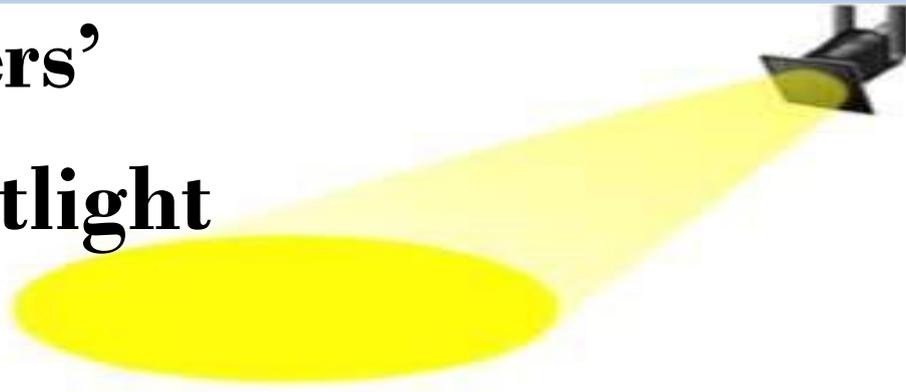


# Stagers' Spotlight



June 2022

## Chair's Message

I hope you are all well and enjoying the warmer weather. I also hope that you were one of the many people who got to come along and see Honk! I have to admit it was quite an emotional experience for me as it was the first full length show in my tenure as Chair which I have not been in. Sitting in the audience I was surprised to be feeling like an incredibly proud parent - seeing this wonderful show come to life in front of me and knowing all of the effort that everyone had put in to making it happen. Especially true as this show had to make it through the pandemic and being delayed twice before finally hatching on to the stage.

So much of that is due to our tenacious director, Helen Coyte. It is hard to believe that this was her first show, every time we had to delay I was worried that she would choose to walk away but she stayed the course making her the third generation to direct a show for Stagers, following in the footsteps of her mother, Mary and Grandmother, Sue. Helen was ably supported by Rob Miller as Musical Director who got all of the songs sounding great and we are very hopeful that Rob will be joining us again next year for Return to the Forbidden Planet.

Honk! was a wonderful show and you don't just have to take my word for it you can read two different reviews on our website ([www.grayshottstagers.co.uk/showlist.html](http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk/showlist.html)) one from NODA (and you can read more exciting news from Barry, our NODA Rep) and one from Howard Bicknell who was kind enough to write our critique.

I think I managed to thank everyone in my speech at the after show party but I do want to take this opportunity to reiterate that putting on a show like

this takes a whole society. So whether you built and painted the set, sold raffle tickets, served behind the bar or helped out with any of the other numerous jobs - thank you so much. A special

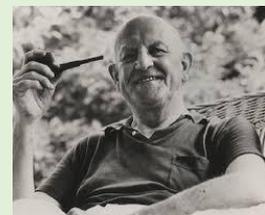
shout out should however go out to Caroline and Graham who organised all of these volunteers and made everything work.

And while I am talking about the hard work people do for the society which sometimes goes unseen, before the Pandemic we had been able to purchase a new set of stage lights and in the build up to Honk! they were all set up ready to use when a fault was discovered. Stephen, Tony and Sam (Tony's Grandson) then spent a couple of days testing and identifying the issues, replacing the new lights with the old ones and packing them up so they could be replaced. Every show so many of these things happen, where wonderful people go above and beyond for Stagers - it is one of the things that makes this society so special.

Go well

Joe

## Come On Jeeves.



A most enjoyable Presentation evening was held on 20th June for our November Play.

*Come On Jeeves*, previously unknown to many of us, read very well and it will have an enthusiastic Director in Sara Wilson-Soppitt. We are now concentrating on casting the play.

The Auditions are on Saturday 2nd July at 2.30 pm in the main hall of Grayshott Village Hall.

If you are interested, even if you are unable to attend then, please contact Jennifer Charters for details: [secretary@grayshottstagers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@grayshottstagers.co.uk) or Tel: 01428 605635.



