

CODSWALLOP!

AUGUST 2021

FLISHINGHURST
TIDY
14TH AUGUST

DICK
WHITTINGTON

JOAN
FADE

ARABIAN
NIGHTS

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

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CHAIR'S NOTES

We are really excited that CODS is gearing up for its first production since 2019! Can you believe our last production was Treasure Island over a year and a half ago? We have not been idle as we took part in the KDA's first Radio Festival. Which we hear, will also take place along with the annual Play Festival in 2022!



I do hope you will pass on the fantastic news that we are returning to 'Live' Performance with auditions being held over the weekend of 4/5 September for 'Dick Whittington and His Cat'. More news on that will be available on Facebook. Linda Russell will be directing, ably and happily supported by Sharon Pickles. Please come out in force and make this first production a gem of an experience. A real celebration.

We are absolutely desperate for you to come and join us as we need, and want your skills both in front of the curtain and behind it. Contact us and put your name down for the following roles:

Prompt, Stage Manager and Assistant, Lighting and Sound, SET BUILD and back stage crew. We want the show to be a riot of colour and fun and we need you to come along one weekend and help us build and paint Annie's fantastic design. Please contact us via cods.secretary@gmail.com or on Facebook and put your name down for one of the roles. Moving forward we will be embarking on a few Set Build workshops which we hope you will take part in. More details to follow in due course over Facebook. This will be fun, 2 hours, where we can embark on seeing what goes into building stage sets, and where we can build a small item. It will be fun and can be your first introduction to joining the backstage team.

Here's to us moving into a new phase, and wishing you all good health.

Louisa

FLISHINGHURST TIDY - 14TH AUGUST

SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

FLISHINGHURST CLEAN-UP AND SOCIAL EVENT.

A MESSY AND FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

COME ALONG FROM 10.30AM

FOLLOWED BY CHEESY CHIPS AND A DRINK AT A
NEARBY PUB GARDEN

(FIND OUR FLISHINGHURST STORES AT : CHALK LN, FLISHINGHURST,
CRANBROOK TN17 2QB)

JOAN EADE (1930 – 2021)

There is an old saying, “They don’t make them like that anymore.” Nothing is more truthful when writing a few words about Joan Eade. Joan was truly one of a kind; vivacious, bubbly and talented.

Jenny and I first met Joan in 1984 when we came to live in Biddenden and were introduced to Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society (CODS). She became not only a good friend but also a very interesting person to know. Over a period of nearly 37 years, we had the pleasure of acting with Joan and her husband Roy who predeceased her. No matter what the challenge, Joan was up for it and always gave 100% to everything she was involved with.

Back in the 1980s when Geoffrey Grinstead, a member of CODS, started the Showtimers pantomime group, Joan was one of the first to support this new venture and with her acting, singing and comedic talents; she entertained hundreds of families over many years.



‘With One Look’ – Sunset Boulevard (a February Concert)



Geoffrey Grinstead and Joan Eade



‘Anything Goes’ - 2007

One of the things I remember about Joan is that you only had to walk into a rehearsal and you’d know that she was there. Her laughter used to echo around the room and it seemed to bring a lightness to even the most stressful occasions. Looking back, I will never forget the times we used to pick Joan up for rehearsals and the, often, zany conversations we had about the production, politics, people and the past, present and future. With Joan you were never short of something to talk about and thus, between us we put the world to rights, all in about twenty minutes being the time it took to get to Cranbrook and at least twice a week!

JOAN FADE (1930 – 2021)

As well as her love of amateur drama and musicals, Joan was also an accomplished water colour artist and happily spent time painting the things she most valued in life.

I am sure there are others who knew Joan longer than we did who could tell you more about her life with Roy and her two daughters, Jan and Sally, but for us, the passing of this lovely lady leaves us with wonderful memories of a person full of fun but also a person who had a serious side that was demonstrated by her concern for others. Rather than worry about herself, she worried about people in need and would go out of her way to help if she could.



In Panto with Melinda Carr



Backstage with Barbara Gray



With Jeremy Cartwright

Joan was unique - her contribution to local drama and singing will be remembered for a long, long time. For Jenny and I it was a pleasure and privilege to have known her. If I can use an adaptation of a famous Sinatra song, "Joan did it her way" and we're all the richer for that.

