



CODSWALLOP!

DECEMBER 2020

THE RADIO
PLAY DISASTER

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

ARABIAN
NIGHTS

CHAIRMAN'S
NOTES

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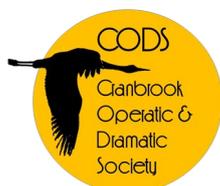
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CODS WEBSITE

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Hello Luvvies and Techies,

As I write this we have been shunted into Tier 4 and our Christmas holiday will not be as we expected. I do hope that you are all managing under these worsening circumstances and that, if you need us, you will not hesitate to get in touch with one of your CODS family. Please let us know if you need anything and if there is anything we can do to help you.



As far as future productions are concerned, there is very little to report in my chairman's notes. We still hope to stage the Sing 100 Concert, Arabian Nights and Priscilla as soon as it is safe, practical and financially viable to do so. We will let you all know any information including possible dates as soon as we can.

In the meantime, the Kent Drama Association has initiated a Radio play festival which we intend to enter with a comedy entitled 'The Radio Play Disaster'. This has scope for many actors and plenty of differing roles. It will be rehearsed and recorded on Zoom and is a chance for you all to flex your am-dram muscles once more. Andy Clarke will be shrugging off his dame's frock and directing this new venture, so please have a look at the article later in CODSwallop for a list of characters, a synopsis and details of how to get involved.

I have several other pieces of news with which to update you, some happier than others.

I am sure that you will all have heard about Maurice's awful cycling accident, six weeks ago, which has resulted in two broken bones in his neck and a lengthy stay in hospital. He is presently safe at home, under the watchful eye of Rita. Although he is doing really well, it will be a long road to full recovery and I'm sure he would be happy to hear from friends. Maurice has sent us this message: 'Thank you for all the lovely messages of friendship, hope and goodwill from all my friends in CODS. I'll be thinking of you the same as you are of me and I hope to join you all as soon as I can. Maurice'

Sadly, we have heard, this week, about the death, from Covid, of one of our longest serving members; Peter Gray. Peter was CODS' stage manager for many, many years. Our costume store in the Queen's Hall Theatre was built using a generous donation from Peter and was named 'The Gray Room' for him. We send our sincere condolences to his family and friends. John Tapper has kindly written a few lines about Peter which you will find later in CODSwallop.

In other, much more cheerful news, you will all no doubt be happy to hear that the wonderful Louisa Nelson-Chambers has agreed to be Vice Chairman of CODS, until the AGM in March, whereupon she will take over as Chair of the society. Louisa will make a marvellous chair and we can all look forward to exciting new ventures under her leadership.

We have struggled through our centenary year with very little to show for all our plans and aspirations. I am sure that we will begin our second century in style when we all meet again on the other side of this dreadful pandemic. In the meantime, please stay safe and strong and look after one another.

Let us all raise a glass and toast our absent friends this Christmas.

I wish you all the happiest of New Years ... it has to be an improvement on this one!

Annie x

KDA RADIO PLAY FESTIVAL 2021

The Radio Play Disaster

What happens when an egotistical producer/director gets together with a bunch of dysfunctional actors to put on his 'masterpiece'... well what could possibly go wrong?

So, naturally, we're looking for a bunch of dysfunctional actors to make this play the disaster it really deserves to be.

Ideally, we need 5 dysfunctional men, 5 dysfunctional women and 3 dysfunctional others but, quite frankly, we don't mind either way.



**THE
RADIO PLAY
DISASTER**

Don Zolidis

Andy Clarke is going to be 'directing' Don Zolidis' ***The Radio Play Disaster***, as CODS' entry to the KDA Radio Play Festival 2021 - and believe me, it will be.

Fortunately, Andy will be assisted by the non-dysfunctional and very capable Penny Tobin ... so at least there's some hope!

If you're truly interested in ruining your chances of ever performing again then please contact Andy directly.

The dysfunctional script can be found by following this link:

<https://www.playscripts.com/play/4123>

Auditions will be held in the second week of January and rehearsals in February for a March recording. All via Zoom.

You have been warned!

Andy Clarke - andyclarke1964@gmail.com

KDA RADIO PLAY FESTIVAL 2021

The Radio Play Disaster

Synopsis

Self-proclaimed genius Harlan Bean is ready to make history with his science-fiction radio masterpiece *Battle of the Planets*. But when the broadcast is in the hands of an ambitious actress with her own vision for her character, several terrified last-minute replacements jumping in, and a disgruntled sound engineer out for revenge, the mayhem in the studio makes an alien invasion look like a piece of cake. Radio goes hilariously off the rails in this flexible piece.