## Members News

### ***Gordian Knot***

Many congratulations to the Raspuncher Theatre Company on their very successful Charity Murder Mystery Evenings recently held at Dockenfield Church.

An excellent company, including members of Stagers, presented their audience with an Intriguing play written and directed by Hilary Lee-Corbin.

It wasn't only the audience who benefitted. It raised over £5000 for the the church and the Ukrainian Charity it supports.

### **The Producers come to Farnham**

In July FAOS, our friends in Farnham, are putting on Mel Brooks' stage musical *The Producers*, which won 12 Tony awards and set the record for the most wins in history. Famous for its irreverent presentation of 'Springtime for Hitler', the show is a riproaring comedy which takes no prisoners and doesn't distinguish Reich from wrong.

The story concerns two theatrical producers (one of whom is played by our very own Tony Carpenter who was just Ugly in our recent performance of *Honk!*) who scheme to get rich by fraudulently overselling interests in an outrageous Broadway flop. It is hilarious, irreverent and absolutely unmissable. As producer Max Bialystock says, "We got the wrong play, the wrong director, the wrong cast. Where did we go right?"

Performances are at Farnham Maltings, Wed 13 to Sat 16 July, 7.30pm. Matinée Saturday 2.30pm. Tickets £18. Reductions for children (suitable for age 13+ with parental guidance), students and groups of 10 or more. Book at [www.farnhammaltings.com](http://www.farnhammaltings.com) 01252 745444

They are also looking for people to help as part of the Front of House team to welcome the audience, sell raffle tickets and programmes, make sure they can find their seats and also to be Fire Stewards who stay and watch but are on hand in case of the need to evacuate the hall. If you would like more information or you are able to help, please contact Helen Davies [helenmdavies@gmail.com](mailto:helenmdavies@gmail.com).

## **NODA Celebration Day - "It's in the post"**

In the April edition of Spotlight, we reported that the Stagers production of "There's No Business Like Show Business" had been nominated for the title of Best Compilation Show for 2020/21, awarded by the South East Region of NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association). Well, it got even better than that when we were notified at the end of April that we had made it to the shortlist of three.

The SE Region of NODA holds a (normally) annual Celebration Day at which the awards are presented, and the nominated societies are requested to send delegates to receive their trophies (if they win), or their "Highly Commended" runner-up certificates (otherwise). It's also the opportunity for the Region to hold its Annual General Meeting, including the election of the 19 District Representatives, and a speech by the national president of NODA. To break up the formal proceedings, several societies entertain the audience with brief (10- to 15-minute) snippets from their shows.

This year's Celebration Day was held in Guildford, and three of us duly attended. Sadly we didn't win the award; congratulations to Hayling Musical Society who won it for their production "A Song In Time".

More disappointment was to come. When we went to collect our runner-up certificate, we were told it wasn't available and would be sent by post. As I write, it still hasn't materialised, and neither has an explanation of what went wrong. We're told it has to come from NODA Head Office. Who knew that Peterborough was a black hole in the UK postal system?

*NODA produces a quarterly magazine which is available to read at <https://www.noda.org.uk/magazine>*

*The Spring 2022 issue includes an article describing how a Scottish society mounted a production our 2023 musical "Return To The Forbidden Planet" with a 150-strong cast in 10 hours.*

Barry Levy

## Haslemere Thespians are offering Show in Day – 2022

### What is a “Show in a Day”?

We are going to put on a musical in 24 hours. Starting rehearsals at 7.30pm on Friday 15th July and staging the final (and only) performance at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th July. We've got 24 hours to rehearse it, find the costumes and build a set. Will madness ensue? Probably but that's the fun!

### What's the show?

Well, that's the big question and we are not going to tell you until 7.30pm on Friday 15th July. The only clue we will give you... if you like a good classic musical this is a show for you!

