

Our Summer Production

Jane Austen's
Northanger Abbey
Adapted by
Matthew Francis



ROMANCE, MYSTERY, and misunderstandings!

On Tour
Mon 7 - Sat 26 July
See website for venues, dates and times

Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £15


Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366



Registered charity 900067


This amateur production of "Northanger Abbey" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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

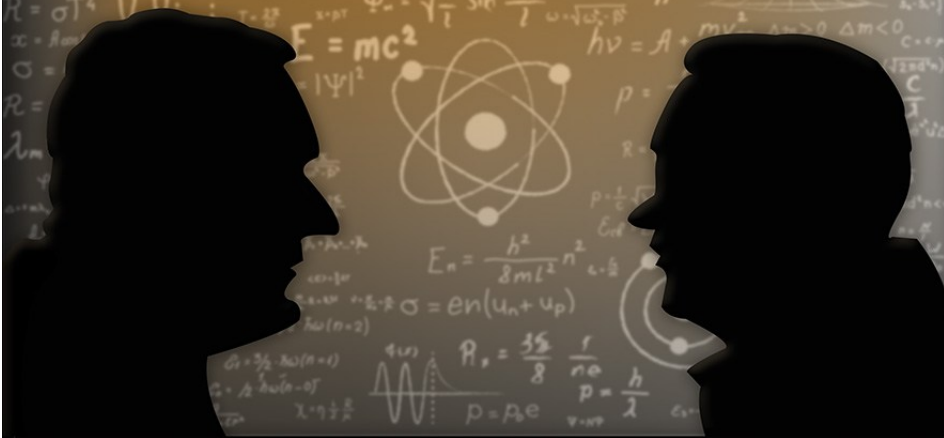
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Copenhagen
by Michael Frayn



That final core of uncertainty at the heart of things

Programme

31st March — 5th April 2025

Maskers Studio Theatre

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Director's Notes

It is not the science that grabs me, it is the history. The event which the characters obsess over actually happened and anybody passing the two men walking that day would probably not have realised how significant their conversation was. It is a significant reminder of how the actions of one person can have dramatic consequences.

I have always been fascinated by this play. The storytelling structure makes the subjects they discuss more accessible, and the themes of friendship, loyalty and responsibility are universal. It is a great privilege to present this play and I, along with cast and crew, thank you all for coming.

Matthew



Directed by Matthew Meehan - Matthew is an actor, writer and director who has been in the business for 25 years. His most recent self-penned plays have been the black comedies *Pina Coladas* and *Searching*, the latter of which will be performed by Maskers later this year. As an actor he has appeared in plays ranging from *Abigail's Party* to *Oedipus* and *Antigone*. He was last seen for Maskers in *Murder in the Citizens' Jury*.



Heisenberg (left) and Bohr in 1934.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes
Win a bottle of Prosecco—tickets available from the bar!

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

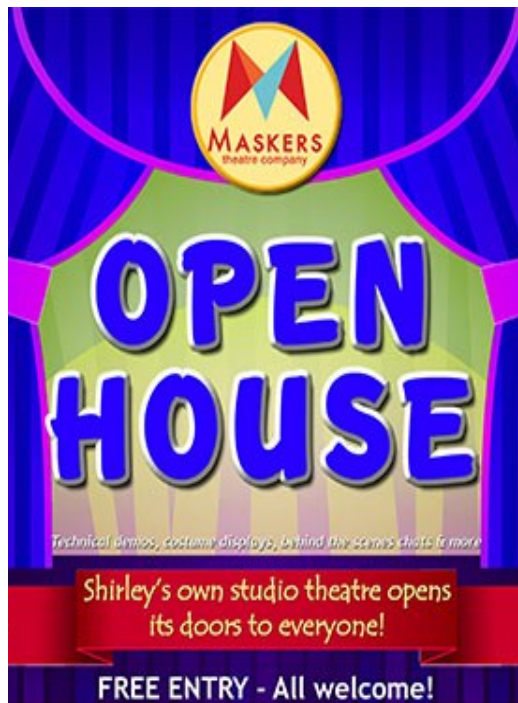


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For the Maskers **Technical Manager:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

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

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 5th April

Running from

10am – 1pm.



By September 1941, Germany had occupied much of Europe and was advancing across the Soviet Union toward Moscow. Under this shadow, long-time friends and physicists, Dane Niels Bohr and German Werner Heisenberg, met in Copenhagen. There is no contemporary account of what the two men discussed, but the outcome of their exchange was to have a profound effect on how World War II played out. In 1938, three scientists in Berlin showed that the atom could be split. If the atom was of a radioactive element such as uranium, there was an immediate and extremely powerful release of energy. A nuclear bomb was possible, in theory. Niels Bohr had won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1922 for his theories about the structure of atoms and the emission of radiation. Meanwhile, Werner Heisenberg was demonstrating a brilliant understanding of advanced mathematics and was studying physics. With his doctorate completed, he spent much of 1925 studying and researching at Niels Bohr's Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Copenhagen. Bohr was 16 years older than Heisenberg, and their friendship has been described as similar to that of the affection between a father and son. Heisenberg returned to Germany to the post of professor of theoretical physics at the University of Leipzig. His work would lead to a Nobel Prize for physics in 1932. Later, he became head of the Nazi program to develop an atomic bomb. Bohr was also working in the same field. The race to develop a nuclear bomb was on; who got to the finish line first would win the war. In September 1941, Heisenberg was invited to give a speech in German-occupied Denmark and he took the opportunity to catch up with Niels Bohr. What they talked about has been a matter of conjecture ever since. In later years, both men had different recollections of what they talked about. They couldn't even agree on where their meeting took place.

