

# Stagers' Spotlight



May 2022

## Chair's Message

It was early in 2020 that we had to make the decision to postpone Honk! for the first time and since then it has been a challenging road for everyone involved - probably the most challenging in Stagers' history. But that is what makes it so exciting to be able to say we are just two weeks away from Honk!

I have lived through the challenges of the show, the difficult decisions, the hope and the heartbreak not only as Chair of the society but also as a husband - Abi my wife is playing Ida, mother to the Ugly Duckling - so I know first hand what it means to everyone to have persevered and finally be bringing this show to life.

They deserve all our support and in this edition of Spotlight you will find many reasons to come and see Honk! not least because it is a simply wonderful musical and you will have a brilliant time supporting your fellow Stagers.

So if you haven't bought your tickets yet you can do so right now from <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/grayshottstagers/> or by calling 07940 546871.

Tickets are just £14 and the show is on at Grayshott Village Hall from 26th to 28th May. Evening performances start at 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 28th.

You can get a great taste for the show from the trailer which Tony Legat put together: <https://youtu.be/3rHSvkXLfeg>

If you are still sat on the fence, unsure about climbing over it and coming into the farmyard with us, here are 5 reasons you should stop reading this and buy tickets to come and see Honk! right now:

1. It is a musical based on one of the world's favourite fairy-tales, Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling". Honk! was the winner of the 2000 Olivier award for Best New Musical, beating Mamma Mia! and The Lion King and has been described as having "the colour and wit of Disney's Jungle Book, mixed with the vivacity of '40s Hollywood musicals".
2. It is a classic story with a really uplifting, positive message. You will meet an entertaining gaggle of farmyard characters who join the naïve, but lovable Ugly in his journey from misrepresented duckling to elegant swan. Peril lies around every corner, usually in the shape of the ravenous Cat (think panto villain meets Wile E Coyote who never quite gets his prize) but Ugly receives help from unlikely sources and wins through thanks to his sheer good nature. Not only are the characters entertaining but seeing familiar faces and new Stagers alike pretending to be Turkeys, Ducklings and Frogs is a sight to behold.
3. The songs are sure to become fast favourites. From the upbeat opening number 'A Poultry Tale' that welcomes the audience to the farmyard to the heart felt 'Warts and all' where the Bullfrog lets Ugly know there is love out there for all of us; the songs in Honk! are brilliant and have been brought to life with Grayshott Stagers special flair for crowd pleasing dance routines.
4. This show marks the full musical directing debut of Stagers superstar Helen Coyte. Having got her start directing a One Act Play for our supper evening in 2019 with the very funny M<sup>énage à Trois</sup> it is exciting to

see her taking on such an ambitious show and it seems that wheely office chairs are becoming a key part of her signature style. Supported by Rob Miller as Musical Director, he last bought the incredibly popular Acorn Antiques to the Grayshott stage so you can be confident he knows how to make sure the songs hit all the right notes.



5. Thanks to all the people who are helping behind the scenes to build the sets, make the costumes and find the props you are sure to be truly immersed into this magical fairytale world of talking, not to mention singing and dancing, farm animals. My current favourites are the frog costumes - I love the way goggles have been used for the eyes!

So much love and so much energy has gone in to making this show really special, please, please give your support to everyone involved and book a ticket today to come and see Honk!:

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/grayshottstagers/>



Go well,  
Joe





## New Musicals for 2023 & 2024

With Honk! about to be performed at the end of the month, we are excited to be able to share with you the next two musicals which will be performed by Grayshott Stagers. In 2023 you will need to fasten your seatbelts, return your tray tables to the upright position and prepare for blast off as we put on the Olivier-award-winning musical :

### **Return to the Forbidden Planet.**

Loosely based on Shakespeare's The Tempest and the 1956 sci-fi classic film Forbidden Planet the show features classic rock 'n' roll hits including "Great Balls of Fire", "The Monster Mash", "Good Vibrations", "The Young Ones", "Teenager in Love" – it is sometimes called Shakespeare's unwritten rock 'n' roll masterpiece. Throw in a roller-skating robot, unrequited love, and a scary space monster, and you've got one groovy show

In 2024 we will be paying homage to the Queen of Country as we put on the musical:

### **9 to 5.**

Based on the film and featuring a rip-roaring score by none other than Dolly Parton herself, 9 to 5 the musical tells the story of three workmates pushed to boiling point by their sexist and egotistical boss. Concocting a plan to kidnap and turn the tables on their despicable supervisor, will the ladies manage

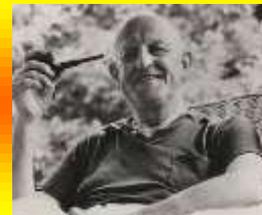
to reform their office – or will events unravel when the CEO pays an unexpected visit?

Further information will follow concerning the Directors, MDs and the all-important presentation and audition dates but we wanted to let you all know as soon as we had secured the rights to these shows so you can book them into your calendar as these are shows you will not want to miss.

Thank you to all the members of the Musicals Sub-committee, led by Abi White, for all their work to find these exciting shows

## Come On, Jeeves

24-26<sup>th</sup> November 2022



As soon as our production of Honk! is over, the Stagers will be focussing on preparations for the November Play, Come On, Jeeves.

To quote from the article the Director, Sara Wilson-Soppitt, wrote for last month's Spotlight:

"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.

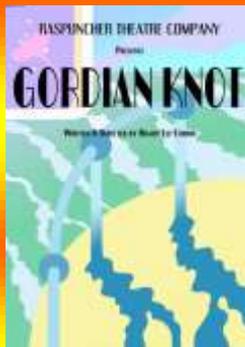
I have no preconceived ideas about playing ages for these characters – what is more important is that there is a good team 'fit' and that the cast enjoy the delicious language and thoroughly English silliness."

To find out more, do come along to Sara's Presentation on Monday 20th June at 7.30pm in the Common Room of Grayshott Village Hall.

The Auditions will be held in the Main Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 2nd July.

Let me know if you have any queries.  
jennifer.charters@grayshottstagers.co.  
I am giving the presentation of this play at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June. I hope to see you there.

### Members News



A number of our members will be involved with the Raspuncher Theatre Company's, Charity Murder Mystery Evening, Gordian Knot.

It is written and directed by Hilary Lee Corbin  
It will be in Dockenfield Church Frensham  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm  
Tickets will be £20.00 including Canapes  
Hope to see you there.

[Murder Mystery](#)

### Sam's Jamboree Quiz

Thank you so much for supporting Sam's fund raising for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. It was great to see so many friends puzzling over the quiz questions for which many thanks are due to Abi and Joe. We hope you enjoyed both the food and the company – you have all helped Sam raise well over 50% of his target.

Heather and Alex.



**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** Honk!

**15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2022** Gordian Knot (Dockenfield)

**29th June – 2nd July 2022:** Kipps (Haslemere Players)

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2022:7.30pm:** Presentation evening:

Come on Jeeves

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022:** Auditions. Come On, Jeeves

**24-26<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** Come on, Jeeves Visit our website for more Information

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



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](mailto:ct.phoenix@yahoo.co.uk)

### Honk Box Office

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