

# CROAK

Toads Little Theatre Newsletter January 2023



*I hope you all had a good and warm Christmas. We've had problems with the heating at the theatre, for which I apologise. We're endeavouring to remedy it. Another coin in the meter I hear you cry!*

*So many people have asked us in the past 'when are you doing a pantomime' that we felt it was time to 'give them what they want'. Hats off to Chris Mitchell and the entire cast and crew for giving us such a fun and energised pantomime. Kids and adults alike have enjoyed it. A standing ovation on the last performance. How many times do we see that?*

*The new season has almost been finalised. We've concentrated on popular and well known plays, hoping to recoup the money we've lost in the past two years.*

*More news soon.*

*Our January production- 17th to 21st - is A Matter of Life and Death directed by Ceni Wyatt. We've stolen her from Dartington Playgoers. From the little bits I've heard about rehearsals it sounds as if it's going to be an exciting and innovative production, so please come and support in your usual manner.*

*2023 is going to be an exciting year for our theatre. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support us. The committee would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.*

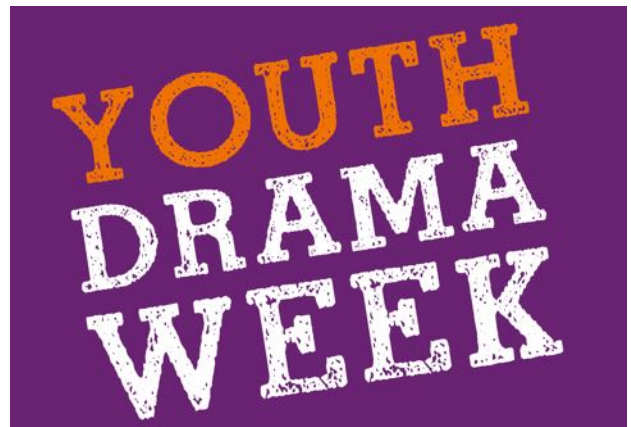
*Anna Reynolds  
Chairman*



Tuesday 17th to Saturday 21st January 2023



Sunday 29th January 2023



Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th February 2023

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# News Desk



The Wednesday Club, January, 2023. As we lurch into yet another new year, our usual hopes for a better year than the last will not be difficult to achieve. It's been a struggle to get through 2022, but we've made it to the other side at Wednesday Club.

November was rounded off by Sarah Ballard's 'Une Jeanne Fille au Pair' ... a delightful tale of Sarah's experience in La Belle France. Sarah never ceases to entertain with her tales of an eighteen year old in La Belle France!

Cora has been going back to the Oberammergau Passion Play for many years, however this time it was not the joyous experience of the past. She described the new system of accommodation and transport, comparing it with the more laid-back regime of past years. It's unlikely that Cora will be returning, so I suppose that leaves me *another* week to fill in 2030.....

The Christmas Party went well, with lots of talking, but not much listening, in true Wedders fashion. This was closely followed by our 'POETSFriday' event, which this time featured 'Festivities'. This was a jolly meeting, with the usual mix of local poets and Toads members.

I was then able to finalise the half-yearly accounts; Wedders contributed £430 to Toads' funds, July to December.

After New Year, we next meet on 11<sup>th</sup> January with an illustrated musical treat from Steve Gill, entitled 'An Introduction to Shanty Singing', which features 'Lazy Jacks'. This will be performed by some of the best local folk singers... as I said... a musical treat. Next we have two reviews of Toads' productions with members of the casts... 'Mother Goose' followed by 'A Matter of Life and Death'.

February starts with 'Julia's Book of Guinness Records', selected by Julia Bale, but more of that next 'Croak'.

And so we embark on our twenty-third year of The Wednesday Club...who said it wouldn't last!

John Miles.



**What's on in January?** It's still Panto season.....

17<sup>th</sup> December -2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2023. Various dates and times.

'Cinderella', directed by Iain Douglas. MD. Allan Fouracre. Choreographer, Elaine Johnson.

Paignton Pantomime Productions, the Palace Theatre. 01803 665800. Check website for performance dates and times.

28<sup>th</sup> Dec to 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

'Sleeping Beauty', written and directed by Amy Burton-Smith. Choreographer Carmen Louise.

TP. at Teignmouth Pavilions.

