

GUILD NEWS

★★★ The Newsletter of the Oxford Theatre Guild ★★★

September / October 2005
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IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE O'REILLY THEATRE

...we dare you to see it...

THE GUILD'S AUTUMN SLOT proceeds apace, despite a last minute change in casting due to illness: Chris Edwards, originally cast as Robert the multi-millionaire sporting goods mogul, has had to pull out after injuring his back in a freak book-selecting incident. In his place, Joe Kenneway stepped in with only a few weeks to go before curtain up... a daunting prospect indeed! So our thanks to Joe and our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Chris!

In the mean time, the crazy 60s and 70s clothes have been procured from charity shops in multiple counties, the last few sound effects are being gathered, and the cast have been fine-tuned to perfection during the gruelling rehearsal schedule. So come along to the little theatre tucked behind Keble College's brick facade and lend your support to the world-première of new writing and brand new entertainment!

SEE INSIDE FOR REVIEWS OF THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR AND ALL THE LATEST PERFORMANCES NEWS...

OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

Truth or Dare

by Mike Coleman


directed by
Aldyth Thompson

ARE YOU SEEING
CLEARLY?

Tues 1- Sat 5
November
at 7.30 pm

Tickets £10.00 & £8.00
Keble Members £5.00

Box Office
Oxford Playhouse: 01865 305305

 50 YEARS OF OXFORD THEATRE GUILD

O'REILLY THEATRE
KEBLE COLLEGE OXFORD
(entrance on blackhall road)

www.oxfordtheatreguild.com



Review Record

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare, directed by **Simon Tavenor**, 19th to 30th July 2005, Merton College Fellows' Garden.

WHAT THE PAPERS (BOTH REAL AND VIRTUAL) SAID...

Theatre-World Internet Magazine

An early evening nip in the air matched the pace of this excellent production. From the start, vigorous and entertaining movement alloyed with clear delivery ensured that this comedy of many strands would please. One could be forgiven if at times your mind began to think of alternative titles for the piece, such as the wonderful Barbara Windsor style *Mistress Quickly* delivered by Barbara Denton. 'Up The Fellows in Merton Garden' sprang to mind.



◀ Peter Mottley and Barbara Denton in expansive mood (photo: Mark Jones)

The part of Falstaff was roundly filled by Peter Mottley as the groin motivated, ever failing, seducer. A basket case if ever there was one! Tim Younger and Tim Eyres (Masters Ford and Page) huffed and puffed a convincing pair of hardly convincing husbands. A highly amusing duo, or should I say trio, if you count the hair-piece. Their respective wives were well played by Meriel Patrick and Alex Reid. Fate has decreed that I have not seen Alex in a major part before though she clearly has a most commanding presence. So too have Kevin Elliot and Michael Ward as Shallow and Sir Hugh Evans, both fated I should think to be anchormen in future guild productions.

Colin Burnie's Dr Caius and Christopher Outen's Slender were beautifully contrasted, each a hoot through movement and costume alone. Great stuff, making hardly believable characters live!

The much sought-after Anne Page (Susanne Sheehy) and her ultimate captor Fenton (Tom

Richards) made a romantic coupling which would have had a much stronger impact if more



◀ Suzanne Sheehy and Tom Richards: Mark Jones

of Fenton's words had been audible. No such problem with Michael Dacre as Mine Host, after a lifetime of calling Time Gentlemen his voice resonated around the gardens. The same with the motley crew who frequented his tavern – all vigorously committed to their characters, both vocally and physically.

This is a fine production on all counts, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding production of *Merry Wives*. The Merton Fellows garden setting is a joy, particularly in the scene where Falstaff is humiliated for the third and last time. In other productions I have often thought that to punish Falstaff for the third time bordered on the vindictive, but here, with the array of dancing Faeries and midst the appropriate trees, I happily went along with the plot.

Don Fathers

A naughty knight is at the centre of the havoc in Oxford Theatre Guild's 50th Anniversary production of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The Oxford Times

This is the second production of the *Merry Wives* to be launched in the city this summer. It cannot be compared with the first, which was produced by the Oxford Shakespeare Company and went for pantomime-style, slapstick comedy.



