



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING UP OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTH'S

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14th (Evening)
at the Savoy Theatre



You may not realise that 'Paddington - The Musical' has a local connection, as it was written by Jessica Swale.

Jessica was brought up in Wokingham having attended the Kendrick School in Reading and then to the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

She is also Honorary Patron of Wokingham Theatre. Her first play was 'Blue Stockings' (2013) followed by 'Nell Gwynn' (2015) both staged at Shakespeare's Globe.

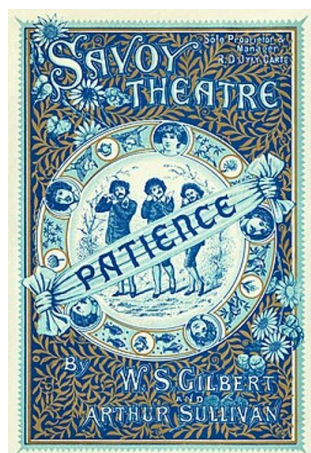


Besides being a playwright, she is a theatre director and screenwriter.

'Paddington' opened at the Savoy Theatre in 2025 and is

booked out into next year. It won the Laurence Olivier Award for the best New Musical. It opens on Broadway in 2027.

The Savoy opened in 1881 to stage the D'Oyly Carte Savoy Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. It was built in the grounds of the old Savoy Palace constructed by Count Peter - the uncle of Eleanor of Provence of the House of Savoy.



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The Savoy Hotel was built later next to the theatre.

The theatre was the first public building in the world to be lit by electricity. Until then, light was from lanterns burning lime - hence the phrase 'in the limelight'.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 8th (Matinee)
at the Sondheim Theatre



Alan Boubil's idea to adapt Victor Hugo's novel into a musical came whilst at a performance of the musical 'Oliver' in London. As soon as the Artful Dodger came on stage, he said that he started to see all the characters from the novel in his mind's eye - laughing, crying and singing on the stage. He shared the idea with his collaborator, the French composer Claude-Michel Schönberg, and the two of them developed the idea into a concept album.



About six months afterwards, producer Cameron Mackintosh had opened 'Cats' on Broadway. He received a copy of the concept album, and although at first reluctant, he eventually agreed to produce an English language version in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the rest is history. Now seen by 150 million worldwide, in 57 countries in 22 languages.

Those members who have seen it many times before - but especially those for whom it is the first time - are in for a memorable afternoon.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13th (Evening)
at High Wycombe Swan Theatre**



Performed by THE IMPERIAL CLASSICAL BALLET, a company created to present ballet of the highest quality and passion and who give 200 different classical shows each year to worldwide audiences.



'The Nutcracker' has some of the most beautiful music of TCHAIKOVSKY especially in Act 2 with dances of the 'Sugar Plum Fairy' and then from different exotic countries.



Over the last decade The Imperial Classical Ballet have performed in over thirty tours with international artists on 1200 occasions seen by some 500,000 people worldwide.



As you come to get on the coach for an outing have you ever given a thought to how much organisation is involved to make it all happen? Behind the scenes the Committee work very hard to make sure all runs as smoothly as possible. In the first of a series, we take you through the various stages to bring it all about.

1 Selecting the Show or Outing.

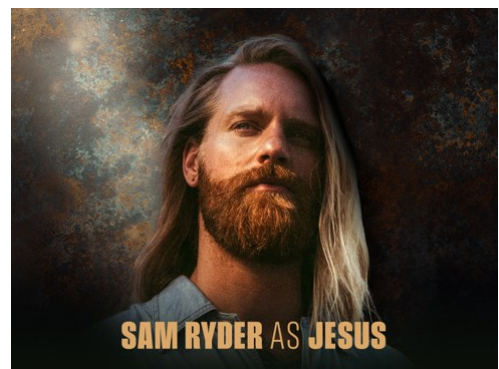
The Committee look out for various announcements and publications of upcoming shows as well as brochures from various theatres. They then finalise the selection bearing in mind that we want a varied programme. During the year we try to provide a ballet or opera together with a musical concert and always a Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall. From the various surveys that we have carried out, plays are not so popular and get a poor response, nevertheless, one or two are included. By far the most positive responses are for musicals.

So bearing all this in mind, we try to make a balanced selection ... but there are problems with something that, on the surface, appears quite straightforward. In the next Newsletter we will explain why we have to book so far ahead.

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

We have a very full programme ahead as you will see from the Diary sent to you for September.

One of the highlights is on the 22nd July 2027, when we have seats reserved for the record breaking production of 'JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR' after its run at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.



FEED BACK FROM MEMBERS

After many of the events, the Committee receives messages for the services provided. Many thanks to all responders. Feedback can be made via email or to one of the Committee or by using the Contact Form on the website.

www.rosestreettheatreclub.com