



DAODS Newsletter: Issue 5

It has been an up and down month in the world of DAODS. On the positive side, we have returned to the Hall with our first live performance since lockdown with Stars In Their Eyes (see page 3), and have started some really exciting runs of our next Orchard Theatre show, Shrek (see page 4). Sadly however, we have had to say goodbye to a dear friend, DAODS' longest serving member, Betty Knott (see page 5). A performer through and through, and unofficial understudy to every leading lady, Betty will be greatly missed, and I, like many of you, feel honoured to have worked with her.

Alex F

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News...

Congratulations to Rebecca Bartlett. Earlier this month, Harry took her away on a spa break in Kent, and just



before dinner on the first night popped the question! They have been together for six and a half years, but it was still a complete surprise. Everyone at DAODS sends their love to you both.

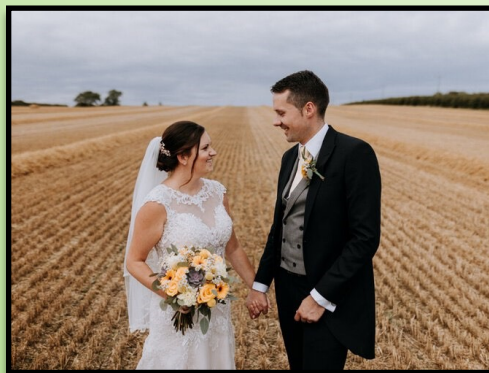
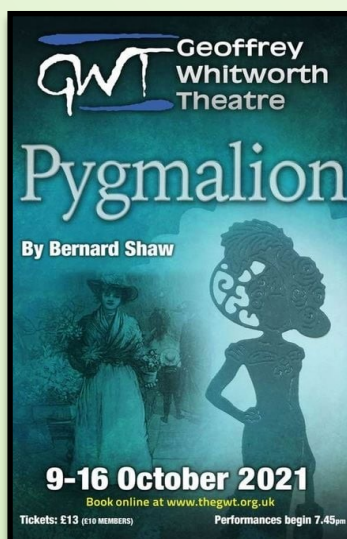
We are very excited to be putting on Shrek this month, but would like to make sure that the society as a whole understand that there are some very strict Covid measures at the Orchard Theatre in order to keep the everyone safe and the show running. The cast and crew are a separate bubble to the audience, and as such will not be able to meet anyone in the Orchard after the show. If you are meeting friends and family afterwards, please make sure that you do so outside of the theatre to ensure we are following the rules and keeping everyone as safe as possible.



It's not only Shrek that is showing local am-dram coming back in style. The

Geoffrey Whitworth is running Pygmalion, the George Bernard Shaw

play that is the basis of My Fair Lady, from 9th-16th October. It stars our very own John Woodley as Henry Higgins and is directed by Hello, Dolly! Director Sheila Arden! Tickets are available at their website www.thegwt.org.uk.

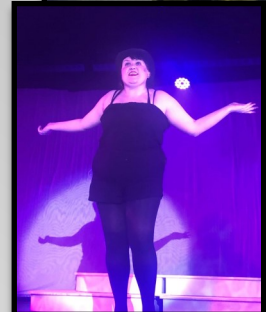
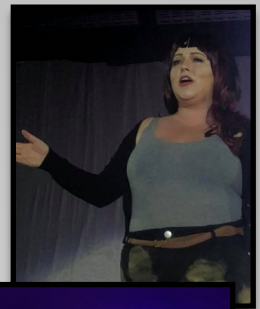
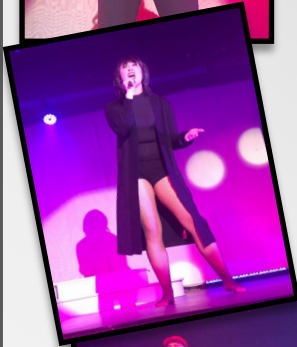
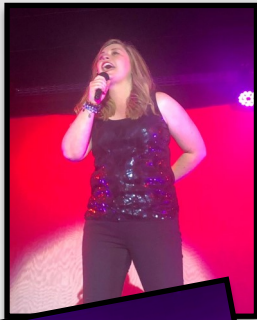


On 29th August this year, we saw the wedding of Hannah and Jack. It took place at the beautiful venue of the Ferry House Inn in Kent. Hannah's DAODS roots were on show with singing waiters at the reception and a wonderful time was had by all. Everyone at DAODS sends congratulations to the happy couple.

Stars In Their Eyes



September saw the first DAODS Stars In Their Eyes competition at the Hall. Hosted by John Woodley, eight acts transformed for us, and it was equally brilliant and hilarious. Rebecca Bartlett, Lily Turner, Ella Walden and Meg Walsh (with a virtual Hannah Fox) took the trophy with a fantastic performance as Sive, with Heather and Keely's Elton John and Kiki Dee, and Luke and Liam's PJ and Duncan tributes filling the runner up spots. Congratulations to all, and thanks to Meg and her team for a great evening.



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all of our members born in October!

Terry Allen
26th October

Zoe Humphryes
5th October

Keely Brown
30th October

Amy Cooper
24th October

Katie Dennis
9th October

Alex Campbell
3rd October

Steve Trill
5th October

Rebecca Coker
19th October

Sam Mason
31st October

James Lockwood
13th October

Ross Clark
12th October

Chloe Kenny
17th October

Christina Brunner
1st October

Aron Lipscombe
19th October

Shrek Rehearsals



Following the longest rehearsal period in the history of DAODS, we are on the final stretch building to our next Orchard show, *Shrek: The Musical*. Tickets are selling really well, but we would love to make this a sell out show so please keep pushing it to friends and family, and if you don't have tickets yet, then get in there fast!

