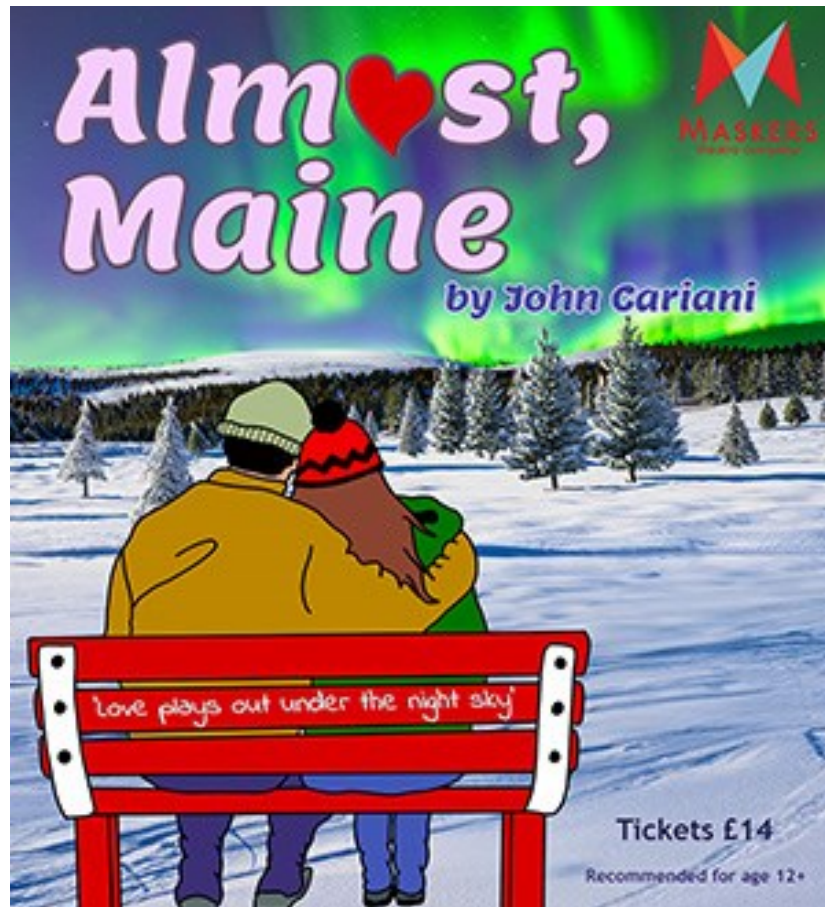


Forthcoming Production




29 January — 3 February 2024

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

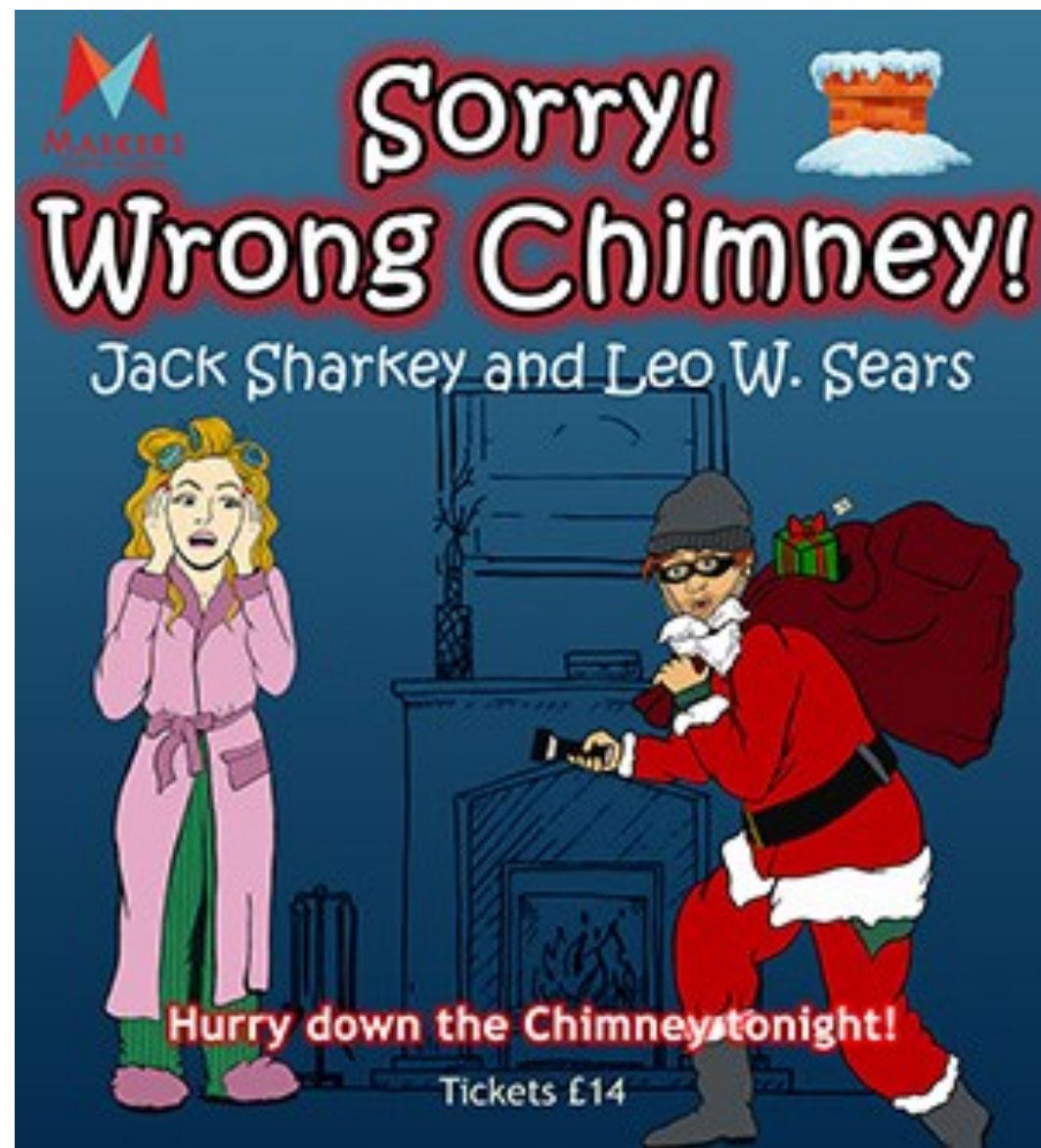
For the Maskers

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

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



Programme

4th — 9th December 2023

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

The very first show I was ever involved in with Maskers was stage managing the Christmas show in 2011, *Jingle Bells*. I never would have conceived it possible then that I would ever direct a show but, fast forward 12 years and a great deal of shows later, and here I am directing in the very slot I started on.

Maskers' Christmas show has taken many variations with anthologies, playlets and full length plays all being staged within the last 6 years. I can remember reading *The Grinch* and playing a shepherd with a puppet sheep in one show.

When searching for Christmas plays, I was taken aback when I put 'Christmas' in a play publisher's search box and received over 100 possible titles. I picked a selection and ordered some scripts, hoping to inspire other members.

Sorry! Wrong Chimney! was one of those scripts. When I read it, I knew I had struck gold. It was Christmas themed while still being a play in its own right, it had a reasonable and varied cast, its setting was perfect for our studio and, most importantly, it was funny. It's always a good sign when you laugh out loud just from reading the script. As I read it, I found myself picturing how I would stage it and realised it was one I wanted to direct myself.

I am a firm believer that theatre can inform and raise awareness. I also feel that it is there to entertain and with this play I have sought to do just that. There may be a buried message about commercialism but it's clear Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears were not writing with this in mind. They wanted to give the audience some Christmas entertainment where they could just relax and laugh. For a script written over 30 years ago, its humour remains very relatable today. We have tweaked a few references to make them contemporary and relocated its original American setting, but it is still the original script, jokes and all.

