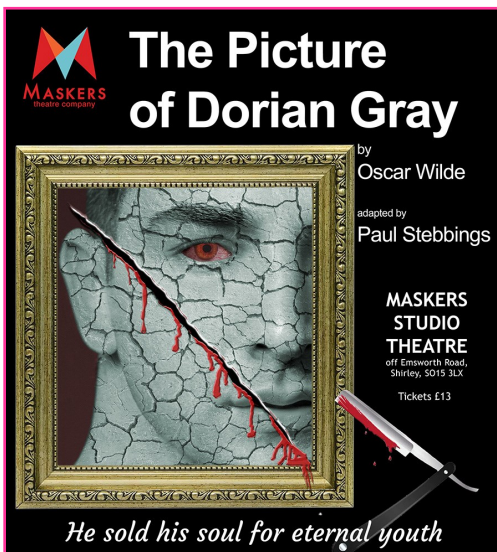


FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



The Picture of Dorian Gray

6 - 11 March 2023

Dorian pledges his soul for eternal youth. How far will he travel down the road to Hell?

at The Maskers Studio

Age 14 and over

Gormenghast

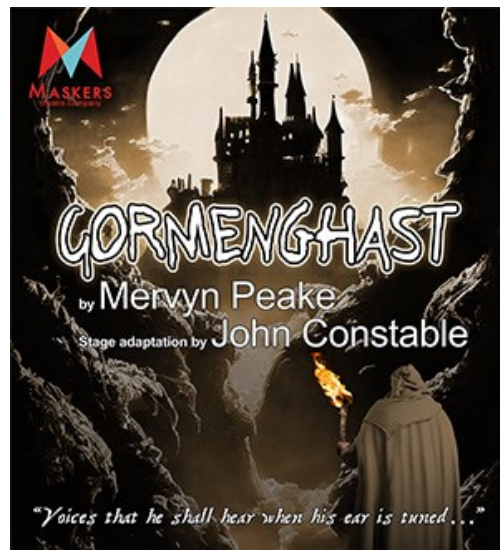
24 - 29 Apr 2023

In a world bound by iron laws and dead rituals, two young souls struggle to forge their own paths; but at what cost?

This gruesome, gothic drama is an adaptation of Mervyn Peake's famous Gormenghast trilogy.

at The Maskers Studio

Age 14 and over.



