

CODSWALLOP!

OCTOBER 2021

DICK
WHITTINGTON

PANTO SET
BUILDING

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

SPRING 2022
PLAY

NOTICES

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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT: LOUISA NELSON-CHAMBERS, PENNY TOBIN, 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

It's great knowing that CODS is back and has a show in rehearsal. It's been almost two years since our last production, *Treasure Island*. And nineteen months since we last had a production in rehearsal! This year's panto is *Dick Whittington and his Cat*, which is being directed by Linda Russell. Linda was a member some years ago and we wish her a warm welcome on her return.



There has been a change of production for our Spring show, originally scheduled as *Arabian Nights*, directed by Joanne Reader. Rehearsals had to stop as a result of the pandemic and due to a combination of things we won't be producing this particular show, but I am sure we will see Jo in the Director's Chair in the future.

I am really happy that we are announcing our new Spring production later in the Newsletter. I can assure you it is a popular comedy that will have many rolling in the aisles and should bring much joy and merriment to both audiences and performers alike. We will be arranging an Information Night and Auditions in November and we will cast it before Christmas, ready for a January rehearsal date and performances in early April. I am really thrilled to be the Director on this show and I'm looking forward to the start of rehearsals. More news to follow!

So what's going on in the World of CODS Committee?

Well the committee's agreed its new constitution and it is now available to view in the public area of our Website. We are reviewing our show fees (fees are variable based on the production). Fantastic news for existing and new members! We are REDUCING our subscriptions by over half inline with the normal situation that people may be members of several societies and groups. Whose primary drive is taking part in productions & concerts that appeal to them. One of the great things about CODS is that we produce three shows a year and have great facilities and get to perform all our shows in a Theatre. So there should always be something appealing to everyone in the year! We produce - One Panto, One Spring play and One Musical - that should cover many bases for most people. Not to mention the social things in between. Our October 2022 production is *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. This will be an amazingly vibrant, fun and extravagant musical offering, with plenty of roles, plenty of colour, plenty of music and plenty of drama! We dare you not to want to get up and sing!

Things to look out for this year:

We are always looking for new members and people to help us for each production. If you are interested in being behind the scenes - crew, sound, lighting, building sets, doing production admin work, organising things - contact us, by completing our online Contact Form on our webpage. If you like being more on stage or directing, choreographing, acting, singing or dancing contact us. We can support you in many ways. Again, complete our online Contact Form. If you have ANY suggestions, plays, concerts, quizzes, email: CODS.secretary@gmail.com. Everything will be brought to the committee to discuss.

Panto performance Dates are 28 to 31 December (27th is our dress rehearsal)

Until the Next Time

Lou

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT



DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT

If you are a CODS supporter/member and fancy getting back on the stage for some fun and frolics then you are very welcome to join our ensemble cast. We perform on the fabulous stage at the Queens Hall Theatre (Cranbrook School) and rehearse every Monday and Thursday evening from now until the end of December. Show dates are 27th December (dress rehearsal) with performances from 28th to 31st December. It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun (Oh yes it is!) with plenty of group singing and dancing.

We are still putting out a call for backstage crew, including sound, and oh yes, we can always make use of a extra hands to help paint the set and install it.

We are also in need of some chaperones to widen our existing numbers. We have some wonderful young members strutting their stuff and enjoying every minute of it. We just need a few more chaperones, or parents who would like to support the show. Please email CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Cast

Queen Rat	Michaela Adam
Dick Whittington	Flora Wynn-Carter
Idle Jack	Max Chesters
Sarah the Cook	Mark Jeffery
Alice Fitzwarren	Sarah Hutchings
Fairy Bow Bells	Rebecca Evans
Tommy the Cat	Eva Wilson
Alderman Fitzwarren	Matthew Sims
Captain Cuttle	Peter Ashby
Sultana of Morocco	Julie Aitken
Queen Neptune	Margaret Jones
Gnawbone	Evelyn Kite
Gnashfang	Poppy Wood
Chorus	Lauren Lane, Mischa Wixley, Freya Wilson, Ryan Marriot, Isla Marriot, Lola Mahoney, Demi Robinson, Isabel Lucas, Ogo Coleman, Megan Evans, Tahnee Pereira, Maia Hives

DICK WHITTINGTON SET BUILD/PAINTING

I have designed a simple set for Dick Whittington which utilises many existing flats but which will need much painting and adjusting to suit the plans.

The Gang of lovely chaps who have always built our sets is now sadly depleted and I am asking very nicely (pretty please) whether any of you lovely people would be able to come to Flishinghurst where we build and paint our sets, and help me to manhandle flats and do a bit of sawing and nailing as well as some 'painting by numbers' as I simply cannot do this on my own. The Flishinghurst site is a little way down Chalk Lane (A turning to the left between the Willesley roundabout and the Peacock pub on the road to Goudhurst – A262) postcode TN17 2QB. The gates say Flishinghurst Woodyard.

I have a few days available when I am not working over the forthcoming two weeks and would be eternally grateful for anyone who could rock up for an hour or two between 10 and 1 (or whenever anyone is free), and wield a paint brush or a hammer. It will be simple stuff so bring the family (but not in their party clothes).

If you could let me know whether you'd be able to help I can organise jobs to be done.

Annie – annie.hatch33@gmail.com 01580 388716 or 07876501760

Many thanks in anticipation of the hordes of you who will come along!

Tuesday 19th October	10 – 1	Organise flats, paint everything white
Friday 22nd October	10 – 1	Add shapes to flats and begin painting
Sunday 24th October	10 – 1as above, lets see how it goes.....
Tuesday 26th October	10-1	
Friday 29th October	10-1	
Saturday 30th October	10-1	
Sunday 31st October	10-1	

OUR SPRING 2022 SHOW...

Our new Spring Production will be *The Vicar of Dibley* directed by Louisa Nelson Chambers
Watch out for more information shortly

CODS Spring Production

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

AUDITION DATES

Monday tbc Nov 7:30
QH Room
Read through script

Thur tbc Nov - 7:30
Auditions at PAC

Show Dates April
2022



The stage play written by Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter
adapted from the original TV series by Richard Curtis and
Paul Mayhew-Archer. By kind permission of Richard Curtis &
Tiger Aspect Productions & supporting comic relief.

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
October 2022

**Here's all you need to know about our next musical -
Watch this space for news about Auditions**



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

7 female, 9 male, and 1 boy featured roles

Opportunities for featured casting in the ensemble.

Adam (Felicia)	Lead – young man - drag artiste
Bob	Lead - Older male
Bernadette	Lead – Older male – transexual
Tick (Mitzi)	Lead – approx. 40s – drag artiste
Jimmy	Local (originally Aboriginal character) any age
3 Divas	Female singers, good voices, able to hold a line
Miss Understanding	Compere in nightclub – drag artiste, any age
Cynthia	Bob's exotic wife – sings and does a 'turn' with ping-pong balls!
Frank	Prejudiced thug, any age
Marion	Tick's wife 35/40 ish
Farrah	Drag artiste – any age
Young Bernadette	Dream sequence - sings
Shirley	Bar owner – any age - sings
Benji	Young boy – son of Tick – under 12 years
Ensemble	Male and female - these appear in many of the songs, lots to do!

Many of the drag queen vocals can be lip synced, some can be sung, depending on casting.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Most numbers are group songs - if the drag queens are singing, they are usually accompanied by the 3 divas who are major players.

There is lots more work for the ensemble in the stage show than in the film and this is the main draw for the cast.

You'll see from the list below that it's all rather stylised and the company turn up in most musical numbers.

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

Here is a list of who sings what:

It's Raining Men	Company
What's Love Got to Do With It	Miss Understanding and Divas
Don't Leave Me This Way	Company
Venus	Company Felicia (Adam)
Go West	Company
I Say a Little Prayer	Tick and Divas
I Love the Nightlife	Company
True Colours	3 Queens
Sempre Libera	Adam (Felicia)
Color My World	Company
I Will Survive	Company
Thank God I'm a Country Boy	Company
A Fine Romance	Young Bernadette
Shake Your Groove Thing	3 Queens and Divas
Pop Muzik	Company
Girls Just Want to Have Fun	Felicia (Adam) /Divas
Hot Stuff	Queens and Divas, then Company
MacArthur Park	Queens and Divas
Boogie Wonderland	Company
Always On My Mind	Tick and Benji then Company
We Belong	Company
Finale	Company

Dancing requirements and difficulty - this will be adjusted according to the abilities of those cast. Dancing can be as simple or as complicated as necessary.

Possible Crew – Would you like to be involved?

I will need a stage manager, a production secretary, a MD, a choreographer as well as crew for set building, sound, lighting, wardrobe, wigs, make up and props – though I've already had lots of enthusiastic volunteers for some of these roles. Please get in touch if you'd like to help -

annie.hatch33@gmail.com

Sooooooooo exciting!

Annie x

NOTICES

FLISHINGHURST HELP

The set build and painting for our next production will no longer take place mid-week, but is moving to the weekends, which will be more accommodating for members to provide help. It is now essential for members and non-members to volunteer and step forward to help build our next sets. Sadly, our Flishinghurst gang have now (mostly) retired. We are urgently calling out for volunteers to help with our sets. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

FLISHINGHURST KEYS

Could members who have any keys for Flishinghurst please let us know? Contact Annie via email annie.hatch33@gmail.com

CODS STILL NEEDS AN ARCHIVIST

We would love someone to take over the organisation of CODS' archives. We have 100 years of information, most of which has already been filed in plastic boxes. Posters and photographs of shows from the past few years however are waiting to be added, and we need someone who can continue to keep our records up to date. If you are interested in helping with this please get in touch. It would be lovely to have a society member getting involved.

Contact: cods.secretary@gmail.com

HALL MANAGER

In charge of locking up the theatre after performances, which is much more involved than that may sound! Maurice has retired after many years on the committee and in his various roles (what will we do without him?) We wish him all the very, very best and thank him for his many unstinting years of devoted service to CODS. If anyone is interested in this role please contact via CODS Secretary. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

NOTICES

CODS PRESIDENT(S)!

Bernard Beardsmore has decided to step down as CODS President. Bernard has been a member of the society since the 1960s, appearing on stage, serving on the committee at various points and being a long standing member of the 'Flishinghurst Gang'. He remains a Vice-President and will, no doubt, still have lots to offer the society.

Taking on the presidential role we welcome, we think, our first joint Presidents; Rita Wilkins and Maurice Wilkins! Both are already invaluable to CODS in many roles and will be the perfect Presidential pair.

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, Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,
John Tapper, Ian Wookey, Marian Cumberland

Executive Committee

Chair

Louisa Nelson-Chambers

Vice-Chair

Sharon Pickles

Business Manager

Guy Fillmore

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Committee Members

Annie Hatcher, Penny Tobin,
Alison Withey-Harrison, Andy Clarke,
Kaz Kember, Katie Kember

Contact details for the committee are
available via :

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Officials of the Society

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Wardrobe Mistress

Sharon Pickles

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

John Tapper

Newsletter Editor

Lee Hatcher

Independent Examiners

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

Trustees

Marian Cumberland, James Hanaway, Glyn Roberts,
Jackie Barker, John Tapper, Annie Hatcher

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

Lee Hatcher:

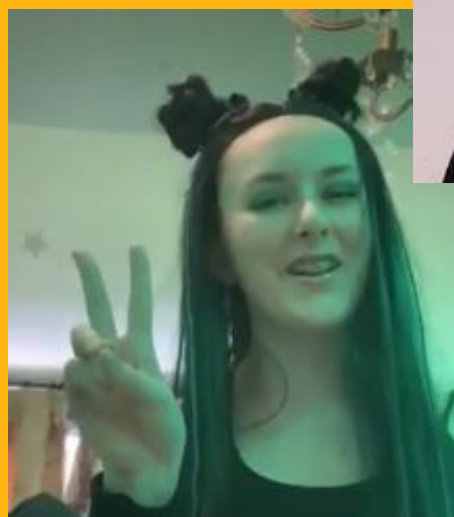
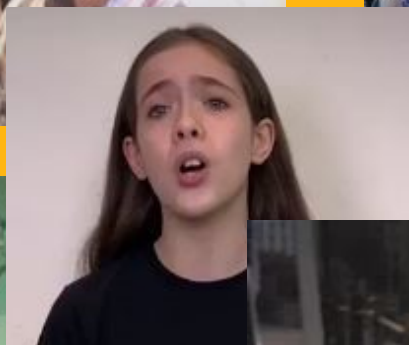
tel: 01580 388716

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!



GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR VIDEOS FROM LAST YEAR & MUCH MORE
CRANBROOKODS.ORG.UK/CODS-2020-LOCKDOWN



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2021**