Mike & Jenny Caridia

As a new member to CODs, I tentatively went to my first concert rehearsal, not knowing anyone. However, I was lucky to sit next to a friendly and welcoming lady who introduced herself as Joan. One of the numbers we rehearsed I was unfamiliar with, and my new friend said with a chuckle, "isn't it awful, I hope we are going to sing something more tuneful!" We did! Over the years I learned from Joan that you don't have to have the best voice in the world, "It's how you put it across dear," and Joan was a master at that. 'Stepping Out' and 'We're a Couple of Swells' are particular memories I have of a wonderful warm hearted and fun lady. Her last musical, Sondheim's 'Follies' in which she sang 'Broadway Baby' was Joan at her supreme best. I will miss her and feel privileged to call her my friend.

Angela Woodcock

JOAN EADE (1930 – 2021)

'Joan' has always been 'Mrs Eade' to me and I have known her since I was a teenager. Although not a member of CODS back then, I endeavoured to never miss seeing a production. Her first performance with CODS was in 1981 in 'Cowardy Custard', which I did not see but I vividly remember watching 'Outside Edge' in 1983 and being intrigued by the 'new' member, her incredible acting skills and brilliant comedic timing. A short time later, I was unknowingly introduced to her younger daughter through St. Dunstan's Church Choir and subsequently went for tea at Sally's home; there in the kitchen was the same amazing woman I'd seen on stage at the Queen's Hall – I felt star struck! A family friendship then ensued of which I am so fortunate to have many happy, valued and grateful memories. Throughout her time with CODS and Showtimers, I always hoped that Mrs Eade would be in the 'next' production due to her ability to 'light up the stage' in whatever role she played.



'Outside Edge' - 1983

Since 2000, I have enjoyed varied experiences with Mrs Eade on stage. Many of these were the February Concerts and, since we both lived in Tenterden, I often drove Mrs Eade to rehearsals. Having discussed any new 'favourite discoveries' from Waitrose, shared what the day/week had brought (Mrs Eade would have been to poetry class, art class, Tuesday Singers, walked into town or have news about Sally and Jan...) we would run through lines of songs, singing our way to Cranbrook – she was always word perfect unlike me! Other 'serious' discussions were possibilities for costuming ourselves for forthcoming concert numbers with Mrs Eade dreading the prospect of having to wear, "...one of those AWFUL T-shirts!" Journeys home would, no doubt, involve an analysis of how ready (or not) we all were for the forthcoming performances!



A February Concert



With Maurice Wilkins – a February Concert

JOAN EADE (1930 – 2021)

Rehearsals were always brighter if Mrs Eade was in a show; her flamboyance, energy and enthusiasm exuded the minute she walked into the hall and her personal panache shone out with sparkly tops, leopard spot scarves, carefully selected matching jewellery - not to forget her statement headwear. She made a very good spokesperson too, not being afraid to state how she felt about some decisions!



**In rehearsal for 'Follies'
(TODS 2019)**

In latter years, although not being on stage with CODS, Mrs Eade was regularly a 'Front of House' volunteer, often beside one of her very close friends – Louise Dixon. Her welcoming and naturally persuasive persona led to her selling more programmes or ice-creams than any others! However, her appearances on stage had not stopped; she continued to perform, now closer to home with TODS, with her 'number finale' being a very fitting, show stopping 'Broadway Baby' in 'Follies', aged a mere 89 years! So much of Mrs Eade's love of life was linked to Musical Theatre...

I feel that the photographs in this tribute to Mrs Eade show what sparkle, empathy and talent she was blessed with as well as a beauty inside and out. We have lost our 'Pearly Queen', 'Pantomime Prima' and a 'Supreme Talent'. Mrs Eade will be sorely missed but how fortunate we are to have so many happy memories of a magnificent woman.



**Pearly Queen, Lambeth Walk –
'Not Strictly Shakespeare' 2010**

Charlotte Fillmore



**Panto Prima –
'Nobody Loves a Fairy
When She's Forty'!**



**Supreme Beauty and
Talent – with Geoff
King**

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT

PANTO IS BACK – OH, YES IT IS!

Cranbrook's Charity Christmas production 2021 will be a pantomime favourite for all the family - **'Dick Whittington and his Cat'**.

After a dark centenary year, during which all our planned celebrations had to be cancelled, Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society is back with all guns blazing and excited to announce the first show of our second century.

