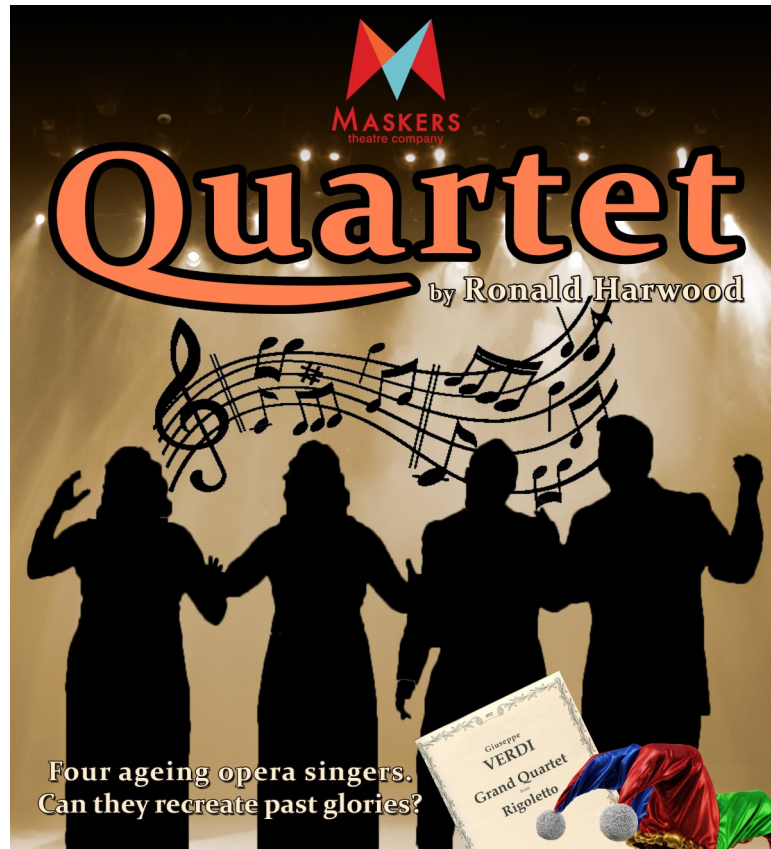


OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



Four ageing opera singers.
Can they recreate past glories?

At the Maskers Studio

3 - 8 Feb 2020

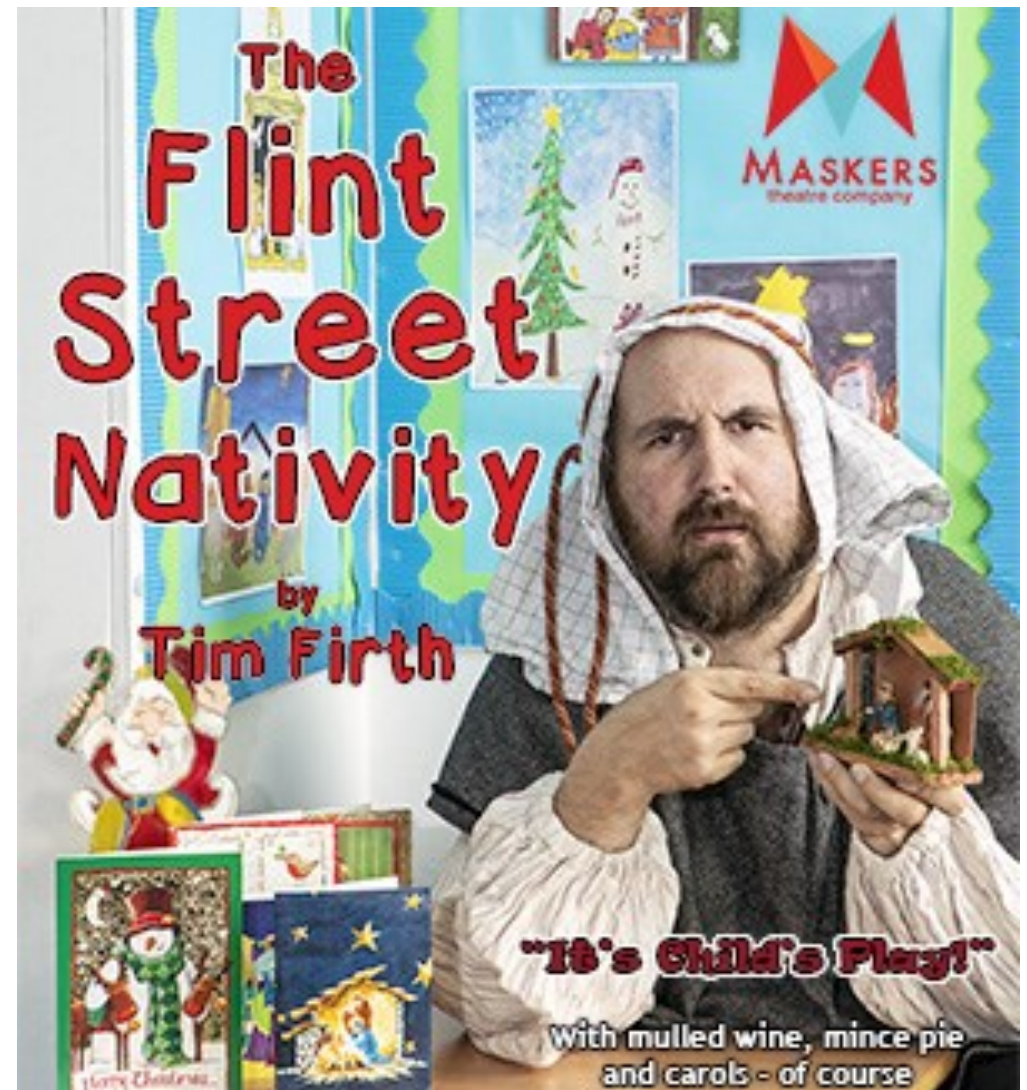
Four retired opera singers bicker and reminisce..

