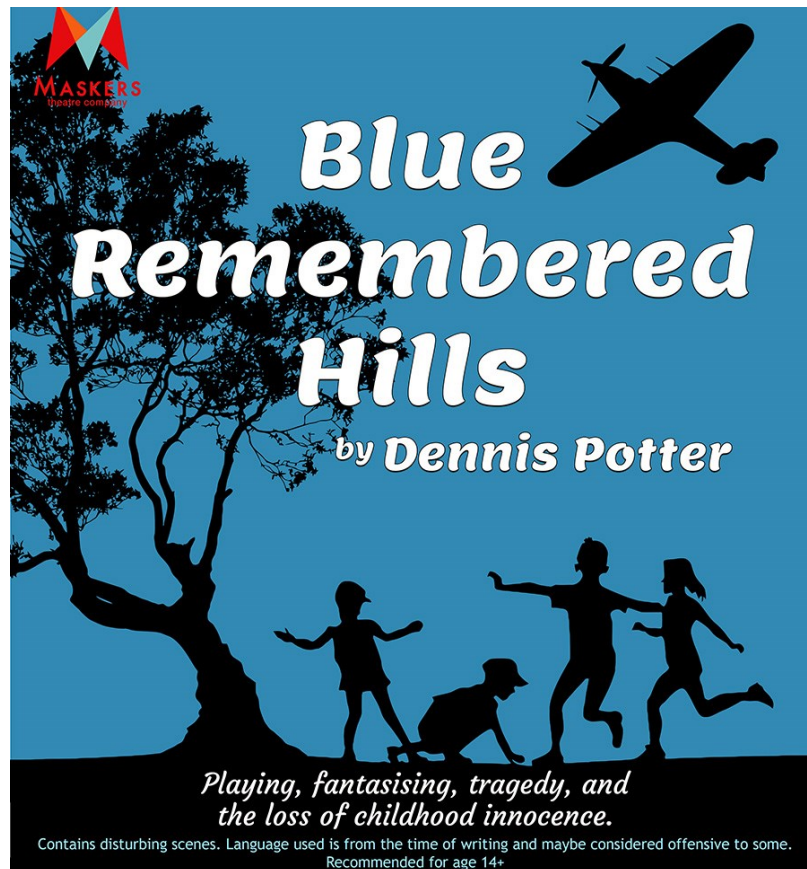


Forthcoming Production



13 — 18 May 2024

**BOOKING: Via link on our website
maskers.org.uk or 0333 666 3366**

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

Marketing Team:- Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Jenni Prior; Rachel Di Nucci; Business Development Manager:- Chrissy Way; Front of House and Box Office Manager:- Chris Baker; Photography:- Clive Weeks; Bar Manager:- Meri Mackney

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



Tickets £14

Recommended
for age 12+

Programme

18th — 23rd March 2024

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

Hello all, and welcome to Maskers Theatre's production of *Cash on Delivery* by Michael Cooney! What a long, strange trip it's been getting this show in front of you. It all started in the dark and distant past of 2023...

Maskers had just run a very successful season of artistically marvellous yet undeniably dark plays. *Dorian Gray*, *Gormenghast*, *Jane Eyre* - wonderful plays! But, let's face it, somewhat short on the chuckles...

The then production director, Rob, put out a call for next year's shows, and I (thinking how effortless my dear wife had made her directing of *Gormenghast* look) figured we could do with a good old fashioned farce to lighten the mood! Had I known they were actually desperate enough to say yes, I probably wouldn't have had the nerve to suggest it, and yet here we are for my (hopefully) triumphant directorial debut!

To coin a phrase, comedy is a funny thing.

You can't teach it, I think. You certainly can never force it. You can definitely learn it, but only through observation and experience. How blessed was I then, when auditioning the show, that some of the finest comic minds I've had the pleasure to encounter felt drawn to this wonderful script. Maskers has a rich history of comedy, and this cast have gleefully taken up the torch!

