

WINCHESTER
MUSICALS &
OPERA SOCIETY



PRISCILLA

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

the musical



THEATRE ROYAL
WINCHESTER

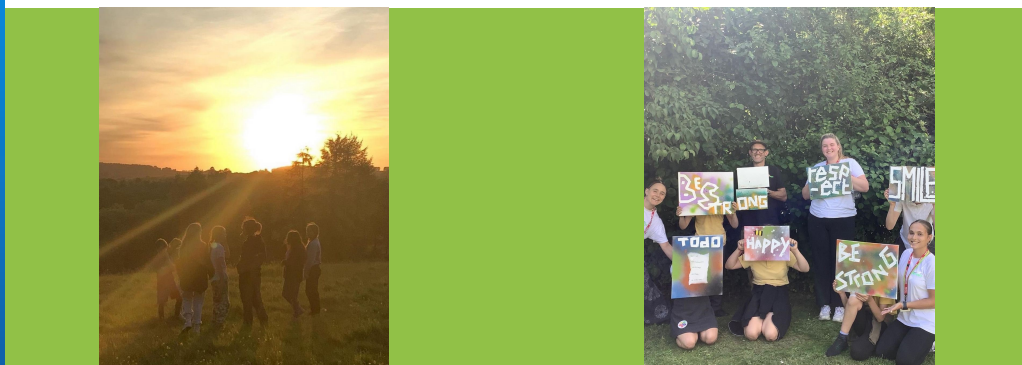
22-25 MAY
2024

WMOS are proud to support
Winchester **Street Reach** as our 2024 charity

winchester

STREET REACH

Street Reach is a Winchester charity working with young people. Our work is particularly targeted towards those experiencing disadvantage.



The need for a charity for young people in Winchester emerged from the local homeless and night shelter projects. Many of the adults using these services had experienced difficulties in childhood and were at risk of unemployment and homelessness before they had reached 16, and so, in 1983 the charity was formed.

The charities core work is to reach out into the community to get to know and understand young people and their needs in order that support could be offered to young people with unmet needs that are not engaging with other services.

winchesterstreetreach.org

PRESIDENT'S *welcome* ✨

Hello Possums!

For the first time in quite a while I am speaking to you from the stage for this production whilst I perform as Bernadette, the feisty matriarch of the *Priscilla* trio. This show is an outrageous musical take on the 1994 Oscar-winning film: *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

I hope you have all brought your heels, glitter and disco moves for this romp through classic jukebox songs from the likes of Kylie, The Weather Girls, Pet Shop Boys, Cyndi Lauper, Donna Summer and Gloria Gaynor. A clever and heart-warming tale of three friends as they journey through life, the desert, the reactions to their lifestyle choices and the ups and downs of friendships.

The star of the show is surely 'Priscilla' herself (she is no budget Barbie campervan). She has been beautifully built from scratch by our own WMOS Stables set team – their creativity and dedication knows no bounds – a huge thank you to them all.

This musical has given the opportunity for a new production team of WMOS members comprising Shannon Cronin (Director), Charlotte Upfold (Musical Director) and Jess Eades (Choreographer) to highlight their talents. A special shout out must go to Jo Barker – all the costumes you see have been created by her – a epic task she has undertaken with humour and skilful construction.

It has recently been announced that our Summer 2023 outdoor show *H.M.S. Pinafore* has been awarded a NODA Accolade of excellence and has been nominated for Best Savoy Opera in the South East. Congratulations to all involved!



We are delighted to welcome a number of new faces for this show, and as a Society we are always keen to welcome new members, be it on the stage or the numerous vital backstage roles. For further information see the back page of the programme.

So why not join us – you know you want to! Next Show...the magnificent *Kiss Me Kate*...

**IAIN STEEL, PRESIDENT
AKA BERNADETTE**

“NO MORE *f***ing* ABBA!”

There are some differences between the original 1994 film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical*.

Did you spot them?

ABBA OR KYLIE?

Although Kylie was already an international pop princess back in 1994, ABBA was Adam's music obsession in the film. *ABBA: The Movie* was filmed during their Australian tour in 1977 and captured the nation's love for the band, culminating in the 1994 film with Adam proudly showing off his famous 'ABBA turd' to a bemused Bernadette.



