

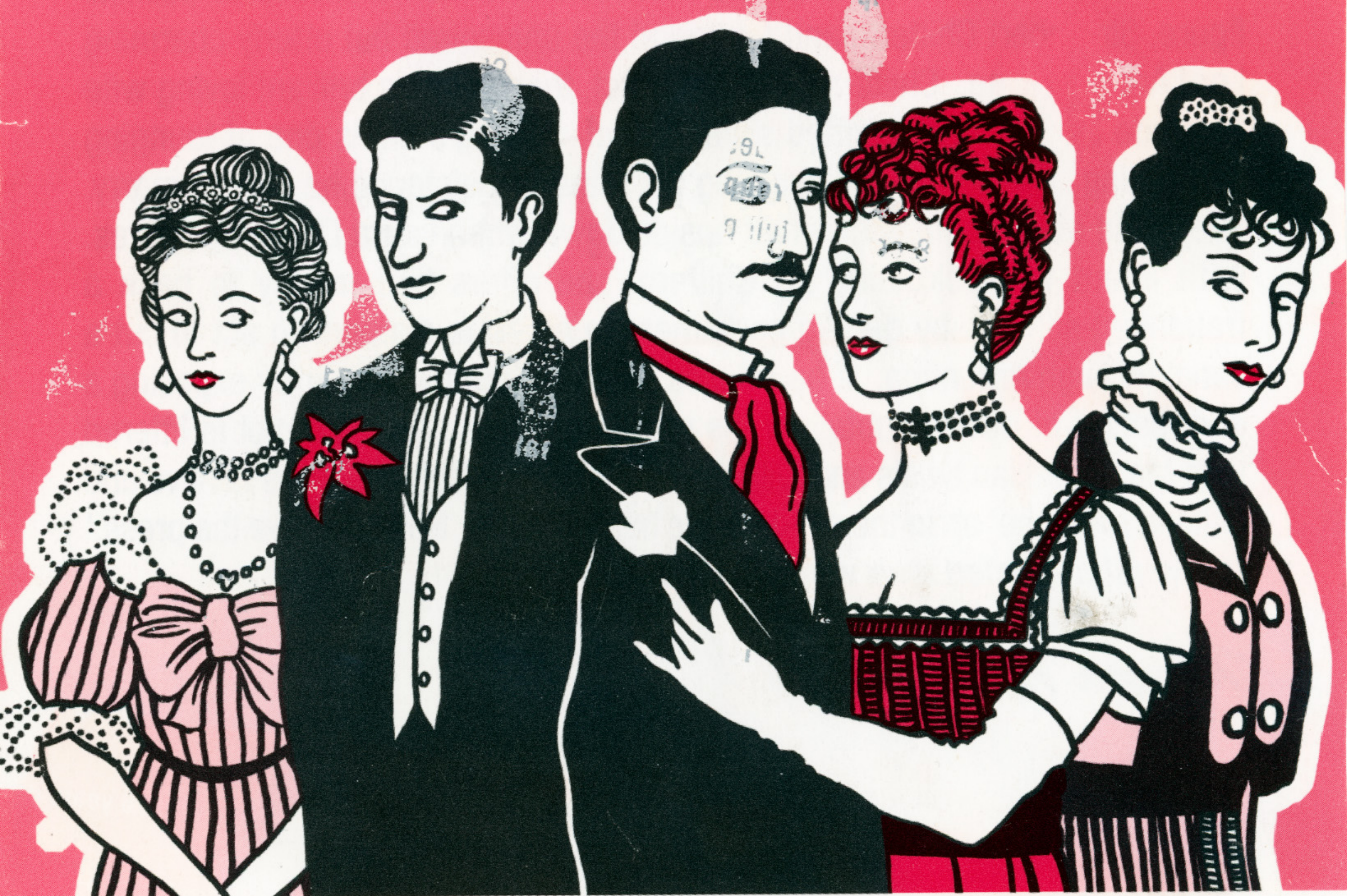
The Maskers Theatre Company presents

♥ Oscar Wilde's

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

A CLASSIC SOCIAL COMEDY

Directed by Moyra Allen



NUFFIELD THEATRE
SOUTHAMPTON

Tues 22 to Sat 26 January 2008 at 7.30

PROGRAMME NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Oscar Wilde was born 16th October 1854 in Dublin, Eire, to unconventional parents. His mother was a poet and journalist, his father, Sir William Wilde, was a gifted writer and a specialist in diseases of the eye and ear. He also founded a Hospital for the poor in Dublin and subsequently gained an honorary appointment of Occulist to Queen Victoria.

