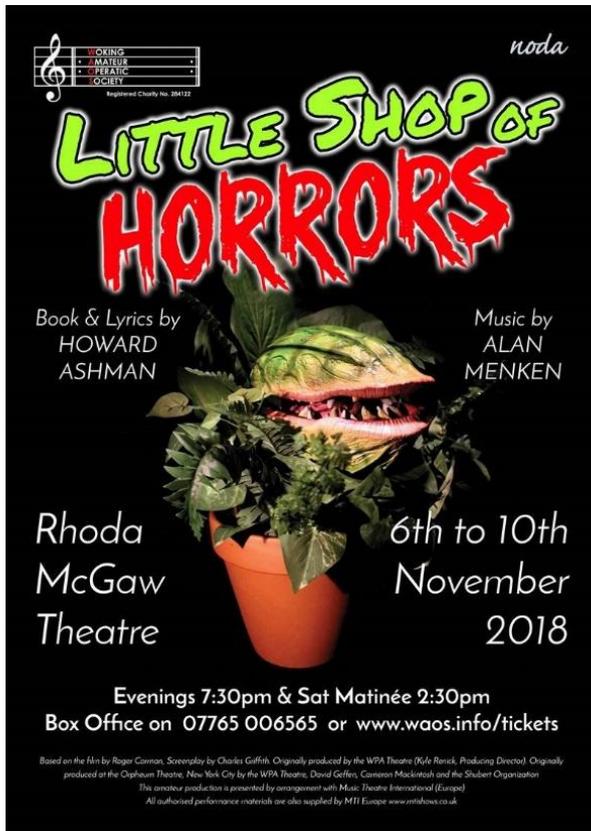


TOP NOTES

WINTER 2018



Well hello everyone! We are proud to bring you this long awaited issue of Top Notes. As usual, it's packed to the lighting rig with news, gossip and entertainment. Six months is a lifetime in the world of theatre and the WAOS bees have been extremely busy. Plastered proudly at the top of our page is the flier for Little Shop of Horrors, planting itself firmly in the Rhoda McGaw Theatre from 6th to 10th November. For tickets, please use the box office details on the flier. We're looking forward to seeing y'all there.

Don't forget that Top Notes always needs your contributions. So, 'budding' writers and funsters (pardon the pun!), email melaniemorrissey@hotmail.com with any ideas. We would love to hear about theatrical experiences, thoughts or perhaps reviews of shows produced by WAOS and our friends in other societies. Next Top Notes issue out February 2019.

WAOS dates for your diary at a glance:

Date	Event
6 th to 10 th November 2018	Little Shop of Horrors at Rhoda McGaw Theatre
11 th November 2018	Wartime Memories Reprise for Horsell Residents Association, 8pm at St Marys Church Horsell
19 th November 2018	Moll Flanders introduction night, Old Woking Community Centre at 19.45.
2 nd December 2018	Auditions for Moll Flanders
5 th December 2018	Entertainment for Horsell Care Christmas Party, 2:30pm at Horsell Evangelical Church
15 th December 2018	WAOS Christmas Party, Pyrford Golf Club – contact melaniemorrissey@hotmail.com to book your place. Cost is £32 for Hollywood-themed dinner and disco

What are our members up to?

Ongoing

Set building, painting and prop organisation continues monthly at the beautiful WAOS depot in Heather Farm. If you are available, please offer to help at the depot: training and support



will be given. Interested? Then, do contact mike.bartlett100@hotmail.co.uk for further information or just to meet up for a chat about opportunities.

July

After the AGM, we were delighted to welcome our new committee and say a special thank you to those who have stepped down: Gillian the outgoing Chair; Vicky the outgoing Secretary, Brian the outgoing Marketing man and Lisa as committee member. We now welcome a new Committee who can be contacted via membership@waos.info.

Thank you to all that came along to support me (Mel) in Taming of the Shrew with Pranksters at the Keep, Guildford Castle over the summer. My main memory of the WAOS audience was Sam telling me that my final speech made her want to 'punch that Shakespeare idiot in the face!' Best memory ever!