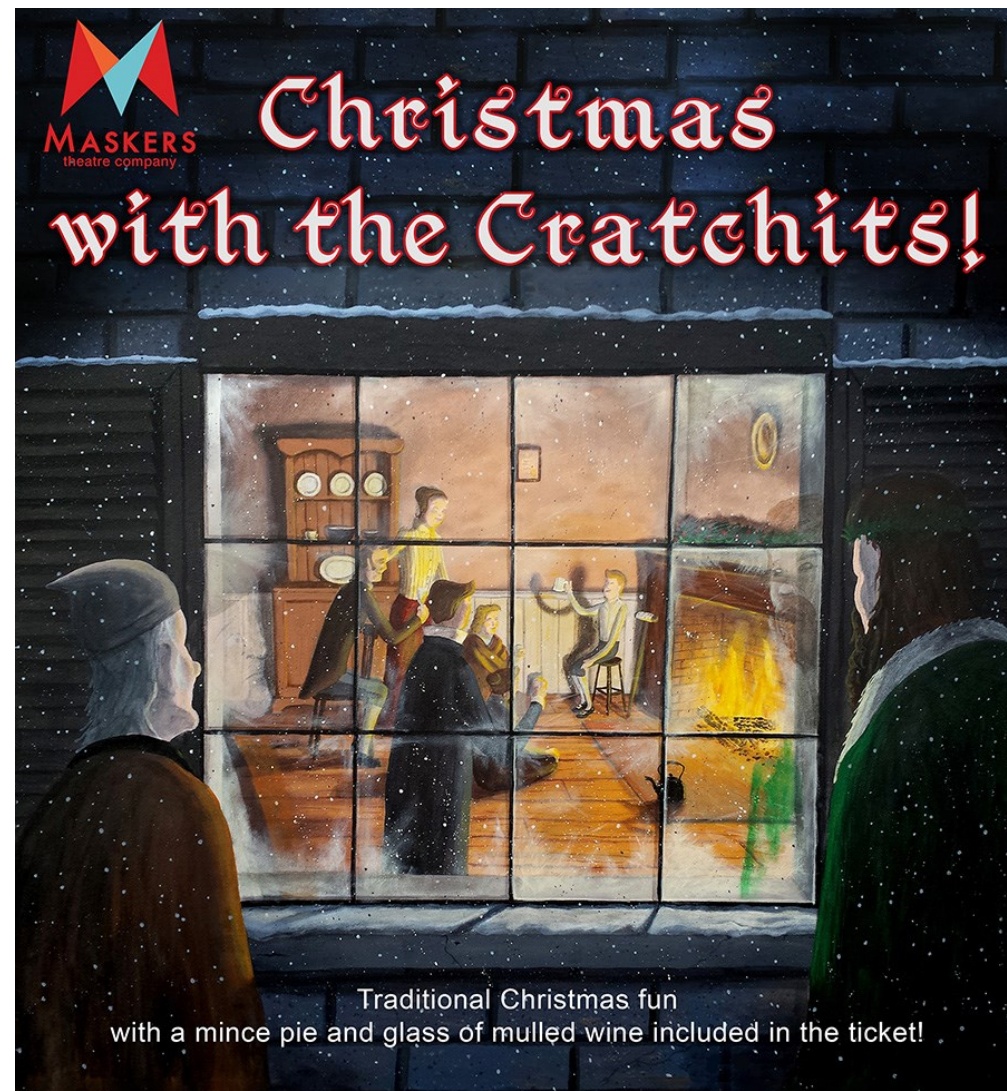
BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366
maskers.org.uk



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Programme

5 -11 December 2022

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

I was pleased to be given the opportunity to bring on stage this new play by Brian Stansbridge, one of our long-standing performers and directors. His delightfully cynical view of the cosy, cuddly, disadvantaged but deserving Cratchits in Dickens' novel did present one or two problems as part of a Christmas show - how to involve The Nightingales, a guest group from the Operatic Society, and how to link the play with the more traditional Anthology programme which follows. I hope Brian will forgive the extra scenes and alterations I have intruded into his original text for this purpose.

Finding the ideal cast was another problem, which, I believe you will agree, we have resoundingly resolved! I do hope you enjoy tonight's entertainment - play, anthology, wine, mince pies and all!

Philip



Directed by Philip de Grouchy - Philip has been a Masker for fifty years, mainly as a performer, but with occasional forays into directing. He has directed quite a few Christmas shows over the last fifteen years or so and also directed *The Beggar's Opera*. He hopes you enjoy this latest foray!



Written by Brian Stansbridge - Brian is best known as an actor and director, with his most recent credits being the role of Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and directing *Much Ado About Nothing* for our summer show in 2021. He has, however, been known to turn his hand to writing the odd sketch, poem or song lyric. In 2020, all that changed! Covid caused all our theatres to close and we were desperate to find a way to continue delivering theatre to the people of Southampton and the surrounding area. At his wife Angela's bidding, he sat down to create a short piece that we could perform in the open air at various parks and gardens. The result was *Park Life*, a two-handed play about a friendship blossoming in the adversity of the pandemic. Many people saw and enjoyed the performances. Buoyed up by this success, Brian went on to start a full-length play (still in the pipeline) and a piece originally intended for Christmas 2020 but, again, thwarted by Covid. So... tonight, at no expense whatsoever... Brian hopes you will enjoy his cheeky little peek behind the scenes at the Cratchit home. We hope that Mr. Dickens will forgive him.