◀ Marco Rossi, Steve Wright and Michael Curran (photo: Mark Jones)

The newer show has been done straight, but well, and

on Tuesday the cast did an excellent job of keeping the audience entertained, despite a chilly wind in the gardens of Merton College.

The story follows the fat, ageing knight Sir John Falstaff, (Peter Mottley) as he attempts to win the hearts of two married women in a bid to make money.

There is also outrageously jealous husband, Master Ford (Tim Younger) and Master and Mistress Page, who cannot agree whether their daughter Anne (Susanne Sheehy) should marry the wimpy Slender, or the nutty French Doctor Caius. In the first half, I really felt the Welsh parson, Sir Hugh Evans (Michael Ward), was the funniest of the cast, with his facial expressions and amusing manner.

By the second half the entire cast seemed to have really warmed up, with Peter Mottley making an excellent, particularly sleazy version of the bungling Falstaff.

I left Merton feeling satisfied and amused and heard several audience members around me commenting on how good the production was.

Jo Duckles



◀ Kevin Elliott, Michael Dacre and Tim Eyles (photo: Mark Jones)

The Daily Info

It's the Oxford Theatre Guild's 50th anniversary and what better way to mark it than a return to the play which kicked it all off – Shakespeare's fast and funny Merry Wives of Windsor.

And on this showing, you'll be wishing them many happy returns. Set appropriately in the 1950s, Simon Tavener's production grabs you from the start and gives Shakespeare's famous farce a fresh and breezy spin.

Portly rogue Sir John Falstaff spies an opportunity to make love and money out of two wives of Windsor. But cunning plans aren't the male preserve and the merry wives are ahead of the game, bringing mirth from the girth and turning the tables three times over. Even matchmaker and maneater Mistress Quickly can't resist poking fun, and other things, at poor Sir John. And with a whole host of suitors bearing down on local beauty, Anne, Windsor's alive with plots and plans and an array of colourful characters. Fluff and nonsense of course. But with some of Shakespeare's most beltingly funny and off-the-wall lines.



◀ Colin Burnie and Michael Ward discuss the weather (photo: Mark Jones)

Theatre Guild stalwart and all-round talent Peter Mottley fleshes out Falstaff brilliantly. The dissipated nobility is conveyed by blazer and hat and a leering swagger that's somewhere between Sid James and Frankie Howerd. But the part's his own and his comical ruminations on his come-uppances are a joy to behold. So too Barbara Denton's flawless Mistress Quickly, a head-on collision between Diana Dors and Barbara Windsor – fluorescent in pink apron and a rather suggestive feather duster. Denton's delivery is perfect. A fantastic creation.

The wives are great, a lovely turn from Alex Reid and an engaging one from newcomer Meriel Patrick. And Colin Burnie wonderfully throws caution to the wind as Dr Caius – Frenchman, eccentric and lecher. But credit should go to all. Even the more peripheral parts are memorable, with solid and professional playing. That's a treat in itself. And it's great to see young actors sharing the same stage with seasoned performers. Good too to be greeted by such attentive and welcoming stewards.

Merton's Fellows Garden provides a fine backdrop, centre stage given to the stunning trees, with a few painted panels suggesting the streets of old Windsor. The lilting tones of 50s hits will also produce a wistful nostalgia for some. The plot is mad and not always coherent. But it's all very English and just goes to show that we've always been good at smut – for this is Carry On with a script by Shakespeare.

So get yourself down to Merton, wrap yourself in a blanket and raise a beverage in toast to the Oxford Theatre Guild and a happy evening's entertainment.

Glenn Watson



◀ Alex Reid and Meriel Patrick (photo: Mark Jones)

Credits

Crew:

Director

Production managers

Stage manager

Set design

Lighting director

Technical support

Sound engineer

Costumes

Costume assistants

Props

Front of House

Refreshments manager

Front of house stewards

Publicity co-ordinator

Publicity

Poster design

Photography

Programme

Simon Tavener
Felicity Peacock, Tim Eyres
Gareth Morris
Michael Ward
David Long
Steve Whitaker
Simon Tavener
Antonia Parnaby
Sue Tibbles, Meriel Patrick,
Helen Wilcox
Judith Fantozzi
Ray Dennehy, Louis Spiteri
Diana Kilburn
Members of the Guild
Felicity Peacock
David Guthrie, Kevin Elliott
Lauren O'Connell
Mark Brome, Mark Jones,
Felicity Peacock
Bill Moulford



