



# **BOARDREADER**

**January 2019**

**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 may enjoy socialising, working together and participating in theatre.**

## **From the Chairman**

Happy New Year! Over the last month the committee have been working hard on cementing shows for the 2019/2020 season and also looking ahead to the 2020/2021 season. If you are interested in submitting a play or musical then please get in touch as we welcome new directors as well as established directors.

With another busy year ahead, starting with the pantomime, we welcome all offers of help with stage build, stage crew, lighting, sound, directors, actors, front of house etc - so don't be shy - come along, lend a hand and be part of a successful team.

I am pleased that 39 Steps has been cast - a wonderfully clever play. I am sure Adam had a difficult job casting the show but having attended the read through and the standard of reading, I know the show will be superb!

Don't worry if you missed out on 39 Steps - we still have one more play to cast this season - the wonderfully funny Harvey by Mary Chase. It's a gentle comedy and although written in the 1940s, it transcends very well to the modern theatre. Directed by the talented Maggie Smith, this is going to be such a great show so please do come along to the read throughs and auditions. Look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, may I wish you all the very best of wishes for 2019!

**Gordon Bird**

**Come along and celebrate New Year with a brilliant Panto.  
Get your tickets for your family and friends now!**



## **PUSS IN BOOTS** Written by Barrie Theobald

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan - 7.30pm;**  
**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm & 6.00pm;**  
**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm;**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - 7.30pm;**  
**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm & 6.00pm;**  
**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm.**

It's that time again (oh no it's not!!) Why ... 2018 is behind you!

This delightful re-telling of the classic tale will charm audiences, young and old. Who's the cleverest cat in the kingdom? Why Puss in Boots of course!

Colin, the miller's son, inherits his father's cat and although he expected more, he soon finds out that this cat is no one's fool. Puss promises that if Colin gets him a pair of boots, then he will make his master's fortune. Once he has the footwear and the cat becomes Puss in Boots and sets out on an amazing adventure.

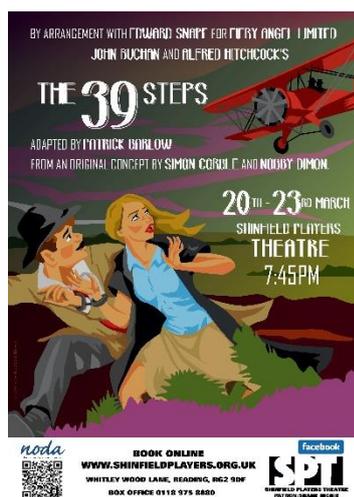
It involves meeting the King, the Queen and the lovely Princess May, who Puss thinks will make a nice wife for his master! There is only one real obstacle to the cat's brilliant scheming — the evil Ogre! Will Puss succeed?

## Prague – a pre-view from our Senior Youth Group

As some of you may be aware, some members of the senior youth group have been working on a devised piece of drama which they are taking to Prague to compete in the annual Class In Action Festival on Friday 8th February. The festival attracts talented youth theatre from all over Europe and this year they include groups from Ireland, France, Czech Republic, Poland and Russia. If you want to come and watch a preview of the production then it is being presented at Shinfield Players Theatre on

**Sunday 3rd February at 7.30pm. All welcome and no admission fee.**

## Don't miss this classic laugh-out-loud comedy in March 2019 ...



## The 39 Steps

John Buchan and Alfred Hitchcock

Richard Hannay has returned to London, and is bored. Until a chance meeting with the mysterious and dangerous Annabel Schmidt plunges him into the shadowy world of The 39 Steps. But will he solve the mystery – and save England – in time?

Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller is transformed into a madcap comedy featuring (among other escapades) a plane crash, a chase along a train, and a plummet off the Forth Bridge! A super fast-paced comedy with four actors playing over 130 roles in over 50 locations! It's going to be a riot.

**20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.45pm**

## Join in and support your theatre

Please come along and help – no matter if just for one performance selling programmes or one hour painting a set – we would love to see you and appreciate your support!

**Every Tuesday evening from 7.45pm and Sunday morning** for set build, props, costume and painting. All are welcome... just drop in and join us.

Front of House for Performances: **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan - 7.30pm; Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm & 6.00pm; Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm; Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - 7.30pm; Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm & 6.00pm; Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2.00pm.**

Contact: Sue Gowen on [philandsuegowen@gmail.com](mailto:philandsuegowen@gmail.com);

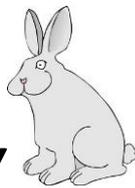
## SPT Charity of the year...

### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



A lovely evening which raised around £440 for the SPT Charity of the Year, Reading Street Pastors.

## Read-throughs and Auditions for the prize-winning comedy:



### HARVEY

Written by Mary Chase

Read-throughs on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 19.45

and

Auditions on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 19.45

Harvey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, is the story of a lovely man, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey, who is an unseen six-foot tall rabbit! Elwood's family find his

behaviour embarrassing and apply for his committal to a sanatorium. A comedy of errors ensues including mistaken identities with the happy outcome of accepting the kind and carefree Elwood just as he is.