But what will they perform for Verdi's birthday concert?

Can they recreate their past glories?

A funny and warm-hearted look at the problems of aging and the power of art.

BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366



Programme

Mon 2 - Sat 7 December

2019

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes


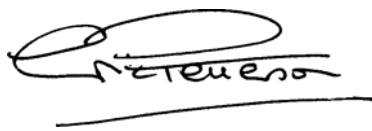
I've been a Masker since 2012, and have acted in many shows since then, mostly in the studio, but also elsewhere. I was delighted to be asked to make my directing debut with **Flint Street Nativity**. It's a challenging play with a large cast, and I think it's really funny.

Mrs Horrocks' class are putting on a Nativity. Mrs Horrocks is under a fair amount of stress, and much of the play has been organised by Jenny Bennett, who plays Mary, despite the best efforts of the rest of the class to do not a lot. Ashley, who plays the Angel Gabriel, thinks **she** should be Mary. Tim, the Narrator, wants to learn his words so his dad will be proud. The terrifying Innkeeper is in love with...

No. I won't tell you any more. The plot will unfold over the course of the evening, and I hope you enjoy the show.

It has been a pleasure working with such a talented cast and crew who have worked very hard in a shorter than usual rehearsal time. Special thanks to Ken Hann who acted as my mentor.

Thank you for coming.



Directed by Eric Petterson - Eric joined Maskers in 2012 to write songs and sing in the Christmas show. Up to now he has been an actor in many shows, including **Great Expectations**, **Antigone**, **Wyrld Sisters** and, latterly, as Len in **Comfort Me with Apples**. He has regularly performed in Christmas shows over the years, but this is his first time as director. He says that acting is much easier. In the words of Blackadder – "You just get drunk, stick on silly hats and trust to luck.". He doesn't think that'll work for a director...



OUR OUTDOOR SHOW 2020

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July 2020

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For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director:** Peter Court;
Marketing Team:- Angela Stansbridge, Sarah Russell, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker, Rob Davis; **Front of House and Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks, Stuart Gray, Ian Wilson; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

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.....

Emma Carrington for set dressing materials
All of the members who have given their time!

The Production Crew

Production Manager and Mentor

Stage Manager

Set Design

Lighting Design

Sound Designer

Lighting and Sound Operator

Costumes

Properties

Set Design

Set Construction and

Painting

Set Dressing

Rehearsal Music

Rehearsal Prompt

Photography

Ken Hann

Robert Osborne

Eric Petterson

Clive Weeks

Jamie McCarthy

Rob Davis, Oliver Trojak

Chris Baker, Susan Wilson

Alison Tebbutt, Gill Buchanan

Eric Petterson

Robert Osborne, Peter Hill,

Katherine Evans, David Cowley,

Ian Wilson, Heather Callaway

Angela Stansbridge

Rosa Longman

Val Struthers

Ian Nicolls



*There will be one interval of 20 minutes during which mulled wine, juice and mince pies will be served in the bar.
The bar will also be open.*

Kali Mirchi



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The Cast



Narrator played by **Brian Stansbridge** — Brian has been a member of Maskers for much longer than he cares to remember and has been involved in many shows, both as an actor and a director. Recent acting credits include Miguel de Cervantes in *Don Quixote*, the Station Master in our 2016 Christmas production *Mistletoe Junction*, Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*, plus taking over a major part in *Ten Times Table* at the Nuffield Theatre, at nine hours' notice. Recent directing credits include *Mistletoe Junction*, *Room at the Inn*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and *The Comedy of Errors*.



