



Newsletter Jul 2024

1934 - 2024

Clubrooms: 6 - 8 Castle Hill Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4QP
www.richmond-ads.org.uk

Summer 2024 25 - 27 July
and 31 July - 3 August

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swale

Directed by Max Walker

RADS Social Events

Clubnights

Monday 8th July - RADS Ramble

A short walk around the Easby loop - meet at the Club Rooms at 1900h, culminating at Wetherspoons where food is served until late. Or if you are not up to the walk, you can miss it out and go straight to the pub!

Monday 12th August - No Clubnight but Gary Winn is holding a readthrough of *Blue Stockings* - see above.

Monday 9th September - Mummings Play

David Lawrence will be hosting a readthrough and showing a DVD of his Mummings Play which we intend to perform at Christmas this year.

Monday 14th October - To be confirmed

Monday 11th November - Antigone Readthrough
Gregan will be conducting a readthrough of our Spring 2025 production prior to auditions on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th.

Monday 9th December - RADS Christmas Dinner

Details will follow nearer the time - put the date in your diary!

National Theatre Live - Free Tickets!

Anybody who has been attending the National Theatre's excellent initiative of broadcasting live performances to cinemas across the country may be interested in the upcoming showings for 2024.

Dan Westgarth, the Station Cinema's manager, who is currently playing Charles II in *Nell Gwynn* has kindly offered us two free tickets for the broadcast of *Present Laughter* on **Thursday 18 July 2024** at 19:15, starring Andrew Scott (BBC's *Sherlock*, *Fleabag*) in Noël Coward's provocative comedy. All you have to do is register an interest with Gregan Davis at secretary@richmond-ads.org.uk by Sunday 14th July and he will randomly select a winner and contact them before the performance date.

In addition, if you wish to book for any other of the Live events at The Station Cinema, you can use the GTR discount code BUTLER.

Blue Stockings - Props Plea

Gary Winn is looking for four old school desks (preferably flat-topped, not sloping) for *Blue Stockings* and an old-looking bicycle. If you can help please contact him on the email address above right or speak to any committee member.

Autumn 2024 6 - 9 November

Blue Stockings

by Jessica Swale

Directed by Gary Winn

The story of the first women to attend Girton College in Cambridge. Their trials and the opposition they faced from society which included other male students and lecturers leading ultimately to a violent protest. If anyone is not able to attend the read through or auditions can they contact Gary by e-mail gwinn94@gmail.com and he will make alternative arrangements.

Read through: Monday 12th August 1930h.
Auditions: Thursday 15th August 1930h.

Rehearsals: from Thursday 22nd August and every Tuesday & Thursday thereafter. Sunday rehearsals will be held nearer the show week from 5pm till 7pm.

CAST: There are 24 characters but the play can be performed with 12 actors doubling up. I would prefer to have as many people involved as possible. The playing age of the 9 students should be <35.

The Girls

Tess Moffat: Main protagonist. 1st year student at Girton. Passionate, scientific, longs for adventure. Will is in love with her but she loves Ralph. Hungry for knowledge.

Celia Willbond: Diligent student, repeating her first year as was sent home with nervous exhaustion. Mindful of propriety/rules and reminds others. Special relationship with Tess.

Carolyn Addison: Rich bohemian. Has travelled the world. Wants to be a doctor. A rule breaker, encourages Tess's relationship with Ralph.

Maevie Sullivan: Quiet and intelligent. Lower social background. Sponsored by rich lady. Returns home because her mother has died and she has to look after her siblings.

The Boys

Ralph Mayhew: Sympathetic to girls' cause. Romance with Tess but because of parental pressure marries someone else. Very upset about situation.

Will Bennet: Tess's childhood friend. As a result gets cold shoulder from other male students. Falls in love with Tess, promised her father he would protect her.

Lloyd: He is the most vocal opponent of the women and has strong held and arguably justifiable reasons although he feels threatened. Rich, competitive. Physically violent.

Holmes: Privileged. Can't agree with women graduating but respects their courage and is ashamed of the violence.

Edwards: Violinist, more sympathetic to girls. Bullied by other boys. He sings "The Last Rose of Summer".

The Staff

Elizabeth Welsh: Mistress of Girton College, leads campaign for girls to graduate. Opposed to the way suffragettes behave but of firm disposition until the very end when she loses control and attacks the protesters.

Dr. Henry Maudsley: Psychiatrist and lecturer. Firmly believes that men and women are biologically different and because of this women are adapted to fulfilling certain roles which do not include academia.

Mr. Banks: Science lecturer, supporter of the girls which puts him at odds with his colleagues, eventually leading to his dismissal.

Miss Blake: Moral science lecturer. Supporter of girls but in contrast to Ms. Welsh believes in the suffragette's campaign which causes confrontation.

Prof. Collins/Anderson/Radleigh: All sceptical of women's education to a varying degree.

The other smaller parts include **Minnie** (Girton's housemaid), **Miss Bott** (chaperone) and **Mr. Peck** (the gardener).



Chair's Corner

Hello July and finally some summer weather! Hope everyone is staying cool and making sure they keep their suncream topped up! Once again we have plenty going on in the RADS world.

Firstly thank you to everyone that came along to our AGM, it was a nice and swift meeting and congratulations to Scott Fenney and Jenny Roberts on receiving the Lindon Medals for this year, and to Eleanor Harland for being this year's recipient of the Raymond Corbally Youth Award. I want to say a thank you as well to Charlie Grumbley who has stepped down from committee after several years, though we are already finding excuses for him to pop back into meetings!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our 90th Anniversary Ball at the King's Head. I'm sure if you attended you'll agree it was an excellent evening, and it was great to catch up with members old and new in attendance. This month sees *Nell Gwynn* hit the Georgian Theatre Royal, and if you haven't got your tickets yet what are you waiting for? This is going to be a fabulous production and one of the easiest ways to support our society is by attending our shows.

Our July clubnight will be a local walk in Richmond ending (of course) in the pub, fingers crossed for good weather! The walk won't be too strenuous and I'm sure if you wanted to bring a four legged friend along they would be welcome (please do, I love dogs although unfortunately they are not allowed in Wetherspoons!)

Reminder that there is no clubnight in August. However, if you can't go that long without getting your theatrical fix, the readthrough for our next show *Blue Stockings* is on what would be our normal clubnight, the 2nd Monday in August. If you want to be involved in *Blue Stockings* but are unavailable on the readthrough and audition dates please let Gary know as he has other dates available. Enjoy the sunshine!

Beki Stevenson

e-mail: chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk