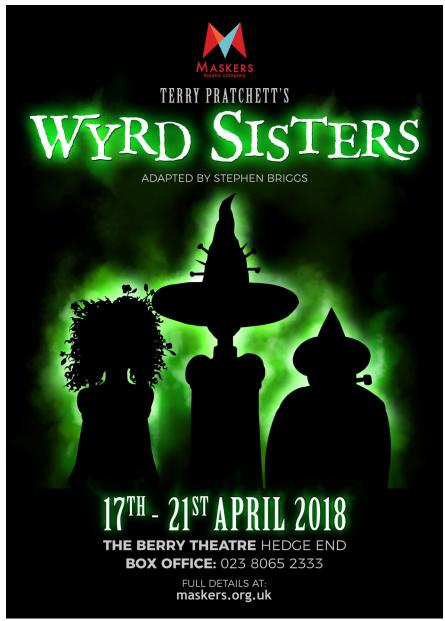
FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS







Programme

Fri 8, Sat 9, Mon 11 to Sat 16 December 2017

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Director's Notes

The Christmas Show is always a thoroughly enjoyable experience as it is impossible not to be swept up in the joyousness of the occasion. Rehearsals are full of laughter and infectious Christmas songs—although you do get some funny looks as you find yourself singing them out loud in absentminded moments from early October. The Christmas show was first developed many years ago by the late Mollie Manns, who wanted to celebrate the spoken word along with the Festive Season. Over the years it has taken many forms, from a straight anthology, through a concert of music and the spoken word, various storylines, through to the current show which also draws on another Maskers' tradition—the melodrama. A comic Victorian melodrama was first written by Masker Graham Buchanan over forty years ago and Maskers performed his melodramas over many years and in many venues. I hope he will forgive me reworking his ideas for our seasonal melodrama in this show.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this show as much as we have enjoyed creating it. Please feel free to join in with all the songs, boo the villain, cheer the hero and chant the melodrama catchphrase 'fifteen long years'.

Merí



Directed by Meri Mackney - Meri has been a Masker for many years and has been involved with a large number of productions both on and off-stage, indoor and open-air. She has been in and/or directed several of the Christmas shows and is really enjoying the particularly light-hearted nature of this year's show, which she scripted (with some help from the cast) as well as directed.

The Cast (in alphabetical order)



Chris Baker — Chris is a long-standing member of the company, having been involved with many productions both on and off stage; she is currently the treasurer. Her last appearance was as Helen Dixon in *Ten Times Table* at the Nuffield Theatre. She is glad to be involved once again with our Christmas presentation.



Jill Desborough — Jill has been a Masker since 2014 and is delighted to be involved once again in the Christmas Show. She has also had roles in a touring production of *Richard II*, *Metamorphosis* at Maskers Studio and two outdoor shows, *Jungle Book* and *Pygmalion*. She is enjoying performing with a lovely group of people – but facing the challenge of displaying her dubious prowess on the piano with some trepidation!

The Production Crew

Production Manager
Stage Manager
Set Design
Lighting Design
Lighting Operator
Sound Designer
Sound Operator
Properties Co-ordinator
Room Setting
Costumes
Set Construction and Painting

Musical Support Rehearsal Prompt

Chris Baker Kathryn Salmon Zoe Harris, Clive

Zoe Harris, Clive Weeks

Clive Weeks David Cowley Tom Foyle Tom Foyle Meri Mackney

Angela Stansbridge, Meri Mackney Chris Baker, Meri Mackney, the Cast Steve Russell, Clive Weeks, Paul Duell,

Kathryn Salmon, Eric Petterson, Robert Osborne, Adam Taussik, Brian Stansbridge, Chris Baker, Zoe Harris, Jo Iacovou, Jill Desborough, Harvey Salmon

Allegra Carlton
Val Struthers

OUR NEXT STUDIO PRODUCTION

At the Maskers Studio 2,3,5-10 March 2018

Frank Marcus' infamous play comes to the Maskers studio

Witness the pitch-black comedy that went on to shock the world.

BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366



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!

Enjoy the challenge of making theatre happen.

To find out more about Maskers Theatre Company, go to

www.maskers.org.uk

or speak to any of the Front of House or bar staff



@MaskersTheatre



Find us on

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who have contributed various bits and pieces for this production. What would we do without you?





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

Join the Maskers' online mailing list - visit our website and click the box provided.

For the Company

Technical Manager --- Jamie McCarthy; Marketing Director --- Sarah Russell; Marketing Team --- Ruth Kibble, Angela Stansbridge, James Norton, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney; Front of House Manager --- Chris Baker; Front of House Display --- Meri Mackney Box Office Manager --- Chris Baker; Photography --- Clive Weeks; Bar Manager --- Meri Mackney

The Cast Continued



Jo Fox — Jo has been an active Masker for 10 years and has played a variety of roles, including a lady in waiting in *Anne Boleyn*, Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and a monkey in *The Jungle Book*. The Maskers' Christmas show really helps to kick off the most wonderful time of the year and Jo is looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit and having fun with some singing and dancing, as well as acting.



Bonnie Kaye — Bonnie has loved performing for as long as she can remember. She spent a lot of her youth acting at the Nuffield Theatre in youth shows and made her debut for Maskers at last year's Christmas show *Mistletoe Junction*. Since then she has enjoyed playing a flirty French maid in *An Italian Straw Hat* and is looking forward to playing a flirty upper-class Lady in *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow.*



Robert Osborne — Robert's first role with Maskers was as a stage manager on the 2011 Christmas show *Jingle Bells*. In the last six years he has taken on a variety of roles, both offstage and onstage, and now comes back to the Maskers' Christmas show where it all started. He recently appeared as Haimon in *Antigone* at Maskers studio and will step into the director's role for the first time in October 2018, directing *Happy* by Robert Caisley.



Eric Petterson — Eric started a late acting/singing career as 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.* He was Jo Gargery, Wemick and Drummel, sometimes in the correct costume, in *Great Expectations*, and a particularly bolshie guard in *Antigone.*



Jonathan Shepherd — Regular attendees at Maskers' Christmas shows may recognise Jonathan from his appearance in *Room at the Inn* in 2015. In that show he played a variety of characters, including a dashing young RAF pilot, and Father Christmas! Jonathan has also appeared in a selection of other Maskers' shows over the years, including *Pride and Prejudice* (2007), *Ann Boleyn* (2013) and *Our Town* (2014).



Sat 9th December for one night only!

Jonathan Barney-Marmont — In 2016 for Maskers, Jonathan played Gregor Samsa in *Metamorphosis* and Professor Higgins in *Pygmalion*. This year, roles include Boby in *An Italian Straw* Hat at The Nuffield and Phileas Fogg in *Around The World In 80 Days*. He is relishing the Christmas spirit that this current production will bring.

Rehearsing Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!



Item List (First Half)

Be Not Afeard - Shakespeare (The Tempest)
A Child's Christmas in Wales (extract) - Dylan Thomas
The Door Knockers - Labyrinth the Movie
Christmas Carol - Sara Teasdale
Snow - Walter de la Mare
Cider with Rosie (extract) - Laurie Lee
Advent 1955 - John Betjeman
Now Thrice Welcome Christmas - Anon
How The Grinch Stole Christmas - Dr Seuss
A Christmas Carol (extract) - Charles Dickens

There will be one interval of 20 minutes during which mulled wine, juice and mince pies will be served.

The bar will also be open.

Second Half

Mayhem at Crossleigh Manor

Mrs Shirley Chris Baker

Daisy Jo Fox

Old Tom Eric Petterson

Sir Jasper Jonathan Shepherd

(Sat 9th Jonathan Barney-Marmont)

BillRobert OsborneThe SheepShaun WoolstonLady CynthiaBonnie KayeLord AnthonyJill Desborough

Carols