



@latchingdon_artsdrama



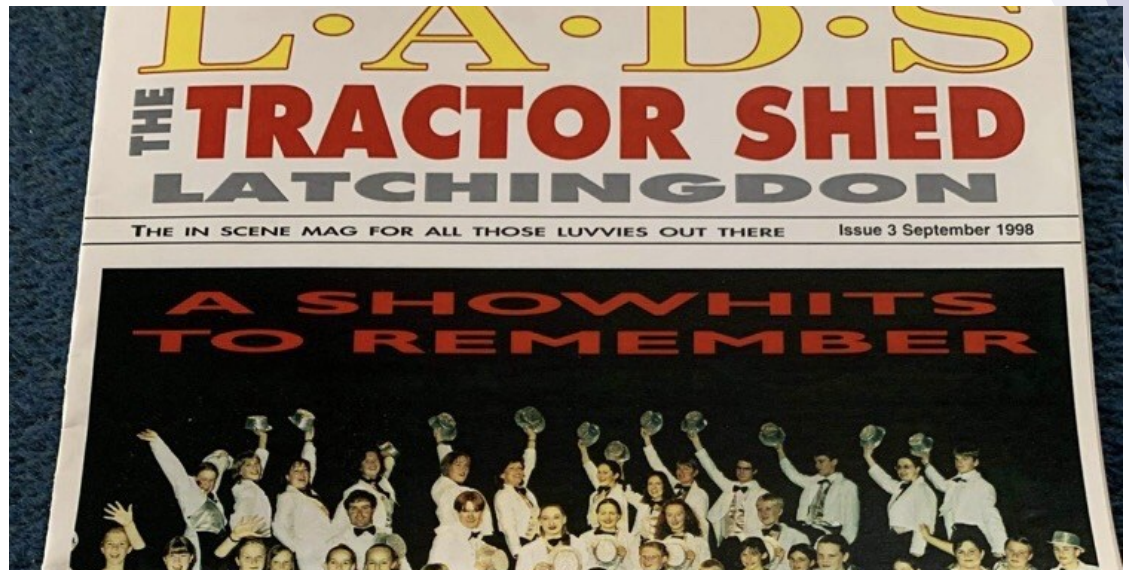
@ladsdrama



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

L.A.D.S

NEWSLETTER SEP 2020—WEB ISSUE #5



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—Michelle Kuta

Buildings - Tom & Richard Playle

Sound - Teddy Allen

Lighting - Sean Sullivan / Connor Anderson

Stage/Set - Martin Gunfield

Costumes - Sharyn Hughes

Support - Kath Lang

NETG Liason - Doreen Neale

A Moment In the Wings

An account of pre-show jitters...

' As the car pulls up, crunching to a halt on the gravel, the initial pang of nerves hits me. Tonight is the first show night of Showhits. I'm exhausted from what seemed like endless rehearsals, going over songs and numbers, practicing those all-important costume changes and tweaking in the final few tech runs. As I heave my box of show attire, my stomach twinges again.

The backstage door swings open and once I step through the threshold into backstage, I have no choice but to be thrown in, full swing, to the hustle and bustle of pre-show preparations. Although sometimes overlooked, the backstage team are a well-oiled machine to be marveled at. They have props ready, set changes prepared to swing on stage with Showhits famous ever-changing sets. The tinny sound of lighting, sound and front of house muttering important updates through headsets and ear pieces are heard, whilst I dodge my fellow performers hurrying around preparing their own bits and pieces. Backstage hums, and someone behind me announces that its "20 minutes til show time".

I crash into the changing rooms, and attempt to assemble my self into my opening number costume. The changing rooms have a familiar buzz as the excited whispers and conversations between cast members grow. Hairspray, glitter, hair nets. Boots, belts, leotards. Even the men in the company don their makeup and mascara. Abundance of deodorant, hair clips, microphone packs fill the room.

As I begin my pre-show rituals of tugging on skin colour tights, and flicking wings of eyeliner across my lids, I take a moment to appreciate the amount of costumes I have had throughout my many years of LADS and Showhits.

I've had to jump into circus costumes, 50s, hippy styled attire, donned trainers, tap shoes and ballet shoes. I've done wacky, weird, sweet, funny, classic openings, and so have all the members of LADS. The whole team contributes to every number in our Showhits programmes, whether its haze onstage, teapot costumes, roll-away sets, podiums, strobe lighting, and even teas and coffees. There's always a job, always a role to play, and we all team together.

"5 minutes til Show Time". I climb the stairs into the wings, my cast mates beside me. The Shed has a wonderful way of enhancing the adrenaline and nerves that are clutching us all by the throat and stomach now as we wait for the cue. As the wonderful front of house staff usher in the patrons to their seats, the buzz and the hum of their anticipation grows and in turn, just adds to the pre-show jitters. And now the physical jitters set in. We all stand, moving around, jumping, smiling, beaming in the wings.

Months of rehearsals, laughter, fun, hard work, sweat and patience have all lead up to this final moment. And as I stand there, I forget it all. What's my first line? What dance comes next? It all disappears from my brain, and its blank.

Finally, the lights dim. The silence falls. The thumbs go up from backstage, the creative team are biting fingers, the cast are ready.

The curtains open, the music begins, and I step onto the stage...

Please DO NOT ENTER the Shed at this time under any circumstances as requested by Tom & Richard, due to Government Guidelines of self-isolation due to Covid-19.

Please stay safe.

Detailed Notices

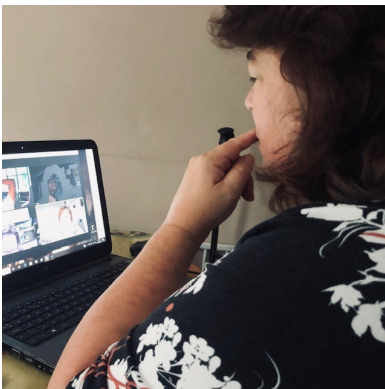
An insight into the current notices for society!

LADS have been doing our very best to keep active as much as we can during this lockdown! Obviously due to safe social distancing and government guidelines, we are still unable to perform inside the shed, but do not despair! We are all still here for a chat if needed! Your management committee have been working tirelessly from a safe distance to keep things running and keep planning for the future!

We had a fantastic raffle, which was posted on the social media pages and our Facebook Group Chat, thank you to everyone who took part in this and bought raffle tickets! And congratulations to our Raffle Prize Winners Sharon, Richard and Heffie! A huge congratulations to you!

We've been working on ways to keep in touch with you all, but if you haven't already - keep an eye on our Social Media sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) as well as the website! We try to post as many fun photos from past productions and updates as much as possible!

Although the future is still unknown at the minute, do not fret! We will be up and running as close to normal as soon as possible!



Member Spotlight

My first association with LADS was when I started dating my wife, Moir, back in 2005. After a few years, Peter got to know my DIY skills and asked me to make a few props. The first one being a treasure chest; which I duly made with a curved lid—unfortunately one of the cast members sat on it thinking it was a solid wood chest and I had to make an even stronger one! Then I was asked to help build a set—with two weeks notice! It was for ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ and I spent every evening building, wallpapering, painting etc (sometimes in the dark!) with the backstage team. I loved it and as they say, the rest is history! Some are very challenging, like building a baby grand piano for ‘Rope’; which was also used for ‘Waiting in the Wings’ - sets which that year we proudly won Best Set Design/ Construction/ Dressing at the NETG Awards.



Martin Gunfield -
Set Construction/Design