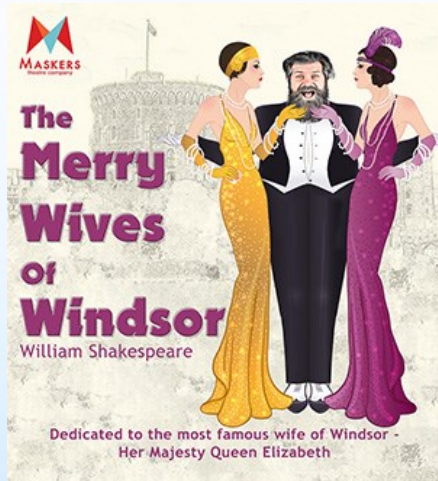


## Our Next Productions



### Double Bill

17 - 22 October 2022

The women of Windsor get their revenge on Falstaff for his roving eyes!

at The Maskers Studio

off Emsworth Road, Shirley,  
Southampton SO15 3LX

**BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366**

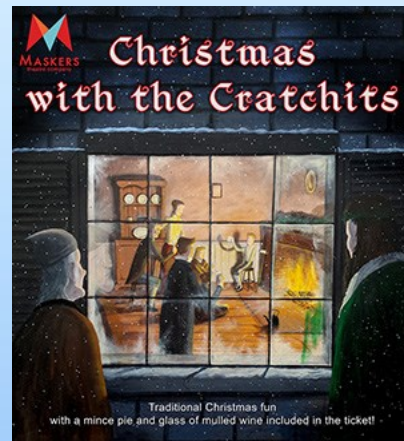
### Christmas with the Cratchits

5 - 10 December 2022

Get in the mood for Christmas with this combination of anthology and short play.