'Dick Whittington and his Cat'
will run in the Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook,
between Christmas and New Year 2021,

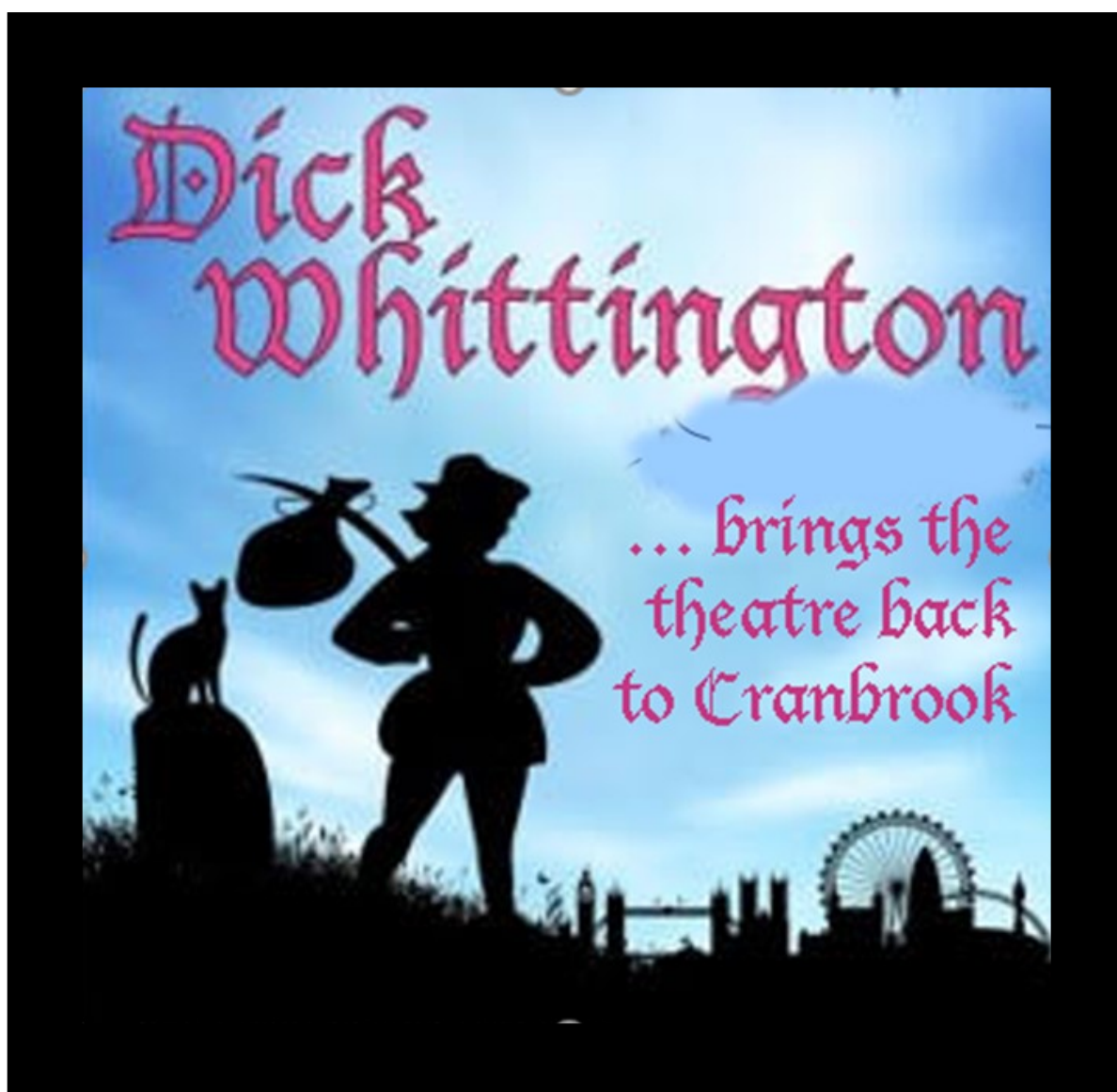
If you know anybody interested in any aspect of theatre, we are recruiting new members and would love to hear from them. We are a wide and diverse bunch from all walks of life, and we welcome members of any age or ability; whether they want to act, dance, sing, or get involved backstage, building and painting stage sets, helping with costumes or props, assisting the lighting and sound teams, or greeting our audiences.

As Louisa said in her Chair's Notes, we are desperately short of people to help build and paint scenery for Dick Whittington and subsequent productions. Please keep an eye out for details of weekend workshops.

If you are interested in appearing on stage, audition dates for Dick Whittington will be 4th and 5th September with possible extra dates the following weekend. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday evenings from September 20th at Cranbrook School.

