

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



At the **Maskers Studio**
Fri 4, Sat 5, Tues 8 - Fri 11
December
 At 7.30pm

It is December 1940, we are in the local pub and the owner and staff are feeling pretty miserable, what with the Blitz and rationing, when some unexpected guests arrive, and the mood changes!

BOOKING:
 via link on our website
 or 0333 666 3366



Programme

Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 October

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

At the **Nuffield Theatre**
Tues 2 - Sat 6 February
 At 7.30pm

A hilariously funny insight into the internal wrangling of life on a committee in 1970s regional England by master of comedy, Sir Alan Ayckbourn. Join the fun as Pendon plan their historic town pageant. It's war in the corridors of small town England!

BOOKING:
 via link on our website
 or 023 8067 1771



Join the fun as Pendon plan their historic town pageant

Help us save the environment and over £1000 in postage.

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Director's Notes

Welcome to the London home of Doris Wallis, whose popular tabloid column is in a national newspaper. We join her on the day of her court case after having gone a little too far gunning for one 'silly cow' who didn't appreciate Doris' review. With a bunch of misfit characters surrounding her, it's not long until the tables start to turn on our leading lady.

Knowing Ben Elton's work, having read many of his novels and of course laughed hysterically at *Blackadder* and *The Young Ones* growing up, Elton was one of the first writers I sought out when this opportunity to direct was presented to me. *Silly Cow* in particular became an immediate favourite. It's borderline farce, full of witty writing and tongue in cheek humour, which has given my talented cast plenty to work with.

On a personal level, the production has been a whole new experience for me, and a really challenging process, but the end result, I hope, will be worth it.

James Norton

The Production Crew

Production Manager	Chris Baker
Stage Manager	Tom Foyle
Set Design	Pete Burrows and Graham Buchanan
Lighting Design	Clive Weeks
Lighting Operator	David Jobson
Sound Designer	Stuart Gray & Jamie McCarthy
Sound Operator	Stuart Gray
Stage Crew	Tom Foyle & Adam Taussik
Costumes	Sheana Carrington & Emma Carrington-Gray
Properties	Adam Taussik
Set Building	Graham Buchanan, Ken Hann, John Hamon and James Norton

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to Matt Avery for mentoring James through this production. Thanks also to George Davies for the loan of the typewriter, and to Rae Kibble, Sheana Carrington, Sarah Russell and Marie McDade for rehearsal prompting.

For the Company

Technical Manager --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Sarah Russell; **Marketing Team** --- Angela Stansbridge, Ruth Kibble, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Clive Weeks; **Front of House Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Front of House Display** --- Leah Barlow; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager** --- Jan Spiers



Directed by James Norton - James joined Maskers in 2007 for the outdoor production of *Pride and Prejudice*, and went on to take a leading role in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* in 2008. Since joining he has also played a WWI soldier, a fumbling lawyer, the Spitfire designer R.J. Mitchell, and the gay lover of King James I, among others. This is James's second outing as director, having brought two one-act plays to the Maskers Studio Theatre in 2012. *Silly Cow* is raucous, rude, and a tiny bit ridiculous... the polar opposite of the dark and spooky plays he directed before.

Please note this production contains strong language.

The Cast



Doris played by Sarah Spencer-Stonehill. Sarah has been a Masker since the late 1980s, playing innumerable tarts, nutters, unhinged bitches, psycho hose-beasts and flakey weirdos. She is enjoying working with new and old friends on *Silly Cow*.



Peggy played by Izzy Weaver. This is Izzy's debut with Maskers but she has been acting all her life. Having acted throughout school and college, she is now on her gap year, before taking her studies in Acting further. She is thrilled to have been cast for her first production with Maskers and is looking forward to more to come.



Sidney played by Paul Baker. Paul joined Maskers in 1996 and has been in every production in the open air since. However, this will be his first show indoors since 2012. Other roles include Thomas Cromwell in *Anne Boleyn* and Weasel Norman in *Wind In The Willows*.



Douglas played by Ian Wilson. Ian has been with Maskers since 2007 and has played a range of roles including a lepidopterist, a barman, Parris in *The Crucible* and also royalty. He has also directed for the company and has had a spell as Productions Director. He is looking forward now to being an accountant and hopefully not a boring one....



Eduardo played by Christopher Gardener. Chris has enjoyed performing in several sketch shows and youth pantomimes with the Gantry Youth Theatre. *Silly Cow* is Chris's second outing for Maskers after last year's role as George Gibbs in *Our Town*, for which he was nominated for a Curtain Call Award.