▲ Tim Eyres, Alex Reid, Michael Ward, Meriel Patrick and Tim Younger (photo: Mark Jones)

Cast:

Sir John Falstaff

Fenton

Shallow

Slender

Master Ford

Master Page

William Page / Robin

Sir Hugh Evans

Doctor Caius

Host of the Garter Inn

Bardolph

Pistol / Rugby

Nim / Robert

Simple / John

Mistress Ford

Mistress Page

Anne Page

Mistress Quickly

Peter Mottley
Tom Richards
Kevin Elliott
Christopher Outen
Tim Younger
Tim Eyres
Max Dorey
Michael Ward
Colin Burnie
Michael Dacre
Marco Rossi
Michael Curran
Steve Wright
John Adrian-Vallance
Meriel Patrick
Alex Reid
Susanne Sheehy
Barbara Denton

Work in Progress

Autumn 2005

Truth or Dare by Mike Coleman, to be directed by **Aldyth Thompson**, 1st to 6th November 2005, O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College.



▲ The cast in 60s mood – Mr Macnee grew his Brian May just for the photo-shoot. Shortly after, the RSPCA re-housed it to an elderly couple in Twyford (photo: Mark Brome)

Hot off the typewriter comes the script for the Guild's autumn production. *Truth or Dare*, by Mike Coleman, will premiere at the O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College in the first week of November.

Written for director Aldyth Thompson, this satirical comedy-drama focuses on a reunion of three couples who were at university together in the tumultuous late 1960s. 'The sons and daughters of Aquarius' compare the way they were then with the way they are now, and their perceptions of both are challenged by a member of a younger generation. As the drink flows and spliffs are smoked, the rattle of skeletons in closets grows louder. And who exactly is the mysterious maid in the isolated house in which they find themselves, and how does she know so much about them?

Mike Coleman lives in Islip and writes professionally, mainly for TV and radio. His previous play for theatre, *England Inspects*, directed by Aldyth Thompson with a cast including several Guild members, sold out its run at the Burton Taylor last year.

Director **Aldyth Thompson** writes: "I may well be biased but it's a great script by Mike and a lot of fun (with a twist at the end!). If you have any opinion on the spirit of the 1960s or just enjoy well-written satire, please do come along. You can reach the theatre by following the chalked arrows on the pavement on St Giles in central Oxford, or by car via Banbury Road, Parks Road and Keble Road. The theatre itself is on Blackhall Road at the back of Keble College. We look forward to seeing you there!

Crew

Director	Aldyth Thompson
Production Manager	Zoe Robson
Lighting	David Long Matt Boulton
Costume	Helen Wilcox
Sound	Harry Nixon
Publicity	Rainbow Calvert James Norris Keiller
Props	Ray Dennehy
FoH Manager	Kevin Elliot

Other roles will be filled by the team.

Cast:

Maggie	Helen Taylor
Tony	Colin Macnee
Ruth	Barbara Neville
Robert	Joe Kenneway
Nikki	Cathy Oakes
Steve	Steve Wright
Jade	Louise Jones

Christmas 2005

Sherlock Holmes and the Limehouse Horror by Philip Pullman, to be directed by **Jackie Kiers**, 6th to 10th December 2005, The Old Fire Station Theatre, Oxford.

Philip Pullman's tale of vilest villainy, cunning contrivances, multiple mannequins and a rampaging rodent will receive its first amateur production as the Guild's December show at the OFS. Will the world's most famous sleuth foil Moriarty's devilish scheme?