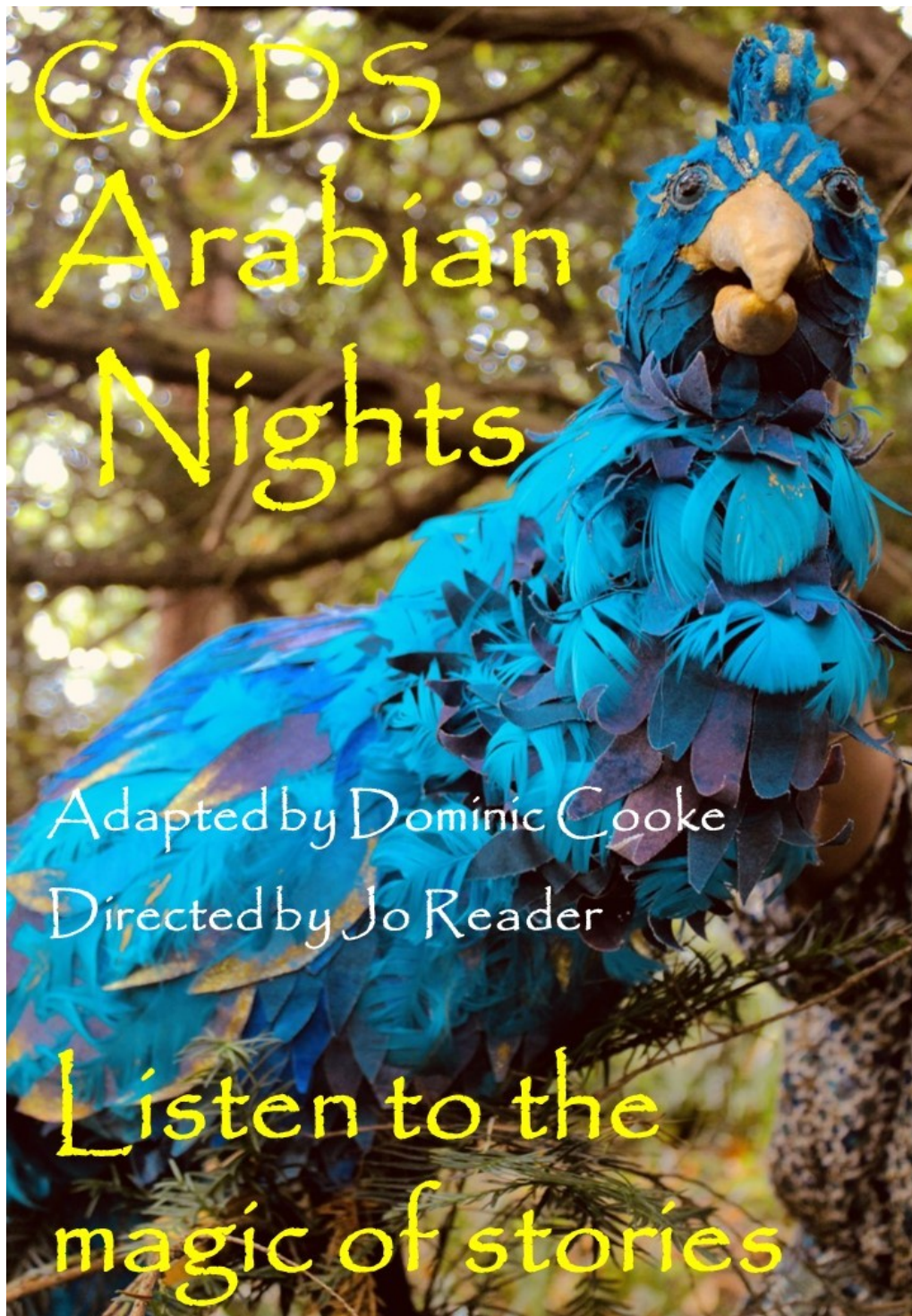
DICK WHITTINGTON

We will be auditioning on the 4th with a read-through of the play in the first with adults. Children and adults will be called early afternoon with audition pieces. These audition pieces will be made available shortly on Facebook. Please do keep an eye on facebook.com/groups/cranbrookods for these details and timings for 4th and 5th September.



ARABIAN NIGHTS

Our Spring 2022 play is due to be Arabian Nights, postponed from 2020. We will be working over the coming months to plan how to bring this spectacular show to the Queens Hall Theatre stage in 2022. Watch this space for news on dates, any recasting etc. In the mean time we have one of our puppets from the show below and details of the stories and characters of Arabian Nights!



