

FORTHCOMING MASKERS' PRODUCTIONS



At the **Maskers Studio Theatre**
Thurs 30 March-Sat 1 April
At the **Berry Theatre** **Tues 4 – Sat 8 April**
Great Expectations

A classic coming-of-age story of wealth, pride and broken hearts.

BOOKING: via link on maskers.org.uk
or Studio Bookings 0333 666 3366
The Berry Bookings 023 8065 2333



19-20; 22– 27 May
The Killing of Sister George
Maskers Studio Theatre

Frank Marcus' infamous play comes to the Maskers studio
Witness the pitch-black comedy that went on to shock the world.

BOX OFFICE: via link on our website
or 0333 666 3366

NEXT WEEK FROM SUP THEATRE COMPANY



£1

EUGENE LABICHE & MARC MICHEL'S

CLASSIC COMEDY

An Italian Straw Hat



Programme

Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 January 2017

NUFFIELD THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

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Directors' Notes

As you can see there are, in fact, three directors for this show. Our thinking is that three heads can be better than one and, in this case, this is certainly true; our experience and skill sets have combined to enhance and expand our approach. Hazel has worked tirelessly on the set with our designer and has dealt with a lot of technical issues, as well as adding her own unique fun style to the directing. Chris has a good eye for detail and spotting any gaps and continuity issues. She has also been the Production Manager for the show. Paul has hopefully contributed to the acting and interaction. *An Italian Straw Hat* is a very particular example of French Farce. It is written in the style of 'the well - made play', which means that it has a particular situation, with the plot being how the main character solves the problems within that situation. Add to that an assorted number of eccentric characters and you have a fun evening of entertainment. We have worked hard on the physical element, both character and comedy wise, drawing on silent movies with a hint of Commedia thrown in for good measure. Rehearsals have been lively and fun and we hope this will be reflected in the performance you will see tonight. Working with a large cast is always challenging but all the actors have given of their best and we hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed creating it.



Hazel Burrows - Hazel directed *Ten Times Table* last year at the Nuffield and *Sitting Pretty* just two years prior to that. Hazel is a very experienced actress and director. She last appeared in our open-air production of *Pygmalion* in the summer.



Paul Green - This is the fifth play Paul has directed at the Nuffield, having been acting and directing in the Southampton area for over 45 years. He has directed at the Minack Theatre (*39 Steps*) and most recently directed *Di and Viv and Rose* at Maskers Studio Theatre. Paul hopes to bring elements of physical comedy to what promises to be a feel-good fun show!



Christine Baker - Chris is a long standing member of the company, having been involved with many productions both on and off stage. Her last appearance was as Helen Dixon in *Ten Times Table*. She is delighted to be part of the directing team for this production.

Acknowledgements

Southampton University Players for some costumes.
Susanna Phipps for some props.

The Production Crew

Directors

Production Manager

Stage Manager

Set Design

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Costume Design and Wardrobe

Casting

Lighting Operator

Sound Operator

Set Construction

Lighting Consultant

Properties

Stage Crew

Hazel Burrows, Paul Green, Chris Baker
Christine Baker
Robert Osborne
John Hamon
David Cowley
Jamie McCarthy
Serena Brown
Sheana Carrington
Tom Foyle
Angie Barks
John Hamon, Graham Buchanan, Ken Hann, Peter Hill
Clive Weeks
Nichola and Martin Caveney
David Knox-Johnson, Paul Crowhurst

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Why not join Maskers?

Maskers are keen to welcome new members with an interest in any aspect of theatre - all things technical, directing, costumes, props, set design and construction, front of house, marketing and of course acting!

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For the Company

Technical Manager --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Ruth Kibble;

Marketing Team --- Sarah Russell, Angela Stansbridge, James Norton, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney; **Front of House Display** --- Meri Mackney; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker;

Photography --- Clive Weeks.

The Cast Continued



La Duchesse de Château Gaillard - Sue Dashper. This is Sue's second appearance at the Nuffield for Maskers; the first time she played Bridget in *Sitting Pretty* by Amy Rosenthal. Sue appeared as a maid in the outdoor production of *Pygmalion* and earlier last year she took on the role of Mrs Samsa in Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. This current production allows her to explore her inner posh person!



Mlle. Ondine de Château Pompe - Meri Mackney. Meri has been a Masker for many years as actor and director, most recently directing our open-air shows at Hamptworth: *Pygmalion*, *The Jungle Book* and *Anne Boleyn*. She is enjoying being on stage again and playing this silly cameo.



Le Duc de Château Gaillard/ Guard - Alan Watson. Since joining Maskers 40 years ago, Alan's favourite parts have been Private Mason (*Journey's End*), Kent (*King Lear*), and Lane (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). As you can see, Alan has a wide repertoire, but these days, only servants and toffs are considered!



Clothilde - Brenda Atkinson. Brenda has appeared in many previous shows, most recently as an opera-going lady in *Pygmalion*, and a wolf in *The Jungle Book*. She is enjoying running around and looking confused in this production as other characters behave bizarrely around her.



M. Beaujolais - David Collis. David has been performing in amateur theatre since 1994 and particularly enjoys performing at the Nuffield Theatre. He was last here with Maskers playing Max in *Sitting Pretty*. Previous incarnations have been a diverse as Captain Zuniga (*Carmen*), Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*) and Duke of Burgundy (*King Lear*).



