

Oast Notes

September 2026



17th - 19th September 7. 30 pm

She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition

Qui Nguyen

Directed by
Jason Lower with Anna Dunn

17th - 19th September

Join the oast Youth Theatre for the story of high schooler Agnes Evans as she deals with the death of her younger sister, Tilly.



When Agnes stumbles upon Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge.

This high-octane dramatic comedy is laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture; acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

Ticket prices: Member £10. Non member £14

Tickets: www.oasttheatre.com
Tel. no. 01732 363849

Qui Nguyen

Qui Nguyen was born in 1976. He is a playwright, TV writer and screenwriter, as well as the artistic director of the Obie Award. He has written numerous plays, including *Vietgone*, *Soul Samurai*, *The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G*, *Alice in Slasherland*, *Fight Girl Battle World*, *Krunk Fu Battle Battle*, and *She Kills Monsters*. In March 2019, he debuted *Poor Yella Rednecks*, a sequel to *Vietgone* at the South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA. In February 2020, he debuted *Revenge Song*, a commissioned musical, at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, which was subsequently produced at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, [Oregon](#) in summer 2022.



Open Morning

Saturday 19th September

To tie in with Heritage Open Days 2026, the theatre will be open to visitors from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

We'll be giving tours of the building to showcase all the different aspects of the theatre, from Front of House to gardening, the wardrobe, workshop, lighting, and sound.

The Youth Theatre Show, *She Kills Monsters*, will be performing on that evening, so they'll be able to see the set and some of the props backstage too.

We're hoping the morning will encourage not just local interest in our historic building but also possible new volunteers who'd like to get involved.

If you have any friends who might be interested, please bring them along and help spread the word about our wonderful theatre.



STILL A FEW PLACES LEFT ... !

Saturday 26th September, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

COME TO THE CABARET!

A members' evening celebrating the joys of Musical Theatre, with West End singer and actress Lucy Garrioch. In the first half of the programme the delightful Lucy will show us how it's done, and then we'll join her in a sing-a-long of all the best songs, to the accompaniment of the original backing tracks. Singing's good for your health as well as your spirits, so come and join us; it'll be a fun evening.



To book your place,
please email valerie.armstrong@oasttheatre.com,
or call 07792 079451
01892 723459

The cost of the evening is £12.00, to include light refreshments.
Look forward to seeing you there.

New Membership and Ticketing Scheme

The new membership and ticketing scheme got underway very recently, and it is working out very well. One of the motivations for making this change is to simplify the process and make it a more manageable task for the Membership Secretary, who — like the rest of our volunteers — has a family and a life outside the Oast.

Payment methods

It would be hugely helpful if we could move away from Standing Orders, and instead pay by Direct Debit or Credit Card. For many of you this will be too late to change this year, but please do think about it for next year.

Buying tickets for others

I emailed the membership a little while ago about this, but the number of enquiries I've had suggests not everyone had the chance to read it.

One significant change we've made is tightening up on members buying members' tickets for non-members. In most cases, I believe this has happened quite unwittingly — a member simply assumes that the friend they're booking for is also a member when they are not. From now on, members can only buy members' tickets for themselves, unless their account has been linked with the account of another member.

Here's how it works:

- Buy a ticket for yourself — nothing changes.
- Buy a second ticket for someone else — it will show as a non-member ticket, unless your accounts are linked.
- If your accounts are linked, simply continue to the end of the booking and assign that ticket to the person you're linked with — it will then convert to a member ticket.
- Both people must be members for this to work.

If you bought a ticket alongside someone else last year — husbands and wives, friends and so on — your accounts have already been linked, so there's nothing more for you to do.

Not sure whether your account is linked, or would like to register a party of people as a couple or group? Just email me the name and email address of each member involved, and I'll happily set this up for you.

Members can still buy as many non-member tickets as the system allows — this change only affects tickets booked at the members' rate.

As ever, if anything is unclear or you hit a snag when booking, please don't hesitate to get in touch — I'm always happy to help.

paul.simons@oasttheatre.com

New Website and Membership System a thank you

The Management Committee would like to publicly thank Paul Simons, who has worked tirelessly over the past year to bring both our new website and membership system to fruition.