Cast List

HARLAN BEAN, the host, and genius behind *Battle of the Planets*.

MAX, the stage manager. Highly stressed and overworked.

TRIXIE FLANDERS, running the sound effects. She's a professional, but has creative differences.

OTIS SHERIDAN, playing the reporters. Very nervous.

SAMANTHA POWERS, playing the role of Dr. Mary Landrieu. An ingenue. Not terribly bright.

LARISSA JACKS, playing the assistant to Dr. Mary Landrieu. Wants a larger role.

SIR BRINSLEY CATAMOUNT, playing the roles of Cletus and Delilah. Strong British accent.

JOSIE O'CONNOR, playing the role of Josephine Maxwell, a reporter. Chews the scenery.

ADRIENNE LUCAS, playing the role of General Brianna Armitrage. Extremely nervous.

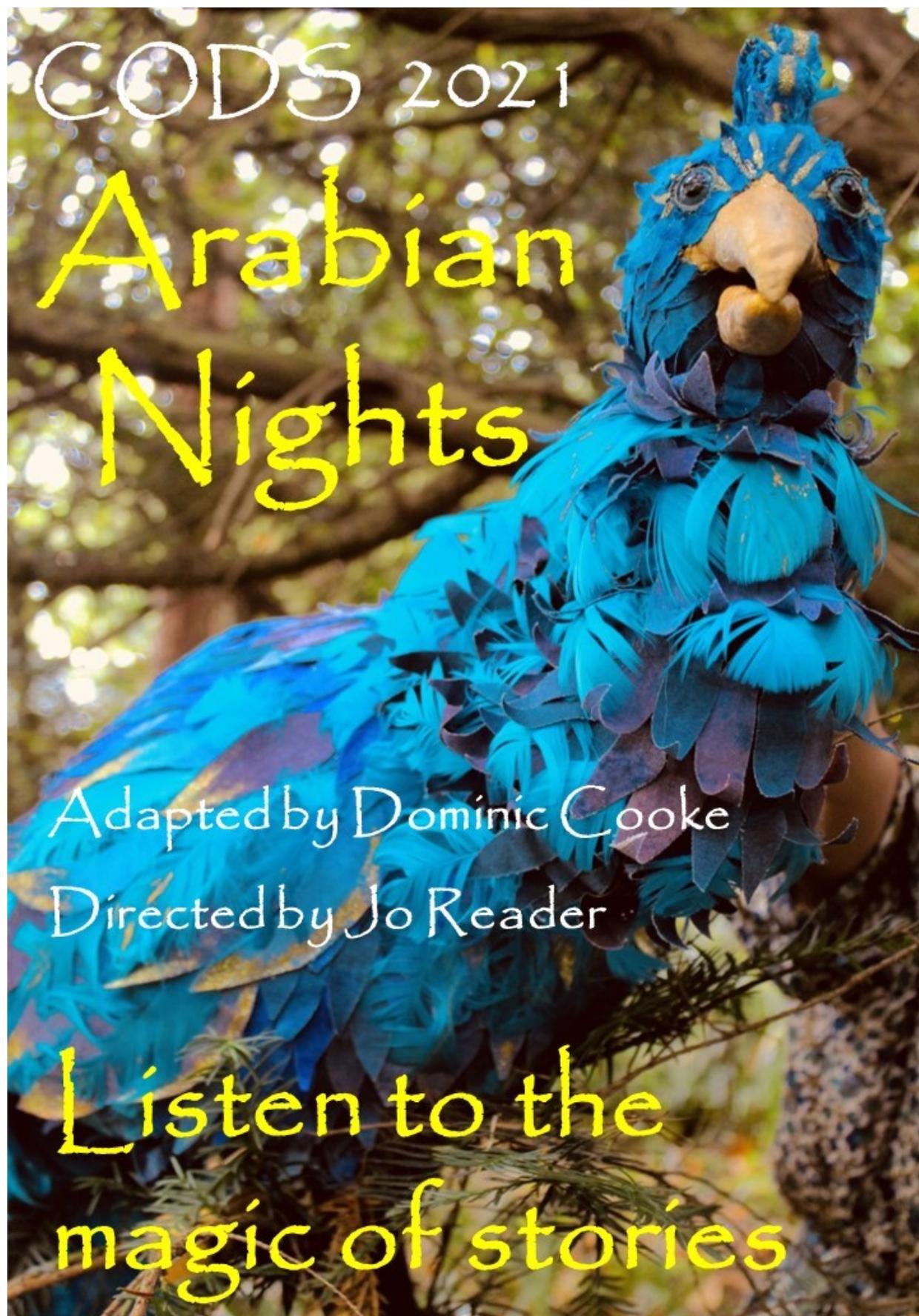
TONYA BRISTOW, playing the role of Patricia Dunbar, mayor of Elmo's Corners. Has her own vision for her character.

