



BOARDREADER

Lockdown Edition 5

September 2020

From the Chairman

It has now been five months since the theatres went dark all over the UK, having a profound impact on the industry and the hobby that many of us enjoy. Although there are some glimmers of hope with outdoor performances and experimental professional indoor social distanced shows, we are still a long way off re-opening the doors at SPT for any production.

I am sure that you are as frustrated as I am about this but I can assure you that the committee have met (via Zoom) to review all possibilities and ensure that we are up to date with the government's latest guidance to be in a position to open safely when we can.

Be assured, the theatre will only re-open for rehearsals and live public performances once it is safe to do so. The theatre needs to be in a position where it can safely, not only adhere to the government guidelines, but also to the consensus view that everyone *feels* safe coming back into the theatre.

We need to consider not only the audience but also the rehearsal spaces, back stage building sets, managing a show, dressing rooms where people can change within the current social distancing measures, ensuring that props and costumes are safe to use/wear.

The committee shall continue to listen and take professional advice and it is only when we are all happy to meet up that we can re-open our doors.

Meanwhile, I am happy to say that there are activities happening via social media and in person, and would urge you to support these initiatives.

There was a social distanced outdoor bar on Saturday 29th August and Lara has planned monthly Theatreokes. We have read throughs of the next pantomime (bearing in mind this might be January 2022!) And the senior youth group are looking to perform their plays via social media mid-October.

We are fortunate that the theatre is in a strong financial position. The theatre has a very passionate committee and a strong and talented membership. The theatre still ticks along, mainly thanks to a dedicated crew of unsung heroes who ensure that the summer cleaning jobs take place and that necessary maintenance is fulfilled.

Although it is difficult to see what the future holds, I know that with your help, your enthusiasm and your love for the theatre, it is going to be an amazing and rewarding experience when the theatre opens again. Now is the time to work together to ensure that we are in the best and safest place we can be.

Speaking of which, our **Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday 10th September, via Zoom**, and I look forward to providing you an update on a new patron and the future of the theatre.

Finally, keep an eye on social media and the Board Treader over the coming months as the situation regarding theatres continues to change.

Gordon

Gordon Bird

**Please make sure that you join us for
The Shinfield Players Theatre AGM (Zoom meeting)
Thursday 10th September at 7:30pm**

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

It is important to note that if you wish to attend and receive the reports from the committee 2019/2020, then you need to contact Maggie Smith on secretary@shinfieldplayers.org.uk and inform her of your interest.

Copies of all reports and the Zoom details will be sent to you along with the minutes from the previous AGM held on Thursday 6th September 2019. Anyone who was a paid up member for 2019/20 can vote at the AGM together with any new members who have paid the 2020/21 membership.

Provisional AGM AGENDA for Thursday 10th September 2020

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. In Memoriam
6. Treasurer's report

7. Election of Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees/ Committee members

Jon Chishick is standing down as Treasurer.

Charlotte Miller is standing down as Trustee.

Maggie Smith is standing down as Secretary.

Sue Gowen is willing to take up the Treasurer role .

Martin Butler is willing to stand for re-election.

Carol Vockins is willing to stand for re-election.

8. Re-appointment of President

9. Patron

10. Area reports

11. Any Other Business

PLEASE NOTE:

It is requested that any items that a member wishes to raise in Any Other Business are to be presented to The Secretary Maggie Smith secretary@shinfieldplayers.org.uk;

Any items raised at the AGM which have not been presented in advance may be referred back to the new committee at their inaugural meeting for a more considered response.

Snow White and the Four Swedish Popstars

directed by Sharon Young and produced by Sue Gowen

Read-through to take place on Zoom

Monday 14th September @ 7.30pm

This panto is based on the traditional Snow White panto with a couple of major changes, which make the most of the continued popularity of Abba and Mamma Mia the musical,:

- All songs in the show are Abba songs, with some of the words changed to suit the story
- Instead of finding seven dwarves in the forest, Snow White finds four Swedish popstars (complete with sequins, big hair and egos) – who went into hiding when ‘disco died’ and no one wanted to listen to their music anymore.

We hope that cast and audience alike will be singing and dancing along to classics such as Voulez Vous, Money Money Money, Take a Chance on Me, Super Trouper, Mamma Mia, Knowing Me, Knowing You, SOS and of course Waterloo

There are 15 principal roles:

Snow White,

The Prince

The Evil Queen

Dame Ramsbottom (the Queen’s Cook),

Giggles (the Court Jester),

Fairy Liquid, the Queen’s Talking Mirror,

Purrnando (the Queen’s cat)

Alfonso (the long-suffering Lord Chancellor)
Fandini and Greased Lightining (the prince's valet and horse)
The Four Swedish Popstars themselves, Anji, Bongo, Aggie and Benji.
We will also have a range of chorus roles.

