

CODSWALLOP!

AUGUST 2022

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

CHAIR'S
NOTES

NOTICES

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Contact details for the committee are available via :

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com



CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT: LOUISA NELSON-CHAMBERS, GUY FILLMORE, SHARON PICKLES, LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CODS WEBSITE

CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

CHAIR'S NOTES

12 Weeks to go before **PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** is performed at The Queen's Hall Theatre in Cranbrook. It is a huge show with so many components to it, that bringing them all together is a nightmare for Annie, our Director, but she is soldiering on like the trooper we all know her to be. The sheer volume of dances and songs and the pace of the show is "relentless" to steal Annie's phrase. But the dances are shaping up under the watchful eye of Chrissie Smith, with Melody Rose and Sarah Hutchings. Music is being taken in hand by Ian Harby with Annie helping and guiding vocals. The Diva's are becoming Divas and the lead trio are finding their paths on their journey to magnificence, with myself helping out as acting coach.



This foot stomping popular show will be bursting with theatrical "High Camp" fun and colour. We expect audiences to be dancing in the aisles and singing-along to the fantastic musical anthems. **TICKETS** are now on sale from our online website (<https://linktr.ee/cranbrook>) and our local box office will be set to sell tickets shortly! Look out for email, Meta, Twitter and Instagram updates.

CODS membership is still growing, with more members joining to take part in our Priscilla production. And long may this upward trend continue! We are encouraging this trend with our future choice of productions, and the word is getting out how friendly CODS is.

This year I have been focusing on CODS looking to schedule their seasons well in advance. I believe this is particularly necessary as we no longer have our much missed and previously appreciated stage and set construction teams. As a result we have developed new approaches to stage management. We have refined a number of roles of which the Committee has stepped up to take on the role of Producer and Production Team, which leaves our Director(s) free from shouldering all of the responsibility. Our SM role now means we only require them for the last 3 weeks of rehearsal and for show week, to call the show and help with scene changes, get-ins and striking the set. This change should then appeal to more people who now need only commit for 4 weeks, rather than the whole duration of rehearsals and show week. This worked perfectly for us in Vicar of Dibley and will work well with Priscilla.

And the upshot of reviewing and making space to implement or try out changes is that we can now advertise in advance what our shows will be (all going well) a year in advance. This benefits CODS who can factor in certain production requirements, and also our potential cast and audiences alike. Performers now know in advance what we are doing and can decide what shows they want to be in. We certainly have a variety of genres which should appeal to cast and audiences alike. There should be something there that grabs attention. And hopefully our shows will appeal to more potential audience members.

2022 - Christmas

We are absolutely thrilled that Charlie and Jamie Barnett are writing and directing this year's Christmas show. Charlie went to Cranbrook school and was a member of CODS for many years before going to Drama School. He has written numerous plays which have been performed by local groups and schools. You may well have seen some of Charlie and Jamies' short films on the internet and on Meta. Charlie is a local performer and we are very happy that he is taking the time to provide CODS with a new and fresh Panto for us.

CHAIR'S NOTES

2023 - Spring - Blackadder Goes Forth

Again we are really pleased to welcome Katie Kember who will be making her directorial debut with CODS on a show she has wanted to direct for a while. Again Katie was with CODS when she was a junior. After she returned from university and started work, and when she found some spare time she re-joined CODS a few years ago appearing in *Scrooge* and a number of other shows. Katie also sits on the committee.

2023 - Musical - Made in Dagenham - The Musical

And finally the committee has invited two new directors into the CODS fold, Wendy Thomas and Angela Wright. Although they are new to CODS in a directing capacity, they are far from new to CODS having performed over time in a number of productions over the years. We again warmly welcome them and look forward to their show.

We will be looking at our Christmas Family production for 2023 early next year, so who knows what surprises we will have in store for our audiences. But I believe CODS return to live theatre and intended productions are wide ranging and engaging. We naturally hope this is reflected in audiences coming to see our productions and cast wanting to be in our shows. What I can say is we will continue to bring productions to our audiences to the best of our abilities.

Since the end of lockdown and our productions Dick Whittington, The Vicar of Dibley and soon to come, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and a new Panto, we will have had two returning Directors, a CODS Veteran and two newbies. And next year we will have new directors for two of our shows. This shows that CODS is encouraging and giving directors an opportunity to fulfil their dreams and share in our great facilities.

REMEMBER...

cods.secretary@gmail.com. This is the email address you need to send any suggestions and ideas for both productions or social events. Social eventing is something that we need to reinstate and get people involved in.

In general we are always look for volunteers and helpers for the following areas:

- Behind the scenes support - crew members, including stage managers, sound & lighting techs and choreographers - *send an email and let us know that you are interested. We will contact you when a production is due.*
- NODA Technical Training Courses are available, join CODS and use that outlet
- We need set and scenery builders and transportation help.
- If you like being on stage, acting, singing or dancing

If you have *any* suggestions let your committee know and we can discuss them at the next monthly meeting. We are friendly and inclusive so come and join us

Until the Next Time - Lou :-)

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

TICKETS FROM [TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CODS](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cods)

Sponsors: Cranbrook Farmshop and Nursery and Peter Jones (Opticians) Ltd
CRANBROOK OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY
pridely and proudly presents:

26 - 29 OCTOBER 2022

QUEEN'S HALL THEATRE
CRANBROOK



PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT
the musical

Presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by TRW
Theatrical Rights Worldwide, 122-124 Regent Street, 5th floor, London W1B 5SA. www.theatricalrights.co.uk

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

SYNOPSIS

Based on the smash-hit movie, PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT is the heart-warming, uplifting adventure of three friends, Tick, Bernadette and Adam, a glamorous Sydney-based performing trio who agree to take their show to the middle of the Australian outback. They hop aboard a battered old bus (nicknamed Priscilla) searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they ever imagined. With a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and a hit parade of dance floor favourites including "It's Raining Men", "I Will Survive", "Hot Stuff", "Boogie Wonderland", "Go West", "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", and "I Love The Nightlife", this wildly fresh, colourful and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS!

CAST

Adam (Felicia)	Lead – young man - drag artiste	Alistair McGowen
Bob	Lead - Older male	John Wright
Bernadette	Lead – Older male – transexual	David Richardson
Tick (Mitzi)	Lead – approx. 40s – drag artiste	Steve Bowen
3 Divas	Female singers	Charlotte Fillmore, Megan Grebbell, Alison Withey-Harrison
Miss Understanding	Compere in nightclub – drag artiste	Steve Saunders
Cynthia	Bob's exotic wife	Mims Dawson-Reilly
Frank/Jimmy	Prejudiced thug/tour guide	James Harper
Marion	Tick's wife	Monique Syred
Country Boy/Pastor		Max Chesters
Farah	Drag artiste	Dylan Bryan
Young Bernadette	Dream sequence	Rebecca Evans
Shirley/Singer	Bar owner	Louise Franklin
Benji	Son of Tick	Harry Colthart, Jemima Syred
Ensemble	Chrissie Smith, Dylan Bryan, Dawn-Theresa O'Bryan, Laura Carter, Max Chesters, Melody Rose, Nicola Luck, Rebecca Evans, Sarah Hutchings, Sharon Pickles, Steve Saunders, Beatrice Gareze	

If you would like any further information about the show please get in touch:

annie.hatch33@gmail.com

**This show is full on, colourful, vibrant and exciting.
Come along and join us on a journey to the heart of fabulous!**

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL



Rehearsing Priscilla....



NOTICES

DIRECTORS NEEDED FOR OUR DECEMBER 2023 SHOW

We are always thinking about the next CODS productions.

We need ideas for shows, starting with the 2023 pantomime .

Please get in touch with your ideas!

CODS 2023 SEASON

CODS is happy to announce that we have decided upon two of our three productions for next year;

Blackadder Goes Forth in the Spring and

Made in Dagenham in the Autumn.

We will be looking for a director for our 2023 Christmas slot next year.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Members are invited to contribute to the Newsletter by sending in their comments, jokes, ideas, opinions, recipes, tips etc., to **CODSWALLOP** at cods.newsletter@gmail.com. Depending on the response, we are thinking about creating a Section called **MEMBERS CORNER**.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Presidents

Maurice Wilkins & Rita Wilkins

Vice Presidents

Bernard Beardsmore, Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright,
Dinah Chamberlin, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,
Peggy Latter, John Tapper,
Ian Wookey, Marian Cumberland

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Louisa Nelson-Chambers

Vice-Chair

Sharon Pickles

Business Manager

Guy Fillmore

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Committee Members

Annie Hatcher, Alison Withey-Harrison,
Kaz Kember, Katie Kember, James Harper

WE ARE YOUR COMMITTEE

If you have any questions, suggestions or want to know more about CODS contact us either by Facebook Private Message or Email us at CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Chair
Louisa Nelson Chambers

Vice Chair
Sharon Pickles

Business Mgr
Guy Fillmore

Treasurer
Glyn Roberts

Alison Withey-Harrison

James Harper

Kaz Kember

Annie Hatcher

Katie Kember

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Wardrobe Mistress

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Lee Hatcher

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Jackie Barker, John Tapper, Annie Hatcher, Sharon Pickles

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THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read?
Please contact your CODSWALLOP Editor

Lee Hatcher:
tel: 01580 388716

or email: cods.newsletter@gmail.com

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU
want to see in CODSWALLOP, let me know!



WELL DONE TO THE CAST AND CREW OF OUR RECENT PLAY

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

HERE ARE A FEW PHOTOS—MORE CAN BE FOUND AT:

CRAMBROOKODS.ORG.UK/VICAR-OF-DIBLEY



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022**