One of these tasks alone would have been quite the undertaking and would have taken up more time than anyone could have been reasonably expected to give. That Paul headed both projects and brought both to completion ready for our new season is truly incredible.

All of us on the Management Committee are deeply grateful to him. The website is looking great – professional, clear, comprehensive – and the membership system is working very well indeed.

So, Paul, thank you for all the hard work you've put into all this. We so appreciate it – and we're certain the wider theatre does also.

NEW SEASON - NEW TIME

The performances of plays in this forthcoming season will begin at 7.30 pm, unless otherwise stated. Sunday performances will remain at the usual 3 pm. This will mean that there will be a greater opportunity to stay for a drink after the performance; that can't be bad. The exception to this will be the Christmas show, *Alice in Wonderland*, which will be performed at 2 pm and 7 pm.

Could you help with some Health and Safety admin, please?

As you will see elsewhere in Oast Notes, we are embarking on improvements to our Health and Safety. Much of this is due to our record-keeping.

If you are familiar with the likes of Microsoft Word and Excel and organising things, then we would really appreciate some help, please. Organising the recent training day is one thing, but managing everyone's training records afterwards would benefit from some assistance.

This would be done from home on a PC or laptop. Once up and running, it should be a couple of hours a month.

Please contact me if you want to discuss what is involved.

derek.rose@oasttttheatre.com

Phase 1 of the technical upgrades completed ahead of time

I am pleased to report that the Oast dimmers have now been replaced with newer dimmers (ETC ColorSource ThruPower for those interested. Yes, they are American!).

With long days between Monday 27th and Friday 31st July, the small team of Ian Crawford, Jim Scrivener and myself removed the old dimmers. There isn't room for any more people in our dimmer room!

We had to label all 72 channels of our lighting (that's 2 wires per channel), so that we could connect them back to the correct place.

Once the wall was clear, we could put up the new dimmers at 50Kg (110lb) each - we had to make sure we had our Weetabix that day - then reconnect all the wires, many of which had to be lengthened to fit the new dimmers.

All the large incoming power cables had to be reconnected, then the 72-channel wiring.

We double-checked everything and conducted some electrical testing, and I am pleased to report it all worked first time.

My thanks to Ian and Jim. We have saved thousands of pounds completing this in-house. It gives us the flexibility to move more of our lighting to LED, offering more control of colour and saving the planet in the process.

Will Dunn is working on our new lighting desks, which I will report on in the next Oast Notes; these will be in place for our 26/2027 season. These are the biggest changes to our lighting systems in the last 20 years, keeping our wonderful theatre up to date.

Any questions to Derek Rose: derek.rose@oasttheatre.com



Old Smart Pack Dimmers New dimmers fully installed Derek Rose, Jim Scrivener & Ian Crawford

Artist of the Month

Hazel Kelly

I am a self-taught artist selling for many years through galleries and private commissions as well as market stalls in London and Greenwich.

Wildlife and people are particularly inspiring, and by specialising in watercolour I find the perfect medium for capturing the spontaneity and energy of a subject through light and colour.

My approach to painting is to sketch every day the small details of life and, using a brush without the need to draw first, look for tone and shape and with simple washes attempt to describe that elusive freshness and excitement in watercolour.

I spend my time working in a wildlife hospital as well as teaching watercolour regularly to students from my house and outside in the summer in many of the beautiful locations in our Kent countryside.



DECADES OF PLAYS



The Children's Crusade 1986



Brave New World 1996



In Holland Stands a House 2002



White Poppies 2007



The Laramie Project 2016



Emil and the Detectives 2021

The Oast Doing the Business

Gillian Tunna, Laurence Plumb and I went to the TN Awards on behalf of the Oast, where we were finalists in the Creative and Changemaker Business categories. We received an award for Highly Commended in the Changemaker category.