Please let us know if you are interested in taking part.

Sharon sharon@pearlcatchers.co.uk or
Sue philandsuegowen@gmail.com

Sharon and Sue are keen to find out if sufficient people would be interested in taking part based on the timescales below. **They will ensure that all government guidelines on social distancing are followed.** They are planning to be very flexible in how rehearsals are managed to adapt to individual and safety needs.

Proposed Auditions at SPT on 21st September (8pm-10pm), 23rd September (8pm-10pm) and 27th September (2pm-5pm)

Rehearsal days are Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons

Proposed Show dates:

8th-10th Jan 2021

15th-17th Jan 2021 or Jan 2022

2 evening shows and 2 matinees

All to take place under government guidelines and we will review further when more guidance has been published. Accordingly dates may change.

On-line Theatroke Session

Tuesday 22nd September at 8.30



Want a chance to catch up virtually with your SPT friends?

Our next online Theatroke will be on Tuesday 22nd September at 8.30pm

It's as much about getting to see each other as it is about the singing - which is completely optional! The Zoom link is available on the event in the SPT Facebook group. If you're not on Facebook please email Lara and she'll send it out to you, lara@shinfieldplayers.co.uk;

THE MASKED SINGER?

Has anyone seen the TV programme "The Masked Singer?"

One of our members has approached me to ask if this is something we could do at SPT during the lockdown? Each week we reveal a "masked singer" and we have to guess who the person is?

I think it is a lovely idea and certainly has my vote! You never know, you may even get me to appear!

If you are interested in taking part of helping out then please drop me an email at gordon@shinfieldplayers.org.uk

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) – Talking Books

SPT's charity of the year for 2019/2020 was RNIB – Talking Books. It is one of the UK's leading sight loss charities and the largest community of blind and partially sighted people.

We are delighted to inform you that SPT has donated £412.62 for last year's season.

Virtual Murder Mystery - Happy Anniversary



SPT worked with the Royal Berks Charity to present a Virtual Murder Mystery on 22nd August.

This was the first virtual event from the charity and raised them £320 to improve the care and welfare of staff and patients at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. In total 31 households joined in on the night as the cast of 12 from SPT virtually across zoom presented the murder mystery - 'Happy Anniversary' written by Carol Vockins that was first put on at the theatre 4-5 years ago.

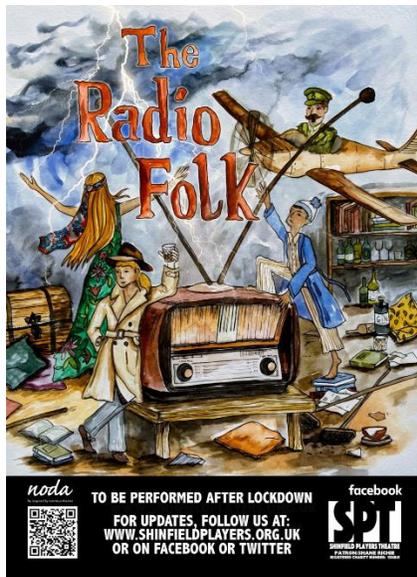
With over 40 active zoom accounts to manage it was enough for a first event and would have been a lot harder if the full 100 were active.

It shows that even without the physicality and presence of the theatre itself, we can still put ourselves out there in the virtual world and promote what we do best. Martin even managed to plug into Radio Berkshire again so they certainly know that we are still here.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this a success and particularly to Martin Butler for arranging this SPT Murder Mystery and to Carol Vockins for allowing it to be performed over Zoom.

'The Radio Folk' is Ready and Waiting

This brand new play will be making its debut at Shinfield Theatre as soon as we possibly can... and everyone is looking forward to seeing it.



The Radio Folk has been devised, scripted and rehearsed entirely via video conference during lockdown.

It's being brought to you by the team behind our smash-hit production of The 39 Steps and it promises to be every bit as exciting, dynamic and downright entertaining.

Fast-paced, physical and with a spectacular tech design, The Radio Folk is a one-act play that audiences of all ages will love. The Radio Folk won't be presented until it's completely safe for audiences and performers to be in theatres again but as soon as we do, we will be ready and you'll be the first to know the date.

Most importantly of all, 50% of all box-office receipts will be donated to [Mind, the mental health charity](#).

Follow Shinfield Players on the website, on Board Treader and on our social media pages to stay up to date with how the team are getting on with rehearsals, and for the earliest updates when performance dates become available. We can't wait to share this exciting debut with you ... we hope you'll love and support what we've done ... and help us raise a lot of money for an incredibly worthy cause.

Please email items for the October Board Treader by September 26th to:

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