

Welcome everyone, to the next of our occasional newsletters. These are separate from the Director's weekly updates, which start once rehearsal season is underway. If anyone wishes to contribute, please contact Martin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2024

20th August: Autumn production, rehearsals begin.

15th September: Workshop Day

10th - 12th October: Autumn Production

20th October: Pantomime read through and dance auditions

3rd November: first panto rehearsal

2025: 31st Jan, 1st Feb, (week 1)

7th - 8th Feb (week2)

Panto production dates

Hello everyone,

Quizzers

We had a very successful production, it seems ages ago now, thanks to director Alan and all the cast. a review can be found overleaf.

Autumn Production

I'm delighted that last autumn's debut directors enjoyed (!) the experience so much that they are both back again this season. Thank you to everyone who came to the read throughs, both plays are cast and rehearsals are under way.

Wendy is directing "The Hen Party" and Mark is directing "Bride before a fall". Tickets are now on sale. dates as above.

Helpers: although we are cast, we do need help at the performances (front of house, bar, raffle) so if you can help for any or all of the dates please let Martin know.

Costumes:

Do you still have any costumes from the panto or summer production? Please bring them along to the read throughs if you do.

Open Day:

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, we are repeating the day on Sunday 15th September with six workshops suited for adults and three for children. For details, see the leaflet attached to the email.

You are welcome to drop in and out during the day as you wish. We are hoping that curious and casual adults will come to visit without any commitment. Existing members will benefit too, especially the second workshop which is all about **effective use of your voice**, and session 4 which is a masterclass in **how to approach or rehearse text for the first time**.

Pantomime 2025:

Are you interested in taking part? Do come along on Sunday 20th October either at:

2p.m. Dancers

2p.m. All non acting roles

3p.m. to read through the script.

at the end of which you will be invited to apply for any part(s) that interests you.

Clue to this season's panto: a few weeks ago I did drop a heavy hint that it might well be 'Victorian themed'. Events have overtaken since then, so the only clue you are now getting is that it is not anything along those lines.

[Amazon](#)

Always worthwhile reminding everyone: there is a link on the Society's home page (www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/) to Amazon's site. If you click on this link each time you shop at Amazon (assuming you do) then the society gets a tiny percentage of whatever you spend. Once you have clicked on the link you still need to log into your account as normal and the Society has **no way of viewing your shopping habits**, but we do get a contribution towards our funds. Every little helps, please try and remember to use this (and I'm an Amazon shopper and I am just as guilty about forgetting this!)

[Box Office:](#)

Sheila is doing a brilliant job and we now have a fully on-line Box Office in place to take much of the pressure away. We are using Ticket Source and you can see details of our productions here:



[Review:](#)

Another triumph from Ockley Dramatic Society

Alan Hardy's production of the two act comedy Quizzers by Geoff Bamber closely observes some wonderfully portrayed characters and their relationships with one another.

ODS's production featured a talented team of actors, from husband and wife team Martyn and Katie Peters playing the quiz obsessed husband Keith and his wife Lorna who kept him in place; their daughter Alison and her girlfriend Nic played by Vee Hardy and Chloe Wellman, planning their life together; the artist and well-known danger to women, Ross, played by Stephen Dallyn; Binny, a wacky London designer so well inhabited by Wendy Freeman; Stella, Nic's mum who has had so many husbands she's not sure exactly how many, portrayed by Tracey Hardy and Gary Herring playing an ex-con who managed to portray his character Rat as someone both in control through meditation and yet totally unpredictable.

So how did they do? This was the best of am-dram with convincing characters and stage presence, wonderful ad-libbing, and some great comedy moments – mostly intended! Stella's lovey-dovey phone message for her not yet divorced husband, was delivered with suitable insincerity. Keith's continually stressing to get 'in the zone' for the quiz reminded me of real people I have actually met, and Lorna's escape to find sanity in her 'temperature-controlled cultivation environment' was portrayed with generosity as she put up with her husband's quiz obsession. Delightfully, art met reality when she referred to Keith by his real name – but she handled it well! Alison and Nic were convincing as a couple planning their life together – focussing on the central place of their washing machine in their relationship. Binny was clearly delighted to fall for Ross's 'input' as he played the all too convincing roué, while Rat's portrayal of the ex-con was worryingly lifelike and seemed to suggest that the rest of the characters were naïve to trust him.

Mention should be made of the scenery and costumes: Keith's study was wonderfully un-cared for as befits a man who is no longer interested in his career and has become absorbed in quizzes to the exclusion of everything else. Each of the costumes enhanced the personality of the person they were playing. I wondered if there was a thing going on with shoes in the production: Binny and Stella wearing were red ones (you know the saying!) and Ross's multi-coloured footwear outshining even his dramatic stripey jacket!

Thank you, Ockley Dramatic Society for an excellent production.

Until the next time,
kind regards,

Martin

[Contact details](#)

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