10-15<sup>th</sup> January. 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm. Sun at 2.00pm and 6.00pm.

'Sleeping Beauty' by Alan Frayn. NADMCS Alexandra Theatre, Newton Abbot. 01626 203570 or ticketmaster website.

12-14<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm.

'Beauty and the Beast', by Alan Frayn, directed by Janet Pitwell. SADS.

17-21<sup>st</sup>.January. 7.30pm. Sat mat 2.30pm.

'A Matter of Life and Death', based on the film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, adapted by Tom Morris.

Directed by Ceni Wyatt. Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299330.

[More information and buy tickets here](#)

## CineMundi

CineMundi kicked off just before Christmas with a seasonal double bill. If you want to be kept informed of the programme that is planned, then register your interest on [email by clicking here](#).

CineMundi meets in The Little Theatre Café on Mondays at 10.00 for 10.30 am. Extras will be advertised to those requesting details.

CineMundi is open to all, tell all your friends and anyone who may be interested, but please be aware, under the terms of our licence for The Little Theatre Café, we may not publicly advertise specific film titles or the personnel involved in them-which includes on social media and Croak- as it's on our public website!



Cryptic teasers:

Monday 9th Jan 23 - Poetic medic battles wintry weather for romance in revolution.

Monday 16th Jan 23 - Post-war morality tale linked to the TOADS production.

Monday 13th Feb.23 - Automotive double bill with vintage cars and Mad Machs.

Monday 6th Mar.23 - Bag of Oscar's linked to the TOADS production.

Alistair & Nicola



**Continued - What's on in January**

25-28<sup>th</sup> January. 7.30pm plus Sat mat 2.30pm.

'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' by TLC Creative. Director, Dave Waistnidge, MD Dave Holland.

TAODS. Civic Hall, Totnes.

[Tickets now on sale here](#).

25-28<sup>th</sup> January. 7.30pm. Each night, except Saturday; at 6.30pm.

'Robinson Crusoe', Marldon Village Pantomime Group.

Tickets at the Card and Paper Shop, Marldon.

25-29<sup>th</sup> January. Various dates and times.

'Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates' by Alan P Frayn.

Directed by Jackie Prior, M D, Chris Matanlé, Choreographer, Niamh Prior Shaldon Theatre

# Toads Productions



## HEDDA GABLER By Henrik Ibsen

In a new translation by Patrick Marber  
Directed by Heidi Pyburn  
**8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Auditions will be held at TOADS Little Theatre  
Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 11:00am  
No roles have been cast yet.

<u>Character</u>		<u>Playing Age</u>
Tesman	an academic	30 – 40
Hedda	his new wife	25 – 35
Juliana	his aunt	50 – 70
Berte	a maid	45 – 60
Brack	a judge	45 – 55
Loveborg	a writer	30 – 40
Mrs Elvsted	a visitor	20 – 30

Hedda Gabler Tesman The main character, newly married and bored with both marriage and life. She is the daughter of General Gabler.

George Tesman Hedda's husband, an academic who is more interested in research than in his wife.

Juliana Tesman George's aunt; also called Aunt Julia.

Thea Elvsted A younger schoolmate of Hedda and a former acquaintance of George. Nervous and shy, Thea is in an unhappy marriage.

Judge Brack A family friend who is secretly in love with Hedda and is rather unscrupulous.

Eilert Lövborg George's former colleague and now someone with whom George competes for publications and a teaching position. Eilert was once in love with Hedda.

Berta A servant at the Tesmans

Scripts and audition pieces will be available from the Box Office.

Please message me with your email for audition scenes. Director on 07526 916424



Cast List Death's Desire  
Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th April

2023

The Man.	Jon Manley
Lawrence.	Ben Field
Phil.	Stewart Molyneux
Dawn.	Daniela Hopkins
Lizzie.	Rachel Field
Anita.	Alison Lee
Isabel.	Tia Davies
SM.	Gill Poore



Click on the above photo to reveal 22 photos

'Well that's a wrap my first directing of a pantomime Mother Goose Pantomime completed and my first time not playing Dame in a pantomime for some 11 years. It's certainly been a challenging experience but after the standing ovation on the last night and all the tears and hugging of cast at the end it'll be one I will never forget!

This was Jake's first time designing lighting and sound for a panto and it went off without a hitch! He had 16 mics to contend with and a live band! This was also a first for Pete our Musical Director who played live at the theatre and Zoe our choreographer. Hats off to all three of them!