at The Maskers Studio

off Emsworth Road, Shirley,  
Southampton SO15 3LX

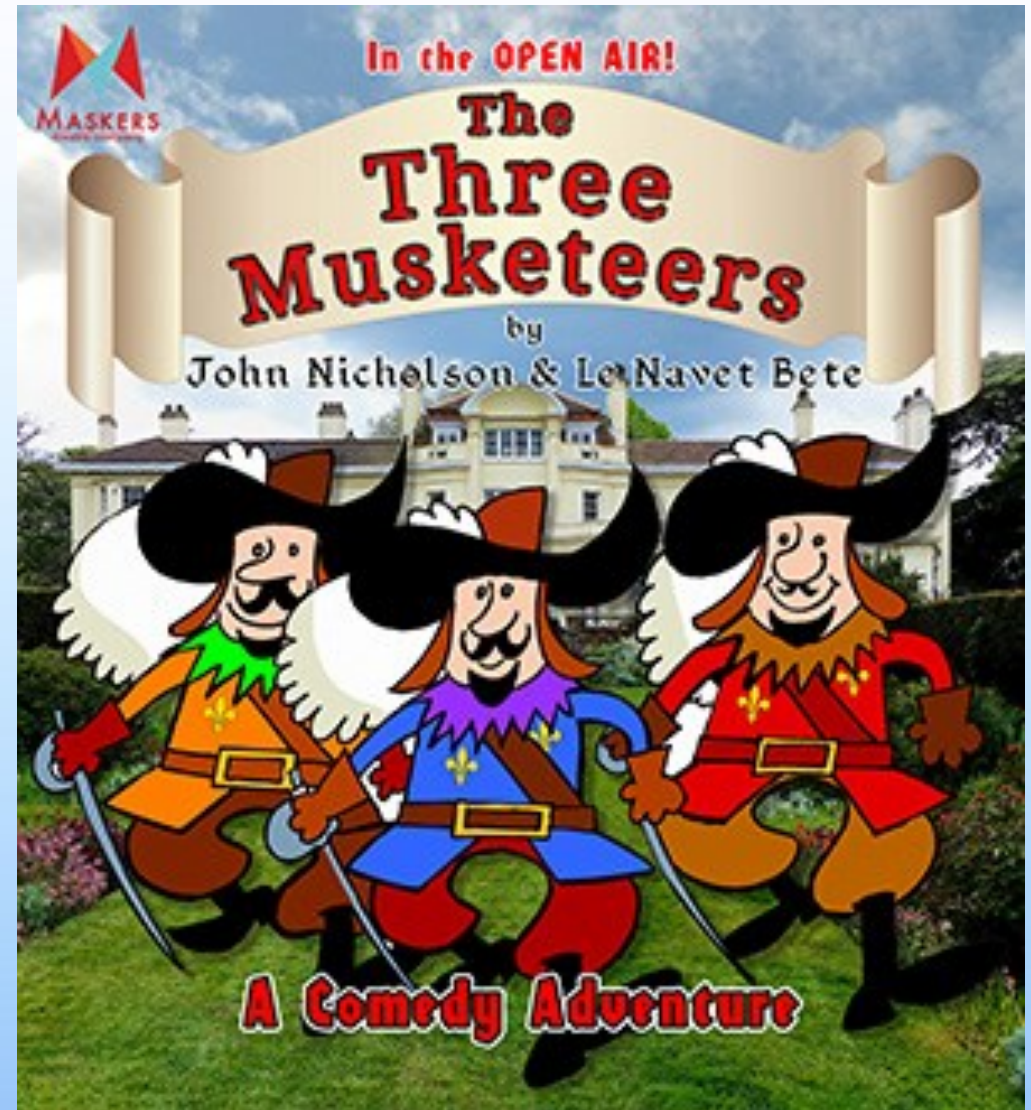


**For the Maskers  
For the Maskers**

**Technical Manager:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

**Marketing Team:-** Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey,

Peter Court, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; **Front of House and Box Office Manager:** Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks



**Programme**

15-17 & 22 - 24 July 2022

In the beautiful grounds of  
Townhill Park House

Registered Charity no. 900067

[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk)

## Maskers at Townhill Park House

Welcome to Maskers' open-air production of *The Three Musketeers*

This is our third production at this lovely location and we hope you enjoy the beauty of the grounds and get a chance to look around the Gertrude Jekyll garden. We are very grateful to The Gregg School for allowing us to perform here and for all their help, most especially Elizabeth Adams, in ensuring that the preparations for the show went smoothly.

This is Maskers' 40th outdoor summer production and we are very proud of our record of bringing award-winning, quality theatre to audiences and locations in the area. Maskers was formed over fifty years ago. During that time we have performed and been based in a number of different places in Southampton but we have had our own studio theatre in Shirley, Southampton, for a good many years now. Do come and see a show there. A performance in its small, intimate space is a very different experience compared with an open-air show. Details of Maskers' next productions are on the back page of this programme. See our website for full details: [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk).

We respectfully request that you take all your picnic leftovers and empties home. You may remain to finish your picnics at the end of the play but we ask that you vacate the grounds by 9.30pm (4.30pm for matinée). Thank you!!



## Townhill Park House



From early Norman times until the dissolution of the monasteries, Townhill was held by the Bishop of Winchester. In 1536, it was granted to Sir William Paulet and became known as Townhill Farm. Nathaniel Middleton of the East India Company acquired it in 1787 and turned it into a private home. The estate became known as Townhill Park.

Townhill Park was bought by Samuel Montagu, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Swaythling, in 1897 as a residence for his newly-married son, Louis. Extensive modifications took place in the Italian style under the architect Leonard Rome Guthrie. He and Gertrude Jekyll were asked to design the gardens to complement the new style of the house and the arboretum.

During World War II, the estate was loaned to the Red Cross as a convalescent home for British soldiers, after which the house was sold to Middlesex County Council and became a boarding school for underprivileged girls. The rest of the land became the housing estate known as Townhill Park. Southampton City Council took over the house and grounds in 1969 as a hostel for merchant navy cadets. In 1994, it became The Gregg School, as you see it today.

In 1997, The Friends of Townhill Park Gardens volunteer force was formed to restore the Gertrude Jekyll Garden, the Herb Garden and the Herbaceous Borders. More recently, work has been done to restore the Arboretum and Orchard. The gardens are open to the public free of charge on advertised dates through the year. The next is Heritage Day on Sunday 11th September.

