

Casting announced for The Mill at Sonning's 2019 Christmas musical

Following acclaimed productions of 'Guys & Dolls' 'My Fair Lady' and 'High Society' the same creative team reunites for '**Singin' in the Rain**'

1,000 litres of water will be pumped onto the tiny stage
with splash mats supplied to front row patrons!



Philip Bertoli, Brendan Cull, Rebecca Jayne-Davies, Sammy Kelly

Following their acclaimed, record-breaking production of 'Guys & Dolls' in 2018, The Mill at Sonning today announces the cast for its 2019 Christmas musical, 'Singin' in the Rain', based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, with 1,000 litres of water pumped onto the tiny stage at every show.

Philip Bertoli ('Fiddler on the Roof' '42nd Street', both West End), **Brendan Cull** ('The Book of Mormon', 'Spamalot', 'Singin' in the Rain', 'Flashdance', all West End), **Rebecca Jayne-Davies** ('Half a Sixpence', 'Jersey Boys', West End, 'Pinocchio', National Theatre), **Sammy Kelly** ('Matilda', 'Young Frankenstein', 'Funny Girl', West End) head an ensemble cast of 14 that also features Natalie Bennyworth, Oliver Bingham, Connor Hughes, Ella Martine, Sorelle Marsh, John McManus, Jonathan Norman, Heather Scott-Martin, Daisy Steere, Russell Wilcox. They will all multi-role to bring this stripped-back version of the famous story to life.

'Singin' in the Rain' will run for 11 weeks from 30 November, 2019 - 8 February, 2020.

Press seats are available on Thursday December 5 at 8.15pm and Friday December 6 at 8.15pm

The greatest movie musical of all time, 'Singin' in the Rain' features a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards including 'Make 'em Laugh', 'You Are My Lucky Star', 'Good Mornin' and 'Singin' in the Rain'. The Mill at Sonning production features water effects by Alasdair Elliott, one of the world's leading stage water effect technicians. From the West End to Broadway and Sydney, Australia, international success with productions of 'Singin' in the Rain' has made Elliot's small, family-owned company Water Sculptures a world leader in stage water effects.

Patrons in the front rows will be given rain mats to wear!

Set in Hollywood in the waning days of the silent screen era, 'Singin' in the Rain' centres on romantic lead Don Lockwood, his sidekick Cosmo Brown, aspiring actress Kathy Selden, and Lockwood's leading lady Lina Lamont, whose less-than-dulcet vocal tones make her an unlikely candidate for stardom in the transition from silent films to "talkies".

Director **Joseph Pitcher** and Orchestrator & Arranger **Charlie Ingles** return to The Mill after acclaimed Christmas productions of 'Guys & Dolls' (4* "An effervescent revival, an intimate production that's razzle-dazzling and pungently seedy" - The Times), 'My Fair Lady' (4* "A masterclass in paring down a major musical for a small stage" - The Stage) and 'High Society'. The Choreographer is Ashley Nottingham, whose recent credits include the European premiere of 'Newsies' at Arts Ed and the UK tour of 'Spamalot'.

Director Joseph Pitcher, Choreographer Ashley Nottingham, Orchestrator & Arranger Charlie Ingles, Musical Director Francis Goodhand, Set Designer Diego Pitarch, Costume Designer Natalie Titchener, Lighting Designer James Platt, Sound Designer Joshua Robins.

Set majestically on the banks of the River Thames, The Mill at Sonning Theatre is celebrating more than 30 years of entertainment. Uniquely, as the only dinner theatre in the United Kingdom, it has gained unrivalled praise both nationally and internationally. All tickets include a delicious two-course meal in the restaurant before the show. Up to 23 December this is will be Christmas-themed.



The Mill at Sonning prides itself on offering customers a unique Dinner-Theatre experience. Every ticket at The Mill includes a delicious home-cooked pre-show two-course meal.

The riverside restaurant, which overlooks the beautiful river Thames, has recently been refurbished and is now the perfect place to indulge before a show.

The first main course is served buffet style before our friendly team of waiters and waitresses help you to your table and take your dessert and drink orders.

KIERON DANIELS - THE NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF

The Mill at Sonning recently appointed Kieron Daniels as its Executive Chef, who comes with a wealth of national culinary experience at the highest level, working with chefs Paul Gaylor, Raymond Blanc and Ian Donald.

Kieron has refreshed the menu and food options, including his heart-warming take on a Mill favourite beef pie and mouth-watering desserts, all made with the finest locally sourced ingredients.



THE MILL AT SONNING

There has been a mill at Sonning for many centuries. In the Domesday Book of 1086 three mills at 'Sonninges and Berrochescire' are mentioned. In the 1600s the rents for the mill went to the Royal Revenue.

During the Civil War when Cromwell had his headquarters in London and King Charles had his in Oxford, the troops met in the middle - Reading. It was Sonning which supplied the flour for the besieged garrison in the town. The site of the earliest Sonning mill could very well have been in a different place. Wooden buildings had a habit of burning down. The current one dates back to the 18th century but the main parts of the present theatre building are from around 1890. It was owned then by the Witherington family who added the top two storeys and the larger waterwheels for more power to drive the machinery. Around 1898 they put in a steam engine to supplement the water power.

