

TAOS Musical Theatre and Trowbridge Youth Theatre (TYT)

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2018



At a Glance Dates for your Diary:

(all 7.30pm at Arc Theatre unless otherwise stated)

Tue 4th September 2018,
7.30pm **The Gondoliers** next rehearsal

Sunday 21st October –
Rose Bowl Awards, Bristol

Wed 21st to Sat 24th November 2018 –
The Gondoliers Performances nightly at 7.30pm plus Saturday matinee, Arc Theatre

Tues 8th January 2019 –
first rehearsal for **Oklahoma** (venue Trowbridge Town Hall)

Sunday 27th January 2019
– auditions for **Oklahoma**

Tue 21st to Sat 25th May 2019 - Oklahoma
Performances nightly at 7.30pm, Arc Theatre

Tues 9th July 2019 – first rehearsal for Little Shop of Horrors

Tue 26th to Sat 30th November 2019 – Little Shop of Horrors
Performances nightly at 7.30pm, Arc Theatre

Tues 19th to Sun 24th May 2020 – Shrek The Musical
Performances Tues-Sat nightly at 7.30pm and Saturday/Sunday matinee

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter for a while - there is a lot to tell you about! The committee has been very busy planning our future shows and we now have licences up to May 2020. More details further down.

NEXT PRODUCTIONS

THE GONDOLIERS: Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th November 2018, The Arc Theatre. 5 performances, nightly at 7.30pm plus Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Director: **Phil Courage**
Musical Director: **Julian Clementson**
Choreographer: **Anna Mazan**
Show Co-ordinator: **Claire Borovac**

Rehearsals start after the Summer on **Tuesday 4th September**, 7.30pm at the Arc Theatre.

Due to a mix-up during infancy, a pair of handsome Venetian Gondoliers have, much to their delight, suddenly become kings! Their brand new wives aren't quite so pleased though, once they find out that the rightful king is also married by proxy to Casilda, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro! Only one pair can be the rightful rulers but, until the identity of the true monarch can be established, the boys must share the royal duties. Being idealists, they really don't mind! Set by the sun-dappled, lazy waters of the Grand Canal, the singing Gondolieri and Contadine, and the "Cachucha" danced at the Royal Court at Barataria, make *The Gondoliers* an exuberant, happy valentine, wrapped in some of Sullivan's most tuneful music and tied with one of Gilbert's most fanciful libretti. Within this joyful opera Gilbert ingeniously skewers issues of social equality and the class system with his usual brilliant wit and ground-breaking lyrics alongside Sullivan's lovely, lilting score. Tickets on sale now!

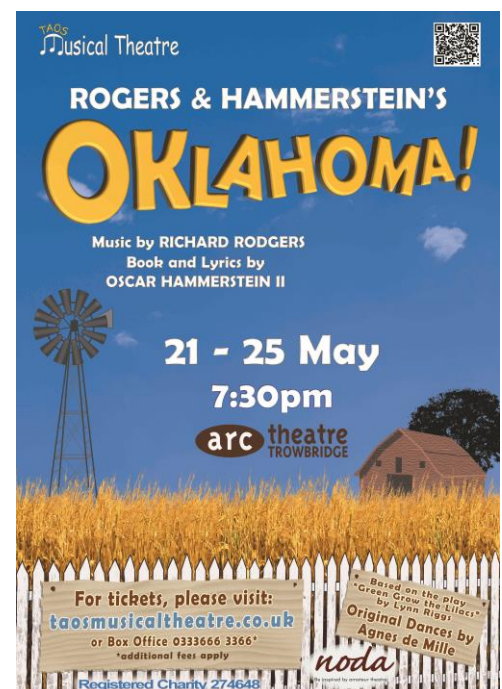
OKLAHOMA!

Tue 21st to Sat 25th May 2019, The Arc Theatre

Director: **Anna Mazan**
Musical Director: **Julian Clementson**

Anna will be making her directorial debut with TAOS for the ever-popular *Oklahoma!*, last performed by the society in 2000.

In the Oklahoma territory at the turn of the twentieth century, two young cowboys vie with a violent ranch hand and a traveling peddler for the hearts of the women they love. The show has many well-known songs such as "Oh What A Beautiful Morning", "People Will Say We're In Love" and "The Farmer And The Cowman". Rehearsals will start on 8th January 2019 with auditions planned for Sunday 27th January.



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Tue 26th to Sat 30th November 2019, The Arc Theatre

Director: **Matt Heaton**

Musical Director: **tbc**



A first for TAOS! This cult musical has a wonderful 1950s music score, a demon dentist, a beautiful woman and a plant with a penchant for humans (FEED ME). The show will be something completely different for us (FEED ME) including puppetry skills. We are planning on having our first rehearsal on Tuesday 9th July at the Arc Theatre with auditions on Sunday 21st July 2019.

SHREK – THE MUSICAL

Tue 19th to Sun 24th May 2020, The Arc Theatre

Director: **Lyn Taylor**

Musical Director: **tbc**

Another first! *Shrek* has been given a limited release to amateur societies during 2020 and TAOS is one of the lucky ones to be granted a licence. This show will require some very different skills (puppets, huge amounts of make-up and lots of costumes) so we will be starting to plan this over the next few months. If you feel you have the talent to be able to help we'd love to hear from you.



PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

OLIVER! Tue 22nd to Sat 26th May 2018, The Arc Theatre

6 performances, incl. Sat 2.30pm Matinee. Joint TAOS/TYT production

Director: **Matt Heaton**

Musical Director: **Chris J Anderson**

Choreographer: **Anna Mazan**

Show Co-ordinators: **Michelle Hole / Maria Matthews**

With 40 youth members across two teams, 24 adults, 1 dog and a huge team of chaperones and backstage crew, we pulled together a great production across 6 nights – we also sold half the tickets in the first week and managed to sell out with weeks to go! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on pulling together a good quality production that has received a lot of positive feedback and gave a large group of young people a positive theatre experience that they will never forget. It also goes to show that even in 2018 we can still sell out a production. Jamie Davies, who played one of the Dodgers, has been nominated for Rose Bowl Award too for Best Youth in an Adult Production.



MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT Tue 21st to Sat 25th November 2017, The Arc Theatre

6 performances, incl. Sat 2.30pm Matinee.

Director: **Phil Courage**

Musical Director: **Helen Heaton**

Choreographer: **Jamie Wright**

Show Co-ordinator: **Claire Borovac**

It may have been a small cast but they played so many roles! Based on the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" this show was a lot of hard work but huge fun – including a knight on stilts, a cross-dressing knight, people who weren't quite dead, taunting in an outrageous French accent, a watery tart throwing a sword at a king and an unforgettable costume change by Paul West!

Spamalot won the NODA District 10 Achievement Award and was nominated for NODA Best Comedy Production. Leonie Macaslin has been nominated for a Rose Bowl Award for Best Supporting Actress (as Lady of the Lake) and Tim Knott has been nominated for a Rose Bowl Award for Best Supporting Actor (as various roles).



MADE IN DAGENHAM Tue 16th to Sat 20th May 2017, The Arc Theatre

5 performances

Director: **Lyn Taylor**

Musical Director: **Julian Clementson**

Choreographer: **Anna Mazan**

Show Co-ordinator: **Richard Rawlings**

Another fantastic show for us, with the powerful true story of Ford machinists striking for equal rights for women still ringing true 50 years on. The complexities of scaffolding and a car onstage made this a technical challenge, but the 60's costumes made some of us feel very at home!

More awards nominations – NODA Peter Wheeldon Memorial Trophy (for societies who do everything in-house rather than hiring in total sets and costumes), and two Rose Bowl nominations - Lou Knight for Best Actress in a Musical and one for best Publicity Material. Although we didn't win it is very encouraging to be so well-thought of by independent adjudicators.



SOCIAL / FUND-RAISING EVENTS

As well as celebrating the society's 40th anniversary in 2016 there have also been two social events – a Quiz Night with a 1960s theme before *Made In Dagenham* and a Race Night (with a bit of a quiz) this year. These social events are a great way of getting together without having to remember notes, words or moves, as well as raising money for the society.

More events are planned – to get us together and also to raise some funds to support our productions. We're hoping to have a skittles night (with a bit of a quiz) in the near future!



Website – www.taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk

Have you looked at the website recently? It contains a lot of information, particularly on past productions, including reviews and photographs – a stroll down memory lane for some and an insight into the Society's past for others! More will be uploaded over the coming months. We are also using the website for rehearsal music and videos for each current show, contact us for the password!

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Society's AGM is planned for Tuesday 23rd October. Ann Berry has decided to step down as Vice-Chair after many years on committee, and Andrew Curtis is also having to step down due to other commitments; we thank them both for their contribution to the committee and society. Therefore there will be spaces on committee, and fresh faces are always greeted with open arms and plenty of biscuits! This year we welcomed Karen Grant as a committee member, Nigel Shires as our Treasurer and Lou Knight has been co-opted. We tend to need help with publicity, and would love to have somebody who could coordinate this.



The committee makes decisions such as future shows, fundraising, social events etc. and welcomes any show suggestions or thoughts regarding the society, you can talk to any member of the committee.

Your Committee 2017-2018

Chair	:	Claire Borovac	chair@taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk
Vice-Chair	:	Ann Berry	
Treasurer	:	Nigel Shires	treasurer@taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	:	Maria Matthews	
Membership Secretary	:	Michelle Hole	membership@taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk
Members	:	Anna Mazan, Richard Rawlings, Karen Grant, Andrew Curtis, Lou Knight	
Patrons & Friends' Secretary	:	David Bullock	patrons@taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk

FRANK MARTIN (1937-2018)

Frank was one of the founding members of the society when it re-formed in 1975, and took on a number of lead roles as well as being in the chorus and other “behind the scenes” roles. Frank joined the committee in 1998; he was Chairman of the society from 2003-2006, and was then made an Honorary Life Member for his service and dedication. He continued to play viola in the orchestra until 2008, when he became a regular audience member until ill-health prevented him from attending. Frank will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of working with him, both on and off stage.



Awards!

It's great to dress up sometimes! Adjudicators from both NODA and Rose Bowl are invited to review our shows, and if they think that a show or person deserves recognition then they can make suggestions which are then put forward to a panel who decide on the nominations.

The NODA South West region covers from the Channel Islands and Cornwall up to Gloucester and over to Malmesbury, it's a big area! NODA only give awards to societies, not individuals. We are in District 10 which covers West Wiltshire and North Somerset, we have now won the District 10 Achievement Award three times on top of the NODA Regional Award for Excellence (twice). We have won at least one award every year for the past 5 years.

The Rose Bowl Awards, presented annually since 1963 and described as the 'Oscars of the South West' for the amateur stage, are open to any amateur dramatic or operatic club in Bristol and surrounding area including Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. We have won four Rose Bowls in previous years, and will know if we have won any of our three Rose Bowl nominations at the ceremony in Bristol on 21st October.



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That's about it for this edition. Please let us know if you'd like anything added into this newsletter for the future.

Claire Borovac

Chairman - TAOS Musical Theatre / Trowbridge Youth Theatre