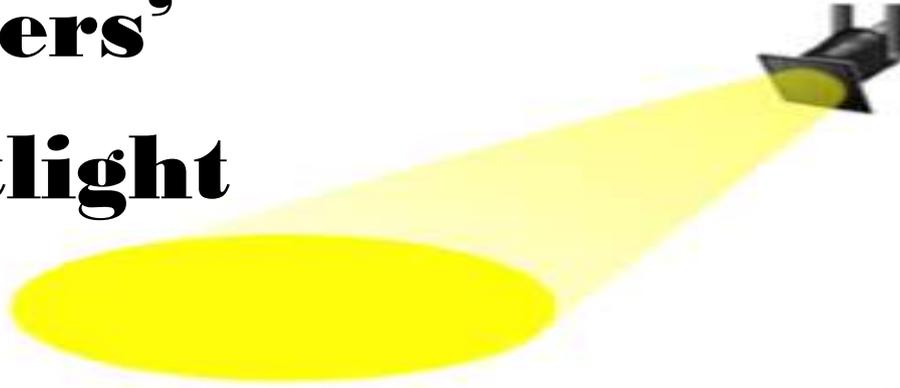


Stagers' Spotlight



April 2022

Chair's Message

It is that time of the year - flowers are starting to bloom, children (and some of us adults) are hunting Easter eggs, and baby animals are taking their first faltering steps out into the fields. Which is all very appropriate as many Stagers are heading down to the farm rehearsing for our upcoming May musical, Honk!

Telling the well known story of the ugly duckling in a clever and creative way, it is a really joyful show, very funny with a lot of great songs that you won't be able to stop humming. You will be able to find out more about how things are going later in this issue but if you haven't already got your tickets, go to the box office now and buy them today. And don't forget we have a special Saturday matinee performance of this show in case you, like me, want to be able to bring the whole family to enjoy all the fun of the farmyard.

As excited as I am about how our new show is coming together, we have also heard some equally exciting news about last year's November show, There's No Business Like Show Business, which has been nominated for a NODA award. It was wonderful to be back on stage after so long away and after all of that hard work and passion, for the show being shortlisted is a great testament to everyone involved. You can read more about this from Barry, our NODA rep, later in this Spotlight.

I am pleased to share that Haslemere Players have been able to reschedule their performances of KIPPS – The new "Half A Sixpence" Musical and it will now be on from 29th June to 2nd July. With many familiar faces in the show I hope you will support them too - I am certainly looking forward to watching it.

There is a lot of content in this month's Spotlight so I will not go on too much longer but I did just want to share one final piece of news from our very own Martin Sims. As you may know he directed one of our February One Act Plays and in fact not only did Martin direct 'The Highwayman', he wrote this play too and has recently found out that Lazy Bee Scripts are happy to publish it, so it will soon be available for other dramatic societies to perform around the country and maybe even further afield.

To quote the man himself 'I also wanted to express my thanks to the Grayshott Stagers for agreeing to put the play on. Without the society's support and help I never would have had the nerve to submit the play for publication!' Well done Martin and hopefully we can continue to support all our members in a number of different ways.

Go well,

Joe

"There's No Business ..." nominated for NODA award

Regular readers of Spotlight will have seen recent articles referring to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), which supports and promotes amateur theatre across the UK.

The Stagers is one of 2,500 theatre group members of NODA, and, within its regional structure, belongs to the South-East Region. Regional representatives come along to see most of our productions, and we're delighted that "There's No Business Like Show Business" has been nominated for a regional award for 2020/21 in the category of "Best Compilation Show". Congratulations to directors Mary Coyte, Heather Legat and Ellis Nicholls, to musical director Lizzie Hales, and to the cast and production team for this well-deserved recognition.

We're one of seven theatre groups nominated in this category. A shortlist of three shows will be selected by the end of April, and the award presented to the winning group at the SE Region's "Celebration Day" to be held in Guildford on 12 June.

We'll keep you posted.

Upcoming Events

Quiztastic!

Sam's Jamboree Quiz

Just a week to go until Sam's Jamboree Quiz – Joe and Abi are plotting the questions, Heather and Alex are sourcing ingredients, Tony is stocking the bar and Sam is . . . being creative.

