



CODSWALLOP!

DECEMBER 2021

DICK
WHITTINGTON

VICAR OF
DIBLEY

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

CHAIR'S
NOTES

NOTICES

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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

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CODS WEBSITE

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EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

CHAIR'S NOTES

Dick Whittington and His Cat are in the final stages of rehearsal. The set is almost ready. The excited build-up to the performance will soon reach its climax and CODS Panto will burst into life between **December 28th and 30th** (curtain up at **2:30pm**) and **Friday 31st** with curtain up at **1pm**.



We will be kicking off the New Year rehearsing our much anticipated production of **The Vicar of Dibley**. This will be a great production to start off our **2022 Season**. We have an exciting cast, with a mixture of new and returning members who will bring this funny, warm and heart-felt comedy to life in **early April**. So as soon as the tickets go on sale - '**Book**' them! The show will be directed by Louisa, that's me, and ably assisted by Katie Kember, whom you may know from CODS last productions of Fiddler on the Roof and Anna Karenina. We both look forward to having some volunteers beating down our doors to help create and build the sets, offer a hand backstage and support us technically with sound and lighting. We survive by word of mouth, so get the word out please!

Steaming ahead to our **Autumn Production**. We have another popular show bursting with toe tapping and foot stomping music. High Camp fun, bright and all things twinkly (I defy audiences not to want to see this spectacle!) Yes, I know you can hardly believe it - but CODS is doing the Tony Award winning show - **PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** - Oh yes it is! (Sorry, wrong show!). This production is directed by **Annie Hatcher** (and yes, I've knocked out all the competition to be a part of this show - It will be fabulous darlings, honestly! - I'm assisting in one of my favourite roles - directing). Now how do I know people are excited about this show! Well we have the fabulous **Ian Harby as MD**. He is new to CODS, and probably it won't be his last time as MD with us. CODS has had amazing Wardrobe designers - for many years Rita Wilkin - and now Sharon (our very own goddess) Pickles will be unleashing her amazing eye for costumes and visuals - Think some of CODS previous shows - The Producers and Gypsy, High Society not to mention Pantos and Anna K of recent times). We've had enquiries from performers already wanting to know about auditions! Yep! That's right, this much in advance!

CODS is and will be banishing the recent dark days and leaving them behind us. Just look what we have in store.

CHAIR'S NOTES

We will, however, ensure that we look after CODS membership and audiences by protecting ourselves from COVID as outlined by Government Guidelines.

CODS Committee Round-Up?

- Fantastic news! We have **REDUCED** our subscriptions by half. Which means those who have multiple memberships with other societies and groups will now enable you to add CODS as your '**Go To**' Society.
- We are looking ahead to our 2023 season. Any ideas for shows or interest in directing please contact CODS.secretary@gmail.com
- We are also inviting suggestions for next year's panto or Christmas extravaganza - so get thinking!
- **REMEMBER** - One of the great things about CODS is that we produce 3 shows a year and have great facilities and perform our shows in a Theatre. There should always be something appealing to everyone in the year!

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.

Until the Next Time

Lou :-)

DICK WHITTINGTON GET IN - 16TH DECEMBER

PANTO GET-IN

CAN YOU HELP?

WE WILL BE MOVING THE SCENERY FOR THE PANTOMIME FROM FLISHINGHURST TO THE QUEEN'S HALL THEATRE ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON 16TH DECEMBER AND WOULD BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP YOU COULD OFFER.

IF YOU COULD COME ALONG AT 3PM ON THE THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO HELP LOAD UP THE SCENERY AND THEN FROM ANY TIME AFTER ABOUT 4PM AT THE QUEEN'S HALL TO SET IT UP ON STAGE.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP OUT - IF YOU COULD SPARE THE TIME TO HELP BUILD THE SET AND TO HELP BACKSTAGE DURING THE RUN TOO IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

ANY QUESTIONS? CALL ANNIE ON 01580 388716 OR EMAIL ANNIE.HATCH33@GMAIL.COM

ANNIE X

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT



Dick Whittington and His Cat

by Peter Denyer

**CRANBROOK OPERATIC & DRAMATIC
SOCIETY PANTOMIME 2021**

28TH TO 30TH DECEMBER 2.30^{PM}
31ST DECEMBER 1^{PM} (BSL SIGNED PERFORMANCE)

QUEEN'S HALL THEATRE, CRANBROOK

TICKETS: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CODS
OR FROM LAMBERT AND FOSTER, HIGH STREET

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT

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, Demi Robinson, Isabel Lucas, Megan Evans, Tahnee Pereira, Maia Hinvies

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE CHARACTERS

Jim Trott :And I was down to the last two boxes! £250,000 in one box, 10p in the other! And the Banker offered me £100,000, and No-no-no-no-no-Noel Edmonds asked me the question, "Deal or No Deal?" Well, I wanted to deal. So I said, "No-no-no-no-no deal." And for some reason that I cannot fathom, they thought I meant, "No-no-no-no deal." and what was in my box?.....
10p

Owen Newitt: - Hugo's as doomed as a virgin on a date with Rod Stewart. I am a great supporter of sex before marriage. Otherwise, I wouldn't have had sex at all and I am not a lunatic. I have the psychiatric report to prove it. A slender majority of the panel decided in my favour.

