

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



Ugly Lies the Bone

4 - 9 Apr 2022

Can virtual reality treatment heal and restore Afghanistan war veteran Jess?

at The Maskers Studio

This play contains some strong language and graphic images. Age 14 and over.



BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366



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Programme

31 January -5 February 2022

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

When I was first presented with the script for *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, I could immediately see these characters jumping off the page, bouncing around the room with their zany antics and crazy stories.

Then I suddenly had visions of a very garish pink studio theatre... You are welcome! All of this comes down to a brilliant creative team lead by Jo Fox and Clive Weeks, both of whom have been instrumental in helping me get this show to where it is now.

The more work we have collectively put into this project, the funnier the show seems to get, which is a testament to my wonderful cast. We have laughed A LOT throughout these rehearsals; it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a talented bunch.

So, sit back, relax, as we welcome you to Sandy's Chapel of Love. Four of the most memorable weddings that took place here are what you are about to witness... I'll be humming hunk-a-hunk of burning love for many months to come, I am sure!!

James



Directed by James Lawson - James has been a Masker for 15 years; it's hard to think that 2007 was 15 years ago!! He has portrayed a variety of roles including TomJon in Terry Pratchett's *Wyrd Sisters* (2018), a Mississippi lawyer in *Crimes of The Heart* (2013), a soldier in *Accrington Pals* (2007), a swash-buckling pirate in *Treasure Island* (2011) and Inspector Fix in *Around The World In 80 Days* (2017). This is James' second outing as a director for the Maskers. His first was in 2015 when he directed Ben Elton's *Silly Cow* to sold-out audiences.

We are delighted to have been able to keep the Studio open since September. So far we know of no instances of anyone, cast, crew or audience member contracting Covid on the premises. In addition to our new ventilation system, we protect you and ourselves by wearing protective items, constant cleaning, and regular ionising and fogging.

Please support our efforts by wearing a mask in all parts of the building (unless exempt or drinking) and making use of the sanitisers provided. Thank you!

POP IN AND GET TO KNOW US 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 February
Running from 10am – 1pm.



We hope you enjoy our Show !!

We welcome your comments on tonight's show for marketing purposes and also any feedback on your visit to Maskers Studio

Email: feedback@maskers.org.uk

Many Thanks

See you again soon!!

Maskers Theatre Company are pleased to host



the Youth Theatre part of registered charity **Unexpected Places**

Shirley Juniors/Seniors
Fridays, 4pm-6pm, Aged 7-11/11-16

Shirley Advanced
Fridays, 6pm-7pm, Aged 7-16

info@lightupdrama.org.uk

The Production Team

Director
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Lighting and Sound Operators
Set Design
Set Construction
Set Painting
Set Dressing
Costumes
Properties
Rehearsal Prompt

James Lawson
Jo Fox
Jill Desborough
Clive Weeks
Jamie McCarthy, Carrie Forster
Kalim Robinson, Carrie Forster
Clive Weeks
Clive Weeks, Brian Stansbridge & team
Jo Fox & team
Angie Stansbridge
Jo Fox, Sheana Carrington & cast
Jo Fox, Adam Taussik
Emma Bates-Garcia

Acknowledgements

Dawn's Flower Box, SO19 7PZ
Carpentry



For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Team:-** Angela Stansbridge, Abigail Caveney, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; **Front of House and Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney

WARNING

This show contains one scene with red and blue flashing lights

Can you find Elvis? Elvis is hidden six times in the picture, along with our four couples. Can you find all six?



There will be one interval of 20 minutes

The Cast



Sandy is played by **Jo Barnard** - Jo has been in three shows with Maskers – *Great Expectations*, *Wyrd Sisters* and *Quartet* – and says she is drawn to shows that are clever or funny but preferably both. She is therefore delighted to be playing the hopelessly (sarcastic) romantic, Sandy, in this highly entertaining play. Jo's cousin 'disappeared to Vegas, came back married' many years ago. He announced his wedding by posting a photo of himself and his beautiful bride smiling in front of The Little Church of the West wedding chapel in Paradise, Nevada, and it was the most romantic thing she had ever seen. Viva Las Vegas!



