

About the Author



Amy Rosenthal is a London-based British playwright. She is the daughter of Jack Rosenthal and Maureen Lipman and writes with the same sense of humour as her father. 'Sitting Pretty' was Amy's first full-length play, and premiered at the Chelsea Centre in London in December 1999. Lyn Gardner, writing in The Guardian, described her as 'a real find, one of an increasingly rare breed of writers with a strong commercial bent, a strong sense of humour and something to say... at her best, Rosenthal writes like a female Alan Ayckbourn.' The play also played off-Broadway at the Hypothetical Theatre and, when the leading lady was unable to complete the run, Maureen Lipman stepped in. In September 2001, 'Sitting Pretty', with Maureen Lipman reprising the role of Nina, began a tour starting at none other than the Nuffield Theatre Southampton!

Why Not Join Us?

The Maskers Theatre Company was founded in 1968 and is firmly established as one of the South's leading amateur groups. The company has its own studio and workshop premises where rehearsals and small scale productions are performed. There is a comfortable bar area where members and guests can relax and enjoy a drink. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

There are opportunities to be involved backstage, front of house, technically, marketing and in the many other activities involved in producing quality theatre. To join visit our website and complete the form provided.

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and win four free tickets to Peter Pan

WIN!

adapted from the classic story by J.M.Barrie
Thursday 17 July - Saturday 26 July 2014
 in the open air at a NEW VENUE Melchet Court, Sherfield English, SO51 6ZR

Please add my details to the Maskers database and send me details of forthcoming shows.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Return this slip to one of the boxes in The Nuffield Foyer, hand it to a member of the Maskers Team or post it to The Maskers Theatre Company, Unit 1, off Ensworth Road, Shirley, Southampton SO15 3LX. Draw to take place on 11 March.

Future Maskers' Productions

The 13th FLOOR

by Matt Avery & David Nicholls &



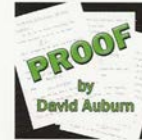
The ZOO STORY

by Edward Albee
 The Maskers' Studio Theatre, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Thursday 20 to Saturday 22 March 2014

PROOF

by David Auburn
 The Maskers' Studio Theatre, Shirley, SO15 3LX



Monday 19 to Saturday 24 May 2014

Peter Pan

adapted from the classic story by J.M. Barrie

Thursday 17 July to Saturday 26 July

IN THE OPEN AIR
 at our new venue
 Melchet Court,
 Sherfield English, SO51 6ZR

Grounds open for picnics

Matinees Saturday 19, Sunday 20 and Saturday 26 July
 No performance Monday 21 July



For further information and booking
 visit www.maskers.org.uk
 or call 02380 551 489

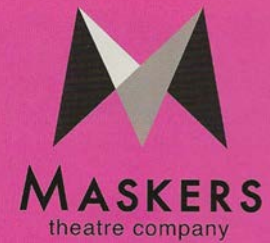
Support More Local Theatre

JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR
 An Amateur Production by arrangement with the Royal Opera House Ltd.
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 Tuesday - All seats £10
 Wed to Sat, tickets £14 (£12 concs)
 Box Office: 023 8067 1771
www.southopera.org

The Diary of Anne Frank
 25 February - 1 March 2014
 7.30pm
 Nuffield Theatre
 Southampton
 Box Office (023) 8067 1771
www.nuffieldtheatre.co.uk
 Tickets £12 (£10 concessions)