After being educated at Portora Royal School, County Fermanagh and Trinity College, Dublin, Oscar then went to Magdalen College, Oxford. He later married Constance Lloyd in 1884 and had two sons, Cyril and Vyvian.

His first and only novel was 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', which caused a storm of protest with its implied homoerotic theme, considered immoral by the Victorians. His first play was 'Lady Windermere's Fan' (1892) followed by 'A Woman of No Importance' (1893), 'An Ideal Husband' (1895) and then the 'Importance of Being Earnest', which established him as a highly acclaimed playwright.

In 1891 he met Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas, the third son of Lord Queensberry. This relationship was to be his downfall and contributed to him being arrested for homosexuality. This being illegal at the time, he was sentenced to two years hard labour. He wrote 'The Ballad of Reading Goal' on his release, penning the agony he suffered while serving his sentence. He went to live in Paris, staying in cheap hotels or relying on friends' hospitality. Sadly, this brilliant 'wit' contracted a recurrent ear infection with meningitis finally setting in and he died penniless on November 30th 1900.

An Ideal Husband revolves around the lives of two men, a successful political figure, Sir Robert Chiltern, and his friend the uninspired but utterly charming Lord Artur Goring. Chiltern's life is perfect, thanks to his brilliant loving wife Gertrude and quick-witted sister Mabel. Goring's life is one of lounging and flirting and avoiding his father's insistence he should marry. The world of these men is turned upside down when Laura Cheveley arrives. With intent to blackmail Lord Chiltern, she offers him money to back a fraudulent scheme by getting parliament to agree to support an act to cut a canal through Argentina. If he refuses, she will ruin his career by exposing a dark secret of how he obtained his wealth and position. The plot is littered with Machiavellian twists and Wilde's witty lines. 'To love oneself is to have a lifelong romance' or 'In the old days we had the rack. Now we have the press.' *'Oh what a tangled web we weave'*.

Moyra Allen

The maskers theatre company
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
BY OSCAR WILDE



CAST

The Earl of Caversham	John Souter
Lord Goring	Johnny Hearn
Sir Robert Chiltern	Pete Hamilton
Lady Gertrude Chiltern	Sarah Russell
Miss Mabel Chiltern	Rachael Courage
Mrs Laura Cheveley	Jan Spiers
Vicomte De Nanjac	Pete Burrows
Mason	Ian Wilson
Phipps	Ken Spencer
Lady Markby	Avril Woodward
The Countess of Basildon	Suze Provins
Mrs Marchmont	George Moody
Mr Montford	Graham Price
James, footman	James Norton
Harold, footman/Count Orlosky	Stuart Gray
Mr Barford	David Pike
Lady Barford	Rae Kibble
Duchess of Marlborough	Pam Cook
Extras	Jo Fox, Jo Iacovou Craig Hinchman, Johnny Carrington Craig Mintram

ACTS 1 and 2 The Drawing Room of Sir Robert Chiltern's house

There will be an interval of 15 minutes
Patrons are advised to pre-order their interval

ACT 3 The Library in Lord Goring's house

ACT 4 The Drawing Room in Sir Robert Chiltern's house

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Anna Chalk	Laura Ashley
BBLOC	Mostyns Curtain and Fabric
Bitterne Local History Society	Factory Shop
Costume Workshop – Sandown	RAODS
Derek Easton Wigs – Peacehaven	The Times Newspapers
Eclectia Costumes – Highcliffe	