MITZI, ME DARLING

Tick's drag persona in the film is Mitzi Del Bra, but in the musical she is instead Mitzi Mitosis.



COCK, IN A FROCK, ON A ROCK!

In the film, the three queens in full drag regalia climb Watarrka (Kings Canyon), about 200 miles southwest of Alice Springs. The musical, however, sees the queens climb to the top of Uluru (Ayres Rock) in the final scene. This was the filmmakers original intention, but they could not get permission to film at such a sacred site.



GRAFFITI...

After leaving the antics at the bar in Broken Hill, the queens find Priscilla has been vandalised with homophobic graffiti. The musical sees the bus plastered with "F*ck off f*ggots", but in the film they instead find "AIDS f*ckers go home". The film was released in 1994 at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic which devastated the gay community who were often targets of abuse surrounding the virus.



MEET *the team*



Drag persona:
Dixie Normous

Shannon Cronin **DIRECTOR**

Shannon has been a member of WMOS since 2018 and is making her directorial debut for the society. She began acting aged 11 and spent her childhood performing with Stagecoach. Shannon graduated from the University of Winchester in 2017 with a degree in Drama. Throughout those three years, she couldn't help but fall in love with Winchester, so joining WMOS and becoming a committee member felt like the perfect fit. Shannon has performed in almost every show since *Singin' In The Rain* in 2018 and played the role of the *Boatswain* in 2023's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their incredible hard work, and hopes you all enjoy *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*!

Charlotte Upfold **MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

After 12 years with WMOS, Charlotte is making her debut as Musical Director. She has performed in many shows both inside and outside WMOS, with her favourite role to date being *Hodel* in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Growing up in Surrey, Charlotte has sung in choirs since the age of 6 and first performed as a soloist for sacred music aged 15. Whilst at the University of Southampton studying Mathematics, she started singing with Cantores Michaelis, singing at weddings, funerals and in the cruise terminals. When she isn't singing, she works as a team manager in a web analytics company. She enjoys spending time with her two young children who also enjoy performing!



Drag persona:
Lois Carmen Denominator



Drag persona:
Dill Doe Haggins

Jess Eades **CHOREOGRAPHER**

Jess is returning as Choreographer for WMOS for the first time since *Jekyll & Hyde* in November 2019. After graduating from the University of Winchester with a First Class degree in Choreography and Dance, Jess joined WMOS for *Made in Dagenham* performing as a *Cortina Girl*. She has also starred as *Kate* in *Pirates of Penzance*, *Miss Wilson* in *Calendar Girls*, and was featured dancer in *Me and My Girl* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. She spent three years as Secretary on the Executive Committee, stepping down just in time to get to work on *Priscilla*! Jess works as a Senior Project Officer in Waste Management at Hampshire County Council and lives with her boyfriend and Labrador in Chandlers Ford.

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Did you know?

NODA was founded in 1999.

Has a membership of over 2000 amateur groups and 10000 individual members.

Members stage musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes.

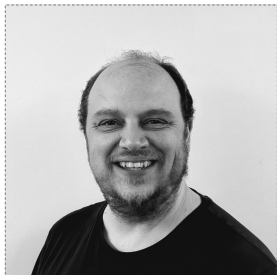
Member venues range from professional theatres to village halls.

Supports the needs of youth and adult theatre, on and off stage.

NODA publishes three magazines a year **NODA Today** Read it for free on our website!

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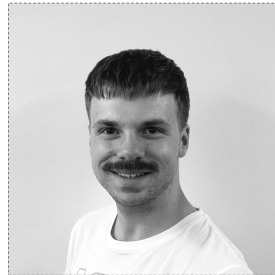
noda.org.uk



Mitzi Mitosis



Bernadette Bassenger



Felicia Jollygoodfellow

David Tatnall

TICK BELROSE

David is a teacher from Romsey. He has directed many WMOS shows, including *Sweeney Todd*, *Utopia Ltd.*, *Patience* and *The Gondoliers*. When not directing, he's graced the WMOS stage as Sir Joseph in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Rod in *Calendar Girls*, Franz in *The Producers* and the Major General in *The Pirates of Penzance*. With Pocket Theatre, he has also played Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, amongst others. For the last decade, David has dragged up as a pantomime dame every Christmas. Outside the theatre, he enjoys cricket, Shakespeare and has a keen interest in history.