Crew:

Director	Jackie Kiers
Assistant director	Kate Belcher
Production manager	Felicity Peacock
Stage manager	Gareth Morris

Cast:

Sherlock Holmes	Adrian Porter
Doctor Watson	Yorick Wilks
Mrs Hudson	Sheila McKean
Miss Murray / Kate Moriarty	Alice Fearn
Colonel Moran / Giant Rat	David Thurston
Inspector Lestrade	Roger Dalrymple
Sir Henry Murray	Alan Bailey
Reichenbach / Professor Moriarty	Joseph Adams
Lockett	Graham Cook

Easter 2006 production

Following some e-mail announcements and a bit of a wild goose chase concerning rights, we've had to shelve plans for Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* after the RSC imposed a 100-mile no-fly zone on the play

during Spring and Summer of 2006. Instead, a few emergency committee meetings has allowed us to offer the following alternative.

Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde, to be directed by **Peter Mottley**, 11th to 15th April 2005, The Playhouse, Oxford. As Peter writes:

"Take a mysterious woman with a past. Add the young Lady Windermere, whose reputation is in jeopardy. Throw in a dashing society rake who 'can resist everything except temptation'. Decorate with layers of witty epigrams... This is the recipe for one of Oscar Wilde's most brilliant confections. By turns satirical, cynical and subversive, *Lady Windermere's Fan* combines shrewd social observation with the skill of a master playwright to produce one of the best-loved comedies in the English canon."

We've not decided on dates for the auditions yet, but they're likely to be early January. So keep your eyes open for a glimpse of the fabled cut-out-and-keep audition notice in these hallowed pages...

Summer 2006 production

We've not had a chance to think about next Summer yet, so proposals are invited from potential directors of the Guild's production in the grounds of Trinity College on 18th to 29th July 2006. The play may be by Shakespeare or by some other playwright whose work is likely to attract summer visitors and residents of Oxford to an outdoor production. Proposals should be submitted to Felicity Peacock, Secretary of the Guild Committee, by the November committee meeting.

Ibsen Year 2006

Next year is the centenary of the death of **Henrik Ibsen**, the playwright regarded by many as the father of modern drama. Many theatrical and other events will take place world-wide to celebrate 'Ibsen Year 2006'. In London in January, for example, the Donmar will present *The Wild Duck*, while the National Theatre and the Riverside Studios will host two lesser-known works: *Pillars of the Community* and *Little Eyolf*, respectively

Remarkably, in its 50-year history the Guild has never presented an Ibsen play. Next year would be an ideal time to do so. The Playhouse slot is already taken by *The Crucible* (oh no it's not). Our Henrik is not really the outdoor type, nor is he a purveyor of seasonal fun for children of all ages. That leaves the autumn slot. Potential directors might like to consider offering something by the Norwegian master for Autumn 2006. Note that we are not suggesting that an Ibsen is compulsory; far from it, but the time does seem ripe.

You might want to direct one of the best-known classics such as *A Doll's House*, *Ghosts*, or *Hedda Gabler* – all plays noted for their powerful roles for women. Alternatively, you may think the autumn slot is best suited to the likes of *An Enemy of the People* or *The Master Builder*. Whatever your taste, why not give it some thought?

On Being 50

This year's Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations have been wide and varied, and to tie in with the fortnight of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a tea-party was held between the matinee and evening performances. The party on 23rd July was attended by around 50 members in the august setting of the Mure Room at Merton College after the matinee performance of the *Merry Wives*. The tea-party committee provided a splendid feast including bite-sized sandwiches, scones with cream and jam, and a mouth-watering selection of cakes.



▲ The organising team for the tea party: from left to right – Polly Mountain, Mary Stuck, Marie Simon and Sheila McKean. Food glorious food! (photo: Felicity Peacock)

There was also an iced 50th anniversary cake, made by Marie Simon, which was ceremoniously cut by two of the longest-serving members present, Sheila McKean and Bob Cambrey. Another of the senior members, Gerard Gould, marked the special occasion with a few well-turned phrases, while the youngest member, the three-day old son Jacob of Grace Mountain and James Reilly, slept peacefully in his mother's arms (see right!). Members of the original 1955 production were present as well as the current cast of *Merry Wives*, who took the opportunity to refuel their energies before the evening performance; everyone appreciated the work that had been put into the last of the special anniversary events which marked 50 years since the first college garden performance of the *Merry Wives* at Worcester College.