August 31st to September 1st



A great tradition is evolving as we are proud to have produced yet another WAOS fundraiser this year. Packed houses; fish and chips and a good



old-fashioned sing-a-long were the order of the day in this medley of war-time memories. Once again hosted at the Old Woking Community Centre, it is a pleasure to be working in conjunction with the OWCC committee to bring



music and laughter to the community. The audience were a merry band of young and old and it was wonderful to see the memories evoked for many of them. Thanks must go to WAOS members for

bringing together a fabulous evening. As a member of the audience, I was proud to hear lots of very positive comments about the quality of performances. Many people went away smiling and commenting on how much fun it had been. I thought personally that it was an engaging idea to embed the songs in a story around Brian's central character.



Beth (our Audrey from Little Shop) completed a sponsored walk in Goldsworth Park for the Stroke Association. She raised over £100. Well done Beth.

The WAOS Annual BBQ was held on 4th August at Keith's house. Thank you for hosting Keith. It was a wonderful chance for everyone to catch up.

Congratulations also go to Alex for 'Sister Act' with Simply Theatre. Many members will remember Alex's first shy performance in Buggy Malone. My, our boy has become a fine performer! Well done, Alex.

October

I'm sure many of you saw Sophie Coad at the Wartime Memories fundraiser drumming up support for her Frontline Walk Challenge. She managed to raise over £2,000 and we were so impressed and proud of her that we asked her to write about her experience.

Coad went for a long walk!



On 14th October I stood silent at the final resting place of the first and last British Soldier to die in WW1. A lone bugler played the last post, a veteran read the 'Ode to Remembrance' and we stood, a group of 100 people, tears silently flowing, reflecting on all we had seen over our 100k walk.

Some of us had a drink with the boys, prayed and left crosses; all in our own way, we paid our respects, after walking three days in their footsteps.

from 'Ode to Remembrance'

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

by Laurence Binyon



As a group ABF, The Soldiers Charity are not far off raising £1million to support our soldiers and those they leave behind.

So, thank you for your incredible support in helping to remember those who have fallen and to continue to support those in need.

If you would like to donate still, please go to :

<http://fundraising.soldierscharity.org/in-memory-of-all-who-served>

Written by Sophie Coad



Gillian and Greg Freeman have also been busy thespians at the Woking Drama Festival this month. What a team this wonderful couple make. You may also be interested to know that Gillian and Greg celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year.

Evan, mini WAOS member, is performing in High Society at Richmond Theatre at the end of the month. Along with his performances in 'Jesus Christ Superstar', rave reviews for his reprise of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and acting his way to other countries in the new year, we couldn't be prouder of him. Contact his mum Sonia Huntley-Robertson if you would like to pop along and see him.

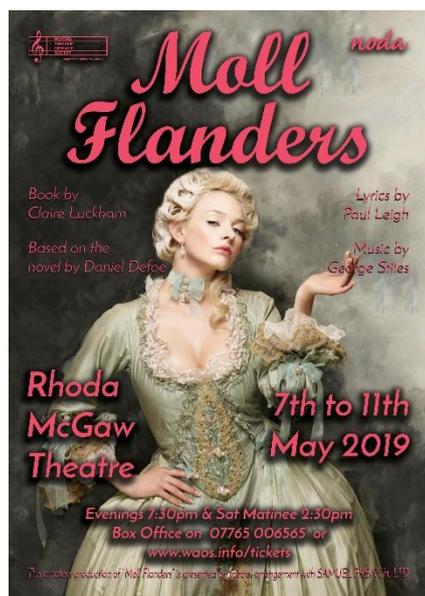
Coming up...

November

Bop along to 'Little Shop of Horrors' at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre.

Moll Flanders Introduction

Evening: Monday 19th November 2018



This is a great company show with lots of character parts for men and women. The main character Moll is on stage for most of the show but there is lots of performance time for everyone.