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Moyra Allen
Production Manager	Graham Buchanan
Stage Manager	Kathryn Salmon
Assistant Stage Manager	Hannah Stansbridge
Lighting Design	Clive Weeks
Lighting Operation	Greg White, Ivan White
Sound Design	Jamie McCarthy
Sound Operation	Jamie McCarthy, David Illsley
Properties	Gill Buchanan, Liz Hill Alison Tebbut, Ella Lockett, Helen Officer
Costume Design	Serena Brown
Set Design	Peter Liddiard
Set Construction	David Jupp, Roger Lockett Graham Buchanan,
Stage Crew	Geoff Cook, Dave Fancett, Craig Mintram
Marketing	Sarah Russell, Angie Stansbridge and the marketing team
Publicity Design	John Hamon
Programme	Luciana Lattanzi
Photography	Clive Weeks
Front of House Coordinator	Julia Jupp
Front of House Display	Paula Beattie, Angie Stansbridge

OPERATIC SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 257305

OKLAHOMA!

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton
Tues 29 Jan - Sat 2 Feb

Performances 7.30pm
plus 2.30pm Sat matinee

Tickets £10 - £12

Box Office: 023 8067 1771
or purchase online:
www.sotonopera.org

Nuffield Theatre
SUP Present

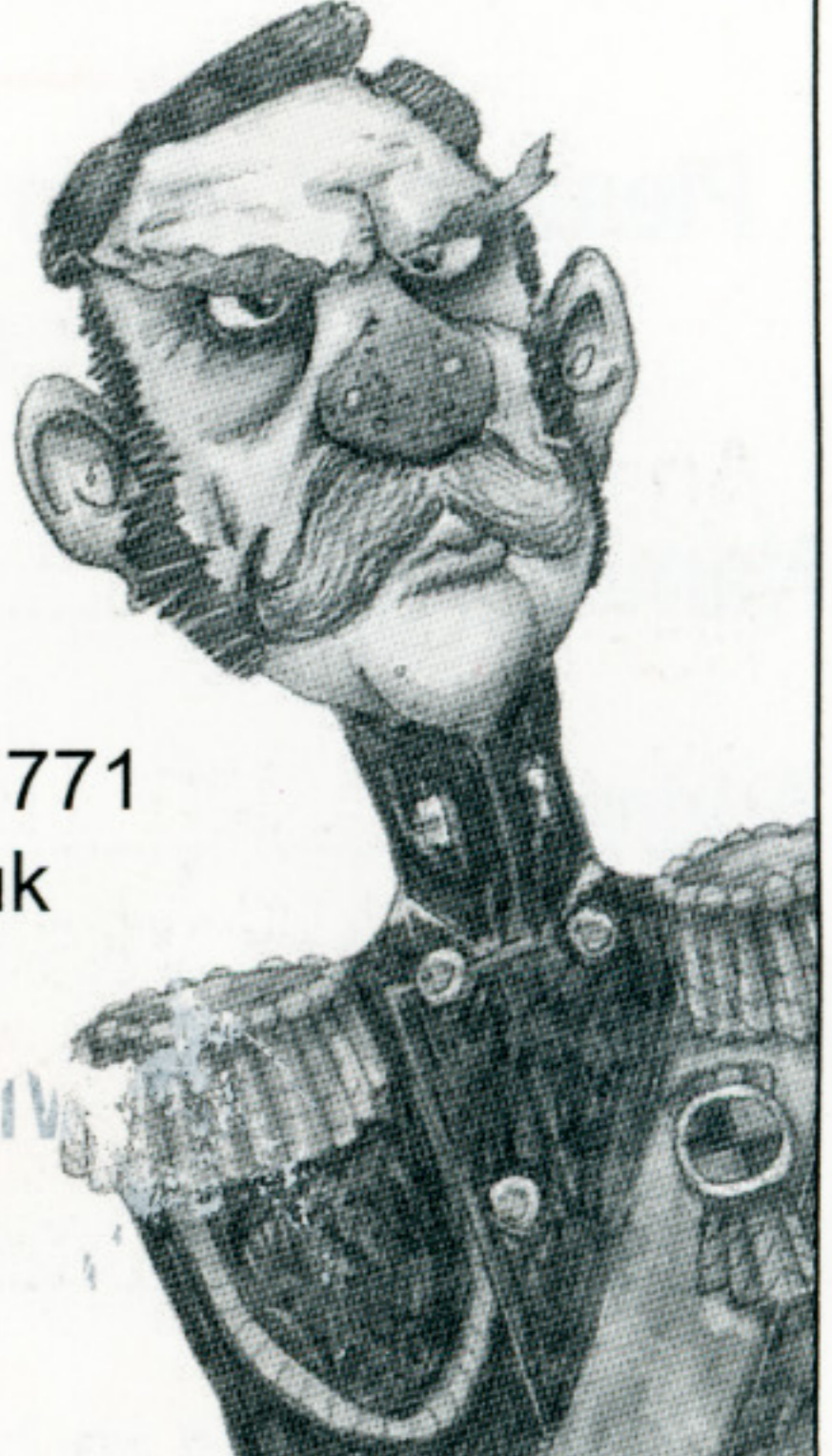
The Government Inspector

by Nikolai Gogol
Adapted by Adrian Mitchell

A comedy of mistaken identity
and council corruption

5th - 9th February

Box Office: (023) 8067 1771
www.nuffieldtheatre.co.uk



This is an amateur performance

NOTES FROM THE NUFFIELD THEATRE

Please note that the use of cameras, tape recorders or mobile phones in the theatre is forbidden. The management reserves the right to refuse admission, and to make any alterations to the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority

- 1 The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
- 2 All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- 3 Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any gangway except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
- 4 The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

With thanks to the Nuffield Theatre staff:

Artistic Director	Patrick Sandford
Executive Director	Kate Anderson
Accountant	John Auger
Accounts Manager	Julia Jaggard
Production Manager	Graeme Whiteside
Technical Manager	Stuart Harrison
Chief Electrician	Greg Head
Theatre Technicians	Gary Jarman, Chip Mead Joseph Kennion
Marketing Manager	Gillian Allmark