### But aren't you holding auditions the week before?

Yes, we are holding auditions at the Haslemere Hall on **Sunday 10th July at 2pm**. This will be a workshop style audition - we will learn and sing a random song (not

you turn up at the Hall on Friday 15th July, from 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

### When will we know what the show is and what part I have?

At 7.30pm on Friday 15th July, we will reveal what the show is and who has been cast in each role. The scripts and music will be given out and the fun begins.

**How many do you need for the cast?** There are 12 female and 6 male roles, plus ideally an ensemble of at least 4 women and 4 men (of course, not excluding anyone who identifies themselves another way).

### What if I don't want to be on the stage or can't commit to being there that much?

Don't worry, there will be lots of jobs to do! We will have separate teams for set, lighting, sound, costume, props and FOH. Ideally 1-2 people will head up each team and have a merry band of volunteers. Please let Kim know asap if would like to head up a team. At the very least, we will always need people to make tea and coffee. So please do come hang out as much as you like.

### Will it cost me anything?

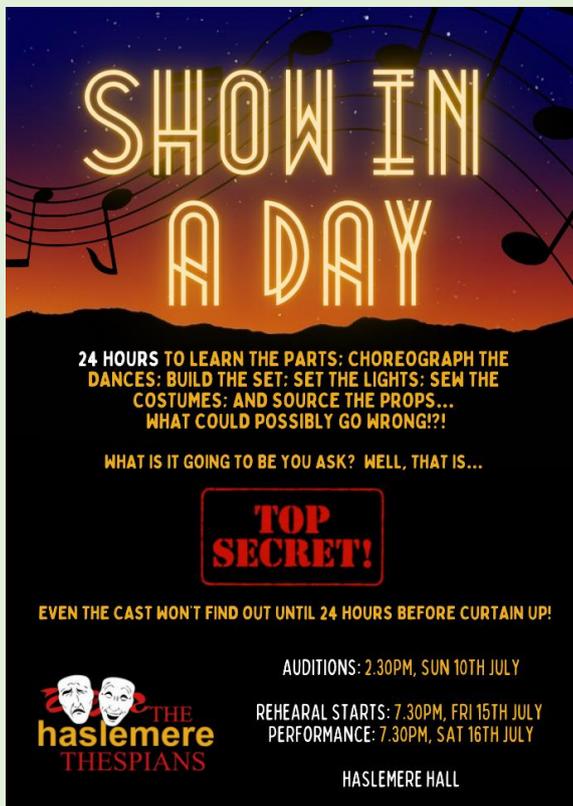
We are asking everyone involved to pay a £20 donation as a “show fee”. This will define you as a “member” under the Thespians constitution and means you are covered by our insurance. This can be paid at the audition on when you arrive on the Friday. Alternatively, we can send you an invoice so you can pay via paypal or bank transfer. We will use some of the money to ensure there is a good supply of refreshments, snackage and caffeine!

### Who are the team?

Kim Seymour is directing/producing and Chris Snelling will be musical director. The plan is they will be surrounded by a team of assistance directors, pianists and vocal coaches.

### Can I help with that?

Yes – please email Kim asap, she would literally love to hear from you!!! Please contact Kim on 07810443566 or email [kimchivers@hotmail.com](mailto:kimchivers@hotmail.com)



from the actual show), do a short dance audition and generally get to know you. The idea is that it will be very informal and (hopefully) fun. Only those that wish to be considered for a solo role will have to sing on their own. At the audition you will be asked which team you want to be in (see below) and for your measurements (for costumes).

### I can't make the audition date, what should I do?

If you genuinely can't come on Sunday 10th July between 2-4pm, please contact Kim and let her know asap.

### So, what happens after that?

After the audition we will let you know if you have been cast as a principle or a member of the ensemble. Then,



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

**2nd July 2022: 2.30pm** Auditions. Come On, Jeeves

**13th to 16th July, 7.30pm.**The Producers-Farnham Maltings

**15th July** Show in a Day 2022

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

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

Visit us on  Facebook Follow us on  twitter