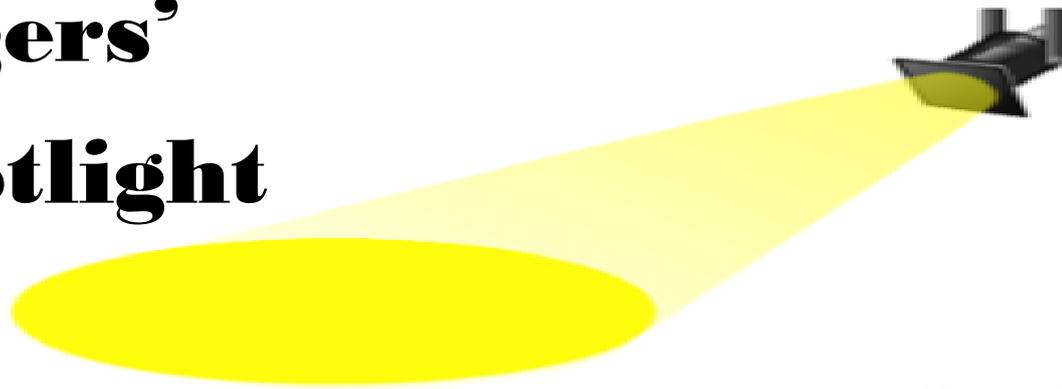


# Stagers'

# Spotlight



March 2021

## Chair's Message

Welcome to the March edition of *Spotlight*. We are now more than a year on from theatres first being closed as part of lockdown and I think it is fair to say that when it happened very few of us, me included, predicted it would go on for as long as it has. A lot of us are missing the enjoyment, distraction, fulfilment, companionship and so many other things we get from being a part of the performing arts - you can see a bit about what it is that I get from being a part of Stagers later in the first of our 'Committee Profiles' to help you get to know a little more about the people currently running your Society.

There does appear to be light at the end of the tunnel with Covid rates dropping and vaccines rolling out but it looks like things will not improve in time for us to be able to safely rehearse and perform Honk! in our traditional May timeslot this year so you will find details of what we plan to do about that later in *Spotlight*.

As well as thinking about what we can do with our shows, we are also thinking about what we can do to bring the Stagers' community together in the coming weeks and months, both to see us safely to the end of lockdown and then make the most of the time when we can actually be with each other again in person. The first thing which you can find revealed in this newsletter is the second instalment of the Stagers' Cornucopia. Everyone who attended and participated last time around really enjoyed themselves so I hope to see you there this time.

Go well,  
Joe

## Honk Update



At the last committee meeting the Director and Production Secretary joined the committee to discuss the future of HONK!. Given the pathway laid out by the Government, together we have made the decision to defer the musical to May 2022. We hope this will allow us to have the best build up to the show, hopefully with limited if no restrictions and for the cast and creative team to have time to prepare properly.

The current proposed plan is to start rehearsals (with the existing cast where possible) at the end of January/early February '22 and hope this won't conflict with any other postponed shows. We will keep monitoring and being led by the science and government advice but hopefully this is the last time I will have to tell you that Honk! is delayed.

The committee is thrilled that Helen has agreed to persevere with Honk! and stay in charge of what we hope will be a very fun and vibrant musical and all we can say is third time lucky!

Our mind is now turning to subsequent shows this year so the committee is starting to think about what might be possible so watch this space for future updates about plans for the remainder of 2021.



Box Office Radio is working with NODA and Chichester Festival Theatre. to bring you your favourite musicals showtunes [Listen Here](#)

## Chairman's Profile

### **Who are you?**

I am Joe White, husband of Abi, father of Freya and we all live down in Bordon with our two cats, Harley and Banjo

### **What is your history with the theatre?**

From a young age I loved being on the stage starting with school plays, including playing The Pied Piper of Hamelin in the musical Rats. My dad taught me a lot about performing and having a presence on stage and I would take part in the yearly speech and drama festivals before really finding my feet in the local Scout Gang Shows. At University I did a lot of shows including the moment where I was standing on stage at the start of Road by Jim Cartwright with my great Aunt and Uncle in the audience and realising quite how colourful the language is in it.