Box Office Manager	Rhiannon Hewitt
Front of House Manager	Daniel O'Neill
Assistant Front of House Manager	Kate Inglis

Why not join *The maskers theatre company?*

The company is keen to welcome new members. You can become a Friend of Maskers and receive regular updates on productions

Fill in the slip below and post it in the box in the foyer of the theatre

Or contact Jo Iacovou our Membership Office Tel: 023 8048 1161

www.maskers.org.uk



Win a pair of FREE tickets to see *The Comedy of Errors* **in the open air at Hamptworth Lodge in July 2008**

Complete this slip and pop it in the box in the foyer.

A wonderful evening at Hamptworth Lodge could be yours!!

Please add me to your database, send me details of forthcoming productions and enter me in the prize draw. Winners will be notified by 1st June 2008

Name:

Address:

email:

I am interested in becoming: a Full Member a Friend (please tick)

You can also return to Maskers Theatre,

c/o 29 Lime Gardens, West End, Southampton, SO30 3RG

The maskers theatre company



FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Monday 10th–Saturday 15th
March 2008

Educating Rita

By Willy Russell

Directed by Ken Hann
The Maskers Studio, Shirley
Box Office: 023 8055 1489

Monday 19th–Saturday 24th
May 2008

Whale Music

By Anthony Minghella

Directed by Harry Tuffill
The Maskers Studio, Shirley
Box Office: 023 80551489

The maskers open air summer production which has run at Mottisfont Abbey for the past 26 years is moving to a new and beautiful location for 2008.

The Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare

will be performed at **Hamptworth Lodge**, Landford,
near Romsey, from **16-26 July 2008** (excluding Mon. 21st July)

Hamptworth Lodge is a stunning Jacobean style house, not generally open to the public, 4 miles off junction 2 of the M27.

Box Office: 023 8071 1818

October 2008

Beggars Opera

An adaptation of John Gay's play

Directed by Philip De Grouchy

The Maskers Studio, Shirley
Box Office: 023 8055 1489

Monday 8th–Saturday 13th
December 2008

Christmas Anthology

Tudor Merchants Hall,
Southampton

Box Office: 023 8055 1489

Advance notice!

January 2009 production at the Nuffield Theatre

Little Women

By Louisa May Alcott

Adapted by Peter Clapham and Directed by Sheana Carrington

The maskers theatre company is a Registered Charity - No 90006