Corporal of the Guard - Jez Minns. Jez is back after a seven-year absence, during which time he has been writing poetry and painting watercolours. He's thrilled to be playing a French policeman in this show, as it gives him an excuse to grow a comedy moustache. Believe it or not, Jez has actually played Hamlet, and the most embarrassing moment of his life was when he dived during the famous "To be or not to be" speech!



Guard - John Hamon. For the second year running, John is on stage at the Nuffield in a non-speaking role. Perhaps one day we'll let him have some lines!

Wedding Guests played by members of the company.

Rehearsing An Italian Straw Hat



The Action

- Act I Scene 1 — Fadinard's Apartment. Morning
Scene 2 — A Milliner's Salon. Noon
Act II La Comtesse de Champigny's Drawing-Room. Afternoon
Act III Scene 1 — Beaujolais' Apartment, A Bedroom. Evening
Scene 2 — A Square in Paris. Night

There will be a 20 minute interval between Acts II and III

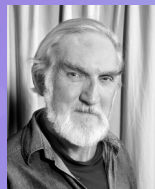
The Cast



Virginia - Bonnie Kaye. Bonnie is new to Maskers after recently rediscovering her passion for acting. She was extensively involved with the Nuffield Theatre many moons ago, studied Drama at GCSE and A-Level, and was involved in Kafka's *Metamorphosis* whilst at college. She first appeared for Maskers in *Mistletoe Junction*.



Felix - Paul Baker. Paul made his Maskers' debut in *The Three Musketeers* playing a variety of parts, one of whom was killed by Martin Humphrey who appears in this production as his boss Fadinard. He has been in every outdoor production for the company since his debut. This is his first indoor production for over a year so he expects it to snow during show week.



Vezeinet- John Souter. John is no stranger to the stage, having appeared with Maskers for more years than he can remember. His parts have ranged from Shakespeare to Ayckbourn both serious and comic. Last year his Nuffield appearance was as a silly deaf old woman; this year he is a silly deaf old man! He denies all claims that he is being typecast.



Emile Tavernier - David Jobson. David is pleased to be returning to the Nuffield after appearing last year in *Ten Times Table*. Having played Porthos in *The Three Musketeers* and General McKenzie in *And Then There Were None*, this is not his first brash military character. He is excited to be finally playing a character with a love interest.



Fadinard—Martin Humphrey. Martin is enjoying returning to Maskers, even if it does mean much manic rushing about on stage! Previous roles with Maskers include Sir Percy Blakeny in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Athos in *The Three Musketeers*, and Richard Stanley in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. Martin has been involved in numerous other productions at the Chesil Theatre in Winchester.



Annette Beaujolais - Marie McDade. Marie has been a Masker for 5 years, and has appeared in a wide range of productions, from Shakespeare to Ayckbourn and back again. This is her second Nuffield Theatre appearance with the company, once again as a woman doomed to pursue unsuitable men - although this time with a lot more doors and lost hats!



Nonancourt - Eric Petterson. Eric started a late acting and singing career in *A Christmas Charivari* in 2012. He performed in the Christmas shows in 2013 and 2014 and again this year in *Mistletoe Junction*. His straight acting roles included the Guard in *Forward to the Right* and Jack in *The Weir*. He played Gaunt in a touring version of *Richard II* and enjoyed picking up young ladies in *The Yalta Game*.



Helen, the Bride - Kate Grundy-Garcia. Kate has more recently played motherly roles such as Raksha in *The Jungle Book* and Mrs Webb in *Our Town*. Prior to that, she played younger, feisty roles such as Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the scary prison officer in *Chair*, and a tarty killer Pirate in *Treasure Island*. In *An Italian Straw Hat*, she has gone full circle and is playing an innocent young bride again.



Boby, Helen's cousin - Jonathan Barney-Marmont. This is Jonathan's fifth time performing for Maskers after being a member of other societies for a few years. His latest role with us was Professor Higgins in *Pygmalion*. Prior to that he played Gregor Samsa in Kafka's *Metamorphosis* which could not be more removed from this role! Jonathan enjoys playing characters spanning from one end of the spectrum to the other and has very much relished playing Boby.



Clara - Kristina Wilde. She flirted through this year's sell-out production of *Di and Viv and Rose*. She ran wild as Mowgli in *The Jungle Book*. Kristina is delighted to play milliner Clara. After Shakespeare, Ibsen and black comedy with other companies, French farce is a new challenge. She thinks this'll be a relaxing way to spend January 2017, before directing *The Killing of Sister George* in May.



Tardiveau - Ian Wilson. Ian has been performing and directing with Maskers for nine years. His parts have ranged from a lepidopterist, barman, strip club owner, and accountant to the King of England himself. This part is a bit less regal, but everyone needs a hat!



La Comtesse de Champigny - Jenni Watson. Jenni was bitten by the acting bug when she first performed in a church nativity play, aged 3! Over the years she has performed for Maskers as well as many local groups, in a variety of settings, most recently as Mrs Pearce (*Pygmalion*). Jenni is very much looking forward to playing a Comtesse!



Achille de Rosalba - Philip de Grouchy Philip has performed, on and off, with the Maskers and other local societies (some still flourishing, some long defunct) since the early seventies of the last century in a wide variety of roles, often eccentric or drunk or both. In this show, his role is definitely the former; a character which may ruin his reputation, such as it is, irreparably. But it's great fun to do.



The Butler - Bruce Atkinson Bruce has been a Masker for many years, appearing in too many shows to list. Lately he seems to have been specialising in playing butlers and was last seen in Maskers' open-air production of *Pygmalion* as – the butler!