

Stagers' Spotlight



February 2021

Chair's Message

Welcome to the first Spotlight of 2021. I had hoped that a new year would bring with it more certainty and opportunities for us to get back on the stage sooner rather than later. However, things are still unclear and despite the great work the NHS is doing rolling out the vaccine, it is hard to know at this point when we will be back to doing what we love.

Whilst we have postponed the February One Acts we still hold out hope that we will be able to put on Honk! in some form but until we hear more from the government we will not be able to make any decisions. We have therefore decided to postpone the next committee meeting until the first week of March when we should hopefully have more information to inform our discussions. Following that meeting we will look to update you all in Spotlight as usual, so keep an eye out for the next issue.

You will see later in this issue that we are sadly saying goodbye to a well-loved member who is off to pastures new and I for one would like to thank Bernard for everything he has given to the society. He brings such gravitas to all the roles he embodies which has made his performances 'must-see' and our stage will be a poorer place without him on it anymore.

However things progress this year, it is lovely to see the strength and connection of the friendships made through Stagers and how they are helping so many of us to deal with these challenging times. This is a very special society and if things are hard for you at the moment please reach out to someone, as I know there are many friends ready and willing to help you, all you need to do is ask. Joe



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Reminder: One Acts postponed

Just in case you haven't seen the email that was sent out to the membership, this a quick reminder: Unfortunately, the committee, in consultation with the three directors of the chosen One Act Plays, decided we had to cancel the February performances.

We hope that it may be possible to do something later in the year so keep an eye out in future Spotlights for more information



Missing Live events?

Here are a few links to some live shows on the internet. BBC Radio2 celebrated musical theatre all weekend 29-31st Jan, listen again on BBC sounds

[Top 20 Musical Numbers](#)

[Listen to Musicals](#)

[Shows on -line](#)

www.broadwayhd.com/

[Globe Player | Shakespeare's Globe](#)

[Cirque du Soleil](#)

[National Theatre at Home \(ntathome.com\)](http://NationalTheatre.atHome.com)

[Full Musicals on-line](#)

<https://stage2view.com/>

<https://www.wisearchildrendigital.com/>

Committee News

Areas of Responsibility

Just as it requires people working on stage, behind the scenes and front of house to stage a production, there are many tasks which must be addressed by the main committee and other members to ensure the smooth running of the Society.

Grayshott Stagers has three sub-committees and several positions of responsibility, which you have probably heard detailed during the reports at our AGMs.

You can see the **members of the Committee** on our website and over the next months you'll get to know them a little better via Spotlight.

Our three sub-committees cover Musical and Play Selection and Publicity.

Musical and Play Selection Sub-committee This is to maintain a list of musicals and plays suitable for future production by the Society, to produce a short list of musicals or plays from which the main committee will select and to assist the main committee in the choice of director and musical director.

Ellis Nicholls currently leads the sub-committee for Play Selection and we have a vacant position for the Musical Selection coordinator

Publicity Sub-committee The aim is to take every opportunity to promote Grayshott Stagers' shows and events to the membership, the public, local groups, societies and organisations as well as by our mailing lists. To design, print and distribute handbills and posters, utilise all social media and send press releases to local papers. To organise photo shoots and trailers.

Peter Budd co-ordinates this sub-committee.

Amongst the positions of responsibility are those of Social Liaison Officer and Wardrobe Custodian.

Social Liaison Officer, currently Martin Sims, to work with individuals and organisations to ensure that social events planned by the main committee (e.g. a pre-Christmas get-together, sadly not possible last year) have any venues booked and other necessary arrangements made.

Wardrobe Custodian This is to ensure that costumes are stored and maintained appropriately and are readily available when required by Wardrobe for any particular show. They liaise with other societies or individuals who may wish to borrow or hire items. This role is now shared between Mary Coyte and Laura Musco.

If you feel you would like to help in any of the areas mentioned, have any ideas for future social events or perhaps have thoughts on plays or musicals you would like to see performed by Stagers, please go to our website where contact details are posted.

Jennifer Charters

RESPONSIBILITIES

Musical Selection sub committee

Vacancy

Play Selection sub committee

Ellis Nicholls

Publicity sub committee

Peter Budd

Social Liaison Officer

Martin Sims

Wardrobe Custodian

Mary Coyte and Laura Musco

Membership News

We are delighted to welcome Helen Phillips as a new member of Stagers.

Many of you will have seen Helen acting with other societies and we look forward to her appearance in our productions as soon as possible.

From one accomplished actor to another but on a sad note:

We were very sorry to learn that Bernard Whelan is leaving the area to move to Nottingham, to be near to family and for his wife Elizabeth to receive the most appropriate care.

Bernard joined Stagers in 2013 as a member of the cast of "A Laughing Matter". He has since delighted both audiences and those sharing the stage with him with his excellent portrayals of a variety of characters in several of our One Act Plays and in other productions, including "The 39 Steps" and "Quartet".

Writing at the time when we thought this year's 'One Acts' would be able to go ahead, Bernard sent his best wishes for them and added: "In past years the whole build-up to them, the rehearsals, then the performances, with the audience guzzling away happily, have been wonderful experiences and I will be sorry to miss them." He also happily remembered working with a variety of directors and the warm welcome given to him by the Stagers when he first joined.

Bernard and Elizabeth have been staunch supporters of Stagers over their time with us and we wish them all the very best for the future. We will miss them