

# **SPT** BOARDREADER SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE

## December 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 final month of year and another busy one. This month we have a preview to auditions evening for Anything Goes (7th), auditions for Anything Goes (14th and 17th), Youth Group Review evening (9th) and our annual carol concert (10th). And, we are in full rehearsals for our pantomime!

Hope to see you at one or more these events.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

### Support the Youth Groups in their Annual

### Youth Group Review- IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC

**9th December 2023 at 7.00pm – one night only!**

This year the group are doing something slightly different! They have put together a script around their usual selection of songs and dances. Loosely based on *The Children of Witchwood* by Wally K Daly, a new family moves to a village where some locals have ties to witchcraft and rumours exist about a haunted field. What is in store for the newcomers? Come and find out!

**Songs include:** *Holding out for a Hero* (from *Footloose*), *Requiem* (from *Dear Evan Hansen*), *Last Night of the World* (*Miss Saigon*), *I Want to Break Free* (*We Will Rock You*), *When September Ends* (*American Idiot*), *500 miles* (*Sunshine on Leith*) and of course *It's A Kind of Magic* (*We Will Rock You*).

**Tickets available now at just £5 (members £4.50)**

## Woodley Theatre – the Last Play

A very sad announcement that Woodley Theatre will be closed and the last performances at the Oakwood Centre **tonight and tomorrow night 2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

The play is 'Two' by Jim Cartwright <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/reading/the-oakwood-centre-woodley/two-by-jim-cartwright-directed-by-karen-bird/e-edgxr>;

The play stars Heidi Ashton and Gordon Bird and is directed by Karen Bird. It would be good to see you there and for all of us to give Woodley Theatre a fond farewell.

**At the time of writing, there were still tickets available for tonight and only 4 tickets left for tomorrow.**

Woodley Theatre have been very generous to us and have donated many props, flats and curtains. We would like to thank them for offering us such useful and lovely things.

The theatre is still trying urgently to dispose of more furniture and stock from their store, the "GROTTO". Anything left after the **2nd week in December** will sadly put in the skip.

Unfortunately, it is not practical to put it on freecycle.

If you are interested, then please log on to the Woodley Theatre website and go to the page entitled "Surplus Furniture" for further details.

**Come Along for a Fabulous Christmas Evening**

## The Christmas Carol Concert

**Sunday 10th December**



I know there are many Christmas events filling your diaries at this time of the year, but please do think about booking to come to *The SPT Christmas Concert: Connecting at Christmas* on Sunday 10th December at 7pm.

We are practising hard to bring you a concert with lots of variation, sparkle, and seasonal warmth. You will LOVE it! Ok, it's possible you might not - but you'll be glad you came, you'll see a few friends and your big toe might start to feel just a little bit Christmassy. After all, what else are you going to be doing on a Sunday night anyway?"

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 that supports social connection and reducing isolation for older adults in the Wokingham area.

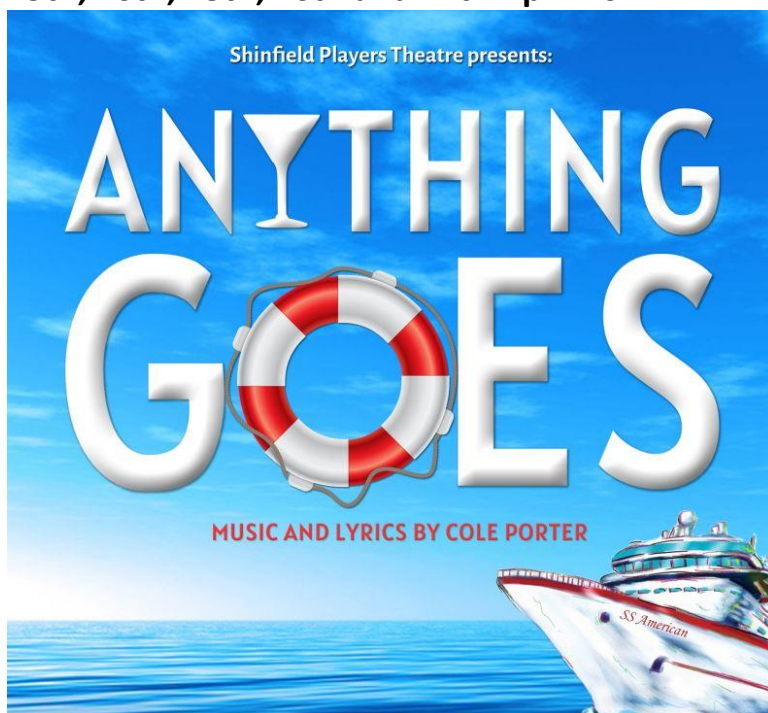
<https://www.linkvisiting.org/>

Cara

**Preview and Auditions for**

## **Anything Goes**

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



Prepare to set sail!

Yes, preview evenings are now being run with one more left (7th December at Shinfield Players Theatre).

Auditions are on 14th, 7.30pm and 17th December, 5pm, at Shinfield Players Theatre.

All aboard that are going aboard - see you there for THE cruise of 2024!

We look forward to seeing you.

**Preview** at Shinfield Players Theatre, Whitley Wood Lane, RG2 9DF

**Thursday 7th December: 7.30pm to 10pm**

**Auditions** at Shinfield Players Theatre, Whitley Wood Lane, RG2 9DF

**Thursday 14th December: 7.30pm to 10pm**

**Sunday 17th December: 5pm to 7pm**

Join us for More Christmas Fun at

## **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/1sEvilC9>) 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

Make Sure you get your Tickets for

## **Rapunzel – The Pantomime**

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)



This is going to be a splendid Panto with all of the anticipated traditional fun – Oh yes it is! Plenty of boing and shouting and singing along. It has a fabulous cast, laugh-out-loud comedy, and beautiful costumes. Rapunzel has all your favourite pantomime characters and everyone is bound to leave with a smile on their face.

**Book tickets and come and join us on this wonderful adventure!**



## Collecting the Donations from Woodley Theatre.

We collected most of the donations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Many thanks to everyone that helped with the collection and delivery. It was quite a job! Eddie, Pete and Tony were there from Woodley and I'm sure there were more that we didn't meet that day – **Thank you all for your hard work on such a sad day.**



## Camilla Fillingham

So lovely to hear from Jan and Neil to let us know that Camilla has happily joined two drama groups in Devon. The first is "Get Changed" - a theatre group for adults with learning disabilities which meets every week: <https://getchanged.com/>. They recently performed a play written and produced by the group. Secondly, Camilla is going to appear in the chorus of our local amateur dramatic group's pantomime: Holsworthy Amateur Theatrical Society's production of Treasure Island in January.

She is thoroughly enjoying her drama groups in Devon. Camilla's first opportunity to perform was at SPT and developed her love of acting. Many congratulations Camilla!

## 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.

Coming soon...

## **Nightwatch** by Lucille Fletcher

6th to 9th March 2024

Directed by Philippe Duquenoy



### **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.

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

## **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.

## Help Needed for Front of House

The Front of House team at Shinfield Players Theatre always welcome 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>Rapunzel</b>	12th-14th & 19th-21st January 2024
<b>Night Watch</b>	6th-9th March 2024
<b>Anything Goes</b>	19th-20th & 25th-27th April 2024
<b>Three Bags Full</b>	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](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## Board Treader News Items

Please email items for the December Board Treader by December 27th 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);