



@latchingdon_artsdrama



@ladsdrama



L.A.D.S Latchingdon Arts and Drama Society

L.A.D.S

NEWSLETTER JAN 2020—WEB ISSUE #1

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair - Cathy Hallam

Vice Chair/Box Office - Alana Wilson

Treasurer - Richard Lang

Secretary - Moir Gunfield

Production Manager - Mandi Tickner

Health & Safety Officer - Charlie Potter

Website Manager - Matthew Bacon

Social Secretary - Heather Bainbridge

Publicity—Chelle Kuta

Buildings - Tom & Richard Playle

Sound - Teddy Allen

Lighting - Sean Sullivan / Connor Anderson

Stage/Set - Martin Gunfield

Costumes - Sharyn Hughes

Support - Kath Lang



Happy New Year!

A brand new year! A brand new start! A brand new programme! We hope you are as excited as we are for 2020!

To summarise the end of 2019 however, the production of 'Gaslight' directed by Richard Lang was a smash hit with our audiences, with 3 out of 4 nights completely sold out! The performances were smooth and everyone came out singing the cast & crews praises. A wonderful turn out for such a chilly play!

To follow on from this, just a week after the play was all done and dusted, we kicked off the festive season with our first LADS Members Christmas Party! Firstly, a huge thank you to all who attended and helped out, with special mention to Heather Bainbridge & Holly Hallam for organizing. The night was merry and certainly bright! The shed was transformed into our very own grotto complete with a glittery bar, a "Christmas-ised" Gaslight set and flashy photo booth complete with props! As you entered, you felt as if you were walking through Narnia itself with wonderfully lit trees! There was also thoroughly well thought out entertainment! We were enchanted with a musical interlude of festive favourites from our own members Maisie Ticker, Matthew Bacon, Maddie Butler, Holly Hallam and Jessica Hallam all sung, whilst Lauren Bartlett, Hannah Bartlett and ...

Heather Bainbridge made us giggle with a brilliant dance number! A Christmas jumper competition proved very popular, and a raffle for CARA with all the presents wrapped provided a great surprise!

So THIS year we have an action packed schedule!

March will see our Fundraiser Quiz at the Shed! We will have an awesome night of brain-tickling questions for you! More information will be sent round in the new year so keep an eye out!

We will be returning 20-23rd May 2020 with a play many of you will recognize, 'Last of the Summer Wine', which will be directed by our fabulous Chelle Kuta. Last of the Summer Wine is an affectionate comedy about people in the autumn of their years. The series is the world's longest-running sitcom.

After that we will be having our Summer musical in place of Showhits, 26th-29th August. Without giving too much away, all the details will be confirmed in a future Newsletter! Just to keep you on your toes!

Following this, we will finish off our 2020 programme with the mysterious and dark 'Hedda Gabler' by Henrik Ibsen, which will be directed by Michael Graham Blythe. It is recognized as a classic of realism, nineteenth century theatre, and world drama. Should be quite an end to the year!

We hope you are looking forward to the year ahead! We certainly are!



At our LADS Christmas party, we raised £80 for the local charity CARA, just through Raffle tickets alone!

CARA (Centre for Action on Rape & Abuse) is based in Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree, Clacton-on-Sea, Harwich and Great Dunmow.



Upcoming Events



Here's a quick look at the upcoming events for LADS!

March Fundraiser Quiz!

This year we are putting together a Fundraiser quiz on the 21st of March 2020. This night will be a fun evening of quiz questions to test your brain cells!

Keep your eyes peeled for our information poster!

Keith Spencer — Off to Worcestershire!

Keith Spencer, a hardworking and enthusiastic part of the LADS family, left for Worcestershire on the 19th December 2019. We have had a few changes recently and one of those is that our fantastic Keith Spencer is moving on to pastures new. We are sad to hear this news as he has been a long serving member serving as secretary for many years. He is also one of LADs seasoned actors taking on many roles with one of his most recent being Captain Mainwaring in our Production of Dads Army. In my opinion he was excellent bringing the bombastic nature coupled with underlying bravery and much comedy to this well known character....quite simply he was brilliant.



We are sad to see you go Keith, and we thank you for all your support

Cathy Hallam - Chairman

On behalf of all at LADs

Member Spotlight

Last September I was very privileged to be elected the new Chairman of LADswhat an honour. I myself have been a member of this great Theatre group since 1990 when I took the role of Rose in the production Stepping Out and I have never looked back, taking on lots of different roles over my 29 years from Mistress Quickly in The Merry Wives of Windsor, one of the Sharks in West Side Story, Madame Arcarti in Blyth Spirit to Mrs Lovett in Sweeney Todd. I have directed many Showwhits, and more recently plays in the shape of Sherlock Holmes, Dads Army and Rope. My favourite role was probably my first as Rose in the bitter sweet comedy Stepping Out, and I'm most proud of my leading role in Sweeney Todd, where I had to sing which was a great achievement for me.!! Over the years we have had some funny momentsI remember in West Side Story getting to the big number America when our Musical Directors computer shut down therefore leaving us with no music....but no fear he picked up some drum sticks and beat the tempo whilst we did the number...it was a scary moment but the audience loved it! And to me that is what live theatre is all about ...just working through it whatever happens!! Peter Jones created LADs with the idea that theatre should be for all, encouraging everyone to 'have a go' and I truly believe we still keep that ethos today . It truly is a great place to perform and every production we produce reminds me of how lucky we are to have the space that we do to create such wonderful productions.



Cathy Hallam - Chairman
2019/20