

## Forthcoming Production



A motley collection of performers gather to celebrate the winter season and the coming of Christmas.

Readings, poems, carols and a short play —  
with the traditional mince pie and mulled wine included in the ticket price.

**9 — 16 December 2024**

**BOOKING: Via link on our website  
[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk) or 0333 666 3366**

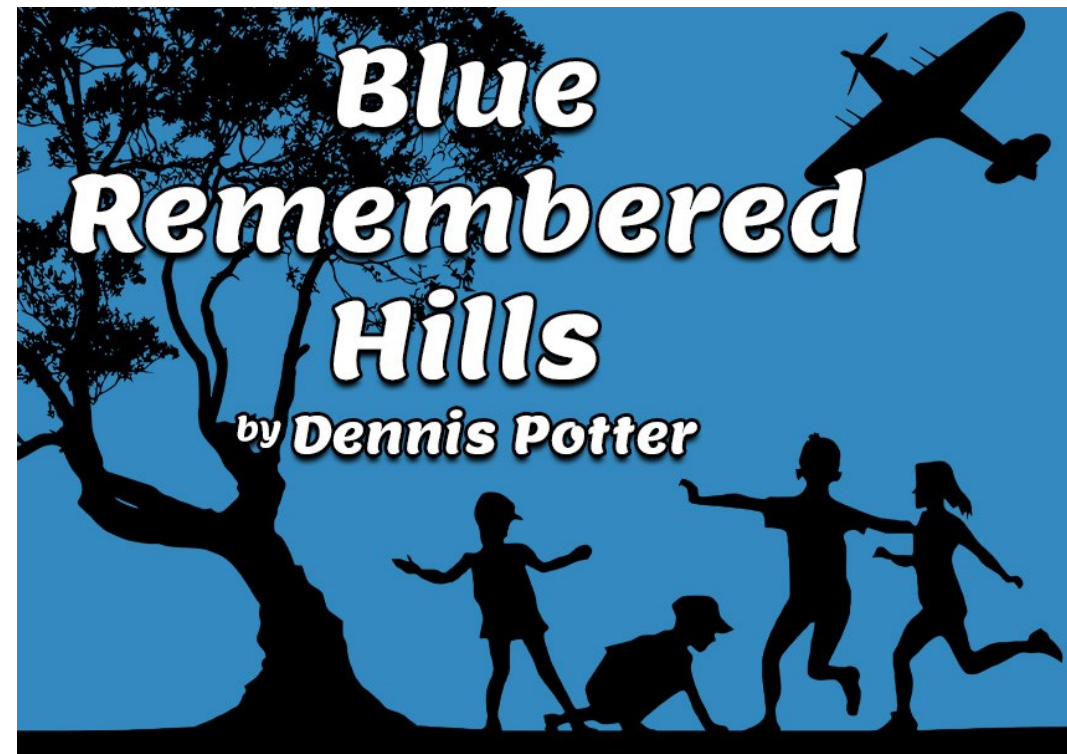
**For the Maskers** Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; Lighting Consultant:-  
Clive Weeks; Sound Consultant:- Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney,  
Paul Baker; Tash Priddle; Front of House Manager:- James Lawson; Box Office Manager:- Chris  
Baker; Photography:- Clive Weeks; Bar Manager:- Meri Mackney

 @MaskersTheatre

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Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



**Programme**

**21st — 26th October 2024**

**Maskers Studio Theatre**

Registered Charity no. 900067

**[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk)**

## Director's Notes

I was an avid watcher of the BBC's Play for Today and vividly remember seeing this piece for the first time in 1979. Of all the plays broadcast, this is the only one I really recall; it must have struck a note. I'd never really seen adults playing the parts of children in this way (other than Laurel & Hardy in 'Brats'); it just blew me away. Ever since, I have wanted to be involved in putting it on. I haven't had the chance to be in it, but Maskers have given me the opportunity to direct it.

On the face of it, it is a nice story about a bunch of seven-year-olds playing in the woods in the Forest of Dean on a summer's afternoon in 1943, but, of course, that's not the whole story. They charge around in the trees playing games, laughing and fighting but also forming alliances, vying for power, bullying and manipulating. It illustrates the power struggles reflective of the adult world, highlighting the impact of social hierarchy on individuals from an early age.

The story then is at times funny, sad and disturbing and all happens in little more than an hour, a roller coaster of emotions. Of course, one of the main talking points of the play is the casting of adults as children. Potter did say that he had an aversion to child actors, or at least their parents! However, this deliberate choice adds depth and complexity to the characters; the actors' adult voices and physicality contrast with the innocence of their characters. This juxtaposition serves as a constant reminder that despite the carefree nature of childhood, the seeds of adult behaviour and emotion are already present.