Here is a selection of photos from some of our recent rehearsals. We're really proud of the show we have put together and can't wait for you to see it!

DAODS PRESENTS...

DREAMWORKS

SHREK

THE MUSICAL

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig
Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire **Music by Jeanine Tesori**
 Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

20th-23rd October 2021
 DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE 7.30PM, SAT MAT 2.30PM
Book online: orchardtheatre.co.uk
 noda **Ticket office: 01322 220000**

DAODS PRESENTS

I want...

...A musical revue that captures the wants and desires of theatre favourites

24th - 27th NOVEMBER 2021
 7.30PM. TICKETS: £12. UNDER 12S: £8
 HEATHFIELDS HALL, DARTFORD DA1 2QH
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DAODS-ONLINE

Betty Knott

DAODS has been saddened this month to lose its longest serving member, Betty Knott. A member of the society since the 1950s, Betty was a joy to work with, and for many years ran Betty's Box Office, selling thousands of tickets for the society. She will be sadly missed, and members have been sharing their fondest recollections of her.



In Anything Goes, Betty played a lady in a wheelchair. Every rehearsal I would follow her around the stage mopping up behind her wheelchair as if she had had an 'accident'. She didn't know until a friend told her after opening night! I was duly summoned to her dressing room for what I assumed was a telling off. Instead, she presented me with a bottle of bleach and asked me to 'do the job properly'.

Alex Freeman

The funniest moment I had with Bettina Notovia (my nickname for her, due to her thrill whenever chosen to dance) was our stage right exit in Music Man into the blind spot in front of the main tabs in error where we had to stay without giggling till the end of the next scene!

Margot Gwin



A great performer, up for anything. I remember blowing her up in our Witches scene. She said "I can't believe you're blowing me up" I asked if she'd ever done that before and she said no. I just said I was honoured that after all her years on the stage I could give her a new experience. Such a gem

Jonathan Hughes



My favourite Betty cameo was coming on stage during Dave's solo in The Producers in full Orchards front of house costume to clear up after him—and receiving applause every night!

Alex Campbell

Betty knitted a hat and scarf for Jack (who is now nearly 15). When I saw her a few days ago and spoke about Jack she still remembered him. She had a wonderful giving heart and she loved her teddy bears.

Louise Brown

She was better at deadpan than Jack Dee, and that's saying something. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

Dave Kerry



Singing in the choir at our wedding, and again at our Silver celebration in 2007 - so much part of our family life, dear Betty.

Jean Hook

She was a very kind person with a strong love of Terry Wogan, my Terry she would call him. She could be quite funny at times and I felt sad for her as she realised that her performing days were over.

Terry Brett



The best kisser in DAODS!

John Woodley



I will always remember fondly our chats and visits to the harvester and the competitions we had on who could get the most salad in the bowls from the salad bar - I think Betty normally won.

Jackie Knapp

We had an in joke where I would buy her Winnie the Pooh gifts. This was because she had a very dishy doctor who she fancied and was mortified that on one occasion she jumped on to the bed to be examined with her hair and makeup done especially, only to realise she was wearing Winnie the Pooh socks!

Julia Bull



Fast Five

A quick five questions with a DAODS member. This month we are speaking to Sarah Brundritt—part of our fab trio of little pigs in Shrek!



What is your favourite musical?

Waitress. I saw it on one of the first nights I was out on Broadway 5 years ago. I loved it so much I went back later that week and have seen it twice in the West End.

What part would you love to play?

I've always wanted to be Linda from Blood Brothers.

What is your favourite song from a show?

It would have to be Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story - the beauty of wrapping up a show in one song brings goosebumps just imagining it!

What's your funniest on stage moment?

I wasn't on stage but was follow spot operator on Singin' In The Rain and accidentally decided to play 'Spot the Techie' during a scene change - it made the audience chuckle!

What show would you love to see DAODS do?

I'd love to see DAODS take on Something Rotten - a bit like Shrek, it takes the mick out of other musicals but it's set in Shakespearean America .

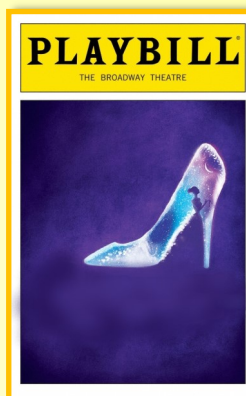
Games

As we visit the fairy tale land of Shrek, this month, I want you to identify some more shows with a fairy tale basis. As ever, answers to Alex Freeman on Facebook Messenger, text, WhatsApp, or through the DAODS email address.

Thank you to all of last month's entries and well done to our caption winner from last month, Patrick Walsh—

"There are lots of things you will find around Heathfields Hall that we have kept, in some cases for several decades. Even though they may be looking a little tired now, we find that they still function perfectly well.

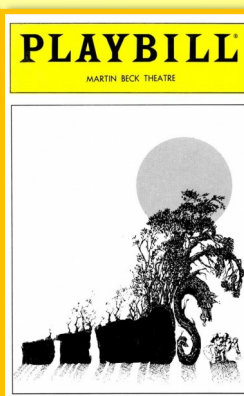
Also in the picture, you can see a collection of extension cables"



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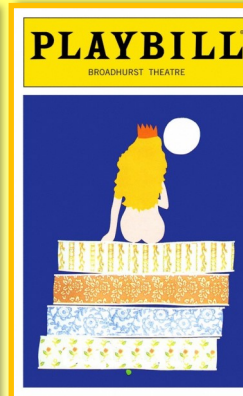
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