



ABINGDON

From: Director of Drama, Ben Phillips

7 September 2023

Drama OH opportunities 2023-24

Dear Parents

Lower School Drama Club – Monday P5 or Thursday P8

The Lower School Drama Club gives pupils an opportunity to be part of a creative ensemble, where playing lots of drama games and having fun is the top priority. We will use teamwork skills to create mini improvisations and sketches each week and gain confidence performing in front of others. Members of the club can audition for a large-scale production which will begin rehearsals in January and be performed in May.

If you have any questions feel free to email Mrs Badger – megan.badger@abingdon.org.uk

3rd and 4th Year Production - *Twelfth Night*

We are delighted to announce that this year's Middle School drama production will be an exciting version of one of Shakespeare's best ever plays – *Twelfth Night*. This will be a really fun, dynamic production with modern tinges and festive frivolity. **If you are interested in auditioning, please read the information below very carefully:**

Auditions for the show will take place on Wednesday 20 September at **5.15pm until 7.15pm** in A321 (Drama Studio, top floor of Arts Centre). If you are interested in auditioning, please sign up on the sheet outside the drama office (on the middle floor of the Arts Centre). You do not need to prepare anything before the audition.

Please be aware that by auditioning, you will need to be able to rehearse on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5.15-7pm until the show finishes on Friday 1 December 2023. You may not be called to every rehearsal, but you will need to be available if called and be able to be collected from school in the evening after rehearsals. Rehearsal schedules will be published well in advance so you know when you'll be needed. There are a good number of roles in the show, but depending on numbers who audition it may not be possible to cast everyone.

You will also need to be available for a Sunday rehearsal on 26 November 2023, as well as the two evening performances on Thursday 30 November and Friday 1 December 2023.

If you have any questions feel free to email Mr Phillips on ben.phillips@abingdon.org.uk

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Joint Senior Production at Abingdon (open to 5th Year, L6 and U6) – A Monster Calls

Patrick Ness's best-selling novel *A Monster Calls* is brought vividly to life by visionary director Sally Cookson in this moving and imaginative adaptation. First performed in 2018 by The Old Vic in London in association with the Bristol Old Vic, this is a story about love, loss and hope.

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mum became ill. Then, one night, Conor is woken by something at his window. A monster has come walking. It's elemental, a force of nature, and it wants something from Conor. It wants the truth.

With use of ropes, stilts, mirrors, a parachute, visuals and music as well as physical theatre throughout, this performance is going to be anything but dull!

Please note this production deals with the sensitive issue of terminal illness.

Auditions: Tuesday 12 September 5-7pm or Wednesday 13 September 5-7pm. Recalls Tuesday 19 September 5-7pm.

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5-7pm in the Amey Theatre.

Weekend rehearsal: Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 January

Dress rehearsals: Monday 22 January (Afternoon) and Tuesday 23 January (Morning)

Performance dates: Wednesday 24 January, Thursday 25 January, Friday 26 January

If you have any questions feel free to email Mrs Sharman – lara.sharman@abingdon.org.uk

Joint Senior Musical Production at St Helen and St Katharine (open to 5th Year, L6 and U6) **Made in Dagenham**

Made in Dagenham is an uplifting and irreverent musical, based on the true story of the 1968 women sewing machinist strike at Ford's car manufacturing plant in Dagenham, Essex. What began as a protest to be recognised as skilled workers, grew into a high-profile battle for equal pay. In reality this brought a factory of 55,000 workers to a standstill, halting the production of 3000 cars per day. These real events made history and laid the foundations for the Equal Pay Act, which was eventually passed in 1970. *Made in Dagenham* tells the story of ordinary people fighting against inequality. We follow factory worker Rita O'Grady and the men and women who support her as she leads this historic protest. Alongside all of this, the personal journey of Rita, her husband Eddie and their family reflects the strain of challenging the established system. The musical takes us from the factory workshop to the offices of parliament, with some detours into the fantastical realms of glitzy cars, comedy clubs and the delights of Eastbourne-on-sea! This promises to be a memorable musical, highlighting the power of a group of ordinary people who unite to effect change!

Please be aware that this production contains strong language and deals with themes of discrimination (including sexism, homophobia and racism).

Please sign up to audition for this production. The student sign-up sheet and audition information can be located in the drama department, outside the drama office.

Rehearsals: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5–7pm.

Not all students will be required at every rehearsal.

Auditions: Monday 11 September 5-7pm OR Tuesday 12 September 5–7pm

Recall Auditions: Friday 15 September 5-7.30pm.

Monday and Friday will not be usual rehearsal nights, but in order to complete the audition process swiftly, we will be using these specific days for auditions.

Key Dates: Cast members must be available for rehearsal on the following dates.

- Sunday 19 November 2023 10.00 – 18.00 Senior Production Rehearsal
- Sunday 14 January 2024 10.00 – 18.00 Senior Production Rehearsal
- Sunday 21 January 2024 10.00 – 18.00 Senior Production Rehearsal
- Sunday 28 January 2024 09.00 – 21.00 Senior Production Technical Rehearsal
- Monday 29 January 2024 13.15 – 21.30 Senior Production Dress Rehearsal

(Performances start at 7pm)

- Wednesday 31 January 2024 16.30 – 21.45 Senior Performance 1
- Thursday 1 February 2024 16.30 – 21.45 Senior Performance 2
- Friday 2 February 2024 16.30 – 21.45 Senior Performance 3

If you have any queries please email Miss Grandi - kgrandi@shsk.org.uk

Middle and Upper School “Page to Stage” Wednesday Period 7 activity

Pupils who are keen on drama and performance but don't have time to commit to one of the extra curricular productions we are offering might like to come along to *Page to Stage* on a Wednesday afternoon. We will look at different plays and playwrights and rehearse and perform extracts from a number of different works, as well as perhaps looking at devising some of our own work. Pupils can choose this instead of or as well as being in one of the productions! Open to 3rd Years - Upper Sixth.

Yours sincerely

Ben Phillips, Director of Drama