Several members of the cast were new to Toads and for a large majority of them it was their first time treading the boards. We also had many young faces that joined the panto as dancers and chorus. Some as young as seven! It was lovely to see such a mix of ages working all together to produce this heart warming pantomime.

This was the first time in 11 years that a panto has been produced at the little theatre and it was well received with an almost sold out audience on the Saturday matinee. 'Oh yes it was!' Hopefully it will return again to the Little Theatre Stage...'

Chris Mitchell

# Essential Contacts and Information

BOX OFFICE 01803 299330 [boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk) @ToadsTheatre

**Anna Reynolds\*** 07788 994398  
[chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk)

**Jackie Tarney & Jon Manley**  
07815 323982  
[boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
If you'd like to help behind the bar

**Jon Manley & Brenda Hutchings**  
[boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
For Members Nights, Open Mic

**Jill Pettigrew\*** 01803 525071  
[secretary@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:secretary@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
if you'd like to join the wardrobe team

**Anne Jordan** 01626 330866  
[annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk)  
if you'd like to join the props team

**Joy Book** 07704 584953  
[Joybook9597@gmail.com](mailto:Joybook9597@gmail.com)  
If you'd like to help In the coffee shop

**Nigel Colledge**  
[newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
if you'd like to submit an article for the Croak Newsletter.

**John Miles\*** 01803 858394  
[johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com](mailto:johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com)  
for Wednesday Club

**Paul Lewis** 07555 396654  
[paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk)  
If you'd like to get involved with set building/painting, etc.

**Jake Wilkins**  
[technical@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:technical@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
for technical issues

**As well as those names marked with an asterisk above, the committee members are:**

**Nicola Margetts** Treasurer  
07766 134937.  
[njmargetts@gmail.com](mailto:njmargetts@gmail.com)

**Sherry Dudley**  
[ashcombe1968@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashcombe1968@hotmail.co.uk)

**Andrew Kenyon**  
07479 008066  
[andrewlewiskenyon@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlewiskenyon@gmail.com)

**Alistair Conquer**  
07972 112174  
[fernbank24@gmail.com](mailto:fernbank24@gmail.com)

**Heidi Pyburn**  
[heidinoelpyburn@gmail.com](mailto:heidinoelpyburn@gmail.com)

**Julie Hancocks**  
[julie.hancocks@virgin.net](mailto:julie.hancocks@virgin.net)



## TOADS in THE (Watering) HOLE

The entertainment for Friday 27th January 2023 is a Quiz Night, hosted by Charlotte Wilkins (Jake's Wife). The bar will open at 7pm. £2.00 entry fee per player. Max 4 persons per team.

Also, book your 15 minute slot NOW for the OPEN MIC February 24th.

We are looking forward to introducing your act at - TOADS in THE (watering) HOLE :

Monologues/Comedy/Singing/Instrumental/ Performance Poetry/Magic/Ventriloquist, etc, etc! The World is Your Lobster!

(Each performance has a 10 minute performance first half, 5 minute second half).

For further details contact:

Jon & Bea by [clicking this link](#)

Members are welcome to bring guests - they will need to be signed in. Numbers may be restricted depending on how popular these evenings are. Dates for your diary.

Friday 27th January 2023

Friday 24th February 2023

Friday 17th March 2023

## Membership Corner

Welcome to the new members who joined in December. It's good to have you onboard as part of the Toads family and we look forward to meeting you around the theatre. Some of you signed up to help with the pantomime, which was a most enjoyable show and brought in many audience members visiting us for the first time.

Thank you to Jon Manley who not only organised the victuals for our convivial Christmas gathering (not forgetting his Mum who actually made the mince pies!), but also ran the bar alongside our other capable bar manager, Jackie Tarney. Peter Whittle and Bea Hutchings also deserve our gratitude for keeping us entertained.

Our next production, A Matter of Life and Death, opens on 16th January so, as you start to fill your diaries with social engagements for 2023, please consider volunteering for the duties you've selected. It is noticeable how enthusiastic some of our recent recruits are proving to be. Wishing you all a happy, theatrical new year!

Sherry Dudley January, 2023



[Click here for this month's quiz](#) and [here for answers](#)