CODS Arabian Nights

Adapted by Dominic Cooke
Directed by Jo Reader

Listen to the
magic of stories

ARABIAN NIGHTS

There are 70+ characters of various ages which can be played by a company of about 18 actors or more (the script says a minimum of 9). Ages are flexible and every actor has to double up. Below is an outline of the scenes and characters.

Frame story – Shahrazad, Dinarzad (her sister), Vizier (her father), King Shahrayar, headsman, Queen, jester, slave, bride, company.

The Story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves – The thieves are played as a chorus, becoming the horses, the cave, the treasure inside. (reversible cloaks) Kasim is cut in to four pieces.

Characters - Shahrazad, Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Ali Baba, 6 thieves, Captain, Kasim (Ali's brother), Ali's wife, Kasim's wife, Marjanah the clever slave-girl (performs exotic dance), druggist, Baba Mustapha (poor cobbler), Ali's son.

The Story of the Little Beggar – comedy with slapstick death routine, singing and a tambourine, choking on a fish bone and comedy hanging scene.

Characters -Shahrazad, Beggar (must be able to fall over/tumble/perform slapstick/be agile), Tailor, Tailor's wife, passers-by, Shahrayar, Dinarzad, maid, doctor, doctor's wife, steward, merchant (drunk, urinates, fights), watchman, chief of police, King, hangman.

The Story of Es-Sindibad the Sailor – Es-Sindibad the Sailor tells the story using a puppet of his younger self. Company create images and characters using masks, models, objects, and puppets.

Characters -Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Shahrazad, Es-Sindibad the porter (sings), page, 3 wealthy merchants, 2 male servants, 2 slave-girls, Es-Sindibad the Sailor (uses puppet), company.

How Abu Hassan Broke Wind – the tale that finally makes King Shahrayar laugh.

Characters - Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Shahrazad, Abu Hassan (must be able to mime a huge and deafening fart), marriage broker, bride, uncle, aunt, preacher, fakir, friend, foe, King, girl, mother.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

The Story of the Wife Who Wouldn't Eat – A gruesome tale of a flesh-eating wife and sorcery. Sidi 1 tells the story and Sidi 2 acts it out in flashback – they are identifiable as the same person by distinctive items of the same clothing. Some audience participation.

Characters - Shahrayar/ghoul, Shahrazad, Dinarzad, Sidi 1, Sidi 2, Amina/horse, Haroun, company as dogs, baker, customer 1, customer 2, sorceress.

The Story of the Envious Sisters – a moral tale closely mirroring the King's own story. Uses puppets, cloaks, branches, props, dolls.

Characters - Shahrazad/talking bird/youngest sister, Eldest sister, second sister, Dinarzad/Princess Parizade, King/Shahrayar, Vizier, Prince Bahman, steward, steward's wife, Prince Perviz, passers-by, woman, dervish, head cook, company as stones, tree, birds.