The very fact of the meeting placed both men in extreme danger. If it was known that Heisenberg revealed the existence of the secret German nuclear program he would almost certainly have been shot. If Bohr possessed knowledge of the research, he would suffer the same fate. As a result, what was said between them stayed between them.

The second-guessing about the meeting has continued to this day. As a German nationalist, though not a Nazi Party member, Heisenberg inevitably starts off at a disadvantage. According to the German scientist, he told Bohr he knew how to stall the Nazi nuclear program and called on the Dane to lobby Allied scientists to do the same. In Heisenberg's version, he was making a gesture that could cost him his life to rally scientists behind an effort never to create such horrendous weapons.

Niels Bohr wrote a letter to his old friend in which he outlined very different memories of the talks. However, he never sent the letter, and it was sealed by his family after his death in 1962. After this play was written, the Bohr family decided to release the long-secret letter to Heisenberg.

Niels Bohr wrote that "you ... expressed your definite conviction that Germany would win and that it was therefore quite foolish for us to maintain the hope of a different outcome of the war and to be reticent as regards all German offers of cooperation.... you spoke in a manner that could only give me the firm impression that, under your leadership, everything was being done in Germany to develop atomic weapons ... " Bohr interpreted the 1941 discussion as an attempt to recruit him to the German war effort. His expertise would have proved an invaluable asset. In 1943, Niels Bohr was tipped off that the Gestapo planned to arrest him. With help from British intelligence, he was spirited out of Denmark and joined the Manhattan Project, the Allied attempt to build an atomic bomb.

From an article by Rupert Taylor

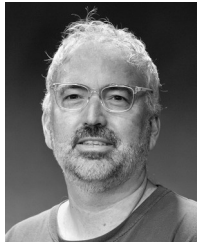
The Cast



Werner Heisenberg played by **Simon White** — Simon was drawn to this play as it aligns with his interest in the strangeness of the quantum world and the play's fascinating exploration of science and ethics. He joined Maskers in 2022, making his acting debut as Abraham Slender in Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Behind the scenes at Maskers, Simon has contributed as Lighting Designer for *Almost, Maine* (2024) and various other backstage roles including Assistant Stage Manager.

Simon has also performed in several BBV Productions, including *Wilde – Love and Power* (2023) performed at Maskers, the audio drama *Hellscape: The Lilium Saga* (2023), and the video production *PROBE: Portents of Doom* (2024).

He is proud to be a Masker and thrilled to bring his passion for both science and theatre to *Copenhagen*.



Niels Bohr played by **Ruben Sanchez-Garcia** — Ruben joined Maskers in 2010 and has since acted, directed and helped backstage in a number of shows. He has particularly fond memories of his first show with the Maskers, *Treasure Island* in 2011, as well as playing Peter in *Zoo Story* and Andrey in *Afterplay*, and directing both *Butterfly Kiss* in the Maskers Studio, and an open-air production of *Don Quixote* at Hamptworth. He most recently played a member of the jury in *Murder in the Citizens' Jury*. As a mathematician in real life, he's looking forward to playing a theoretical physicist and is thankful to the director (and hopefully the audience) for the creative licence to give Nils Bohr a slight Spanish accent in the afterlife.



Margrethe Bohr played by **Jenni Watson** — Jenni is delighted to be cast as Margrethe in this exciting production of *Copenhagen*. Over the years she has performed for Maskers as well as many local groups. Her favourite roles include, Lady Booby (*Joseph Andrews*), Nancy (*Sitting Pretty*), Mrs Pearce (*Pygmalion*), Bottom (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) the Contessa (*An Italian Straw Hat*), Margaret (*Much Ado about Nothing*), Mrs Reed and Mrs Fairfax (*Jane Eyre*) and Mrs Montague (*Romeo & Juliet*) in last year's open-air production at Townhill Park House. More recently she appeared as Beatrice in *After Life* for SUP and as Yvonne in *Hi-de-Hi* for RAODS. It is a pleasure to act with two such talented actors!

The Production Team

Director

Production Manager

Stage Manager

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Lighting and Sound Operators

Set Design

Set Construction

Set Painting

Costume

Properties

Poster Design

Show Photography

Rehearsal Prompt

Matthew Meehan

Donald Coe

Ab Linnartz

Kathryn Salmon

Jamie McCarthy

Maddy Cope, Teo Rusu

Matthew Meehan, Clive Weeks

Tuesday Team

Donald Coe, Adam Taussik, Rob Iliffe

Clare Britton

Clare Britton

Lucy Lockyer

Clive Weeks & Marketing Team

Abi Linnartz

Acknowledgements

Maskers would like to thank :

Imogen Gingell for advising on suitable equations for the set.