BRANFORD BRISTOW, Tonya's husband in real life, and playing the role of Tomothy Dunbar. A terrible actor.

MARIA SPUMANTE, playing the role of Press Secretary Tabitha Minions. Deathly ill.

FURIOUS HAMSTER, stunt-casting for the walk-on role of a soldier. This is his big break.

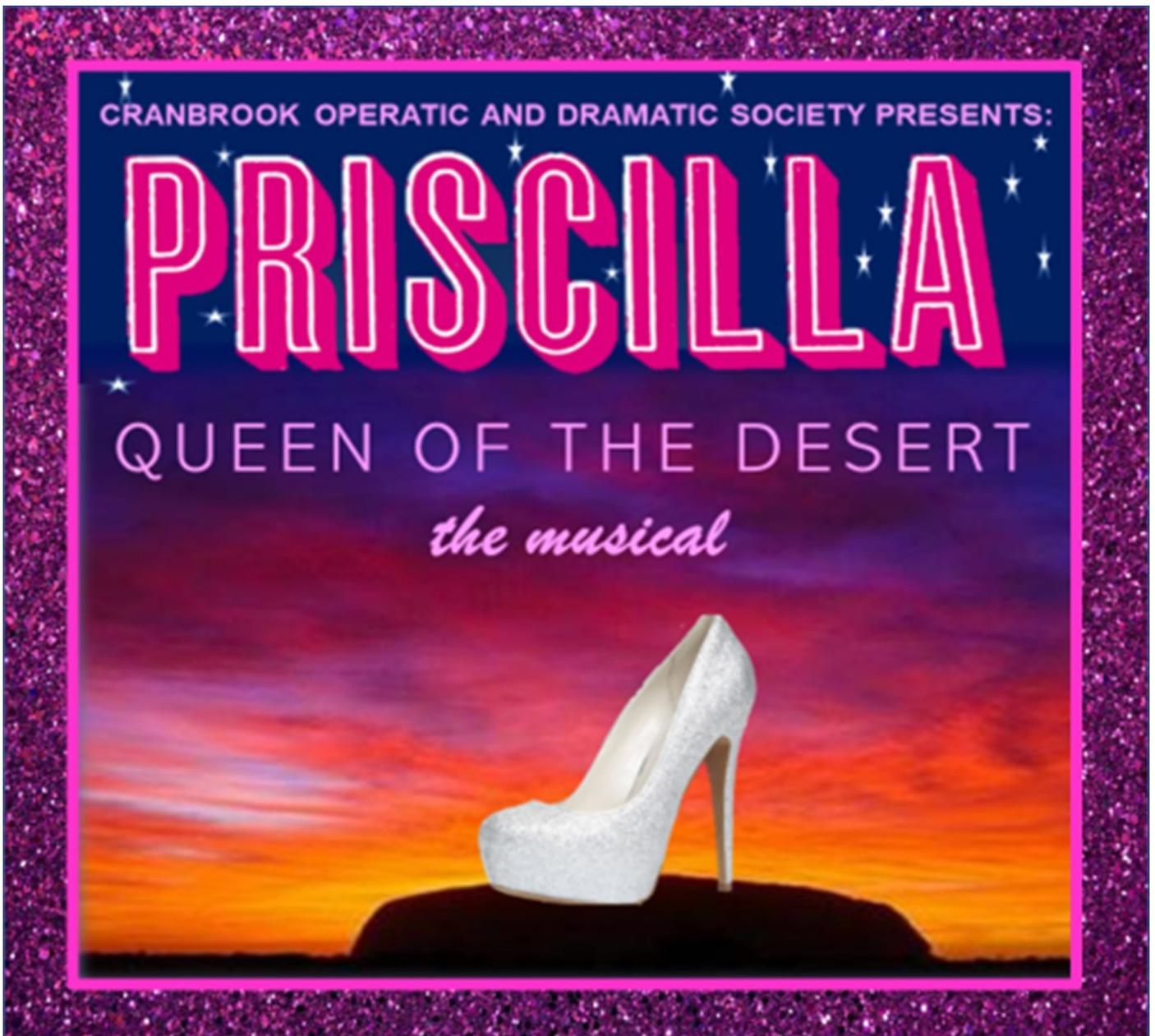
ARABIAN NIGHTS - PUPPET PREVIEW



PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
(dates tbc)**

**Here's all you need to know about our 2021 musical -
Auditions next Spring**



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 – transsexual
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 Thai 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

A MESSAGE FROM HATCH....