If you haven't booked your tickets yet, you might like to know that we have discovered some smaller tables at Grayshott Village Hall. Should you want to become a smaller but beautifully formed team, please let Alex or Heather know. Tickets are £15 pp which includes a two course Korean themed dinner with a vegan option and, of course, we will cater for food allergies if you let us know what they are. Thank you to those of you who have bought tickets to support Sam's World Scout Jamboree

fund raising – we look forward to seeing you for a fun and fact filled evening on Saturday 30th April at Grayshott Village Hall (from 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start) if you haven't – there's still time! Should you wish to know more about Sam and the Jamboree, please follow this [Link](#) which will take you to last month's Spotlight and all the detail

Honk! Update-26th-28th May 2022: *including a matinee on Saturday 28th May at 2.30pm*

Rehearsals for Honk! are 'cracking on' apace. This 'eggs-cellent', (sorry no more, I promise) excellent, musical comedy brings the wonderful music and words of



Stiles and Drew to the Grayshott stage. From the moment he hatches, our hero Ugly sets out on his journey of adventures to find out who he really is and why he feels different from his brothers and sisters.

Do come and enjoy the show, link to the box office below and encourage all your friends and family along too.

If you would like to help Front of House, please email Caroline at: ct.phoenix@yahoo.co.uk

Honk Box Office

Membership News

We are very pleased to welcome back Robyn Davies as a member of Stagers. Robyn originally joined in 1989 to take part in our production of *Annie*. Having been on stage with us in a few other shows, she went on to dance college in Essex, performing at the London Palladium and Her Majesty's Theatre. Robyn then qualified as a dance teacher and taught for years. She came back six years ago, doing pantomimes with Haslemere Thespians and most of Haslemere Players' shows. You can enjoy seeing her on our stage again in *Honk!*, which she is also helping to choreograph.

In memory of Jenny Page.

We now have a notice and invitation from Ian Page and his daughter Helen:

We are holding an informal celebration of life for Jenny Page, on May 13th. It's at the Mill, Shottermill Rd., Haslemere.

Starting at 12, there will be a buffet and drinks.

If you would like to join us to raise a glass in her memory, please could you let either of us know, so we can cater appropriately.

Ian- pageian65@gmail.com

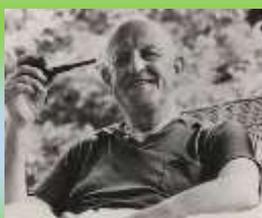
07714 706171

Helen- helenhuffam@gmail.com

07768 028683

Come On, Jeeves

24-26th November 2022



Bill, the young aristocrat, Lord Towcester cannot afford to maintain his large country house, Towcester Abbey. With the help of his resourceful butler, Jeeves, he comes up with a cunning plan to solve his financial problems. As you would expect from a PG Wodehouse piece (co-written with Guy Bolton), it is light and frothy, full of his particular brand of humour and colourful characters. This the first time the character of Jeeves appeared and it pre-dates the Jeeves and Wooster stories, although Bertie is mentioned in this play.

I have been an avid fan of Wodehouse since I was a girl and I am delighted to have the opportunity of directing this play, thank you Grayshott Stagers. Last year was the 140th anniversary of his birth and I feel privileged to be honouring him at this time. When I sat down to write this little introduction for Spotlight I had a quick look at its performance history and discovered that Vanessa Redgrave played the role of Mrs Spottsworth in 1958 at the Cambridge Arts Theatre and it was first performed by the Guildford Theatre Company in 1956 – the year of my birth. The lead

was played by an actor called Alan Barnes (my father's name). Spooky.

The characters in this little gem are:

Lord Carmoyle [Rory]

Lady Carmoyle [Monica], *his wife*

Jill Wyvern, *engaged to marry*

The Earl of Towcester [Bill]

Jeeves, *Bill's butler*

Ellen, *Bill's housemaid*

Mrs Spottsworth, *a wealthy American widow*

Captain Biggar, *a big game hunter*

Colonel Blagden, *Chief Constable*

It is set in the post-war period, so late 1940s/early 1950s.

I have no preconceived ideas about playing ages for these characters – what is more important is that there is a good team 'fit' and that the cast enjoy the delicious language and thoroughly English silliness.

I am giving the presentation of this play at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20th June. I hope to see you there.

Sara Wilson-Soppitt

One-Act Plays

The evenings of one-act plays on 17 and 18 February 2023 will soon be here. We would like suggestions of one-act plays with, hopefully, new or less frequent directors. Be as experimental and avant garde as you like, but the play selection committee needs to hear from you as soon as possible. The convenor is Ellis Nicholls who can be contacted on

ellis.nicholls@grayshottstagers.co.uk. Ellis will happily discuss the obligations on a director and can give advice and guidance at any time.



30th April: Quiz night

26th-28th May 2022: Honk!

20th June 2022:7.30pm: Presentation evening:

Come on Jeeves

2nd July 2022: Auditions. Come On, Jeeves

24-26th November 2022: Come on, Jeeves

Visit our website for more Information

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