

Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents



Affiliated to
NODA

Ladies' Day

by Amanda Whittington



11th-13th November 2021
Faringdon Junior School

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books Ltd.

Ladies Day by Amanda Whittington

When lockdown struck, Faringdon Dramatic Society were preparing to begin rehearsals for our next production. Our cast were ready for their first rehearsal, the crew were busy designing sets and our continuity team had already started making small smoked fish!!

We were due to perform in the theatre at Buscot House courtesy of Lord Faringdon. Then we were off on a trip to Canada to see our friends at The Garrison Little Theatre where we were going to perform in a new Arts centre in Niagara.

The play was 'Ladies' Day' written by Amanda Whittington. It's an exuberant comedy about four likely lasses from the Hull fish docks on a day trip to the races.

Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York (2015).

Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. If their luck holds, they could hit the jackpot - and more besides...

COVID put all our plans on hold but we weren't downhearted and, like so many have done, we took to Zoom!!! We rehearsed every week and some of our Canadian friends joined us too when the time difference allowed it. My superb cast got into their characters and rehearsed with gusto from their bedrooms and lounges. We had great fun and it was wonderful as it took our minds off other worries once a week.

Well the good news is that FDS are back and we are getting ready to perform for you in Faringdon. So you see you at the Junior School for a great night out.

Here's to Ladies' Day November 2021!

Sarah Varnom

(Director)

Cast:

Pearl	Sarah Couzens
Jan	Debbie Lock
Shelley	Helen Thrower
Linda	Verity Roberts
Joe	David Couzens
Jim/Barry	Richard Lock
Fred/Patrick	Jack Metcalf

Directed by **Sarah Varnom**

Assistant director: **Carolyn Taylor**

Synopsis of scenes

Act 1

Scene 1: Fish plant, Hull. June 2005

Scene 2: Getting ready!

Scene 3: York Racecourse. Main Gate. Next day.

Scene 4: Enclosure. Moments later.

Scene 5: Racecourse. Two hours later.

Act 2

Scene 1: Paddock. One hour later.

Scene 2: Beer Tent. Same time.

Scene 3: Enclosure. Minutes later.

Scene 4: Racetrack. Thirty minutes later.

Scene 5: Fish plant. Next morning.

Production Team

Set design	Jo Webster
Stage construction / stage crew	Derek Crowdson, Alan Merrick, Peter Webster
Props	Jan Crowdson
Lighting and sound	Gary Bates
Costumes	Jeni Summerfield
Continuity	Fiona Merrick
Publicity	Gary Field, Adrian Wells, Ian Lee
Programme	Dave Headey
Front of house coordinator	Shela Rowan
Front of House staff	Jayne Hoyland, Joan Lee, Lisa Mullen, Denise Monk, Carole Tappenden,
Bar staff	Gary Field, Sandra Keen, Alan Taylor, Duncan Sinclair, Martin Waymark
Security/Parking	Ian Lee

There will be an interval of about twenty minutes between acts.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities

In Rehearsal



Photos: Anna Marlow

Cast Profiles



Sarah Couzens (Pearl)

When she first joined FDS in 2001 Sarah took on the title role in **Daisy Pulls it Off** (where she gave "a very convincing performance"). Sarah's most recent appearances have been as Audrey in the **Farndale Avenue Murder Mystery** (2018) and the wizard Merlin in her first panto role. She has also been in **Arsenic and Old Lace** (2004), **Living Together** (2015), **The Odd Couple** and **London Suite** (both in 2011).

Debbie Lock (Jan)

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 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.



Helen Thrower (Shelley)

Helen joined FDS in 2012 and has been in several plays since. She has plenty of experience in drama, both at the Pegasus Theatre, the Unicorn in Abingdon, and in schools. She has directed and co-written three of our pantos, **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**, **Happily Ever After**, and **Wishing on a Star** (2019). You may have seen her most recently as Black Berry, the pirate in **Dick Whittington** (2018) and as Duckling in **Our Country's Good** in 2019.

Verity Roberts (Linda)

Verity has been in **The Importance of Being Earnest** (2007 - her first), **Cold Comfort Farm** and **The Odd Couple**. She was Hermia in 2013's outdoor production of **Midsummer Night's Dream** and has had significant parts in most of our pantos. Verity was co-author (with Helen Thrower, above) of three successful pantos and her most recent appearances have been as Snitch in **Dick Whittington** (2018) and Widow Twankey in our last panto **Aladdin** (2020).





David Couzens (Joe)

This is probably the first FDS play featuring not one but TWO married couples in the cast! David has been resting since his acclaimed appearance as Mrs Miggins in Milton Abbey School's production of **Sweeney Todd** aged 15! Fifty years later he feels it is time to tread the boards once more. If only to keep an eye on his wife!

Richard Lock (Jim / Barry)

Richard has been involved with FDS since 1987 and is most often found playing in our panto band, or working backstage, although his misspent youth included many stage appearances. He took on the role of grumpy Frank in **Side Effects** (2016 - for which he won a NODA "best actor in a play" award). Earlier he was in **Wife After Death** (2013) and **Present Laughter** (2012). **My Friend Miss Flint** was his first go at directing, in 2017. In our last play **Our Country's Good** (2019) he took the lead role of Ralph Clark.



Jack Metcalf (Fred / Patrick)

Jack is 19 and his breakout role had him take on the mantle of **Dick Whittington** in the 2018 panto of the same name. He's appeared in other FDS productions **Faringdon Follies** at Buscot Park Theatre (2018) and as a minstrel in the 2019 panto **Wishing On A Star** as well as performing in musicals such as **Crazy For You** (2018) and **Guys and Dolls** (2019) with AmEgos Theatre. Jack continues to pursue voice acting as a professional career.

Sarah Varnom (Director)

Sarah joined FDS in 1996 appearing in 'Time of My Life'. The following January she took on the role of the Wicked Witch in **The Sleeping Beauty**. She won accolades for her role as Laurie Lee's mother in **Cider with Rosie** (2017), but she has enjoyed all manner of roles from Caliban to Lady Bracknell. She directed **The Pied Piper** (1998) and also **Heroes** (2010), which was a huge success, winning the NODA Flame Award that year. Her most recent role was a rare appearance in panto: Dame Ariel Bucket in **Wishing on a Star** (2019).



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.

We have won four of the last six pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama network. The most recent was for **Arthur's Adventure** in 2017.

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 are sorry to say that once again there will be no Panto in 2022, but do watch out for announcements in local press and social media about our next production.

Tickets will be available from the Online Box Office and hopefully an outlet in Faringdon.

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

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

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