### **What is your history with Stagers specifically?**

When we moved into the area I was introduced to Stagers by my mother-in-law, Jennifer Charters, current Secretary of the society and after taking part in a 24hr musical my first part was as Brains in The Night Maxie Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobe's and despite almost dropping Alex Yates in our big dance number (still the part of musicals I most dread) I have continued to take part in a number of the musicals and one act plays, though having a young daughter means I have to alternate taking to the stage with my lovely wife who also enjoys treading the boards. One of my favourite roles was as the sardonic Andre in the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels musical in 2017.



### **What fills your days?**

I have spent most of my life working at marketing agencies raising money for charities but for the last five years I have worked for Greenpeace International helping campaigners all over the world talk to their supporters and ensure people continue taking action to fight climate change. One benefit of this is that because my team are based across a wide range of countries from The Philippines to Spain, Lebanon to Brazil it meant I was very used to remote working and Zoom calls which set me up well for working from home during lockdown.

### ***Apart from Stagers what else do you do with your free time?***

Spending time with my wife and lovely daughter fills a lot of my time with fun but I am also a big fan of all games. I love playing board games, computer games, escape rooms, miniature games but especially roleplaying games and it is fair to say that my weekly Thursday nights spent playing Zook the Gnome Monk has played a large part in keeping me sane for the past year.

*We hope this was fun and interesting for everyone, if you have a question you would like to ask the members of the committee, let us know. Next month will feature Heather Legat, your Vice-Chair*

## Missing Live Theatre ?

[Listen to Musicals](#)

[Shows on -line](#)

[www.broadwayhd.com/](http://www.broadwayhd.com/)

[Globe Player | Shakespeare's Globe](#)

[Cirque du Soleil](#)

[National Theatre at Home \(ntathome.com\)](http://nationaltheatreathome.com)

[Full Musicals on-line](#)

<https://stage2view.com/>

<https://www.wischildrendigital.com/>

## Grayshott Stagers' History

I have recently been contacted by a lady who had come across some Grayshott Stagers' programmes from the past. They had belonged to her husband's aunt, Gertrude Galpin, who lived in Grayshott and must have attended all the performances. They range from 1954 to 1968.

We know that Gertrude was a patron member of Grayshott Stagers from 1964 to (at least) 1968 and that she was Costume Mistress for The Arcadians in 1957, Waltz Time in 1960 and No! No! Nanette in 1961. Gertrude died in 1980, aged 98.

I have scanned or photographed a number of the programmes and these are now on the website. In particular I would like to draw your attention to A Country Girl (1958), The Maid of the Mountains (1959), Waltz Time (1960), No! No! Nanette (1961) and Naughty Marietta (1966) as Gertrude had managed to collect autographs in the programmes from some of the casts. Peter has the originals in the archive and they will be available for inspection at the AGM.

Peter has also been delving into the archive and details of a few more shows have been added to the website.

Tony

## Stagers' Cornucopia - the sequel

As we've unfortunately been left with a large window in our calendar until later in the year, the Committee has decided to hold another "Cornucopia", along the same lines as the event that was so well-received and enjoyed in December.

The aims are to give an outlet for the creativity and talents of our members; to amuse and entertain us all (whether performing or not); and to maintain in some way the social contact across the Stagers that we've all been missing.

As before, it'll be an on-line event (using Zoom) consisting of a series of performances by members. We're inviting you to perform a "party piece" of your choice (or more than one if you wish), which could be any of - but not limited to - the following:

- A monologue
- A poem
- A song
- A sketch
- A drama scene

Your chosen piece should preferably last no more than around 5 minutes, and could involve more than one person

On the other hand, feel free just to sit back and watch the fun!

The Stagers' Cornucopia will be on Saturday evening, 1 May (7:45 for 8 pm). If you wish to participate as a performer, please send details of your proposed piece (or pieces) to [barry.levy@grayshottstagers.co.uk](mailto:barry.levy@grayshottstagers.co.uk) by Sunday 18th April. That will give us time to plan the evening and put together a varied programme. (Please specify whether the piece involves a backing track and/or multiple performers; if so, we might carry out a brief sound check ahead of the night.)

You're invited  
to celebrate...

### ANOTHER STAGERS' CORNUCOPIA

***Saturday 1<sup>ST</sup> May - 7.45 for 8pm***

***Zoom (details to follow)***

***Bring your choice of party piece -  
monologue, sketch, song, what-you-will.***

***Or ... just pour a glass, sit back and  
watch.***