**Please take care when moving around the grounds as steps and paths may be uneven and slippery if wet.**

**Provision for smoking has been made in the parkland.  
Please use the sand buckets provided. Thank you!**

## How Many Musketeers?

Maskers have a long history of telling the stories of The Musketeers. Our first time of donning the tabards was for **Cyrano de Bergerac** at Mottisfont Abbey in 1986.



We also have a long history of cross-dressing musketeers, with many women playing the cadets.

Ken Spencer starred as Cyrano, with Belinda Drew as his Roxanne and Brian Stansbridge as Christian.



Next it was **The Three Musketeers** in 1996 with (left to right) Malcolm Brown as Porthos, Martin Humphrey as Athos, John Carrington Jnr as D'Artagnan and Brian Stansbridge as Aramis.

And most recently (17 years ago!) in 2005 for **The Man in the Iron Mask**.



Shown here, John Carrington Jnr reprising D'Artagnan, with Albie Minns (left) as Athos and John Souter as Porthos. Aramis was played by Ian Morley.



And now our 2022 production with our cross-dressing musketeers Abi Linnartz (Aramis) and Rachel di Nucci (Porthos) with David Jobson as D'Artagnan and Duncan Randall as Athos.

To receive details of all our productions, join the Maskers' online mailing list at [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk)

## Director's Notes

The novel of **The Three Musketeers** by Alexandre Dumas has been adapted and interpreted for film, for television and, of course, the stage.

I'm sure most of us have heard of Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D'Artagnan. Whilst this version is not quite the swashbuckling interpretation of most modern takes, it is a lot of fun. But it has not been without a few challenges:

Firstly, it was written to be performed indoors - you can't achieve a blackout in broad daylight!

Secondly, it was written for a cast of four plus an ASM. Here we shared out some of the characters to deliberately include more Maskers' company members.

Thirdly, outdoor performing. You are inevitably restricted by weather conditions and all the practical issues of getting to a venue with all the paraphernalia required.

Finally, the language. In my experience there's always a debate about the suitability of content in amateur productions. This has been no exception. We've swapped some of the stronger language for more age appropriate wording.

That said, my first directing job for Maskers has been a pleasure. It's a super, supportive cast and a short and sweet production which I trust you will enjoy.

*William*



Maskers are delighted to have Light Up sessions in our studio theatre on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Please see the Light Up website for details:  
[www.lightupdrama.org.uk](http://www.lightupdrama.org.uk)



**Directed by William Baggs** — William has been a member since the early 2010s. Whilst an experienced director elsewhere, this is his first time directing for Maskers. William has appeared in many productions, including the lead role in *Richard II*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, King James in *Anne Boleyn* and two productions at the Nuffield Theatre, *Ten Times Table* and *Sitting Pretty*. William enjoys acting and directing equally and is very grateful for the opportunity to steer this year's summer show for Maskers.



**Assistant Director is Jill Desborough** — Jill has been a member of Maskers for about seven years and has been involved in many shows, both on and off the stage. In 2020, just before lockdown, she directed her first show, *Quartet*, at Maskers Studio and last Christmas co-directed the Christmas show, *A Box of Delights*, with Brian Stansbridge. Jill enjoys the teamwork involved in putting on a show and loves being part of the wonderful team working on *The Three Musketeers*.



Treasure Island - July 2011



Pygmalion - July 2016



Great Expectations - March/April 2017



Mistletoe Junction - Dec 2016



Around the World in 80 Days - July 2017



# OPEN HOUSE

Meet our members for technical demos, costumes displays, props making, behind the scenes chats & more

Shirley's own studio theatre opens its doors to everyone!