Auditions: 2nd December 2018

Show dates: 7-11 May 2019

Information will be available on the WAOS website at <http://waos.info/>

December

Julia Da Costa, WAOS member will be performing 'Electricity' from Billy Elliot at her university musical theatre showcase. If any members would like to see her in action, on 1st and 2nd December in Farnham, then ask Julia about tickets.

New member Jacob Beaver will be playing Mr Banks in Mary Poppins at his school this month. It's absolutely brilliant to have so many young members joining Woking and a pleasure to see how they develop into increasingly confident performers.



The WAOS Christmas party will be on 15th December at Pyrford Golf Club. It's a Hollywood themed event and there will be a three-course meal

and disco for £32 per person. There are still a few places available. Please contact melaniemorrissey@hotmail.com if you would like to join us.

And talking of Christmas...what better way to get in the Christmas spirit than heckling our SADS friends in their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk? Dates are November 30th, December 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th at Lancaster Hall in Send.



New Logo for WAOS

Sam MH has been asking members for ideas for a new WAOS logo. Please contact Sam via the Committee if you are interested in sketching out some designs.

Insight into Set Building

Not long after a show has been chosen and a Director "volunteered" into service. We start to think about what the stage will look like. This has to be developed in concept before we start rehearsal or there is a danger that direction has to be reblocked – something, of course, to be avoided at all costs; no director likes to reset scenes. Though there was this time...

WAOS nearly always builds its own sets for shows. Hiring them can be very expensive! We have built up quite a large amount of scenery that is stored at the depot at Heather Farm, kindly provided for us by Woking Borough Council and shared with Horsell Amateur Dramatic Society, Pyrford Little Theatre and Woking Lions. Having moved 3 times in not so many years, and invested in a mezzanine floor, above which we can store our extensive wardrobe and below all our props, we are hoping to stay here for the foreseeable future!

Sets are based on the use of "Flats" and "trucks". Flats are the canvas-covered or timber pieces of scenery that form backdrops and trucks are 'castored' units that can move (when the castors work – let's not mention Sweeney Todd! James, we promise they will work for 'Little Shop'!). We also have "rostra" which we can use to give us

different levels – anything from 6” to 6’. It may surprise you to hear that, even nearly 50 years after decimalisation, our set building has to be done in good-old feet and inches since, not only are all our large pieces of scenery Imperial sized, but plywood and hardboard are still sold in Imperial measurements. So much for being part of Europe – or maybe this was the Brexiteers’ subliminal weapon from the start!!

Building box sets on truck units means they can rotate to show differing scenes, even during action on stage. Many modern shows do this. It allows the set to evolve and revolve around the actors, keeping the action flowing without the distraction of curtains closing and opening and enabling the audience to appreciate the transition as part of the show’s progression.

At WAOS, there is a small but stalwart team of set designers and builders. I do a first design, turning the Director’s vision into something that can work on our stage, using our available materials. Then Mike G coordinates construction – making the design actually practical to build! Our amazing painting team, led by Lorraine, bring it all to life ready to dismantle everything in the depot and re-assemble it between 11am and 7pm on the Sunday of Get-In!

We are always looking for more help. I cannot do the set design for the show after Moll Flanders but would be happy to talk to anyone interested and Mike and Lorraine would love to handover some of



their many, many hours of toil in Horsell – particularly now the café has closed!

Please do come and talk to us. This is a great CV opportunity and we offer practical training.

Written by Mike Bartlett, Set Designer

Directors needed

Please contact us if you have ideas for shows that you would like to see performed by WAOS. Also,

let us know if you are interested in directing. We offer lots of support. If you are inexperienced or unsure about taking on an entire show, why not work with one of our established directors as an assistant before you take on a show of your own?

Contact information

Editor and suggestions for articles:
melaniemorrisey@hotmail.com

WAOS Chair, contact re directing, contact re chaperoning: loudsinger@hotmail.com

Contact re membership: membership@waos.info

Thanks go to:



Doreen and the Management Committee at OWCC for

ongoing support.

Thank you to all the helpers at the depot who have been tirelessly creating an exciting set.

Thank you also to the volunteers for FOH who have kindly agreed to help Martine and the team when ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ opens next week.



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