Bev is played by **Hazel Slawson** - This is Hazel's fourth performance for Maskers having appeared as multiple characters in *Around the World in 80 Days*, using a myriad of accents in *Wyrd Sisters* and making a lot of noise on guitar in *Twelfth Night*. Having performed at a great distance from the audience in the past, Hazel's first studio show is a little daunting as the audience will be close enough to aim those tomatoes just right.



Stan is played by **Neil Forster** - This is Neil's first show with Maskers, and he's very excited to be involved. Neil moved to Southampton in 2020 after living in London for 10 years. Whilst in London he performed in a variety of shows including *A Clockwork Orange*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Oh What a Lovely War*, *Harvey*, and *Cabaret*. He grew up in South Shields and studied at York University, where he appeared in various other productions including *Grease*, *Julius Caesar*, *Cider with Rosie*, *Arcadia* and *Journey's End*.



John is played by **Joe Hand** - Joe has been performing in Southampton for nearly 10 years, with highlights including stints as the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance* and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* with University of Southampton's Light Opera Society, playing Andre Thibault in Southampton Musical Society's production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and co-writing and starring in Gauntlet Theatre's *My Life Closed Twice*, which won the Gothenburg Fringe Festival Hot Potato Award in 2018. By day, Joe works for the university, and by evening is most often found exploring and defeating Dungeons and Dragons respectively. This is Joe's first outing with Maskers.



Lou is played by **Philip de Grouchy** - A member of the Society since the early 1970s, Philip has played a large variety of parts in every kind of show and has been a very active actor this season, playing Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mark in *Yards Apart* and being part of the company for *A Box of Delights*. Previous productions include *Quartet*, *An Italian Straw Hat*, *Ten Times Table*, *The Flint Street Nativity* and many Christmas shows, some of which he directed.



Vanessa is played by **Suze Avery** - Suze returns to Maskers after 18 months off for good behaviour. She is delighted to be playing the role of Vanessa; her last role for the company was Viola in *Twelfth Night*, and Suze now feels she is eminently qualified to play characters whose names begin with a 'V'. She is looking forward to branching out to the rest of the alphabet in due course and is excited to be meeting Elvis.



Bryce is played by **Jonathan Shepherd** - Jonathan is excited to be back on stage with the Maskers. His most recent appearance was in January 2021 performing a short video monologue entitled *I Got Me A Dog in Lockdown* for the Maskers' *Between the Lines* project. Prior to that Jonathan could be seen festively romping in *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow*. In *Four Weddings* Jonathan plays a narcissistic 'has been' American actor, a role that requires an intensive pre-show beauty regime: Fake tan – check! Teeth whitener – check! Hair product – check! He is ready for his close up now.



Marvin is played by **Robert Osborne** - Robert has been with Maskers for 10 years and has been an actor, stage manager, production manager, lighting designer and director in that time. He is now Maskers' productions director, tasked with choosing our programme of plays over the next seasons. *Four Weddings and An Elvis* will be his 10th acting role with Maskers, the last being *Let It Snow*. He is currently the only member to have won both the company's David Bartlett Award for best supporting actor and the Lockett award for backstage work.



Fiona is played by **Rachel di Nucci** - Rachel is a new addition to Maskers, having joined in 2020. Previously, she has taken part in theatre and drama groups throughout school. More recently, she was a part of the Solent Drama and Performance Society where she was in *Titus Andronicus*, *The Crucible*, and *The Addams Family Musical*. *Four Wedding and an Elvis* is Rachel's first acting role with Maskers and she looks forward to more productions in the future.



Fist is played by **Sam Hussey** - Sam joined Maskers in 2019, debuting as Andrew Aguecheek in the outdoor production of *Twelfth Night*. Other roles for Maskers include the Guide in *100*, and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Sam has enjoyed getting to play a very different sort of character than his usual casting but wishes his wife wouldn't laugh so much when she hears the other characters mentioning his muscular physique!



Ken is played by **Andy Hussey** - This is Andy's first show with Maskers and, indeed, his first show since playing Harold Wilson in Southampton Musical Society's production of *Made in Dagenham* 5 years ago. Andy is retired and is usually birdwatching or on holiday. He is excited to be a part of *Four Weddings and an Elvis* along with his son, Sam, and hopes you enjoy the show.