The Changemaker category recognises businesses who positively impact & contribute to the future of our town. This encapsulates the ethos of the Oast and all of the amazing work that all of our wonderful volunteers contribute to the theatre and the art group. Thank you, everyone, who has made it possible for the Oast to be award winners two years in a row!

Nic Hoskins



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Oast AGM will be held in the auditorium on Sunday 29th November 2026 at 3.00 pm. All members are warmly invited to attend. You will be able to access the AGM papers on the website and a link will be sent nearer the date.

If anyone wishes to stand for the Management Committee please contact the Secretary, Sara Lacey: secretary@oasttheatre.com to register your interest and to be sent a nomination form. All nominations must be received by 18th October 2026.

Ian Burns, Sandra Barfield and Maggie Hoiles are standing for re-election. If you wish to nominate any of those named, please request a nomination form.

If you have a resolution you would like to be discussed at the AGM, please forward this to the Secretary by 19th October 2026.

Lions Fete at Tonbridge School



It was a fun day at the Lions Fete held in Tonbridge School grounds on Sunday 26th July.

Lots of people came by our stand and took away flyers for our Autumn productions.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and helped on the day!

MandyHulston

Health and Safety Training Day

Thank you to the 82 people who were able to come to our first Health and Safety event.

It was a great turnout; the instructor, Mike Lanford of Arts Safety, wasn't quite expecting so many people. He was more used to teaching in an office room!

If you attended all the modules, it was a full day with Safety Awareness, Manual Handling (the biggest source of workplace injury), Working at Height (the biggest source of workplace deaths) and Fire Warden training.

I hope that it was thought-provoking and that everyone learned something.

For those that were not able to attend we will be running other events as it is important that every volunteer, whether on or off stage, attends at least the Safety Awareness training.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise and support the event on the day, signing people in, keeping everyone fed and watered, ensuring it all ran to time and that the IT and environment were conducive to learning.

Everyone should have received an email with your Certificates, assuming you signed in the register. If you haven't received an email please first check your spam and, if not, contact me and I will investigate.

Thank you.

Derek Rose derek.rose@oasttheatre.com

LOTS TO SEE EVERY MONTH

BOOK EARLY TO GET THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

17th–19th Sep She Kills Monsters
Youth Theatre

10th–17th Oct Dracula

30th Oct–1st Nov Lady Bracknell's
Confinement
JY Studio

14th–21st Nov Educating Rita

11th–13th Dec Alice in Wonderland
& 17th–19th Dec

14th–16th Jan Youth Theatre Show

6th–13th Feb Perfect Pitch

13th–20th Mar Pygmalion

9th–11th Apr New Works of Orange
JY Studio

22nd–24th Apr Youth Theatre Show

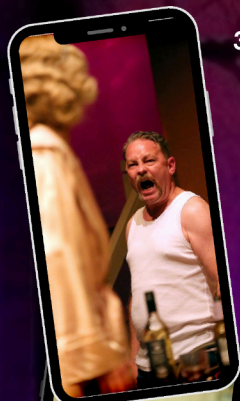
15th–22nd May Oleanna

5th Jun Hoppers Show

11th–13th Jun To be announced
JY Studio

26th Jun–3rd Jul Lady Windermere's Fan

24th–31st Jul Baskerville



THE OAST THEATRE
TONBRIDGE
BY THE COMMUNITY - FOR THE COMMUNITY



Gentleman Jack - Review

Gentleman Jack is a technical triumph for the Oast. A beautiful set and stunning costumes show the brilliance of our hard-pressed and understaffed Playgroup and Wardrobe. In yet another production, the Playgroup has, once again, proved their skill by building so much with so little; the bed that was rolled in and out of the scenes got a little gasp from the audience. The cast and crew did a great job bringing such a different script to the Oast stage, while I did hear some murmurs around me of people who seemed not entirely on board with the play's content, most of the remarks I happened to hear seemed to be pleased with how the play had pushed the boundaries for the Oast. The content which some found objectionable, namely the same sex relationships of Anne Lister, was performed with abandon and commitment by the cast; their intimacy didn't feel forced in any way, although it did often provoke a reaction from the audience.



