



**394**

# STAGE WHISPER

TRINITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

SOME OF THE CAST OF CAODS PANTO



ALADDIN

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone!!

I would like to wish you all the happiest Christmas possible. I know various members either have their own medical problems or a close family member has, so I wish you all well.

Not a lot has happened since my last report. We had a private hire from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation who presented a show for their staff and all enjoyed the event. We had another private hire last Friday with two bands playing in the clubroom in aid of the homeless. However, although there is a lull at the moment the new year brings the start of many events.

Our first Coffee Morning of the year is on Saturday 4th January (volunteers always needed for only a couple of hours! Please?), rehearsal for "Wife After Death" (a black comedy) start, "Bugsy Malone" gets under way, Suzanne's Dance School has shows on February 8th, we have an Adele tribute show on February 22nd and Robbie Williams tribute on March 1st - so hopefully there will be something to suit all tastes.

While on the subject of "Wife After Death" they need a large trophy cup as an essential prop similar to what you might win in a sports competition. If anyone can help please let me know. Great care will be taken of it.

Well, that's it for now. A very happy and healthy New Year to you all.

**Dinah**

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## Social Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Coffee Morning	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January from 10am
Quiz Night	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm
Coffee Morning	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February from 10am
Coffee Morning	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March from 10am
St. Patrick's Ceilidh	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March at 7:30pm
Community Quiz	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm

## Stage Whisper— Next Edition

All members are welcome to contribute to Stage Whisper. Please send entries for the next edition to [stagewhisper@caods.org.uk](mailto:stagewhisper@caods.org.uk). by Thursday 23rd January.

Cheryl May  
EDITOR

## PANTO NEWS

### THANK YOU

To all the cast and crew of Aladdin, I'd like to say a big thank you for making it such a fantastic and enjoyable show. I hope you all had as much fun as I did.

As some of you may know, the show was recorded and as soon as I hear that the CDs are ready to buy I will let you know.

*Daphne*

# Stage Whisper—Editorial

I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to Stage Whisper over the past year.

You will see a couple of reviews from Noda and Sardines Magazine for Amateur Theatre in this issue. CAODS has a society membership with NODA—National Operatic Dramatic Society. As society members of noda we benefit from support and advice, legal and health & safety helplines plus factsheets on topics relevant to running an amateur dramatic group. As NODA members we are all eligible to apply for their summer school - details below.

We have plenty of CAODS productions to look forward to this year, so please consider whether you can give a few hours of your time to help with the bar or can train as a first aider or as a chaperone for the youth productions. All training will be provided by CAODS.

*Happy Christmas & New Year to you all*

**Cheryl**

## NODA SUMMER SCHOOL

I have attended three noda summer schools in the past and can honestly say that they are a great way to learn new skills and develop/hone existing ones. A week away with like-minded theatre people is very rewarding as ideas are shared and friendships made. Courses cover singing, dancing, acting and various back stage theatre skills ie: sound & lighting, directing, set design etc. Unfortunately a few of the courses for next year are already oversubscribed but there are a few vacancies. Contact noda for details:

[noda.org.uk](http://noda.org.uk) or [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

**Cheryl**



# Quiz Night

**Saturday**

**18th January**

**at 7:30pm**

**Everyone  
Welcome**

**£2 per person**



# CAODS PRODUCTION NEWS

## WIFE AFTER DEATH

Friday 27th March 7.30pm

Saturday 28th March 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd April 7.30pm

Friday 3rd April 7.30pm

Saturday 4th April 7.30pm

A comedy by *Rising Damp* writer Eric Chappell

## BUGSY MALONE

Thursday 30th April

Friday 1st May

Saturday 2nd May

CAODS youth section - Trinity Youth Stars are rehearsing for what looks to be a fantastic show.

Chaperones needed: Please contact a committee member.

# CAODS PRODUCTION NEWS

## THE SHADOW FACTORIES

Thursday 23rd July 7.30pm

Friday 24th July 7.30pm

Saturday 25th July 7.30pm

Sunday 26th July matinee performance

*The Shadow Factories* deals with the ministries taking over premises for building Spitfire parts after the super marine factory was bombed during the Second World War. It deals with the hardships that people faced at the time, especially those who had to hand over businesses that had been in their families for generations. It is topical to Southampton, Portsmouth and even the Isle of Wight gets a mention.

This is a musical production and director Gwen Stevens is looking for people to get involved on all levels. The chorus have plenty to do and there are lead parts with solos.

Look out for more details in future issues of Stage Whisper.

## Noda PANTO REVIEW

This show was based on the familiar story of Widow Twankey, who runs a laundry in Old Peking with her two sons, Wishee Washee and Aladdin. The business is on its uppers which is not helped by Aladdin's aversion to work which is exacerbated by a desire to meet and woo the Emperor's daughter. The Emperor, who is also broke, is inviting wealthy suitors for the Princess's hand and execution for any commoners who so much as look at her. Aladdin has already stolen a peach from the palace grounds and has the police on his tail. Meanwhile the wicked magician, Abanazar, needs a pure-hearted young lad to procure a magic lantern from its mountain hideaway and elects to recruit Aladdin. A chance encounter between the Princess and our hero on Peking Square results in the inevitable declaration of love by both parties. Following various alarms and excursions Aladdin's fortune is assured and the Emperor gives permission for him and the Princess to marry. Abanazar is stripped of his powers and is forced to marry Widow Twankey and work in the laundry.