We are still seeking a person or persons to take on one or more of the roles that I currently fulfil for the society. It would be great to get people in place, ready for when CODS will inevitably get back to rehearsing and performing - the sooner the better on all counts!

I have discussed this with the rest of the committee and have decided that I will be stepping down from the committee and stepping back from my other roles within the society. I will definitely leave the committee at the next AGM but could leave earlier if someone comes forward to take over as the Honorary Secretary.

So would you like to take on any of the following roles?

Honorary Secretary - you would need to be part of the executive committee. The role includes; Support the committee in all its deliberations, assist other committee officers, promote the society, secretarial support - including taking minutes and sending out agendas for committee meetings and AGM, maintain membership list. Issue guidelines and duties to show directors, send out newsletter to members, invite VIPs to productions. Co-administrator of ticketsource website.

Props Master. Responsible for our props store at Flishinghurst. To either help a shows props person, or be the shows props person. This person to get a props list from a shows director, discuss this list with the director go through the store to source props along with borrowing, purchasing or having made any other props, discussing any costs. Also to be available at least for show week (possibly also earlier rehearsals) to organise props for each rehearsal and show, handing them to cast members or placing them on set.

Programme Editor. In discussion with director and others, organise content of the programme (via MS Publisher or similar). Forward to director and committee for ongoing error checking, agree number to be printed and forward MS Publisher and all other files to printer to arrange printing and delivery.

Newsletter Editor. Agree deadlines and release dates with committee (mainly chair) request content (committee and members) and organise via MS Publisher or similar. PDF version to committee for error checking/approval. Once approved PDF to Hon Sec (if different person) to email to membership. Hon Sec or Editor to print and post newsletter to snail mail members.

Lee Hatcher - Honorary Secretary

NOTICES

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

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

FLUSHINGHURST HELP

CODS relies on 2 or 3 long standing members to build the scenery for all of our shows, at all times of year, in all kinds of weather. They work really hard and are all well past retirement age. They need much more help and we need other people to learn how to build sets for us. They currently work on Fridays but with enough help they could also work on other days. Can you help?

Without these chaps our scenery wouldn't exist, or it would be very expensive!

Let us know if you can help and when you can help. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

PETER GRAY

I first met Peter Gray in 1975 when I joined the cast of the chorus of *The Wizard of Oz*. He seemed to me a most dominant figure, totally in charge backstage, and with a whole set of local rules which we actors transgressed at our peril! I was to get to know him much better over the years, and he was a fine Stage Manager and became a good friend, and I much respected him for his commitment to the CODS.

Chatting to Dennis Russell, he told me that Peter had asked him to design the set for *Oklahoma* in 1989 and they both worked closely together until Peter retired from the CODS. He says he always found Peter 'awkward' as he had a very clear idea of what he wanted and did not compromise! However he added that Peter was a wonderful Stage Manager and carpenter whose heart and soul was in the job.

He became a familiar figure in Cranbrook after Judy's death when he moved to Hartley House and went around on his 'buggy' chatting to anyone who had time to listen. He will be much missed.

John Tapper

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Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin,
Peter Gray, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,
Peggy Latter, Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,
John Tapper, Maurice Wilkins, Ian Wookey
Marian Cumberland, Rita Wilkins

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Vice-Chair

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Guy Fillmore

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Lee Hatcher

Board Secretary

Jane Hurt

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Social Secretary

Jane Hurt

Committee Members

Bryan Hurt, Penny Tobin, Alison Withey-Harrison.
Sharon Pickles, Andy Clarke,

Contact details for the committee are
available via :

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Telephone - 01580 388716

Officials of the Society

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Wardrobe Mistress

Sharon Pickles

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

John Tapper

Chaperone Co-ordinator

Jackie Barker

Newsletter and Programme Editor

Lee Hatcher

Independent Examiners

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

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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!



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CODS FRIENDS....
GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR VIDEOS FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR AND
MUCH MORE

CRAMBROOKODS.ORG.UK/CODS-2020-LOCKDOWN



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FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY 2021**