of show to SPT with an evening of magic and comedy being presented and compered by local entertainer – Dan Hudson. Dan is a hugely experienced performer (and member of the Magic Circle) who has been delivering solo entertainment shows and multi-performer evenings for both the public and corporate markets over many years.

Following an agreement to a revenue sharing model to support our fund-raising plans, Dan will be bringing his Hocus Jokus magic and comedy show to Shinfield Players Theatre on Thursday, October 16th including a talented line-up of professional performers with a UK, international and stage and TV pedigree.

<p>Richard Pinner</p>	<p>Katherine Rhodes</p>	<p>Max Fulham</p>

The show will start at 7.45 with an interval during the acts and a full bar available. Tickets are a highly competitive £20 and available via Ticket Source from early-August.

Come and join the **Front of House Team**

Thanks to everyone for all their support with FOH last season, it made our "debut" as FOH coordinators run smoothly during performances.

We are looking to expand our numbers with more of the membership, and partners, helping so volunteers only need to do 1 performance a week - unless they want to do more of course!

This will be particularly helpful for musicals, as a lot of our FOH team are often in the shows, such as Calendar Girls.

We've already had new recruits undertake bar training and would love to hear from you to let us know if you're up for selling raffle tickets and programmes, doing interval ice creams and all the other little jobs that support our performers and crew/tech team entertain our audiences.

So why not volunteer for Calendar Girls and be one of the team for our opening show of the season in our newly refreshed Foyer!

Many thanks
Pete and Heidi
Foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Sign up for a great evening at the SPT **Quiz Night**

October 25th 7.00pm for 7.30pm start



Back by popular demand! Such a fun evening, enjoyed by all. We look forward to seeing you and testing your knowledge!

Teams up to 4 to 6 people.

Don't worry if you haven't a ready-made group, we will be happy to help to form teams – just let us know

Bring your own snacks and nibbles and the bar will be open.

To book your tickets, please email: secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

£5.00 for members/£5.50 for non-members - 7pm for a 7:30pm start

Bar will be open - Bring your own snacks and nibbles - <https://fb.me/e/7PHUKU8cZ>;

Congratulations to the Cast for

It's a Wonderful Life

19th to 22nd November 2025



Many congratulations to the cast for this wonderful November play!
...It will warm the cockles of your heart ready for Christmas.

Cast of Main Characters:

Oliver Alexander - George Bailey

Elisabeth Richardson - Mary Bailey

Lucy Douglas - Clarissa, Violet

Gareth Doust – Potter, Mr Gower, Joseph, Harry Bailey, Ed, Randall, Welch

Shely Ganguly - Aunt Dilly, Gloria, Mrs Thompson

Sara Shuttleworth – Sam, Tom, Charlie, Ernie, Martini, Ruth, Mrs Davies

Brian Nixey – Bert

Looking forward to a Fabulous Comedy in 2026...

A Bunch of Amateurs

By Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

4th, 5th, 6th and 7th March

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford - only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself - along with his inner Lear!

More Details of read throughs and auditions in the next Board Treader.

The Christmas Concert

20th December

After a year off, the SPT Christmas concert is back this year on Saturday 20th December.

More information to come soon, but in the meantime if you already know you are interested in getting involved then please contact Lara to let her know (ldsavory@gmail.com).

Fundraising for SPT

Please could you support the theatre as we try to raise funds for major works in the building.

Raising money for the refresh of the Foyer

There is our GoFundMe Page remains open to all to donate under our registered charity details. Every £1 donated (more if you wish) will help fund the materials for the project.

<https://www.gofundme.com/manage/a-night-on-the-tiles>

Planning for Future Shows!

Would you like to direct?

We are looking for a Directors for the 2026/2027 season. We welcome all ideas from new Directors and those with experience.

Please contact us with your ideas and proposals – we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact: productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

SPT Committee Members

Committee Members

Cate Naylor (Chair) chair@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Sandra Miall (Secretary) secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Sue Gowen (Treasurer) treasurer@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Graeme Rhodes (Marketing and Publicity) marketing@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Jess Wilkins (Social Media and Publicity) socialmedia@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Maggie Smith (Productions) productions@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Phil Gowen/Neil Coupland (Facilities Team) maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Committee c@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Other Useful emails

Junior and Middle Youth Group jyg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Senior Youth Group syg@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Membership membership@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Box Office boxoffice@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Technical technical@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Wardrobe wardrobe@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Props props@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Bookings bookings@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Maintenance maintenance@shinfieldplayers.co.uk

Front of House foh@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

Costumes costumes@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

2025/2026 Season

Calendar Girls

Dir: Sharon Young and Sue Gowen

MD: Patrick Naylor

Dates - 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th October 2025

Quiz Night

25th October

It's a Wonderful Life

Dir: Derek Lockwood

Dates - 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd November 2025

Christmas Concert

20th December

Agatha Twisty and the Murder in Panto Land

Dir: Matt Chishick

MD: Lara Savory

Dates – 16th 17th January x 2, 18th January x2 and 23rd, 24th x 2 and 25th January 2026

A Bunch of Amateurs

Dir: Lucy Bolton

Dates – 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th March 2026

The Great British Bake Off

Dir: Jamie Milburn

MD: Chris Cherng

Choreographer: Millie Wilkins

Dates – 17th, 18th and 23rd, 24th, 25th April

Committee Meetings

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

Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the Material for the October Board Treader.

To be sent by **26th September** to boardtreader@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;