Drag persona:
Haywood Jahblomy

Iain Steel

BERNADETTE BASSENGER

Iain is President of WMOS and lives in Chandlers Ford. Having been a part of the society for over 30 years, he has appeared in countless shows, some of his favourites including *Anything Goes*, *Carousel*, *Calamity Jane*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Oklahoma*. Outside of WMOS he has also starred in *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Full Monty*. He is currently training to walk 50 km of the Sahara desert to raise money for Winchester Hospice.

Drag persona:
Tina Tuna



Daniel Williams

ADAM WHITELEY

Daniel is a chemist and lives in Southampton. He joined WMOS in 2020 playing Samuel in *The Pirates of Penzance* and has since gone on to star as Gerald in *Me and My Girl*, Roger De Bris in *The Producers* and most recently as Danny Harper in *Calendar Girls*. Outside WMOS, he has performed in many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas including *Patience* (*Bunthorne*), *Trial by Jury* (*The Learned Judge*) and *Ruddigore* (*Sir Roderic Murgatroyd*) as well as plays with Wokingham Theatre (*Present Laughter* and *The Government Inspector*). In his spare time he enjoys watching live music and visiting historic properties.

Drag persona:
Mee Tee Tuce





Funke Akiboye

DIVA

Funke is a homebody living in Winchester. With WMOS she has appeared in *Made in Dagenham*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Me and My Girl*, *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Calendar Girls*. She has also performed in *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Me and My Girl* and *La Belle Hélène*. When she has free time she does all the singing and dancing she can, alongside mixing flavours and making tinctures from home grown herbs, knitting and gymnastics.

Drag persona:
Cinnamon Crush



Olivia Conroy

DIVA

Olivia is a primary school teacher from Winchester. She is performing in *Priscilla* fresh off her WMOS directorial debut with *Calendar Girls*. Her other roles with WMOS have included *Rita O'Grady* in *Made in Dagenham*, *Sally Smith* in *Me and My Girl*, *Dora Bailey* in *Singin' In The Rain*, a featured dancer in *The Producers* and *The Choreographer* in *A Chorus of Disapproval*. Her hobbies include listening to true crime podcasts, visiting National Trust properties, pretending to enjoy the gym and overspending on the latest beauty products.

Drag persona:
Fibonacci Sequins

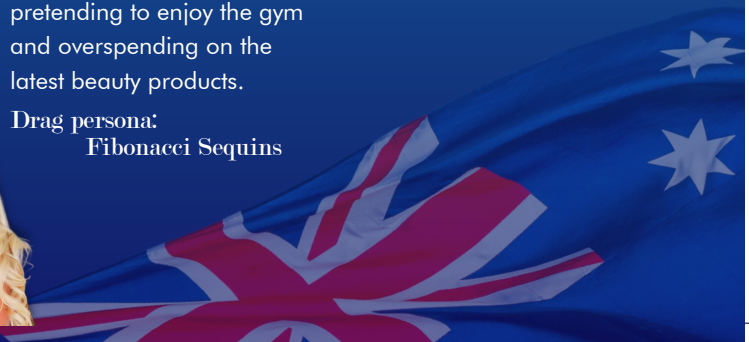


Jade Nicholas

DIVA

Jade lives in Kings Worthy and is a canine behaviourist. *Priscilla* marks her debut with WMOS, though she is no stranger to the stage. She has starred in many shows, with roles such as *Judy* in *9 to 5*, *Reno* in *Anything Goes* and *Maureen* in *RENT*, amongst others. When she isn't being a Diva onstage, she loves to crouch and get lots of cuddles from her Bloodhound Cheddar whilst sipping on a negroni.