**FREE ENTRY - All welcome!**

**10am-1pm**

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**



## The Production Crew

**Director**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Production Manager**  
**Stage Manager**  
**Deputy Stage Manager**  
**Electrical Infrastructure and Lighting**  
**Sound Design and Infrastructure**  
**Technical Operator**  
**Properties**  
**Costume Team**

**Set Construction and Painting**

**Set Dressing**  
**Front of House Managers**  
**Car Park Manager**  
**Catering Manager**

William Baggs  
Jill Desborough  
Christine Baker  
Neil Maddock  
Kathryn Salmon  
Clive Weeks  
Jamie McCarthy  
Jamie McCarthy  
Adam Taussik  
Hazel Burrows, Susan Wilson,  
Sheana Carrington, Serena Brown  
Brian Stansbridge, Ken Hann, Graham  
Buchanan  
Adam Taussik, Brian Stansbridge  
Liz and Peter Hill  
Brian Stansbridge  
Chris Baker

## Acknowledgements

Anna Hussey for choreography  
Jez Minns for making the butterflies  
Progress Theatre, Reading, and SUP Theatre Company for props  
Rachel Booth for props  
Emphasis Event Productions

## Maskers Needs You!

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](http://www.maskers.org.uk) or speak to any of  
the Front of House staff



@MaskersTheatre



Find us on

Facebook

## The Cast



**D'Artagnan** is played by **David Jobson** — David dons the tabard once again, having performed in *The Three Musketeers* twice before - once as Porthos for Winchester University and a year later in the Chesil Theatre's outdoor production. He has been part of many Maskers' shows, including *Richard II*, *The Jungle Book*, *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *An Italian Straw Hat*. He has also performed a number of Shakespearean roles at the Titchfield Festival Players' Tithe Barn, including Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Malcolm in *Macbeth*. David is also a trustee for Flute Theatre, a company that uses the language of Shakespeare to help autistic youngsters to communicate.



**Athos** is played by **Duncan Randall** — Duncan has a track record in community theatre spanning more than a decade (on and off) in various places. He started as a character actor at primary school and has played the bumbling detective in many a murder mystery in Kineton Amateur Dramatics. Then, on moving to the south coast, he joined Titchfield Festival Theatre (TFT). His creations for TFT include Gowing and Lupin (*Diary of a Nobody*), Enobarbus (*Anthony and Cleopatra*), Goldberg (*The Birthday Party*) Ken of *The Saga of Ken and Sandra*, the Landlord in Jim Cartwright's *Two* and Laurence in *Abigail's Party*. Duncan recently moved to Southampton and the Maskers. Rehearsing the Three M's, playing three parts, has certainly cantered away the lockdown blues - and shifted a bit of the lockdown bulge.



**Porthos/ Milady de Winter** is played by **Rachel di Nucci** — Rachel joined Maskers in September 2019 but has been in drama productions throughout school, university and Stagecoach. *Musketeers* is the second show she has been in with Maskers; the first being *Four Weddings and An Elvis*, playing ex-con Fiona who's engaged to postman Marvin. Rachel has enjoyed working in rehearsals to find her character, though she is beginning to wonder if she will always be cast as a criminal whose main plotline seems to be centred around the post!



**Aramis** is played by **Abi Linnartz**— Abi began acting at school at the age of 16, where her first major role came as the Master of Ceremonies in *Cabaret*. Since coming to University in Southampton many, many years ago, Abi has performed with a variety of drama companies throughout the area. Abi has been a performer with Titchfield Festival Theatre since its first production in 2001 at Titchfield Abbey. Since then, she has continued to participate in productions at the Great Barn and at its new home in St Margaret's Lane. Productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *A Day In the Death of Joe Egg*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Bible (Abridged)*, *The Last Secret*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* and *Mapp and Lucia*. Abi has also performed at the Brighton Fringe in *The Field Street Monologues* for Rusty Bucket Productions.

## The Cast continued



**Queen Anne / Ensemble** is played by **Emma Kirkpatrick** — Emma has been part of Maskers since 2021 and has been part of one production: **Out of Focus**, playing the part of Linda. She studied Drama at university before training to become a primary school teacher. This is Emma's first outside production and she is very excited to be playing multiple parts in this comedy piece.