There will be one twenty minute interval during which mulled wine or fruit punch will be served

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

Saturday 7th January
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

feedback@maskers.org.uk

Many Thanks

See you again soon!!



NARNIA IS WAITING FOR YOU!



11-12 FEBRUARY 2023
ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK

TICKETS ON SALE SOON



The Cast continued



The Carol Singers are played by **The Nightingales** — Southampton Operatic Society, founded in 1924, has produced a wide variety of shows, from grand opera, Gilbert and Sullivan to modern musicals. A group of singers from this society have formed to entertain on behalf of local and national charities. They are called SOS Entertainers and part of that group, **Brigitte Lavoie, Tina Adams** and **Clare Minns**, are **The Nightingales** in this production.

The Production Team

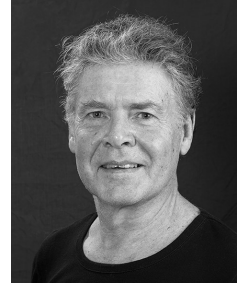
| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Director | Philip de Grouchy |
| Assistant Director | Jill Desborough |
| Production Manager | Robert Osborne |
| Stage Manager | Donald Coe |
| Lighting Design | Clive Weeks |
| Sound Design | Jamie McCarthy |
| Lighting and Sound Operators | Robert Osborne, Simon Mewett, Simon White |
| Set Design | Zoe Harris, Clive Weeks |
| Set Construction | Clive Weeks, Maria Mackay, Donald Coe, Robert Osborne, Peter Hill |
| Set Painting | Zoe Harris and Maskers |
| Set Dressing | Angie Stansbridge |
| Wardrobe | Hazel Burrows |
| Properties | Maria Mackay |
| Rehearsal Prompt | Ruth Smith |

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

This production is dedicated to Eric Petterson

Eric joined the Maskers after being cajoled into taking part in the Christmas Show 2012 by Avril Woodward, a former colleague of his in education, who knew we needed more men in the cast of our **Christmas Charivari**. His talents as an actor were obvious from the start, although up to then he had done little straight acting, other than that needed in his career as a teacher and headmaster, but as musician – it turned out he was not only a composer of songs, he could sing and accompany himself on the guitar. What a treasure – he could not be allowed to get away!



Christmas Charivari - December 2012

2019. On top of all that, Chairman for three years, cramming more into his ten years than many of us do into fifty. Eric's performances were invariably marked with great sensitivity -



Quartet - February 2020

We persuaded him to join the Society, and thereafter, he flung himself into our activities - plays, such as **Richard II, The Weir, Great Expectations, Antigone, Comfort Me With Apples, Wyrd Sisters**, and **Quartet**; as well as Christmas shows, including his directorial debut, the challenging **The Flint Street Nativity**, in



An Edwardian Christmas Soirée - Dec 2018

combined with efficiency – he always knew his lines before anyone else did! Sadly, latterly, he was afflicted with illness, but kept up an active life, defying his problems. He only finally succumbed in October, having auditioned- successfully! - for this show, which would have marked his tenth anniversary.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Soo, and his family in their loss.

We have all lost a great friend and colleague.

The Cast



Bob Cratchit is played by Bandy Smith - This is Bandy's first show with Maskers. He has previously been in a couple of pantomimes, playing Prince Charming and Caesar. Bandy has enjoyed the rehearsals and has been made to feel really welcome. When he is not treading the boards, he works as a barber in his shop at Foyes Corner. He hopes you all enjoy his spin on Bob Cratchit's character.



Emily Cratchit is played by Hazel Burrows - Hazel has been a keen Masker since the early 70s. Over the years she has taken up a huge variety of roles, as well as directing, set design, painting and costume design. Hazel has been on the committee as membership officer and social secretary, always welcoming people into the company with enormous enthusiasm and a sunny smile. Over the last year Hazel has been seen in our production of *Ugly Lies the Bone* as a psychiatrist and in our open air production, *The Three Musketeers*. Her favourite role over the years was in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, a dark Irish comedy. Hazel is hoping to direct another show next year, a comedy, an aspect of theatre she enjoys immensely.