It has been a challenge bringing a script with both physical and verbal humour to life. As W.C. Fields famously said 'Comedy is a serious business'. Despite this, rehearsals have been an absolute blast. The cast frequently had me in stitches as they found their characters quirks and brought the humorous situations to life. I have been so fortunate to work with actors willing to run with my suggestions and a crew who have worked so hard on everything from to the set to the smallest costume and props detail. They have all certainly taken this comedy seriously.

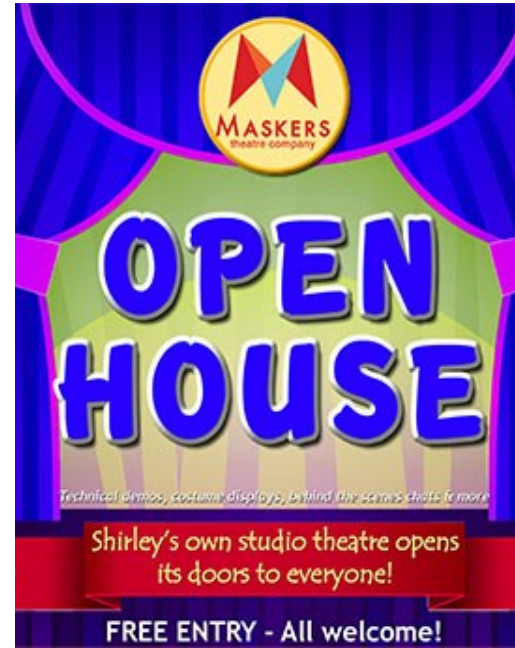
I hope this show gets your festive season off to a great start.

Robert

Directed by Robert Osborne - Robert's first ever role in Maskers was stage managing the Christmas show so it is fitting that 12 years later he is now directing it. He has appeared as an actor in over 10 plays, the most recent being *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* earlier this year. He has also stage managed and production managed a number of shows at the studio and at external venues including the Nuffield theatre, Berry Theatre, Hamptworth Estate and Townhill Park House. He has just come to the end of 4 years as Maskers' Production Director where he has been in charge of selecting and overseeing the company's programme. This is his second time directing a play; the first being *Happy* in 2018 and he is delighted to be doing so with such a funny and entertaining play. When not in the theatre, he enjoys Harry Potter, hiking and singing with a local musical choir.



POP IN AND GET TO KNOW MASKERS 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 chat on the first Saturday of every month.

Saturday 6th January

Running from 10am – 1pm.

SHINING A LIGHT ON SHIRLEY

YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AT MASKERS theatre company

Monday, 4:30 - 6:00 (NEW)
Shirley Ensemble (12 - 18 yrs)

Wednesday
LAMDA Tuition (7+), times vary depending on grade. Enquire for details.

Friday, 4:30 - 6:30
Mixed Company (7 - 16 yrs), waiting list only

Coming Soon to the Light UP line-up:

- Intro to Tech - *register your interest*
- Junior Company (7-12 yrs) - *register your interest*
- Musical Theatre Company (7-16yrs) - *register your interest*

To get more information or book a free trial visit
www.lightupdrama.org.uk or email the team at info@lightupdrama.org.uk

MORE CLASSES ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

The Production Team

Director	Robert Osborne
Production Manager	Ruth Smith
Stage Manager	Emily Smith
Lighting Designers	Clive Weeks, Kathryn Salmon
Sound Designer	Jamie McCarthy
Lighting and Sound Operators	Ashley Martin, Kathryn Salmon
Set Design	Zoe Harris, Clive Weeks
Set Construction	Clive Weeks, Brian Stansbridge, Roy Romsey, Martin Caveney, Peter Hill, Martyn Welch
Set Painting	Zoe Harris, Jo Fox, Simon White, Sue Daspher, Anna Hussey, Sam Hussey, Emily Smith
Costume	Kyla Little
Properties	Lucy Lockyer
Set Dressing	Angela Stansbridge, Ruth Smith, Lucy Lockyer
Poster Design	Kyla Little, Clive Weeks
Rehearsal Prompt	Ruth Smith



Acknowledgements

Maskers would like to thank the following :

Murdered for Money for the loan of costumes
 Oxfam Shop, Shirley for the loan of furniture and pictures—available to purchase from the shop!



AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF
SOS PRESENTS
MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT
 A new musical *lovingly* ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

Book and lyrics by Eric Idle
 Music by John Du Prez and Eric Idle

24 - 27 January 2024
 Wed - Sat 7.30pm
 Sat 2.30pm



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The Cast



David Tuttle is played by **Phil Wilson** — Phil's last performance to any audience was in his final year of primary school.... a long time ago! Fascinated with the extraordinary ability of method actors on the big screen and on stage, he decided 2023 was the year to get back into acting and is extremely excited to perform for our audiences this December. Phil plans to get involved with a lot more for years to come.



Samatha Tuttle is played by **Jo Fox** — Jo has been an active Masker for 15 years and has played a variety of roles in that time, including Lady Jane Rochford in *Anne Boleyn*, Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Ursula in *Much Ado about Nothing* and Luna the Monkey in *The Jungle Book*. She most recently appeared as a variety of weird and wonderful characters, including a book and a kitchen scrubber, in April's studio production, *Gormenghast*. Jo is really enjoying being part of this wacky show and hopes it leaves you feeling cheery and festive! As well as acting, Jo has been kept busy in her role as Company Secretary on the Maskers Committee for the last 4 years.



Natalie Weldon is played by **Anna Hussey** — Anna joined Maskers in 2018 and has been involved both on stage and behind the scenes. Her first play with Maskers was as part of the ensemble in *Wyrd Sisters*. Anna has since played Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and originated the role of Vicki in *Yards Apart*. In 2023, Anna directed for Maskers with *Gormenghast* and performed various roles in *Jane Eyre*. Anna is having a good laugh with *Sorry! Wrong Chimney* and hopes everyone enjoys the madness!



William Weldon is played by **Dave Smith** — Dave is looking forward to playing William in this hilarious farce. Despite this being his first outing with Maskers, Dave has over 100 productions under his belt. Highlights include. Bill in *An evening with Gary Lineker*, Julian Marsh in *42nd Street*, Nicely Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Professor Bhaer in *Little Women*, Boone (*Whistle Down the Wind*), Dennis (*Rock of Ages*), Uncle Fester (*The Addams Family*), Beadle Bamford (*Sweeney Todd*) Adam (*Rules for Living*) and Ted in *Hi-de-Hi*. He hopes you all enjoy the show and thanks you for your support.



Kris Kreigle is played by **Paul Baker** — Paul has been in over twenty-five shows in the open air for Maskers and rarely ventures indoors. During that time, he has played a variety of roles including Weasel Norman in *Wind in the Willows* and Thomas Cromwell in *Anne Boleyn* and often multiple parts in the same production, as evidenced when he played four different characters in *The Three Musketeers* last year. This is Paul's second production in a row inside, having played Sepulchgrave in Maskers' April production of *Gormenghast*. This is also the third show in a row that his character has either been married or engaged to a character played by Marie McDade!



Sheila is played by **Marie McDade** — Marie joined the Maskers in 2011 and has always enjoyed performing in the annual Christmas show. Other past productions – both in the studio and outdoors - have included *Our Town*, *Richard II*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Jungle Book*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Wyrd Sisters*, *A Bunch of Amateurs*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Out of Focus*, *Gormenghast*, *Jane Eyre* and, most recently, *Time and Tide*.



Policeman is played by **Bandy Smith** — Bandy joined Maskers in 2022, debuting in *Christmas with the Cratchits*, where he played Bob Cratchit. Since then, he has been involved both on and off stage. Prior to joining Maskers, Bandy took part in two pantomimes with another theatre group. Bandy is enjoying being part of the Christmas show again and is relishing the comedy element of the play. He hopes you enjoy the performance as much as he is enjoying rehearsals and he hopes this is a great start to your Christmas celebrations.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes during which mulled wine (or non-alcoholic fruit punch) and mince pies will be served in the bar.

FreeFrom pies available. Please speak to bar staff.