**Maman / Ensemble** are played by **Marie McDade** — This will be Marie's sixth outing on the Maskers' outdoor stage – from Shakespearian **Midsummer** fairy to Kipling's **Jungle Book** panther, assorted characters travelling **Around the World in 80 Days**, **Pygmalion**, and most recently Dogberry in **Much Ado About Nothing** in 2021. Indoor shows have included **Richard II**, Granny Weatherwax in **Wyrd Sisters**, **A Bunch of Amateurs** and **Out of Focus**. Being one of the Masketeers is another opportunity for her to play a wide range of colourful characters.



**Papa / Nun / Ensemble** are played by **Adam Taussik** — Depuis qu'il a rejoint Maskers il y a 18 ans, Adam a joué des personnages de nombreux rangs, des paysans aux rois (avec une poignée de pasteur, de soldats et d'ours). Il a joué des gens de toutes les nations, et pour ce spectacle, Adam gardera également le ton européen de **Much Ado About Nothing** de l'année dernière, jouant le premier citoyen français depuis qu'il était le roi de France dans **King Lear**.

(Since joining Maskers 18 years ago, Adam has played characters from many ranks, from peasants to kings (with a handful of pastors, soldiers, and bears). He has played people from all nations, and for this show, Adam will also keep the European tone of last year's **Much Ado About Nothing**, playing the first French citizen since he was king of France in **King Lear**.)



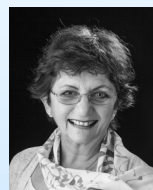
**Felton / M Bonacieux / Ensemble** are played by **Paul Baker** — Paul has been acting with Maskers since 1996 when he made his debut in **The Three Musketeers** at Mottisfont Abbey. He has since appeared in every Maskers open air show bar one and is the only member of the cast to have appeared in both versions of **The Three Musketeers**. In this version, like everyone else, he plays multiple characters; in fact, at each of the early rehearsals the list seemed to increase. In his time with Maskers, he has played a multitude of parts including a demon in **Wyrd Sisters**, Weasel Norman in **The Wind in the Willows** and a show business agent in **Silly Cow** and is looking forward to the challenge of playing at least five characters (at the time of writing) in this production.

## The Cast continued



**Treville / Torquil / Ensemble** played by **Simon Mewett** — Simon's passion for the creative arts started young and, after studying drama, he moved into radio, as well as performing in various amateur dramatic societies. After a long break from the stage, Simon found himself impressed with the overall quality of Maskers' productions and the friendliness of the group and was subsequently drawn back.

Simon has learnt a great deal from the other cast members and is looking forward to bringing to life two contrasting characters, under the expert direction of William Baggs.



**Sister Mary / Ensemble** are played by **Hazel Burrows** - Hazel has been a member of the Maskers since the mid-70s, enjoying every aspect of theatre; performance, costume, set design and directing. Her last performance was mid-April in **Ugly Lies the Bone**, playing a therapist and mother, in an interesting play dealing with how to cope with pain. Last October Hazel directed a comedy, **Out of Focus**, in our Studio theatre. In **The Three Musketeers** we see Hazel play a tavern lady, a nun, a sailor, a framed picture... so the art of quick changes can be included in her theatre experience!



**Travers / Ensemble** are played by **Daniel Chopra** — Daniel joined Blue Apple theatre company in Winchester in 2017 and has appeared in 13 plays with them before recently joining Maskers. For Blue Apple, he has appeared in **The Wizard of Oz**, **The Tempest**, **The Railway Children**, **Much Ado about Nothing**, **Frankenstein**, **A White Christmas**, **Family on the Frontline**, **Change**, **Pinocchio** and **Macbeth** and, in 2019, he took part in a student movie called **Visual Storm**, playing a kidnapped hostage. Blue Apple supports performers with learning differences to develop and present high-quality productions for the widest possible audience – performing and touring theatre, dance and film within a variety of large and small scale venues around Hampshire and the southern regions. Daniel has cerebellar ataxia.



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theatre company  
maskers.org.uk

**We hope you enjoyed the Show !!**

We welcome your comments on tonight's show for marketing purposes.

Email: [feedback@maskers.org.uk](mailto:feedback@maskers.org.uk)

**Many Thanks**  
**– see you again soon!!**