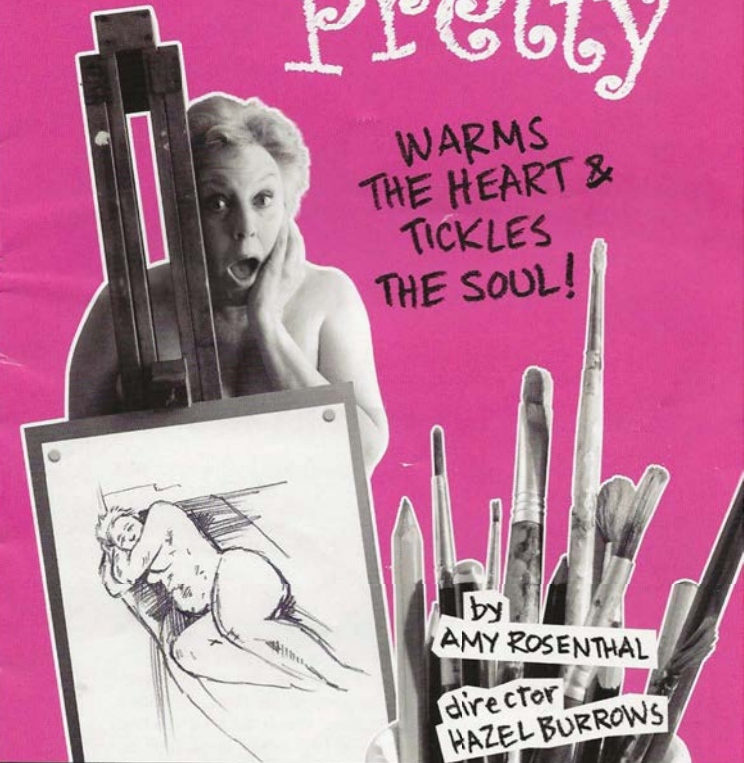
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The Maskers is a registered charity, number 900067



Sitting Pretty

WARMS THE HEART & TICKLES THE SOUL!



by AMY ROSENTHAL
 director HAZEL BURROWS

PROGRAMME

NUFFIELD THEATRE
 SOUTHAMPTON
21-25 JANUARY 2014

www.maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

It has been a great pleasure to have been a member of the Maskers Theatre Company and over the last 40 years I've been fortunate enough to have landed many roles in all genres.



Taking what I've learnt along with my love of live theatre, film and my work as an artist, I offered to direct a full length play 'Ladies Day'. Working with a group of good actors and techies, I knew it would be great fun.

Three years later and I started looking for another play. In my book it had to be fun to rehearse, something that would appeal to every age, and a play that would bring in the audience on a cold winter night after Christmas.

Looking through many plays I found 'Sitting Pretty'; I knew as soon as I finished reading it that this was the one for me. Amy Rosenthal inspired me with her delightful, heart-warming and funny writing. A story set in London in 1999 centres around sisters Nina and Nancy and the paths they take to find a new start. The eight characters built around them are each ordinary people, each speaking with a voice we can understand.

It was time to find a set designer, lighting, sound team and cast with whom to share my enthusiasm. It's been great fun working on this play, hope you enjoy it.

Happy New Year!
Hazel

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to the following for their help with this production:

Hospice Charity Shop, Shirley High Street, Southampton for loan of sofa.
Great Oaks School for loan of easels.
Katherine Hill and John Hamon for art work.
Thanks to Rachel Stage for the loan of 2 paintings.
The staff and management of The Nuffield Theatre.
Catchymonkey for programme layout.

Patrons are advised that the use of cameras, camcorders or mobile phones in the theatre is forbidden. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit should be kept free from obstruction at all times. The safety curtain will be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

Time: 1999 Spring/Summer Place: London

Director: Hazel Burrows

The Cast (in order of appearance)

Nancy:	Jenni Watson
Nina:	Jan Spiers
Max:	David Collis
Zelda:	Nay Walton
Philip:	William Baggs
Luka:	Robert Osborne
Josie:	Jo Fox
Bridget:	Sue Dashper
Sylvia:	Avril Woodward
Martin:	Marcus Kinsella

The Crew

Director:	Hazel Burrows
Production Manager:	Ken Hann
Stage Manager:	Kathryn Salmon
Technical Director:	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting Designer:	Clive Weeks
Lighting Design Assistant & Operator:	Mike Matthias
Sound Designer & Operator:	Jamie McCarthy
Set Designer:	John Hamon
Set Construction:	Roger Lockett, Ken Hann, Geoff Cook, Graham Buchannan
Set Dressing:	Moyra Allen
Music Composer:	Peter Burrows
Costume Design:	Hazel Burrows
Props:	Moyra Allen
Marketing & Publicity & Front Of House Display:	Sarah Russell, Angie Stansbridge, Jo Welch & team
Photography:	Clive Weeks & Mike Foyle
Programme:	Meri Mackney, Matt Costen & team