Guild People

Kate Saffin's latest one-woman show about life and work on the canals made a splash at this year's Edinburgh Festival fringe. 'A Boat's Yer Whole World' received a four-star review in *The Scotsman*, and Kate was invited to perform at the huge Festival Fringe Launch Party. The play, which takes us back to Banbury Fair in 1916, is adapted from *Ramlin Rose, the Boatwoman's Story* by Sheila Stewart. It tells the story of that lost world where the waterways were crowded with 'horse drawn narrer boats' and generations of women brought up families in cabins 10 feet by 7, with 30 tons of coal occupying the front room. *The Scotsman's* review described the show as 'excellent' and Kate's performance as 'utterly convincing'.

Sarah Wilkinson, last seen as Alice in 2004's *Through the Looking Glass*, has secured a place at Cambridge University. Sarah gained three grade As in her A-levels and will be going to Cambridge to read English. Her academic success is particularly satisfying to her after injury ended her career as a ballerina. She hopes to become a writer.



▲ Sarah's in the middle!



▲ James, Grace and Jacob (photo: Felicity Peacock)

Our congratulations to **Grace Mountain** and **James Reilly** on the birth of their son Jacob on 19th July. Although this production was hampered by the star's reluctance to make his entrance, all is now well and he is currently enjoying

the limelight at centre stage. Grace and James met while rehearsing for *The Cosmonaut* last year.

Tim Eyres is off on his travels once more. This time he's going to Oman for a few years to manage an English language education centre. We look forward to dispatches from our man in Oman.

All you Guild people, do keep us informed of your more noteworthy doings: hatches, matches and dispatches, traveller's tales, knighthoods, extreme ironing, whatever.

Committee News

Supporting those in the field news: bursaries and grants awarded this year went to Rachel Johnson

(grant) to support her summer school at the National Youth Theatre, Anna Glynn (bursary) to support her three-year course at Guildford Conservatoire, and Luke Spencer (bursary) to support his one-year course at LAMDA. Rachel's summer school went well, and we wish Anna and Luke the very best of luck in their chosen career paths...

Optical media news: the fantastic DVD of the Guild Archive is now available – FREE to members. To get your copy, please contact Felicity Peacock, but note – it's a PC DVD rather than a TV DVD, so you'll need a Windows monstrosity to play it.

Training directors news: in order to increase the number of directors available to the Guild, we are considering the possibility of setting up a "training scheme" for directors, in which a number of specialised workshops would be set up for established directors to pass on their expertise to a new generation. Watch this space for more news as it arrives...

AGM news: it's not too early to be thinking about that great bun fight that is the Guild Annual General Meeting (though buns weren't really needed this year, when so much cheese was available that the mice thought all their Sundays had come at once). Any burning issues you'd like to discuss, any ambitions to be part of the committee? The provisional date is Wednesday 26th April 2006 at the Summertown URC, so make a note in your diaries now, and have a say in the running of the Guild...

Future Attractions

WORKSHOP ROUND-UP

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPAND YOUR theatrical skills? Here's a list of forthcoming drama workshops organised by the WOT (Workshops On Theatre) committee. Note that the programme is subject to final confirmation, so watch out for further information in GN, or contact **Felicity Peacock**, your Guild representative on the WOT Committee (details on the back page). Note that workshops are deliberately planned to take place at different venues in various corners of Oxfordshire, so that everyone will have equal chance of a short journey or a long journey!

FROM PAGE TO STAGE - ACTING AND DIRECTING: 27th November at Chadlington village hall, Chadlington (near Chipping Norton) 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, led by **Sue Haffenden**. The workshop will be suitable for actors and directors, and will look at how a play can be developed from the

page to the stage. Sue Haffenden will base the workshop on Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, and participants will be expected to have read the play before the workshop.

EXTRA WORKSHOP NEWS: the alliance with the Oxford Playhouse continues, from time to time generating special offers for members to attend the educational workshops or other events run by the Playhouse. These are often given at short notice, and therefore e-mailed to members.

Booking forms for each workshop will be circulated with *GuildNews*, or can be obtained direct from Felicity. If you have an idea for a workshop that you'd like to lead or participate in or a topic that a workshop might cover, please do contact Felicity. If you're not on the Guild e-mailing list and would like to receive notification by email of events, requests for actors from other groups, or special offers, etc, please e-mail Felicity (details on the back page) and ask to be added to the email list. If you currently receive such emails and would prefer not to, please let Felicity know and your name will immediately be removed from the list.