Drag persona:
Anita Holiday



DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Tick David Tatnall

Bernadette Iain Steel

Adam Daniel Williams

Divas Funke Akiboye
Olivia Conroy
Jade Nicholas

Miss Understanding Simon Meanwell-Ralph

Marion Gina Thorley-Hibberd

Shirley Holly Reedman

Bob Peter Barber

Cynthia Carolina Scott

Featured Dancers

Sophie Dosanjh
Emma Jayne
Clare Houlford
Kimberley James
Thom Jones

Ensemble

Charlie Amaro
Cressida Bullough
Emma Colbourne
Jacob Hand
Martin Humphrey
Louise Laithwaite
Amy Leddy
Christina Pye
Izzy Wylde

PRISCILLA

QUEEN



CILLA

QUEEN OF THE DESERT

the musical



Director
Shannon Cronin

Musical Director
Charlotte Upfold

Choreographer
Jess Eades

Production Manager
Amy Leddy

Stage Manager
Angie Barks

Lighting Design & Operation; Sound Design
Tony Lawther

Sound Operation
Martin Paterson

Costumes
Jo Barker
with Catherine Angelo Santo & Pam Jones

Props
Shannon Cronin

Set Design
Liz Petley-Jones, David Freemantle

Set Construction
David Freemantle, Liz Petley-Jones, Ian White,
Terry Madden, Iain Galley, Kim Barry,
Tim Stanbrooke, Tony Lawther

Stage Crew
Alan Morgan, Anne Croudass, Martin Paterson,
Steve Cartwright, Dom Solly, Tony Lawther,
Phil Moody, Adam Case, Kim Barry, Adrian Davis

Backstage Assistants
Suzanne Hall, Lucy Whiteman, Penny Bullough

Publicity
Kimberley James

Social Media & Photography
Olivia Conroy

Poster and Programme
Daniel Williams

ACT *one*

Overture
It's Raining Men
What's Love Got To Do With It
I Say A Little Prayer
Don't Leave Me This Way
Venus
Go West
The Journey (Medley)
I Say A Little Prayer (Reprise)
I Love The Nightlife
True Colours
Sempre Libera
Colour My World
I Will Survive

ACT *two*

Thank God I'm A Country Boy
A Fine Romance
Shake Your Groove Thing
Pop Muzik
A Fine Romance (Reprise)
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
Hot Stuff
MacArthur Park
Boogie Wonderland
Casino Floorshow Montage
Always On My Mind
Kylie Medley
We Belong
Finale

WMOS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Vice-chair—Lorraine Morgan
Treasurer—Alan Morgan
Secretary—Charlie Amaro
Website—Daniel Williams
Membership—Amarantha
Fennell-Wells
Front of House—Ellie Eades
Social Media—Olivia Conroy
Social—Amy Leddy
Marketing—Shannon Cronin

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Secretary—Simon
Meanwell-Ralph
Treasurer—Alan Morgan
Anne Croudass
Suzanne Hall
Martin Larcombe
Liz Petley-Jones

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Jo Burnaby
Geoffrey Burnaby
David Freemantle
Suzanne Hall
Katie Hickson
Brian Hurst
Pamela Jones
Bob Jones
Pamela Peskett
Elizabeth Petley-Jones
Richard Steel
Christine Walters
David Weait
The Mayor of Winchester

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Maureen Chisnell
Colin Crimp
Gillian Fitzpatrick
Nathalie Gordon

Irene Johnston
Sue Larcombe
Graham Light
Anne McDonald
Hamish McDonald
John Murray
Brenda Pomeroy
Lady Jane Portal
Tony Reid
Gillian Russell
Joyce Smith
Carole Steel
Paul Tipple
Barbara Welch
Margaret Williams
Angela Winteridge

THANKS TO...

Marvellous Millinery, Richard Steel & Partners, Katie Steel, Andrew Hodgson, Winchester Student Union, King Edward VI School and Front of House volunteers.



Simon Meanwell-Ralph **MISS UNDERSTANDING**

Simon is a millinery designer who lives in Winchester. With WMOS he has performed in over 20 shows, most recently as *Denis* in *Calendar Girls* and *Carmen Ghia* in *The Producers*. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, dog walking, visiting historical sites and going to the theatre.