Act 1

- Scene 1 – Nina and Nancy's London suburban flat
- Scene 2 – The same
- Scene 3 – The art studio
- Scene 4 – The flat – several hours have passed
- Scene 5 – The National Gallery café
- Scene 6 – The art studio

Act 2

- Scene 1 – The flat
- Scene 2 – The art studio
- Scene 3 – The flat
- Scene 4 – The art studio
- Scene 5 – The National Gallery café
- Scene 6 – The flat

There will be one interval of 20 minutes (drinks can be pre-ordered from the bar)
The performance will end at approximately 10:15pm

The Cast



Jenni Watson is playing Nancy, a 55 five year old woman who has recently been made redundant. Jenni has been with Maskers for many years and started her acting career at the age of 3! Her acting challenges continued throughout her school life and drama school. This is the first time, however, that she has been required to appear nude on stage - well almost nude!!

Jan Spiers is playing Nina. This is Jan's third performance at the Nuffield with Maskers. She played Mrs Cheveley in 'An Ideal Husband' and Flora in 'Humble Boy'. With other previous performances for Maskers in 'Man-in-the-moon Marigolds', 'Our Lady of Sligo', and 'Ladies Day'. She is excited about this production and would like to thank her sister Jackie for encouraging her to audition for the role of Nina.



David Collis is playing Max the ever attentive, kindly friend of Nancy and Nina. Convinced he is in love with Nina, his calm, if slightly confused, guidance of the ladies leads him to a surprising (for him) conclusion. David started in amateur theatre in 1994. He loves performing at the Nuffield and this will be his 10th time on this stage, fourth time with Maskers.

Nay Walton plays Zelda, a sassy 20 year old. Having been out of the acting scene for over 5 years she is thrilled to be making her debut for the Maskers in 'Sitting Pretty' with such a fantastically strong cast and director. Previous roles during school included Dora Spenlow in 'David Copperfield', Johanna in 'Sweeney Todd' and Honey in 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'



William Baggs is playing Philip, an artist. Sitting Pretty is Williams's fourth production for Maskers since joining 18 months ago. He's played a mouse, a lover, a king and now Philip. Sitting Pretty is a comedy with much light and shade - well he would say that wouldn't he, playing the artist. This is William's first time on the Nuffield stage which he says is both exciting and a little nerve wracking all at the same time.

Robert Osborne is playing Luka. Having renewed his interest in theatre while studying at the University of Southampton, Robert joined Maskers in 2011. He has since acted in 'Ghostly Tales' and worked backstage on several productions, most recently stage managing 'Butterfly Kiss'. This is his first time on the Nuffield stage and he is thrilled to be appearing in Sitting Pretty.



Jo Fox is playing Josie, a brittle and elegant art class student. Jo has been a Masker since 2007. She has appeared in 'An Ideal Husband', 'Whale Music' and 'Comedy of Errors'. After taking a break from the acting side of Maskers due to living in London she returned to Southampton and played Lady Jane Rochford, in 'Anne Boleyn' at Hamptworth Lodge last year.



Sue Dashper, is playing the wife of Martin, Bridget. Sue has been involved in theatre and drama for many years. In recent years she has appeared in Maskers' productions including playing the Human Resources Manager from hell in 'Contractions' and a countryperson in 'Anne Boleyn'. This is Sue's first appearance at the Nuffield Theatre for the Maskers.



Avril Woodward is playing Sylvia. Avril is a long-time member of Maskers. She has appeared in many productions in many venues, the last Maskers' production at the Nuffield she acted in was 'Uncle Vanya'. Avril is looking forward to portraying someone who is described by the script as being "stately".

Marcus Kinsella is playing Martin, a tetchy, nerdy and uptight character who's basically fed up with his lot! He begrudgingly attends Art classes with his long suffering wife Bridget. This will be Marcus' second time out at The Nuffield after making his Maskers debut in 2012 in 'The Graduate'. This will be his sixth production for Maskers.

