

**April 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 another edition of the Board Treader. I hope you are all well and looking forward to the spring.

Last month started with our spring play, "Last Tango in Whitby" which received favourable reviews from NODA and audience members alike. Thanks to everyone who were involved in any aspect of the successful production.

It you missed the show, do not worry, as we have another play for you to enjoy at the end of April! Rehearsals are in progress for "Ravenscroft". A strong cast and an excellent production team ensures that we will be in for a treat - don't miss out and book early.

We are all so busy at present, set build and rehearsals for "Ravenscroft" and rehearsals in progress for "Beauty Queen of Leanne" and the two youth group shows, "Dream on" and "Grease" but it would be lovely to meet up socially.

We hardly get time to enjoy our time at the theatre so if you have any ideas then please let one of the committee know of your suggestions,

Speaking of which, our next "Theatreoke" has been arranged for Saturday 20th May  
Have a lovely month and see you soon.

Gordon

**Gordon Bird**

**Don't Forget to Book your Tickets for**

**Ravenscroft** By Don Nigro

26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2023

A Gothic Thriller/Dark Comedy

*'You want to see a murder, girl? I'll show you a murder.'*

Mrs French - Barbara Richards



*Ravenscroft* is a wickedly funny and intelligent mystery/thriller in which deception and lies are dispensed, layer upon layer, by five strong women.

This is a stylish, witty black comedy where the Inspector searches for the truth.

Inspector Ruffing discovers quickly that he's caught in a web of lies and deceit.

Everyone is a suspect; everyone has a motive, and the mystery unfolds with twists and turns until the unpredictable ending.

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

## **Ravenscroft - A Change of Cast**

We are really very sorry to announce that Matt Lugg has had to withdraw from his role as Inspector Ruffing. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond his control, he could not make the performance nights. We are truly sad to see him leave our play and wish him all the very best. However, we are thrilled to say that Ashleigh Wells has agreed to step up for this major role. We are extremely grateful – it is quite some undertaking.

So, a big thank you to Ashleigh!

## **NODA Review of Last Tango in Whitby**

The report is attached to the BT email.

## **May Theatroke**

**Saturday 20th May**



Just a quick reminder that our next Theatroke is on Saturday 20th May.

We are also considering holding some more general 'open mic' nights - with or without a microphone! - for those of you who would like to entertain in a different way. It might be reading a poem, playing an instrument or singing a song that really doesn't fit with the Theatroke theme!

If this is something you'd be interested in the please do mention it on the SPT private Facebook group or let Lara know. It would be good to check we have enough interest before trying to find a date!

For more information, please contact [lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk)

## **Help Needed for Front of House**

The Front of House team at Shinfield Players Theatre need 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.

## Youth Group SPUDS visit to Prague

### A report from Dani Corp

We arrived in Prague at around 10:30am on the 9 February 2023 after a mad rush at the airport and nearly missing our flight!

We were greeted with lovely weather and immediately got to action on sightseeing Prague. After taking public transport multiple times, we travelled our way around Prague, taking in some beautiful sights and indulging in much of the Czech culture - especially the wonderful food!

We enjoyed some Black Light Theatre and many meals at different restaurants too. Our day at the Czech school was definitely a favourite as everyone got to work with different teachers and see their approach to teaching and using as much English as they could. We took part in really effective drama workshops after performing our well received pieces: A Murder Mystery, our own devised Death by A Thousand Cuts and our Grease Mashup dance routine. It was a really amazing and freeing experience to be able to share with other drama students from another culture and make new friends through theatre.

We all had the most amazing time in Prague, not only seeing the beauty of the city but realising the beauty of theatre and how it can bring us all so close together.

## Thinking of Directing a Show?

We are planning our 2023/24 season and would love to hear from any budding directors out there. Whether you want to put on a play, a musical or even the panto, we'd love to hear from you and help you carry out your vision on the Shinfield Players stage. Just contact the secretary with your ideas and we'll take it from there.

First time director? Don't be daunted - lots of our shows are put on by people making their debut.

We're here to help, so if you have any ideas or questions just email Rachel at [secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shinfieldplayers.co.uk) and she'll get back to you. Good luck - we can't wait to hear what you have planned.

## 2023 Productions

Ravenscroft **26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 23**  
Beauty Queen of Leenane. **7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 23**  
Dream on **25<sup>th</sup> June 23**  
Grease **8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July 23**

## 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)

**Please email items for the April Board Treader by April 25<sup>th</sup> to:**

[editor@boardtreader.org.uk](mailto:editor@boardtreader.org.uk); [editor@shinfieldplayers.co.uk](mailto:editor@shinfieldplayers.co.uk);  
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