



1934 - 2025

Newsletter Nov 2025

Clubrooms: 6 - 8 Castle Hill Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4QP  
[www.richmond-ads.org.uk](http://www.richmond-ads.org.uk)

Autumn 2025 5 - 8 November

## Bleak Expectations

by Mark Evans

Directed by **Scott Fenney**

Spring 2026 18 - 21 March

## THE MIRROR CRACK'D

by Agatha Christie

New adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff

Directed by **Lee Bowles & Gregan Davis**

Summer 2026 23 - 25 July  
and 29 July - 1 August

## The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

Directed by **Beki Stevenson**



### Chair's Corner

Remember remember... to buy your tickets for *Bleak Expectations* this November!

Best wishes to you all, I hope you've gorged yourselves on all the sweets that you (inadvertently, of course) forgot to give to the trick-or-treaters, and are looking towards the festive time with earnest excitement.

*Bleak Expectations* is now in the theatre and the performances are selling really well! If you haven't yet got a ticket, I urge you to do so as soon as possible, this really will be one not to miss.

RADS performed amazingly at the NODA Awards this year, picking up several awards and showcasing once again the fantastic talent pool that we are so fortunate to have. Well done EVERYBODY, whether you won, or were nominated. We are so incredibly proud of you all!

Our fabulous social secretary, Chloe, has uploaded the fourth episode of our new podcast - *Backstage at the Clubrooms*, which this time features Lee Morris, talking about his role as the full family of Hardthrashers (of which he is playing each and every one!). Watch it here: [Episode 4 - "Transmogrification"](#)

Please, if you haven't already, subscribe to the YouTube channel, every subscriber helps our audience grow, ask your friends and family to give it a listen and subscribe too!

Following *Bleak Expectations*, our friends at Richmond Operatic Society will be entering the theatre with their production of *Sweeney Todd* (Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th November), please help to keep our local sister organisation entertaining audiences by supporting them and buying a ticket!

Finally - we have at long last been able to fulfill Gregan's earnest wish to direct another Jean Anouilh play *The Cavern*, coming next Autumn. This play was life-altering (his own words!) for Gregan in his exploration of the world of dramatics and I can't wait to see him bring it to life. Do feel free to read up about it if you're interested in being involved, or else ask Gregan, he won't mind!

Happy November, stay warm and get those *Bleak Expectation* tickets booked ASAP!

**Max Walker**  
e-mail: [chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk](mailto:chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk)

### RADS Social Events

#### Clubnights

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Read-Through of *The Mirror Crack'd***

Lee Bowles and Gregan Davis will host a read-through of our Spring 2026 production, Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd*, a new adaptation of a Miss Marple mystery by Rachel Wagstaff.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December - RADS Xmas Dinner**

This year's seasonal festivities will be held at The Farmer's Arms, Brompton-on-Swale - save the date! Menus, booking instructions and arrangements were sent out on 29<sup>th</sup> September, to be returned by 20<sup>th</sup> October. Please contact Gregan if you have not received these.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - An Evening of Improvisation and Theatre Games with Bill Kates**

Bill Kates is an American actor, voice artist, and audio theatre specialist with decades of training and experience in improvisational theatre. One of Bill's mentors was the late Gary Austin, founder of Hollywood's famous Groundlings, and a prime catalyst in the career of Paul "Pee-Wee" Reubens, among many others. Bill will offer us a chance to stretch our bodies and our limits as actors (no experience necessary) with a freewheeling night of improv exercises and games, designed to explore the possibilities within you, as yourself... and who knows what character may emerge? Please come prepared to participate and have fun!

### Autumn 2026 - The Cavern

We are pleased to announce that next Autumn, Gregan Davis will be directing Jean Anouilh's *The Cavern (La Grotte)* - a 1961 play exploring the relationship between reality and illusion. It is structured as a murder mystery, but the focus is on the "upstairs-downstairs" drama and the commentary on class, social inequality, and the lives of the servants, particularly a cook and her seminarist son. The play also features a character who is a playwright struggling with writer's block, which allows Anouilh to comment on his own work and process.

The title refers to the servants' quarters, or "downstairs," which serves as the backdrop for the central drama about social class and rigid social structures. The play opens with a murder, but the identity of the murderer is less important than the social dynamics and relationships that are revealed.

### Spring 2026 - The Mirror Crack'd - Auditions

Auditions will take place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November at 1930h. Please contact Lee at [lee\\_bowles@hotmail.com](mailto:lee_bowles@hotmail.com) or phone 07447 709253 to arrange an audition date if you can't attend either of these sessions or for an informal chat.

Character information is on the Members Information page of the website: [INFO](#)

Production dates are Wed 18 - Sat 21 March 2026, rehearsals will initially be Mondays (except for Clubnights) and Wednesdays.



Richmond Operatic Society presents

## SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Music and Lyrics by  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by  
HUGH WHEELER

11th - 15th November 2025

at the

Georgian Theatre Royal

[www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk)

01748 825252

From an Adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND  
Originally Directed on Broadway by HAROLD PRINCE  
Orchestrations by JONATHAN TUNICK