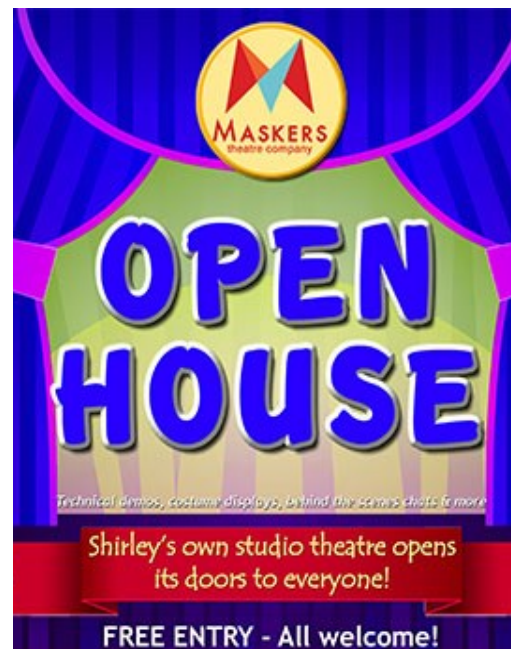
Michael Cooney has given us a modern farce in the finest British tradition, (produced originally in London by his father Ray, one of the great 20th century farceurs), with all the classic elements that make this a truly unsung gem of British theatre. Unravelling deceit, misunderstandings, double-entendres, unwilling accomplices, a soupçon of bawdy humour and slapstick, everything the soul needs! I hope you can see as I have, the absolute gusto with which this cast have thrown themselves into it. Life outside the theatre has been hard the last few months, and seeing this cast rehearse has been an enormous tonic, let me tell you. Making the same jokes fresh enough to tickle my funny bone after how many times I've seen them is definitely no picnic.

You may have noticed on entry the wonderful set, which of course is just the obvious front of the colossal effort put in backstage by an army of underappreciated heroes, many of whom you'll have heard of in the legends of Maskers, and sadly more of whom you will not have. I am constantly humbled by the work that goes in behind the scenes to bring shows like this to life, and without these stalwart warriors, life in the theatre would be not only dull, but incredibly quiet and dark.

To summarise, here I sit (likely by now at the bar) a terrified husk of a man trying to put in front of you a spectacle that amuses. I've had one philosophy in everything I've done in my life, which is that if you wish to learn to do something well, you must surround yourself with people who are better than you. And in this show I truly feel that I have walked amongst giants.

Sam

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 6th April

Running from 10am – 1pm.

SHINING A LIGHT ON SHIRLEY



MORE CLASSES ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND



YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AT MASKERS


Monday, 4:30 - 6:00 (NEW)
Shirley Ensemble (12 - 18 yrs)

Wednesday
LAMDA Tuition (7+), times vary depending on grade. Enquire for details.

Friday, 4:30 - 6:30
Mixed Company (7 - 16 yrs), waiting list only

Coming Soon to the Light UP line-up:
Intro to Tech - register your interest
Junior Company (7-12 yrs) - register your interest
Musical Theatre Company (7-16yrs) - register your interest

To get more information or book a free trial visit
www.lightupdrama.org.uk or email the team at info@lightupdrama.org.uk.



The Production Team

Director	Sam Hussey
Production Manager	Anna Hussey
Stage Manager	Robert Osborne
Lighting Designer	Clive Weeks
Lighting Assistant	Emily Smith
Sound Designer	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting and Sound Operators	Silas Champagne, Emily Smith
Set Design	Clive Weeks
Set Construction	Clive Weeks and team
Set Painting	Clive Weeks and Maskers
Set Dressing	Anna Hussey, Sam Hussey
Costume	Anna Hussey
Properties	Lucy Lockyer
Rehearsal Prompt	Rachel Di Nucci
Poster Design	Sam Hussey, Clive Weeks
Show Photography	Rachel Di Nucci, Clive Weeks, Emily Smith

Acknowledgements

Maskers would like to thank :

Andy Hussey for building the washing machine.

King Edward's School for the loan of cricket equipment.



Directed by Sam Hussey - This is Sam's directorial debut. Sam joined Maskers in 2019, when he played Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. Since then he's been involved in several productions, playing everything from Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, an escaped Texan convict, Fist, in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Mr Tumnus in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* - a joint production between Maskers and Light Up youth theatre - and Mr Flay in *Gormenghast*.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes



The Cast



Eric Swan played by **Ian Wilson** — Ian has been a member of Maskers since 2007 when he was cast in *Accrington Pals*. Since then, he has played a wide range of roles including Parris in *The Crucible*, Brendan in *The Weir*, Fool in *Wyrd Sisters*, Bolingbroke in *Richard II*, Sloan in *Butterfly Kiss* and, most recently, Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He has also directed for the company: *Closer*, *Chair*, *100* and *Zoo Story*. Playing Eric will be very different from anything he has done in the past, and he is very much looking forward to the challenge.



Linda Swan played by **Jane Russell** — Last seen as the eccentric medium Madam Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Jane is delighted to be playing Linda in her seventh Maskers' production, a role that she desperately wanted after reading the script. She says that it's just so fast paced and hilarious, you can't help laughing! Previous productions have included *Sharks in the Custard* and four Christmas productions — her favourite being Mary in *The Flint Street Nativity*. An active member of both RAODS and EOMS, Jane most recently directed the RAODS sell-out outdoor production of *Swallows and Amazons*.



Norman Basset played by **James Lawson** — James joined the Maskers in 2007, performing in many shows, including *Treasure Island* in the open air, *Crimes of the Heart* at the Nuffield and *Accrington Pals* in the Studio. While it has been 6 years since James last trod the boards, performing in 2018's *Wyrd Sisters* at The Berry Theatre, he has been active behind the scenes, including stage managing 2019's *Happy*, directing the hilarious *Four Weddings and an Elvis* in January 2022, being production manager for last year's *Gormenghast*, as well as acting as compère for several cabaret nights in the Studio.



Mr Jenkins played by **Jez Minns** — Jez has been working in the theatre as an amateur, and sometimes professional, actor for the last 35 years. Most recently he played Lord Henry Wotton in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in the Maskers Studio. Other recent appearances for the Maskers include Tiny Tim in *Christmas with the Cratchits*, Borachio the drunkard in *Much Ado About Nothing* and the bullyboy Innkeeper in *The Flint Street Nativity*. When he is not doing theatre, Jez enjoys painting and sketching and writing poetry.



Uncle George played by **Paul Baker** — Paul has been in over twenty-five shows in the open air for Maskers and rarely ventures indoors. He has played a variety of roles, including Weasel Norman in *The Wind in the Willows* and 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*. This is Paul's third production in a row inside, having played Sepulchre in *Gormenghast* and Chris Kriegle, the Santa Burglar, in *Sorry! Wrong Chimney*. As his character undergoes a lot of physical punishment in the play, Paul wonders if the director has something against him.



Sally Chessington 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. Now Emma is back, after a bit of a break, to play as Sally Chessington in this laugh out loud, fast paced play.



Dr Chapman played by **Marie McDade** — Marie joined the Maskers in 2011 and has enjoyed a wide range of roles in both the studio and outdoor shows. These have included: *Our Town*, *Richard II*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Jungle Book*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Wyrd Sisters*, *A Bunch of Amateurs*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Out of Focus*, *Gormenghast*, *Jane Eyre* and, most recently, *Sorry! Wrong Chimney*.



Mr Forbrite the Undertaker played by **Philip de Grouchy** — Philip was most recently recently involved in *Almost, Maine* as an actor and *Blithe Spirit* as director. He has been active with the Maskers and local theatre since time immemorial (nearly).



Ms Cowper played by **Dawn Gatrell** — Dawn was last seen playing dual roles in *Almost, Maine*. Prior to that she appeared as the tavern owner in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, in *Gormenghast*, playing one of the twin aunts and in the nautical anthology, *Time and Tide*. Before joining Maskers, Dawn performed in pantos at The Bent Brief pub and in *The Shadow Factory*, which premiered at the Nuffield City Theatre.



Miss Dixon played by **Tash Priddle** — This is Tash's first production with Maskers. After dabbling in some local theatre previously, Tash finally decided to join us and has come straight into *Cash on Delivery*.