

Faringdon Dramatic Society

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# ENCHANTED

# April

A romantic comedy by Matthew Barber

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International on behalf of Josef Weinberger Ltd. [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk) | [www.josefweinberger.com](http://www.josefweinberger.com)

Wed 15th May to Sat 18th May

2024

*Buscot Park Theatre*

by kind permission of Lord and  
Lady Faringdon, James and  
Lucinda Henderson

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)



# Enchanted April

A romantic comedy by Matthew Barber

Based on Elizabeth von Arnim's much loved novel, this romantic comedy does not start off in a very promising place. London in 1922 must have been appallingly depressing, reeling after a war that killed a million men and then a devastating influenza pandemic. Also rather like this past winter, it never stops raining! One can't help but notice parallels and feel for the characters striving to 'go forward when so much has been lost'.

But in fact it is a truly delightful and happy play and one very much suited to the idyllic setting of Buscot Park Theatre. We do hope you enjoy accompanying Lotty and Rose and all their companions on their trip to San Salvatore, where they rediscover laughter and beauty and learn new truths about themselves among the wisteria and sunshine.

*Carolyn Taylor* (director)



There will be an interval of about twenty minutes between acts, during which refreshments will be available.

## Cast (in order of appearance) :

Lotty	<b>Bex Hutchings</b>
Rose	<b>Amanda Linstead</b>
Mellersh	<b>Duncan Sinclair</b>
Frederick	<b>Mike Fraser</b>
Lady Caroline	<b>Lu Waywell</b>
Mrs Graves	<b>Debbie Lock</b>
Wilding	<b>Jonny Waywell</b>
Costanza	<b>Sue Ashforth-Smith</b>

Director: **Carolyn Taylor**

### **Buscot Theatre**

Set in the East Pavilion on the east side of Buscot House. Buscot Park's theatre dates from the 1930s. It seats 64 in a raked auditorium with purpose-built armchairs covered in fire-proof velvet. The vaulted ceiling provides excellent acoustics and an audio system is available for the hard of hearing.

There is an orchestra pit below large enough for 20, and a podium can be raised for the audience to see the conductor. A Steinway "baby grand" piano is kept in the wings. Full stage lighting is available as well as a digital audiovisual display system.



In rehearsal



Photos: Gary Field

## Production Team

Producer	Gary Field
Stage Manager	Vixz Edmonds
Costumes	Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield, Nell Tate
Props	Vixz Edmonds
Continuity	Sarah Couzens, Jayne Isham
Set design and construction	Jan Crowdson, Derek Crowdson, Tony Edmonds
Sound	Gary Bates
Lighting	Sam Tate
Programme	Dave Headey
Publicity	Ian Lee, Lu Waywell, Bex Hutchings
Front of House Manager	Shela Rowan
Bar	Alan Taylor
Front of House and Parking	Jan Crowdson, Paula Reed, Dave Headey, Jayne Hoyland, Joan Lee, Verity Roberts, Jacob Bayliss, Ian Lee, Alan Merrick, Jan & Derek Crowdson.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities
- **Buscot Park, Lord and Lady Faringdon, and James and Lucinda Henderson** for their co-operation.

## Cast Profiles

### Bex Hutchings (Lotty)

Bex made her debut with FDS as an Ugly Sister in **Happily Ever After** (2016), then as a traditional pantomime dame (Mrs Tickleme) in **Arthur's Adventure** (2017). In a very different role, you may have seen her as Tracey in **Side Effects** at Buscot Park Theatre (2016). Having won the *NODA Best Pantomime Performer* award for King Norbert in **Sleeping Beauty** last year Bex then turned her hand to writing and directing – This year's panto **The Ruby Slippers** was the result.



### Duncan Sinclair (Mellersh)

Having taken various roles in Wantage and Cirencester drama groups over the years, Duncan has been in six FDS pantos, most recently multiple roles in **Wishing on a Star** in 2019. You may remember him as ugly sister Hernia in **Cinderella** 2012, the Ogre in **Jack and the Beanstalk**, Gaston Legroom in the **Scarlet Pumpernickel** or Dame Trott in **Happily Ever After** 2016. When not on stage he has been pianist and musical director for our last two pantos.