Alice:- I'm all ears. Well, I'm not all ears... I'm face and tummy and legs and lots of other bits, including some rather private bits I only let a doctor see. Only he wasn't a doctor, and he got arrested soon after.

Mrs. Cropley :- I rather enjoyed Lady Chatterley. Some very useful tips.

David Horton: I beg your pardon?

Mrs Cropley: Oh, gardening tips. Mellors was a game keeper. Very good at hedge control.

David Horton: I see.

Mrs Cropley: I thought the sex was jolly good fun as well!

Frank

Owen: She's already missed one set of Sunday services and it's important she doesn't miss another.

Alice: Can I just say, um, that I thought Mr. Pickle gave a lovely sermon as lay preacher.

Hugo: Yes, bravo. How you kept going for two and a half hours was amazing.

Owen: As I say, it's absolutely **vital** that she doesn't miss another Sunday. I need hardly remind you that we actually lost a couple of the older members of our congregation during last week's service.

Jim: Don't worry Frank, they were going to die anyway. And that fellow who stood up and said **if this moron doesn't shut up soon I'm going to kill myself** and then five minutes later shot himself in the head... well, he'd been gloomy for quite some time...

Geraldine: What's worse than not selling any tickets at all?

Owen: Well selling one ticket. But selling it to a serial killer.

Jim: No, no, no, no, th-that's right. Who comes on the stage, and slits all our throats, and then leaves us all in a great pool of blood!

David: Does anyone actually have this serial killer's address?

[Frank is on stage, doing an incredibly boring "impressions" routine]

Owen: [to David] I've got my shotgun in the van.

David: Load both barrels.

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY



The Vicar of Dibley

CODS production has been adapted by Louisa Nelson Chambers with kind permission of Richard Curtis and Tiger Aspect Productions. Supporting Comic Relief.

Directed by Louisa Nelson Chambers

Assisted by Katie Kember

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

Our play begins with the arrival of Dibley's new Vicar, Geraldine (Gerry) Granger and ends with the marriage of Alice Tinker, the Verger to Hugo Horton, the son of Dibley's wealthy Chairman of the Parish Council, District Councillor-And-Self-appointed Pillar of the Community - Mr David Horton MBE

The Characters of Dibley

David Francis Matthew Horton MBE

Hugo Horton - Son - Councillor & David's Campaign Mgr

Alice Springs Tinker - Verger

Frank Pickle - Council Secretary

Jim Trott - Council Member and Farmer

Owen Newitt - Council Member and Farmer

Letitia 'Letty' Copley - Councillor, Church Warden

Geraldine 'Gerry' Granger - Vicar

Woman at Church

Party Guests

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

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, 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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THE BACK PAGE

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

Lee Hatcher:

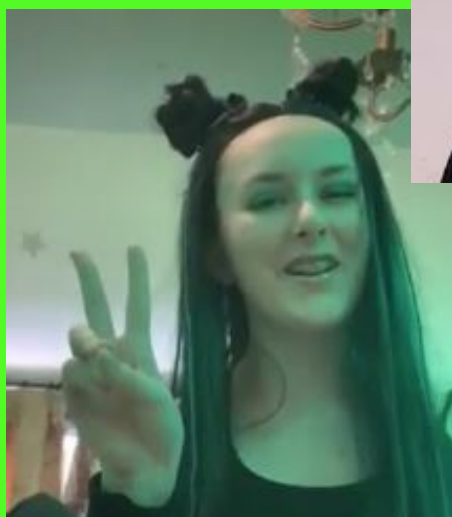
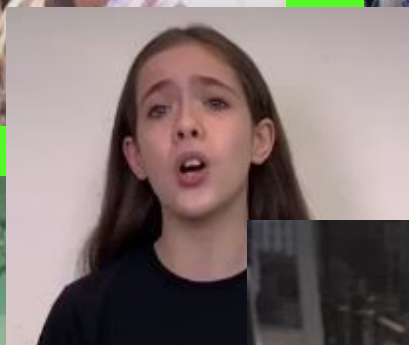
tel: 01580 388716

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!



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



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY 2022**