

June 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

Over the last month I was very fortunate to see a marvellous play, *Ravenscroft* and attend a Theatroke evening. Both were enjoyable for different reasons. The play was wonderfully performed by all the actors, showing what talent there is in our area. The direction and production team worked very well to bring the words to the stage and I thank them for their hard work. We hope that the unfortunate and annoying lighting problem we encountered is now resolved.

The Theatroke was an extremely relaxed social evening, listening to a lot of excellent singers performing a range of musical numbers. It was wonderful to see so many people attend, old and young, singers and, erm, non-singers alike! Watch out for more social activities being planned and look forward to seeing you there.

June sees our final play of the season, the highly award nominated "Beauty Queen of Leenane", and our junior/middles youth group show, "Dream On", (24th and 25th June). There is still time to book your tickets and volunteer for front of house duties. Please do come and support our final shows.

Have a great month and see you soon.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

Book Your tickets for

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

By Martin MacDonagh

Wed 7th June to Sat 10th June



Set in rural Galway in the 1990s, the play revolves around Maureen, a woman of around 40, who is controlled and manipulated by her appalling mother, Mag. Dreaming of an escape, Maureen's chance comes when she spends a night with easy-going Pato Dooley after a party. But Mag won't give up her daughter as easily as that.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP SHOW FUND-RAISER

Sunday 11th June between 1pm and 3pm



Please come and support the senior youth group raising funds for their up-and-coming show, Grease, on Sunday 11th June between 1pm and 3pm by having your car washed. Tea, coffee with cakes and biscuits will be available to purchase while you wait.

Betty Blue Eyes

6th - 14th October 2023

Early July introduction and Auditions

Rehearsals late July to October on Mondays and Wednesdays



Carol is still looking for a Musical Director for Betty Blue Eyes - without one we won't be able to stage the show!

Betty Blue Eyes is a 2011 stage musical comedy based on the 1984 film *A Private Function*, by Alan Bennett and features music by George Stiles with lyrics by Anthony Drewe. The book was written for the stage by Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman, adapted from Alan Bennett's original screenplay.

The show marked producer Cameron Mackintosh's first new musical in over 10 years and when describing what drew him to the project (which he has described as "delicious"), Mackintosh said: "The score was written by friends of mine, George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, whom I've known for 25 years and who of course, did all the terrific new songs for *Mary Poppins*. The book was written by two Americans [Cowen and Lipman], and it was their idea... I read it and I thought it was the most original piece I had read in a long, long time. I mean, I knew they were working on it, because the moment I heard it was a musical version of *A Private Function* — a film I loved, by Alan Bennett, which was very, very funny and off-the-wall — I was intrigued."

Synopsis

An utterly British musical, full of eccentric characters, such as the strange, odd couple, Gilbert – an evangelistic chiropodist, and Joyce – a nobody determined to be somebody; Inspector Wormold - an obsessive destroyer of illegal meat; Mother Dear – 'She's seventy-four and ravenous'; along with a weird assortment of bullies, spivs and snobs and of course, our star, Betty the pig.

Betty Blue Eyes is set in 1947. Belts are being tightened, and government is telling the country there'll be fair shares for all if they survive Austerity Britain. Meanwhile, local officials feather their own nests by taking more than their fair share.

Having won the war, Britain seems to be losing the peace: the country is staggering under rationing, unemployment, and the coldest winter for decades. The only bright spark on the horizon is the impending Royal Wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Cast Size: Large (21 or more performers)

Cast Type: Ensemble Cast

Dance Requirements: Standard

BREAKING NEWS: FRIDAY 1st SEPTEMBER YOUTH GROUP REUNION

If you were a youth group member between 1st September 2003 and 1st September 2023, then we would like to invite you to reunion at theatre from 7pm. Further details to be announced nearer the time.

May's Theatroke



May's Theatroke evening was another fantastic social event. It included performances from old timers, youth groupers and newbies. There was a surprise blast from the past as a couple of the 2012 SPT RENT cast reunited for a spontaneous duet as well as another one starring a Bird!

Thank you to everyone who supported the evening. We will let you know the next date soon.

Lara

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 to be put on our list to be notified of dates for shows,

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 and she'll get back to you. Good luck - we can't wait to hear what you have planned.

2023 Productions

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

Dream on **24th and 25th June 23**

Grease **6th- 9th July 23**

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 July Board Treader by June 25th to:

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