Martha Cratchit is played by Molly McDade - This is Molly's third Christmas show with Maskers, having been performing with the company since 2014. She has recently been in two productions with Southampton Operatic Society (*Legally Blonde* and *Crazy for You*) at the MAST Studios, and before that has been in several Maskers' productions over the years, including *A Bunch of Amateurs*, *Around The World In 80 Days*, *Pygmalion*, *The Jungle Book* and *Our Town*.



Peter Cratchit is played by Jane Russell - Without any shadow of a doubt, the run up to Christmas is Jane's favourite time of year and the opportunity to share that festive joy with others is always a real pleasure. Jane has been a member of Maskers for a few years, performing in last year's Christmas show, *Box of Delights*, as a cleaner in *Sharks in the Custard* and as Mary in *The Flint Street Nativity*. Jane has also recently performed and directed for RAODS and, even more recently, performed in the musical *Chess* with EOMS. Jane loves the intimacy of performing in the Studio and she hopes you enjoy the Christmas cheer that this production brings.



Belinda Cratchit is played by Marie McDade - As a member of Maskers since 2010, Marie has performed many times on the outdoor stage – with roles ranging from Shakespearean Midsummer fairy to Kipling's jungle Panther, assorted characters travelling *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Pygmalion*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* and most recently *The Three Musketeers*. Indoor shows, both at the studio and touring, have included *Richard II*, *Our Town*, *Butterfly Kiss*, *Ten Times Table*, Granny Weatherwax in *Wyrd Sisters*, *A Bunch of Amateurs* and *Out of Focus*, amongst others. This will be Marie's 6th Christmas Show – as in *Flint Street Nativity* once again playing a small child!



Tiny Tim is played by Jez Minns - Jez has been working in the theatre as an amateur, and sometimes professional, actor for the last 35 years and he has been with the Maskers for 25 of them. He's really happy to be in this show (for all over-acting blame the director!). Recent appearances for the Maskers include Borachio the drunkard in *Much Ado About Nothing* and, before Covid, the bullyboy Innkeeper in *The Flint Street Nativity*. When he's not doing theatre, Jez enjoys painting and sketching and writing poetry.



Scrooge 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, most recently playing Justice Shallow in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Since our reopening in 2021, he has also appeared as Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Lou in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Mark in *Yards Apart* and in the last Christmas Show, *A Box of Delights*



Ghost of Christmas Present is played by Jill Desborough - Jill has been involved with many Maskers' shows, both open air and Studio productions, as an actor, stage manager and director since she joined 7 years ago. Christmas shows are particularly close to her heart. The first Maskers' production that she appeared in was *Christmas is A-Comin'* in 2014. Since then, she has appeared in *Mistletoe Junction* (2016) and *Let it Snow* (2017), has stage-managed *An Edwardian Christmas Soiree* (2018) and co-directed last year's *Box of Delights*. Now she is delighted to be assisting Philip with *Christmas with the Cratchits* as well as adding a ghostly presence to the fun.



Charles Dickens is played by João Pinto - João made his debut with Maskers in October in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, playing a Frenchman. Portuguese João is again demonstrating his versatility with accents in this play as he takes on the character of Charles Dickens himself. After graduating as an engineer, João arrived in the UK about 2 years ago for work and soon got involved in many different activities around Southampton, from playing live music with his guitar to pursuing his passion for writing stories and now acting.



Pianist is played by Rosa Longman - Rosa was seven years old when she first learned to play the piano. She has played with so many societies; too numerous to list here. She has appeared in a number of Maskers' Christmas shows and we are delighted that she is able to play for us again this year.