Potter wanted the children's behaviour to really be analysed. Using adults means the audience will concentrate on what they are doing and, arguably, adults portray emotion better than children. In an example, Willie's behaviour is childish with him using his hands as aeroplane wings and making sounds like an aeroplane. If you saw a child do this then it would be normal, but seeing an adult potentially makes you watch the movement more closely.

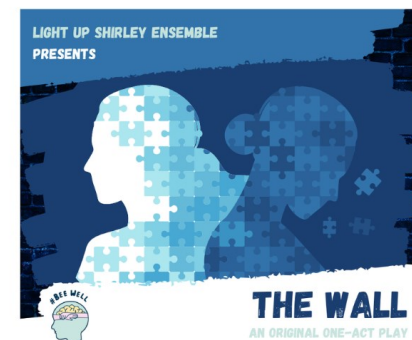
Watching the cast relishing the opportunity to behave like kids has been fun, and maybe slightly worrying. In the end though, **Blue Remembered Hills** is a masterful piece of storytelling from a master of his art and I hope that this production does justice to it.

*Ian*



**Directed by Ian Wilson** - Ian has been a member of Maskers for 17 years during which he has appeared in many productions, most recently as Eric the benefit cheat in **Cash on Delivery** and Leonard the pedantic trainspotter in **Out of Focus**. This is his fifth outing as director having previously directed **100**, **Closer**, **Chair** and **Zoo Story**. He has always wanted to be involved with a production of **Blue Remembered Hills**.

## LIGHT UP PERFORMANCES AT MASKERS




30th November 6:30pm


SUPPORT OUR YOUTH THEATRE BY BOOKING YOUR TICKETS HERE:

[WWW.LIGHTUPDRAMA.ORG.UK/WHATSON](http://WWW.LIGHTUPDRAMA.ORG.UK/WHATSON)



## YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AT






**Wednesday, Shirley Advanced (11-19)**  
5:00 - 7:00

**Thursday, Musical Theatre Company/Class (7-18 yrs)**  
5:00 - 7:00

**Friday, Shirley Company (7-18 yrs)**  
4:30 - 6:30

**Saturday, Improv Club (11+)**  
1:30 - 3:00 (fortnightly)




REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1194787

**SPRING/SUMMER 2025**  
**LAMDA TUITION (7+)**  
Times vary, Enquire for details.



**MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY**  
OFF EASWORTH ROAD, SHIRLEY

To get more information or book a free trial visit  
[www.lightupdrama.org.uk](http://www.lightupdrama.org.uk)  
or email the team at [info@lightupdrama.org.uk](mailto:info@lightupdrama.org.uk)





## The Production Team

**Director**  
**Production Manager**  
**Stage Manager**  
**Assistant Stage Manager**  
**Lighting Designer**  
**Lighting Assistant**  
**Sound Designer**  
**Lighting and Sound Operator**  
**Set Design**  
**Set Construction**  
**Set Painting**

**Costume**  
**Properties**  
**Poster Design**  
**Show Photography**

Ian Wilson  
Donald Coe  
Kathryn Salmon  
Simon White  
Clive Weeks  
Tom Foyle  
Jamie McCarthy  
Maddy Cope  
Adam Taussik  
Tuesday Team  
Adam Taussik, Donald Coe, Kathryn  
Salmon, Maria McKay  
Susan Wilson  
Adam Taussik  
Clive Weeks  
Ian Wilson, Donald Coe, Iain Shaw

There is no interval. The bar will remain open  
after the show.

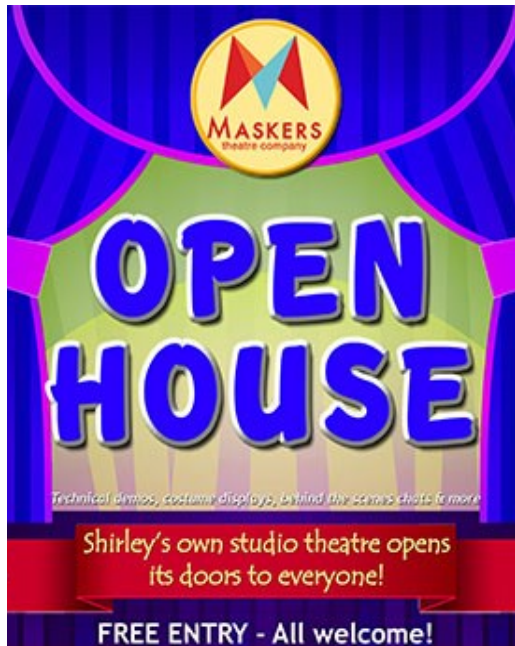
Win a bottle of Prosecco—tickets available from the bar!