Cast 6 male and 4 female but could also be 5 male and 5 female:

<b>Elwood P. Dowd</b>	Main Male role – kind, gentle, charming and lovable. Child-like and innocent. Invites complete strangers to dinner and talks to everyone.
<b>Veta Louise Simmons</b>	Main Female role – Elwood’s sister and mother to Myrtle May. Busy woman of society, eccentric, scatty, traumatised and ultimately loving.
<b>Myrtle Mae Simmons</b>	Elwood’s niece – wants to get married, frustrated, embarrassed, and selfish – a spoiled princess.
<b>Duane Wilson</b>	Sanatorium strong-arm security who falls for Myrtle Mae
<b>Lyman Sanderson, M.D.</b>	Psychiatrist employed by Chumley who is attracted to Ruth Kelly - a major role
<b>William R. Chumley, M.D.</b>	Well-known and eminent psychiatrist who is head of the sanatorium who also sees Harvey
<b>Judge Omar Gaffney</b>	Legal advisor and confidante. Old family friend.
<b>Ruth Kelly, R.N.</b>	Head nurse in love with Dr Simmons
<b>Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet</b>	Aunt, cutting and astounded guest at opening party
<b>Betty Chumley</b>	Chumley’s wife. Kind and gullible. More concerned with socializing than with science
<b>Miss Johnson</b>	The maid
<b>E.J. Lofgren</b>	The cab driver

**Performance dates 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th May 2019**

# Enjoy a great evening at the MURDER MYSTERY SUPPER HOGG'S END



6<sup>TH</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm

## NODA Report for Youth Group Review Evening Friday 30 November and Saturday 1 December

'This company has a large youth group and this evening's review really showcased their talents. The junior and middle groups gave us some light hearted sketches involving well known fairy tales some of which had alternative endings while the seniors chose five short scripted and one devised piece which were meaningful and thought provoking.

At the end of the evening Gordon Bird (in his first year as chairman) gave his thanks to the youth leaders for the dedication they provide week on week to the youngsters of Shinfield youth. He also praised the technicians for their continued support and reminded the audience that without them putting on a show would not be possible.

**The Youth Leaders** – had excelled in giving the youngsters a confidence that will not only benefit their acting but also in all aspects of life.

**Sarah Beth Lockwood** – (Sound) and **Ellen Hunter** – (Lighting) – Although there was no specialised sound or lighting; these two worked well to ensure the children could be heard and seen at all times.

There were three songs during the evening the first of which I unfortunately missed. However if "The Greatest Show" was as proficient as the other two it must have been super. "Do You Hear the People Sing" performed by the juniors and middles was vocally raw and passionate with some well drilled movement; and "This is Our Story" by the entire cast was light bright and sparkled throughout. **Lara Savory** had worked wonders with these youngsters concentrating on their confidence timing entries and dynamics; all of which were quite brilliant.

The first act consisted of the junior and middle groups and I will talk about them as a whole. Although there are one or two youngsters who would benefit from more coaching in the art of voice projection; for the most part their dialogue was clear audible and expressively delivered. I liked the way they were completely at ease acting with no scenery props or sound effects. Having one actor acting as narrator and others acting out the story they made their own sound effects and became the scenery and props; most commendable. They managed to bring plenty of humour to the sketches making them entertaining and fun. There was one piece titled "Chair Duets" which was a physical performance using (as the title suggests) chairs! This was well put together and cleverly executed with the children interacting effortlessly.

The seniors had their moment in the second half; starting proceedings with a dance set to “Another Day of Sun”. This had been well choreographed with some lively imaginative movement. The cast were tight and uniform creating a pleasing picture.

**Anniversary – Jenny Miller/Dylan Corp/Thomas Hutton –** This was such a fun piece and director **Ellen Hunter** had created a compact work with the actors interacting naturally and instinctively. Their dialogue delivery was superb being expressive and dynamic. All actors were visually animated and there was good use of hand gestures and body movement. I liked the way the scene froze as the cycle was about to recommence; nice touch!

**The Chip – Johanna Oldach/Oscar Hogg Gomez/Emily Miles –** Director **Rachel Lockwood** ensured these three actors understood the plot emphatically. It was a thought provoking piece which needed clear direction and this had been given. Emily’s character was simple honest and open while Oscar’s was keen eager and exuberant! Johanna’s role was dominant and commanding with dialogue which matched her character perfectly. Emily delivered her dialogue with empathy and intelligence while Oscar’s was excitable and restless.

**One Night Stand – Maddie Miles/Natalie Gault –** This was another thought provoking piece that required skilful acting. These two actresses proved themselves more than capable; with vivid animated dialogue and superb interaction. Director **Sarah Beth Lockwood** had staged this perfectly and developed a truthful relationship between the two girls.

**Devised Piece –** I would like to congratulate this group of actors in developing real characters maintaining them throughout and acting out the story so succinctly. It had humour pathos and the whole came over famously. Dialogue visuals and movement were all perfect for the performance.

**Pink – Kirsti Burch/Sammy Collins-Webb –** directed by **Lindsay Alexander** this funny sketch had the audience laughing at will. Kirsti and Sammy had a great rapport which developed pleasingly as the plot progressed. I really enjoyed Sammy’s outburst as he declared the only reason Rachel wanted to marry him was because his name was Pink. Kirsti portrayed the pink obsessed Rachel perfectly with expressive dialogue and visuals.

**Waiting Room – Jessica Masseron/Georgia Coney –** For me this was the most dramatic piece of the evening. Both actors had a good understanding of the characters plot and underlying consequences of their meeting. They had strong animated dialogue and revealing visuals. **Lara Savory** had given the girls good direction in regard to character and ensured their dialogued bounced along with good pace.’

**Jeanette Maskell - NODA Representative - London Region - Area 13**

We hope that you have had a good Christmas and we wish everyone a very happy and dramatic new year! We are looking forward to this year’s fabulous programme and that you will all be there to participate, support and enjoy in 2019.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT BT – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

Please email items to:

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