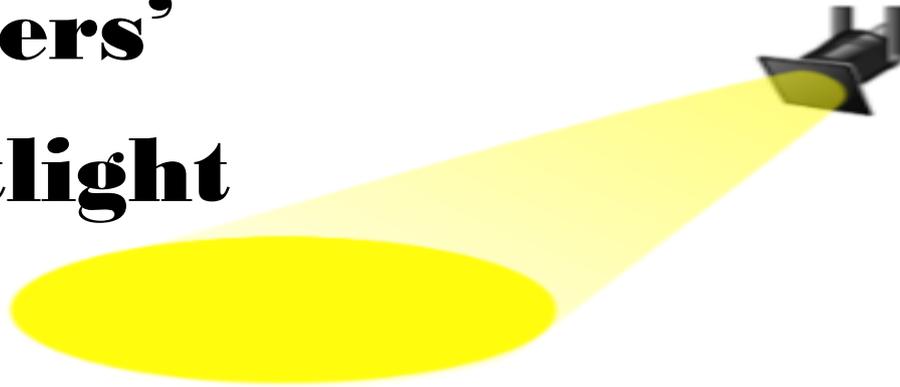


Stagers' Spotlight



December 2021

Chair's Message

Merry Christmas Stagers,

This is my final Spotlight message of the year so I hope that the next few weeks are a series of joyous and uplifting experiences, connected by rest and sleep, maybe in the company of someone wonderful, as we say goodbye to 2021.

Fingers crossed that 2022 will be a better year, allowing us to put on the One Acts in February, Honk! in May and our traditional play in November.

However, before we wish the year away, it is my great pleasure to be able to celebrate with you the successful completion of our first big musical and dramatic extravaganza, 'There's No Business Like Show Business', back on stage in 2021. I hope you were able to join us, for which each of the audiences created a really great atmosphere, but if not, you can get a feel for what the show was like by reading reports from both

Andy Boughton, [Andy Boughton's Review](#)

and NODA [Noda's Review](#)

we were all thrilled with what they said and I think you will be too.

A big thank you to everyone in cast and to the directors, Mary Coyte, Lizzie Hales, Ellis Nicholls and Heather Legat whose hard work and dedication bought something very special to the stage in difficult circumstances. It was a great blend of music and drama, showcasing so many of the

things that Stager's have been good at, over the 70 years the society has been putting on crowd pleasing performances.

I certainly had a lot of fun with 'I am what I am' which was a real team effort and I would like to thank Mary for trusting me to attempt it and Lizzie for helping me practice the vocal and the attitude.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped backstage and front of house – these people are often the unsung heroes of the society without whom we simply could not put on the show. Ably led by Simon Coyte and Jackie Bearman it was wonderful to see so many people stepping up in support of the society – thank you all for giving up your time for your fellow Stagers.

An extra thank you to the people who came back on Sunday to strike the set and tidy up. It is always a bit of a comedown from the highs of the final performance the night before but it is such an important job and we had a small but perfectly formed team who helped get everything done.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has responded about the potential drinks between Christmas and New Year (there is still time to email me to share your point of view chair@grayshottstagers.co.uk), clearly the situation continues to evolve so we will keep monitoring the situation and come back to you all with a final decision closer to the proposed date.

Stay safe and go well,
Joe

Membership News

This month we are delighted to officially welcome David Cooper as a Member of Grayshott Stagers.

Known to many as 'Buff' and seen on stage in Beacon Hill's Pantos and compèring the Village Fetes there. We are looking forward to him treading the boards at Grayshott as 'Turkey' in Honk!
Jennifer

Upcoming Events



It's been 2 years since we originally cast HONK! and a lot has changed since then and we have had to make some changes to the original line-up. The wonderful Dan Wigmore who was cast in the role of "The Cat" is busy studying for his Masters in Musical Theatre at GSA, this is excellent news for Dan, but did leave us with a rather large part to be filled. Earlier this month we held auditions for his replacement and we are pleased to say we have filled the part with Kyrie Carpenter making his Stagers debut, fingers crossed, without any further delays. We also welcome another newcomer to tread the boards with the Stagers in Buff Cooper, who joined us via zoom for a lockdown read through, he will be taking on the role of Turkey. We hope to fill the last few parts with cast members doubling up as HONK! is a unique musical that doesn't include an ensemble. Hope you all have a honking good Christmas and looking forward to finally getting our feathered friends on stage next year



Come On, Jeeves

The play for November 2022 will be *Come On, Jeeves*, by P G Wodehouse and Guy Bolton. It will be directed by Sara Wilson-Soppitt and performed from 24 to 26 November 2022. The cast is as follows (with ages as set out in the script):

Lord Rory Carmoyle (40s); Lady Monica Carmoyle (wife of Rory and sister to Bill) (30s); Jill Wyvern (fiancée of Bill) (20s); The Earl of Towcester (Bill) (the bookmaker) (30s/40s); Jeeves (the butler) (40s/50s); Ellen (housemaid) (20s/30s/40s); Mrs Spottsworth (wealthy American) (40s/50s); Captain Biggar (a White Hunter) (who placed the successful bet) (50s/60s); and Colonel Blagden (Chief Constable) (50s/60s). The action takes place in the Earl of Towcester's living room at Towcester Abbey during a 24 hour period in June.

This is a light-hearted farce set in the 1950s around an unlikely premise, that an aristocrat in reduced circumstances supports himself by becoming a bookmaker at racecourses, until he fails to 'cover' a sizeable winning bet made by the white hunter, recently returned from the far east. Misunderstandings ensue while he tries to avoid or pay the bet, before the final resolution. The script is witty and rather outrageous, and promises to be great fun in Sara's competent hands. Scripts will be available after the completion of *Honk!* and auditions will be arranged in, probably, June 2022.

Diary Dates

18th & 19th February 2022: One Act Plays

26th-28th May 2022: Honk

24-26th November 2022: Come on, Jeeves

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<http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk>

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