The Phillimore family took over the mill in 1913 but they still traded under the name of C.H. Witherington and Sons Ltd. They remodelled the inside of the mill the following year. Up until 1950 the mill had its own fleet of barges which brought wheat from London right up to its door. In 1962, when the business was taken over by Associated British Foods Ltd., they remodelled yet again and introduced electric engines although the main source of power was still produced by the wheels.

When the mill closed in 1969, it was one of the last flour mills on the Thames driven by wheels. The new port mill at Tilbury had opened and Sonning, being much smaller could not compete economically. Also, one of Sonning's major customers, Huntley and Palmers, stopped making biscuits in Reading.

The mill remained empty until 1977. It was then that Tim and Eileen Richards, who had a great love of theatre, found the derelict building and decided to convert it into The Mill as it is today. Tim invited his brother Frank to join them and the transformation took four years to complete. THE MILL AT SONNING DINNER THEATRE opened on July 22nd 1982.

Sadly Frank Richards died in 1994, Tim Richards in 2002 and Eileen Richards in 2015. Her daughter Sally is now Managing Director of The Mill which continues to go from strength to strength thanks to its ever loyal staff and audience, having produced an abundance of plays and musicals.

In 1984 The Mill at Sonning was given a conservation award by The Times newspaper and The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors for the design, restoration and conversion of the derelict mill into a dinner theatre.

It was named Most Welcoming Theatre by the Theatre Managers Association for the past three years running, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Screenplay by
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN
Songs by NACIO HERB BROWN
and ARTHUR FREED

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film,
by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre
Ventures Inc.
Music Published by EMI, all rights administered by
Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

(Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and
Stanley Donen)

The Mill at Sonning Theatre
Sonning Eye
Reading
RG4 6TY

Box Office: 0118 969 8000

www.millatsonning.com

30 November 2019 - 8 February, 2020

Evening shows: Tuesday - Saturday
at 8.15pm (dinner from 6.15pm)

Saturday and Sunday matinees
at 2.15pm
(lunch served from 12.15pm)

All tickets include a 2 course meal
with coffee, programme on your table
and the show

Tickets: from £61.50

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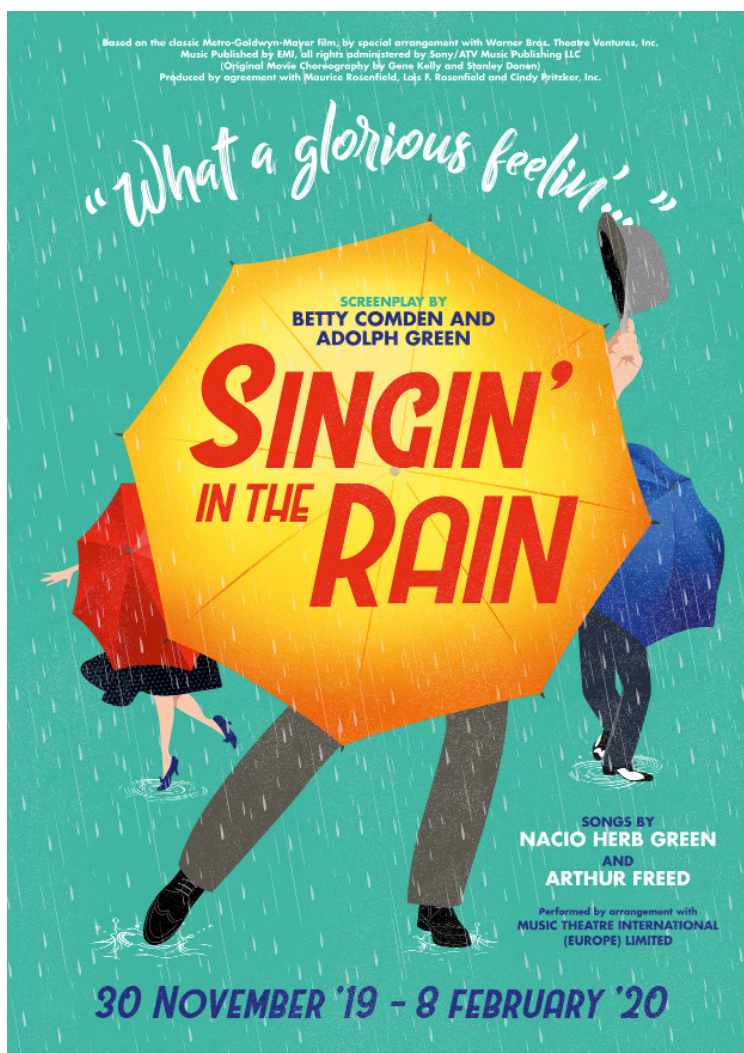
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Getting to The Mill at Sonning

Rail:
The Mill is a 10 minute taxi ride from Reading,
Twyford, Earley and Wargrave stations

Road:
From the M4 Junction 8/9:
Take the A404(M) to the A4, then follow the B478
From the M4 Junction 10:
Take the A329(M) to the A4, then follow the B478
From the A4155: Take the B478

There is ample car parking space available



T H E M I L L
S O N N I N G



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WELCOMING
THEATRE**
2016, 2017 & 2018