Drag persona: Lady Fabba Tasticles

Gina Thorley-Hibberd **MARION**

Gina is a theatre programmer from Eastleigh. She directed WMOS's *The Producers* and has starred in *Made in Dagenham*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Singin' In The Rain* and most recently played Miss Wilson in *Calendar Girls*. She also appeared in *My Soulmate's Husband's Soulmate* (Mudlarks Theatre) and *Closer* (yt2 theatre).

Drag persona: Mister Ectomy



Holly Reedman **SHIRLEY**

Holly is a charity worker in Hampshire and joins the WMOS stage for the first time! She has previously starred in *Shrek The Musical* with BATS. Apart from taking part in musical theatre shows, in her free time she enjoys sewing and cooking.

Drag persona: Betty Bitchslap

Peter Barber **BOB**

Peter lives in Farringdon and is retired. He has performed in nearly 100 shows and with WMOS since 2009 his favourite roles have been Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*. In his spare time Peter enjoys travelling, a good bottle of wine and being a Grandad.

Drag persona: Bobbie Bigballs



Carolina Scott **CYNTHIA**

Carolina is an air traffic controller living in Southampton. She is making her WMOS debut with *Priscilla* but has also appeared in *Girl on the Train*, *Ladies' Day* and *Some Like It Hot*. Her son keeps her busy most of the time, but when she has some downtime she enjoys reading, playing games and watching films.

Drag persona: Miss Lana Del Sashay

FEATURED DANCERS



Sophie Dosanjh
Carrie Oakey Queen



Emma Jayne
Sherry Cola



Clare Houlford
Klara Von SparkleTitz



Kimberley James
Lady Norma Leigh Dancen



Thom Jones
Vicky Toffee Pudding

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT *the musical*

Book by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott

Based on the Latent Image/Specific Films Motion Picture

Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

Produced by NULLARBOR PRODUCTIONS

In association with MGM ON STAGE

Musical Arrangements and Orchestrations by Stephen 'Spud' Murphy

Developed for the Stage and Originally Directed by Simon Phillips

The original motion picture was written and directed by Stephan Elliott, produced by Al Clark and Michael Hamlyn, executive producer Rebel Penfold-Russell and was financed with the assistance of the Film Finance Corporation Australia Limited and the New South Wales Film and Television Office

"PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW)

www.theatricalrights.co.uk

ENSEMBLE



Charlie Amaro
Hanmee Dalooob



Cressida Bullough
Ivor Biggun



Emma Colbourne
Ophelia Cox



Jacob Hand
Mel O'Drama



Martin Humphrey
Cock Adoodle Doo



Louise Laithwaite
Foxy Peaches



Amy Leddy
Muffy von Titsington



Christina Pye
Crusty Pie



Izzy Wylde
Adora Belle D-Lite

Introducing...



Rufus Wood *as* **BENJI**

This is Rufus' first time performing. He attends Farleigh School and loves all sport, especially football, rugby, cricket and basketball, with loyalties split between England & South Africa. He loves reading and this ties into his love of drama, acting, singing and dancing! He also enjoys listening to lots of different music which is a passion of his.



H.M.S. Pinafore July 2023

JOIN US!

We are a friendly group who welcome new members every year. We perform our main shows at Theatre Royal Winchester, but also engage with many other events, performing in village halls, the high street, gardens and at the Christmas market.

We have opportunities for performers, musicians, set builders, costume makers, prop makers, marketing, tea and coffee makers...

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive news about upcoming shows, auditions and events please scan the QR code or find details on our website:



wmos.org.uk



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From

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT

to

Walking 50km of the Sahara Desert!

Raising money for
Winchester Hospice

As Winchester's only adult hospice, every donation helps their specialist team to provide palliative and end of life care to those with life-limiting illness.



All donations
gratefully received

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IN THE AUDIENCE OR ON STAGE!

Winchester Musicals and Opera Society

KISS ME KATE

Music and Lyrics
by Cole Porter

6TH - 9TH NOVEMBER 2024
THEATRE ROYAL WINCHESTER

New Members Always Welcome

Launch Night: Monday 3rd June, 19.30

Pre-audition workshop: Wednesday 5th June, 19.30

Auditions: Sunday 9th June, 14.00-17.00

All at United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester

For more details contact the production manager:

kissmekate@wmos.org.uk

Or go to our website

wmos.org.uk