The audience, both young and old, responded enthusiastically to the prompting of the cast in the usual pantomime fashion of 'look behind you', 'oh yes you did/ didn't and boos and cheers accordingly. Dividing the audience up at the end for an alliterative singalong worked well.

The set left room for a fairly large cast and enhanced the story without overshadowing it and scene changes were made behind various curtains without slowing the action.

Lighting was used effectively to enhance the scenes, however, the smoke machine was quite intrusive particularly for the front few rows and at times for the cast. Quite a lot of the musical numbers would have benefited from microphones particularly for the younger cast members. I was in the front row and sometimes struggled with the backing overshadowing the singing.

The costumes were extremely impressive, Abanazar looked suitably malevolent and Widow Twankey's numerous outfits were cleverly put together each with a suitable wig culminating in a truly magnificent headdress .

This was the fourth of six shows and the cast had settled into their parts well. Abanazar set the scene straight away encouraging the audience to boo and then Wishee Washee kept the theme going by getting the audience to shout his name every time he made an appearance. Widow Twankey and the two policemen indulged in numerous asides along with a few local jokes. One of the officers seemed to have a wind problem whenever he bent over, much to the delight of the audience, especially the younger ones.

In the mandatory 'look behind you' scene the junior who played the ghost excelled herself. It would be hard to single out anyone for special praise as it was a great team effort but in the true spirit of pantomime, John Abraham really knew how to play to the house.

## KAY GREEN



FENG and SHUI

# Panto review for Sardines Magazine

*CAODS brings a taste of the Orient to the Isle of Wight.*

I absolutely love watching, acting in and writing panto, and always look forward to the pantomime season. CAODS production of *'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp'* is the first panto I have seen this season. A Limelight Script, this version is a traditional tale of laundry boy Aladdin, who has ideas above his station, including plans to marry a Princess. But first he must defeat the evil Abanazer and obtain a magical lamp.

I do love a panto baddie and John Abraham doesn't disappoint. He is suitably menacing as the evil Abanazer, delivering humorous lines with expert timing. Abraham also has the experience to work the crowd, which he does well. I may have got a bit carried away booing and hissing though.

Now in his second year as a dame, Steve Taverner is a delight as Widow Twankey. One of the funniest moments for me is when the Emperor decrees that Abanazer should marry Widow Twanky. Wonderful reactions from John Abraham during Twankey's hilarious passionate pursuit.

Congratulations to talented youngster Jack Jenner as Widow Twankey's son, Wishee Washee, The comic lead is a huge part in any panto, as much of the comedic interaction with the dame and audience falls on their shoulders. Although Jenner seemed nervous at the outset, he relaxed into the role in act two. Jenner has a very bright future in theatre and I hope he continues to gain experience and develop his stagecraft. Annabel Boag impresses in the role of Aladdin and delivered a lovely rendition of *Never Gonna Give You Up* in the romantic duet with Mia Topping.

Pat Suttman gives a polished performance as the Spirit of the Ring as does Adrian Peppitt as Genie of the Lamp.

Panto stalwarts Mo White and Val Michalska are perfectly cast as Feng and Shui, the somewhat flatulent bumbling comedy police. Duncan Greaves gives an accomplished performance as the Emperor and works well with Mia Topping who plays his daughter Princess Pomegranate. A lovely performance from Mia, who has a beautiful voice and delivers her solos and duets with aplomb. Well done also to Krystal Joy as Princess Pomegranate's lady in waiting, So-Shy.

The whole chorus execute the song and dance numbers well. The biggest round of applause was for the junior chorus, all eighteen of them, with many of the youngsters performing in their first pantomime.

In any amateur society the wardrobe department are worth their weight in gold thread. As pantomime costumes go Aladdin is one of the biggies in terms of colour and opulence. Liz Santer and Lynn Cooper are to be congratulated on the colourful and imaginative costumes which certainly evoke a sense of the Orient.

The scene changes are seamless, well done to the backstage crew. It is always good to see a 'magic carpet' in Aladdin and this was appreciated by the audience. Musical Director Luke Mulhern on keyboard and Ed Jager on drums ensured the music was on point throughout. Lighting and sound was creative throughout.

As much as I enjoyed the pantomime, I do have a couple of observations. The performance I saw lacked energy and pace, which may have been due to first night nerves. If the cast are seen to be enjoying themselves the audience will. The chorus giving sweets to children in the audience so early in the story breaks the flow of the panto, as nothing is happening on stage to engage the audience. Saying that, congratulations must go to Director Daphne Brown and her assistant Tracy Howard for such an enjoyable production.

Well done to all involved behind the scenes and to the front of house staff for their warm welcome. I look forward to CAODS next panto.

**CHERYL MAY**

**Reviewer Sardines Magazine for Amateur Theatre**

# Coffee Morning

featuring  
tea, coffee, cake,  
bacon rolls & table tennis

**Saturday 4th January**

10am to Noon

at

**Trinity Theatre**

**Cowes**

(off Bath Road)

**Everyone  
Welcome**