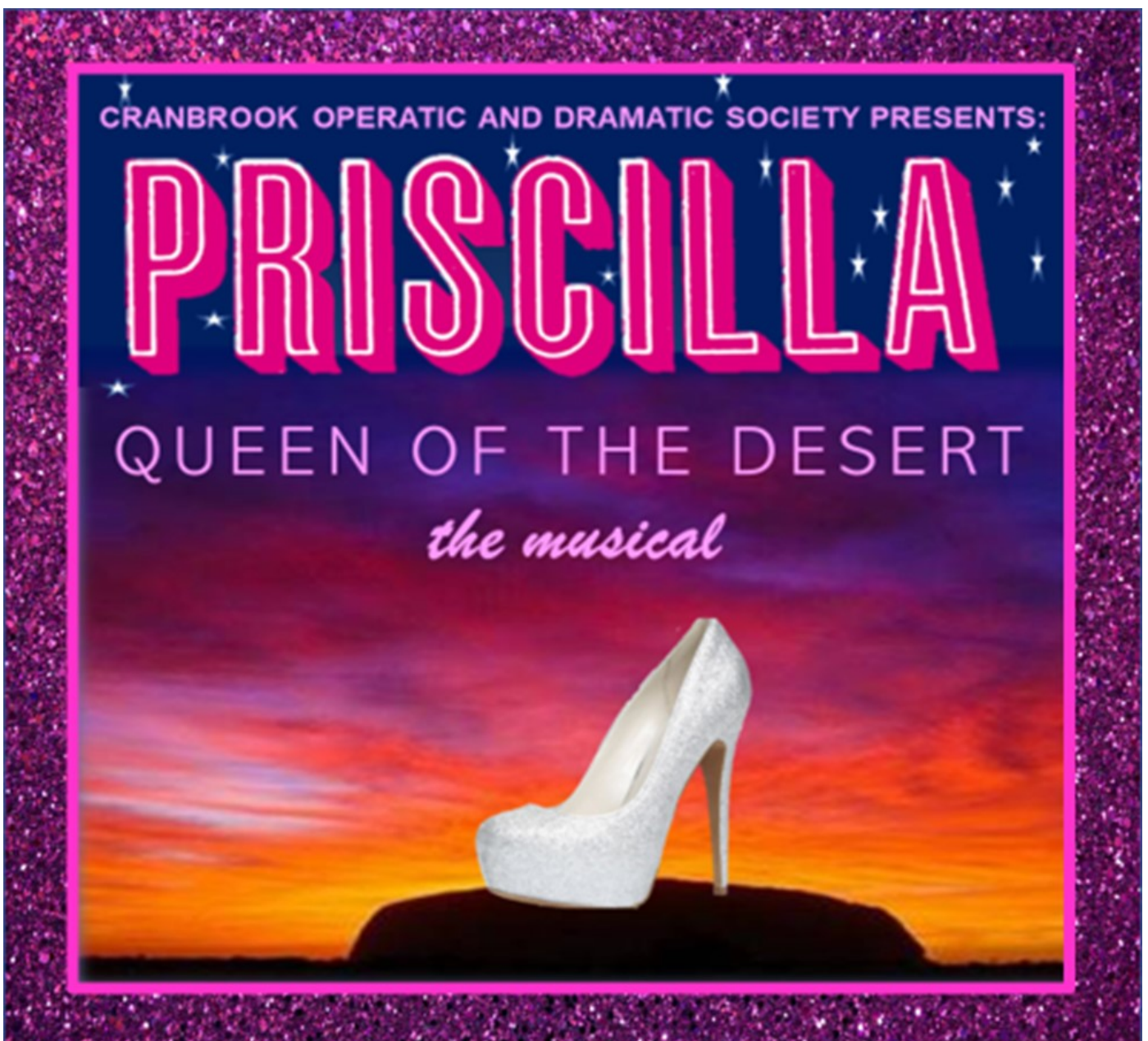
The Story without an Ending – frame story – Shahrazad, Dinarzad, Vizier, King Shahrayar. Characters from previous stories – beggar, Vizier, dogs, thieves, snakes, bird, Marjanah, Es-Sindibad, eagle, Ali Baba. Full company dance a celebration of rebirth.

Epilogue – frame story – Shahrayar, Shahrazad, Dinarzad and full company.

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

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

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

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. A free workshop is being organised that will be led by Jack Dale. This should be a fun social meeting to provide an introduction on set building. Let us know if you can help and when you can help. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,
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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

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Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

John Tapper

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Lee Hatcher

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

Lee Hatcher:

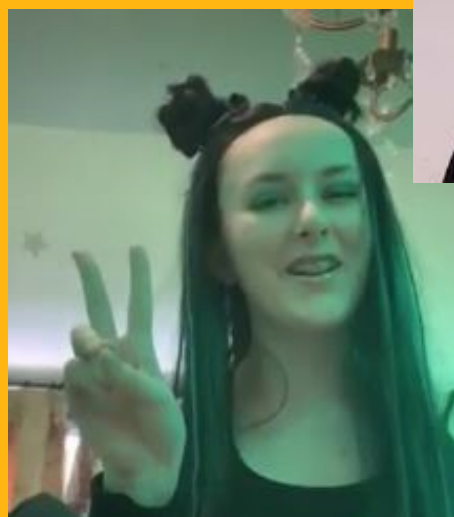
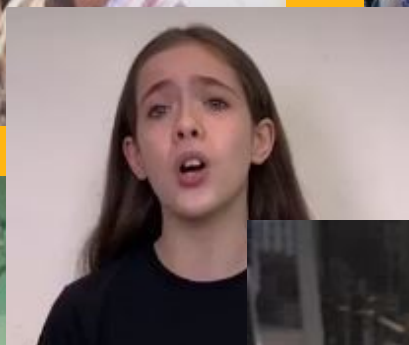
tel: 01580 388716

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
CRAMBROOKODS.ORG.UK/CODS-2020-LOCKDOWN



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021**