Innkeeper played by **Jez Minns** — Jez has been acting with the Maskers since he was thirty and has been involved in many shows and made many wonderful friends. Recent productions include *An Italian Straw Hat*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Don Quixote* and *Twelfth Night*. He's very happy to be in this year's Christmas show and next year he'll be directing the one-act comedy *Sharks in the Custard*.



Star played by **Heather Callaway** — A member of Maskers since 2018 only, Heather had an exhausting, but thoroughly enjoyable, time playing various small parts in the summer production of *Don Quixote* at Hamptworth. Then *The Flint Street Nativity* came along, a truly different kind of Christmas production and – well, who wouldn't relish the idea of playing a star-struck seven-year-old? After all, her stage debut at that age was playing Mary in the church nativity – although she is not saying how many years ago **that** was!



Herod/Joseph played by **Ian Wilson** — Ian has just finished directing *100* in the studio and considered that the prospect of going on to play a seven-year-old in a school nativity was a good way to wind down! He played an Innkeeper in a Junior school production just after the events of this nativity took place, so feels well able to bring in a vast experience of the period. Interestingly, some may argue that it's not the first time as a member of Maskers he has been able to act like a kid.



Mary played by **Jane Russell** — *The Flint Street Nativity* marks Jane's debut for Maskers (despite having been a member for several years!) and she is delighted to form new friendships. Since rekindling her love of acting in 2012, she has performed in over 25 productions with both RAODS and EOMS, her most recent been her favourite ever role – the infamous Mrs Godwin in *Mary Shelley*. Being a primary school teacher for over 30 years, Jane knows only too well the delights of the annual Christmas nativity – enough said!

The Cast Continued



Wiseman Frankinsense played by **Philip de Grouchy** — Once again, your Yuletide is to be graced by Philip's presence in the Maskers' Christmas Show. 'Can't they get rid of him?' you ask. Poor old fellow, we have to take pity on him; he can only manage shows in which he sits down for most of the time, as he thought – only to find himself tottering about as a very young school boy who can't 'thay hiith eth-eth' in this funny yet touching comic nativity.



Wiseman Gold played by **Rachel Eynon** — Oh no, it is that time of year again. This is becoming an annual event for Rachel! Last year she was a suffragette; this year she is a bit more needy and longs to be teacher's pet. Poor Wise Gold wants to be everybody's friend. Will it end in tears? Let's hope her mum wins the bingo. Rachel herself has lots of lovely friends in the Maskers and is really enjoying herself finding her inner child (who is never far away).



Angel played by **Molly McDade** — Having appeared in several shows for both the Nuffield Youth Theatre, Molly's first show with Maskers was *Our Town*, in 2014. Other major roles include Tabaqui the Jackal in *The Jungle Book* and Jessica Steele in *A Bunch of Amateurs*, when she was anything but a little Angel!



Gabriel played by **Marie McDade** — Marie has been a Masker since 2011 and this will be her 4th Christmas Show. Her most recent role was a trophy wife/masseuse in *A Bunch of Amateurs*. She was – briefly – a junior school teacher back in the day, so will be drawing on distant but painful memories of school assemblies for this year's nativity!



Shepherd played by **Sue Dashper** — During Sue's time in Maskers, she has been involved in a number of productions, including *Contractions* and *Metamorphosis* in the Studio and *Sitting Pretty* and *An Italian Straw Hat* at the Nuffield Theatre. She has been in many outdoor productions: *Don Quixote*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Jungle Book*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Treasure Island* and, most recently, *Twelfth Night*. She is looking forward to wearing a tea-towel on her head and keeping those pesky sheep in order.



Ass played by **Jo Iacovou** — Joanna has been a member of Maskers since 2003. The roles she has played have been many and varied, ranging from the Sarcastic Bystander in *Pygmalion*, Ruby Birtle in *When we are Married*, Greta in *Metamorphosis*, Childie in *The Killing of Sister George* and, most recently, Sophie in *100*. Jo is enjoying being an ass!