Sophie Rose Jackson

& Elizabeth Portlock

To mention each actor and provide them with the appropriate level of praise would take much more space than I have, so I will simply say that the majority of them were amazing and really showed the talent that our small theatre has within its membership; those that I found to be not up to the roles they inhabited were bolstered by their fellow cast members, showing how a good cast can work together to perform such a show.

Gentleman Jack was a fun play, an enjoyable something different to be staged on the Oast's little stage, which demonstrated the importance of LGBTQ+ stories, and I would like to see a few more of these stories on our stage.

With everything above in mind, I feel I would be remiss not to mention that I did find the musical interruptions to announce changes in time period a little jarring and often felt dragged out of the play itself by them; by the end, they had become incredibly irritating, although that has nothing to do with the quality of the singing involved, which I thought demonstrated another untapped vein of talent within our community.

Laurence Plumb

Ticket Analysis

Gentleman Jack

Total tickets sold	679
Members	287
Non members	392
% of seats sold	75.78

A PROPER JOB WELL DONE

A big thank you must go to Valerie and Peter Galbraith for the many years they have been running the props department. Thank you for re-organising all the hundreds of props and for knowing what was there and where everything was kept. Enjoy your retirement - you have earned it.

Judy Beer

100 CLUB WINNERS

£25 Mrs L Moore
£10 Mrs M Bull
£10 Mrs M Adamson
£10 Mrs A Jennings
£10 Mr J Perry

Poem

The Truth about Monsters

The truth is this,
every monster
you have met
or will ever meet,
was once a human being
with a soul
that was as soft
and light
as silk.

Someone stole that silk
from their soul
and turned them
into this.

So when you see
a monster next,
always remember this.

Do not fear
the thing before you.
Fear the thing
that created it
instead.

Nikita Gill

QUIZ

1. The Gorgon with snakes for hair
2. A novel by Mary Shelley
3. Name of Japanese sea monster portrayed in several films
4. Name of the monster in Beowulf
5. Name of the 1979 film about a monster on board a space ship.
6. Composer of original music for *She Kills Monsters*.
7. Singer of the song *Monster Mash*.
8. Monster in Scotland, perhaps?
9. Poem about a sea monster by Alfred Lord Tennyson
10. Novel concerning walking, venomous plants by John Wyndham

Answers next month

Answers for last month's quiz

1. Aphra Behn
2. Wuthering Heights
3. Timberlake Wertenbaker
4. Medea
5. Stevie Smith
6. Sarah Kane
7. Virginia Woolf
8. George Elliot
9. Suranne Jones
10. Caryl Churchill

THE OAST THEATRE

Committee Members.



Chairman:	Phil Porter - chair@oasttheatre.com 01732 835460
Vice-Chair:	Kate Robbins - kate.robbsins@oasttheatre.com
Secretary:	Sara Lacey - secretary@oasttheatre.com
Treasurer:	Nick Blessley - treasurer@oasttheatre.com
Head of Drama:	Sandra Barfield - sandra.barfield@oasttheatre.com 07973 657311
Youth Theatre:	Jason Lower - youth@oasttheatre.com
Marketing:	Mandy Hulston - mandy.hulston@oasttheatre.com
Publicity:	Maggie Hoiles - maggie.hoiles@oasttheatre.com 01622 813573
Wardrobe:	Jo Pierce - wardrobe@oasttheatre.com 01892 528166
Art Group:	Tony Pegg - tony.pegg@oasttheatre.com
Security manager:	DerekRose - security@oasttheatre.com 07860304765
Room & Rehearsal Bookings:	Kate Robbins - hire@oasttheatre.com
Box Office:	Ian Burns - ian.burns@oasttheatre.com
Member:	Ian Tucker-Bell - ian.tucker-bell@oasttheatre.com
Trustee:	Nic Hoskins - nicola.hoskins@oasttheatre.com

New Deadline

Please send in any copy you wish included in the Oast Notes by the
13th of the month. Copy to be sent to:
Andy Taylor - editor@oasttheatre.com