### Lu Waywell (Lady Caroline)

Lu's first appearance in an FDS production was as a rabbit in **Wind and the Willows** (2003) and after moving back to Faringdon in 2021, she rejoined in time for their first post-pandemic production as Milly Carter in **Confusions**. This was followed by **Sleeping Beauty** in 2023, as (male) Billy, the silly singing butler. As well as appearing in **Be My Baby**, last year Lu also chose and directed her first FDS play, the hilarious **Act Naturally** and thoroughly enjoyed being the Wicked Witch of the West in this year's panto **The Ruby Slippers**.



### Debbie Lock (Mrs Graves)

Debbie has been with FDS since 1987 and has appeared in, and directed, a variety of productions. She was last on stage in **Our Country's Good** (2019), and **Ladies Day** (2021) and was Sir Veillance in the award-winning panto **Arthur's Adventure** (2017). Before that you may have spotted her "mirror image" in the 2016 panto **Happily Ever After**. Another of Debbie's talents is choreography and when she has not been directing a panto has often been responsible for the dance moves.



## Amanda Linstead (Rose)

Amanda's first production with FDS was in **Daisy Pulls it Off** 2001, followed by **Brush Up Your Shakespeare** and **Cabaret** in 2002 (as Sally Bowles) and too many more to mention. **The Snow Queen** 2015 was her first role in a panto, it was the starring role as the "baddie" herself! She went on to perform in many more productions, and also helped with directing, choreography and front of house. After five years living abroad, we're very pleased to see Amanda back on stage.

## Mike Fraser (Frederick)

Mike joins the cast as Frederick for his second FDS production, having played Martin in the 2022 production of **Confusions** – you may remember him as one of the diners in the one-act play **Between Mouthfuls**. However, although he claims to have been "keeping a low profile" Mike has been a mainstay of our panto band as the bass guitarist for the last two years. He's thrilled to be treading the boards at Buscot Theatre again.



## Jonny Waywell (Wilding)

Fresh off the back of running the set building team for **Act Naturally** in November, Jonny's debut performance for FDS was as the Tin Man in **The Ruby Slippers**, this year's panto. Jonny is no stranger to performing for a crowd, with pro-wrestler, DJ, rapper and musician all part of his stage CV. Jonny says, "I've loved being involved with this production and pleased to have taken on this very different role in **Enchanted April!**"



## Sue Ashforth-Smith (Costanza)

It is Sue's first time with FDS and combining her love for acting with the Italian language is a dream come true. She was involved with the Cotswold Arcadians from 1997 (nurse in **Romeo & Juliet**) through many productions including **The Tempest** (Ariel), **Midsummer night's dream** (Titania) and **The Winter's Tale** (twice, most recently in 2022). Sue has also contributed to many plays, readings and pantomimes with Filkins Theatre, memorably playing **Alice in Wonderland** while six months pregnant. That son is also a keen amateur actor!



## Faringdon Dramatic Society

Since its formation in 1948 Faringdon Dramatic Society has mounted over 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies / Shakespeare. We have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'. **The Crucible** (2001) and **Dancing at Lughnasa** (2004) both won best drama production in London and the South East area from NODA.

Between 2012 and 2017 **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **The Snow Queen**, **Happily Ever After** and **Arthur's Adventure** were winners of the pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama Network.

Our current membership is around 60, but new members are always welcome; there are opportunities for backstage / front of house personnel as well as actors.

We would be really pleased if you would write us a review – your honest opinions will be much appreciated:

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

where you can also find up to date details of the Society and membership.

Our next production will be **A Night at the Musicals** on September 28th in the Corn Exchange. Our website, local information and social media (look for **Faringdon Dramatic Society** on Facebook) will give details nearer the time.

Tickets will be available from our [Online Box Office](#).