A REMINDER OF GUILD GRANTS TO MEMBERS FOR WORKSHOPS

If you want to improve your skills in a particular technical area, you can apply for a grant to cover the cost of the workshop fee. It would be particularly useful to extend the number of members able to help with lighting, sound or make-up, so if you are interested please contact Felicity Peacock, our Workshops Rep (details on the back page).

WOT is supported by OTG and ODN

IMMINENT PRODUCTIONS

Oxford Theatre Guild: *Truth or Dare* by Mike Coleman, the O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College, Oxford, 1st to 6th November 2005 at 7:30 pm. Tickets available from Tickets Oxford on 01865 305305, or via the web site www.ticketsoxford.com.

Dramascope: *Star* by Terry Powell, The Corn Exchange, Witney, 24th to 29th November 2005 at 7:30 pm. Tickets available from 01993 704820 from 1st November.

St Peter's Players: *The Water Babies* by Willis Hall, Wolvercote Village Hall, 24th November to 3rd December 2005 at 7:30 pm, plus a morning performance at 10:30 am and a matinee at 12:30 pm, both on Saturday 3rd December.

Oxford Theatre Guild: *Sherlock Holmes and the Limehouse Horror* by Philip Pullman, the Old

Fire Station Theatre, Oxford, 6th to 10th December 2005 at 7:30 pm. Tickets available from The Old Fire Station on 01865 297170.

Tomahawk Productions: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, the Burton-Taylor Theatre, 13th to 17th December 2005 at 7:30 pm.

Abingdon Drama Club: *The Prince and the Mermaid (a pantomime)* by Eileen Bagshaw, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 13th to 14th and 19th to 21st January 2006 at 7:30 pm, plus Saturday matinees 14th, 15th and 21st January.

Abingdon Drama Club: *Macbeth* by William

Shakespeare, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 29th March to 1st April 2006 at 7:30 pm.

Classifieds

Still Wanted

Stuff for Guild News: be it poetry or prose, diatribe or deviation, whap it on the electronic grapevine to Bill Moulford and see it in print all over Oxfordshire, or at least the bits where we post it out. Or fold it into origami wallabies and post it in the same direction. Alternatively, courier it over on a silver plate carried by an entourage of family retainers, should you so wish...



THE GUILD COMMITTEE, 2005 - 2006

Chair: David Long, e-mail david.long@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Vice-chair: Gareth Morris, e-mail gareth.morris@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Secretary: Felicity Peacock, e-mail felicity.peacock@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Treasurer, membership secretary and resurrected newsletter editor: Bill Moulford, e-mail bill.moulford@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Web master / archivist: Steve Whitaker, e-mail steve.whitaker@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Minutes secretary / hall bookings: Diana Kilburn, email diana.kilburn@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Non-portfolio: Colin Macnee, e-mail colin.macnee@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Non-portfolio: Cathy Oakes, e-mail cathy.oakes@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Non-portfolio: Kevin Elliott, e-mail kevin.elliott@oxfordtheatreguild.com

Plus ce change, plus le même chose... The nights are drawing in (much like the time King Arthur had laryngitis) and All Hallow's Eve fast approaches. Following a black magical spell of some considerable wiccan power, the editor who gave up his post in 2004 (i.e. *He-who-shall-not-be-named*) has been temporarily bound into a fiery pentacle for the devilish production of the eldritch screed you hold now in your hot little paws. However, his maladroit malice and seditious sesquipedinality can only be kept in check by regular sacrifices of articles and news to this journalistic were-beast, which outside of a full moon is more easily recognised as *Harper's and Queen*. Cede ye then thy articles to the undead shade of Guild News, or fear ye the Demon Editor unleashed upon the land! Mwa-hah-hah!! Ahem.

See you next issue!



The Oxford Theatre Guild is a registered charity, number 294056. **Guild News** is published as and when the world lets up enough to get to a photocopier. The editorial team of one is now a team of two and a bit, bringing wide-ranging journalistic expertise from all eight corners of the theatrical hyper-cube. Now where was I?