



Do you want to play a part in
A COMMUNITY PLAY FOR FARNHAM?

Come along and find out what it's all about

Tuesday 13th July

St Andrews Church, Farnham

7.30pm

There is a proposal to create a very special event to celebrate Farnham. A small group of local people are looking at the possibility of producing a special theatrical event for, about and involving as many people as possible from the area. The committee has been working on a feasibility study with Claque Theatre, the founders and leading experts of community plays, to look at whether such a project is viable. You can hear the results of the study and the plans for the project at a public meeting which starts at 7.30pm on July 13th in St Andrews Church. Claque's artistic director, Jon Oram, will explain what a community play is and how it can happen here. This ambitious eighteen-month project, culminating in spectacular community theatrical event, is open to everyone who lives in and around Farnham, or who want to contribute to celebrating the town. This is a unique opportunity, but this is the town's play, you decide whether it happens and what it's about. Don't miss this inaugural meeting to find out more about what we hope will be the start of great creative adventure for all of us. You will be able to ask questions, put your point of view and vote for or against the project. The play will only happen if you, the people of Farnham want it.

What is a Community Play?

A small professional theatre team is brought together to work with a community, for eighteen months. The community gathers historical and contemporary research to inform a professional playwright who creates a script that both celebrates and challenges. A local voluntary steering committee instigates and supports an abundance of related creative community activities including such things as costume and prop design and performance workshops. A three-month rehearsal period and residency of a professional theatre team culminates in an ambitious promenade play with a cast of up to 200 people. The process and the play will be unique to the place they serve. The result is not only a thrilling climax of achievement but also a catalyst that can transform communities. Most importantly the plays are inclusive; everyone who turns up gets a part. The term 'community play' was first used to describe a play created by Colway Theatre (now Claque) in 1979 and although their work is emulated worldwide they remain the leading exponents of the art form.

Why Farnham?

The town is rich in history, stories, and extraordinary characters past and present, and a strong tradition and reputation for theatre, all of which are worth celebrating.

How can you get involved?

The project is open to everyone. Come along to the meeting and find out more, it could be the start of an unforgettable experience. If you can't make the meeting you can contact us to be put on the mailing list add your comments or vote for or against the play.

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Project contact: Joe Michel Email joe@ourfarnham.org.uk Telephone 0844 412 5772

Visit the project and company web sites for further details: www.ourfarnham.org.uk www.claquetheatre.com

"I think this is a fantastic idea. Not only would a community play bring people together, it would be an excellent event for Farnham raising awareness of the array of artistic talent the town has to offer. I really hope local people will come out in force to the public meeting and show their support for this exciting venture". Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