## Acknowledgements

Masks would like to thank :

Jo Iacovou for materials.  
Cynthia Holmes for the apples.

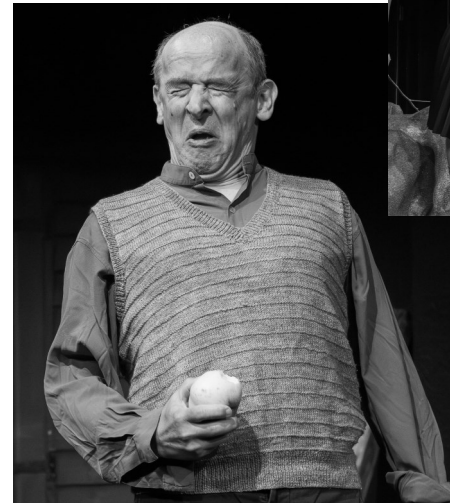
## POP IN AND GET TO KNOW MASKERS BETTER



### Ever wondered what goes on offstage at a play?

Every show has a host of people working away out of sight of the audience. Maskers is welcoming people into the theatre to see the bits the audience doesn't usually get to see. Come and learn a little about the workshop, the technical department, the costume department and how we go about marketing our shows.  
**Or just drop in for a cup of tea and a chat on the first Saturday of every month.**

**Saturday 2nd November**  
Running from 10am – 1pm.





# The Cast



**John** played by **Duncan Randall** — Duncan is involved in various community theatre groups. On moving to the South coast, he joined Titchfield Festival Theatre (TFT), creating roles such as, Bri in *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, Enobarbus (*Anthony and Cleopatra*), Goldberg (*The Birthday Party*) and the Landlord in Jim Cartwright's *Two*. Duncan joined the Maskers 2022 playing Athos in *The Three Musketeers*. Since then, he has appeared in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Gormenghast*, *Time and Tide*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Murder in the Studio* and *Romeo and Juliet*. As a children's nurse, teaching children's nursing for the past 25 odd years, Duncan has no trouble acting like a big kid. Playing John has been a delight reconnecting with those days wandering Horsell Common, discovering WW2 unexploded bombs!



**Peter** played by **Iain Shaw** — Iain Shaw is a new addition to Maskers. He first started acting in his hometown of Romsey when, at the age of 15, he appeared in RAODS production of the environmental-themed play, *The Dream Factory*. In Southampton he worked with the Blag It theatre company on several adult pantos and plays. In recent years Iain has written, directed, produced and starred in several audio dramas for charity, raising thousands of pounds. He's also a keen podcaster and event host. He lives with his dog Willow.



**Willie** played by **Paul Baker** — Paul joined Maskers in 1996 and since then has been in over twenty-five shows in the open-air for Maskers. He has played a variety of roles including: Weasel Norman in *The Wind in the Willows*, Thomas Cromwell in *Anne Boleyn* and often multiple parts in the same production as evidenced when he played four different characters in *The Three Musketeers*. Paul has appeared in most of the recent productions in Maskers Studio, having played, Sepulchra in *Gormenghast* and Chris Kriegl, the Santa Burglar, in *Sorry! Wrong Chimney!*, Uncle George in *Cash on Delivery*, three different characters in *Murder in the Studio* and, most recently, the Auditor in *Murder in the Citizens' Jury*. He is enjoying channelling his inner child as Willie.



**Raymond** played by **William Baggs** — William's character, Raymond, is John's stuttering brother. William has played numerous characters for Maskers including King James in *Anne Boleyn* and Richard in *Richard II*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Shere Kahn in *The Jungle Book*. William also directs and enjoyed directing the open-air production of *The Three Musketeers*. He is a massive Dennis Potter fan so being in this production is a huge thrill!



**Angela** played by **Marie McDade** — Marie joined the Maskers in 2011 and has enjoyed a wide range of roles in both the studio and outdoor productions. These have included: *The Jungle Book*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Wyrd Sisters*, *A Bunch of Amateurs*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Out of Focus*, *Gormenghast*, *Sorry! Wrong Chimney* and, most recently, *Cash on Delivery*.



**Audrey** played by **Emma Kirkpatrick** — Emma has been with Maskers since 2021 and made her debut performance in *Out of Focus*. She then performed in our outdoor show, *The Three Musketeers*, where she enjoyed playing a variety of different characters, followed by playing Sally Chessington in *Cash on Delivery*.



**Donald** played by **Jez Minns** — Jez has been a member of the Maskers for nearly thirty years now. His last performance was as the irascible Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other recent performances include Mr Jenkins, the fuddy duddy benefits inspector in *Cash on Delivery*, the corrupt Lord Henry Wotton in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the drunkard Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When he isn't doing theatre, Jez enjoys painting and sketching and writing poetry.

