

The Prompter

The newsletter of Workington
Playgoers and the Theatre Royal



Welcome to the July 2018 edition of *The Prompter*. This edition has an update on the work of the current youth group as well as a report back on a 40th anniversary re-union of the original group! There are also opportunities for training and reports on recent filming work.



The Tempest, Shakespeare's final play, is also his most magical creation and the source of some of his most famous lines – 'O brave new world', 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on', 'Be not afraid; the isle is full of noises', 'Full fathom five thy father lies'... It is packed with memorable characters: Prospero the magician, the much-abused monster Caliban, the lovers Ferdinand and Miranda, the wicked aristocrats Sebastian and Antonio, sad King Alonso, the drunkards Trinculo and Stefano, and not least the ethereal spirit Ariel.

This modern-dress production will have music and dancing, fun, horror, treachery, love, colour and spectacle, and in the end Shakespeare's own farewell, the closing speech by Prospero. Come prepared to be amazed, amused, frightened, and above all held spellbound by one of the greatest plays in the English language.

Doors open: 6:30pm Performance: 7:30pm Running Time: 2.5hrs with intermission

Special Offer! Free Training!

Anyone wishing to learn the basic operation of lighting & sound controls will be very welcome on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm or Saturday mornings.

We have a great lighting and sound system that can really enhance any performance but it is important to know how to use it. As with all technical systems, proper training is needed not only to get the most out of it, but to ensure it can be safely operated for performers, audience and technical teams alike.

Technical Team

Visit our website for a full list of productions: www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk



2018 Programme

JULY:

Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st

The Tempest by William Shakespeare
A Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players
Production



AUGUST:

Thurs 2nd - Sat 4th August

Cat in a box

by Morgan Sweeney
A Playgoers Production

The Theatre Royal Film Club will return in September! Visit the EVENTS CALENDAR on the website for details.

AUGUST:

Friday 31st

SUMMER PROJECT: OLIVER TWIST
adapted by Paul Adams
A Theatre Royal Youth Production

SEPTEMBER:

Wednesday 19th - Saturday 22nd

TWO

by Jim Carwright
A Playgoers Production

OCTOBER:

Tuesday 16th - Saturday 20th

Murder in the Studio

by Agatha Christie
(A collection of three spine-tingling radio plays)
A Playgoers Production

DECEMBER:

Tuesday 4th - Saturday 8th

Brassed Off!

By Paul Allan adapted from the screenplay by Mark Herman
A Playgoers Production

DECEMBER:

Friday 14th—Saturday 15th

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens
A Theatre Royal Youth Production

Technical Assistant Required!

This is a newly created appointment in the theatre and requires someone preferably with technical drawing skills and possibly experience in graphic design. The applicant would be expected to provide a link between the directors and the Technical team of set builders.

Work would entail detailing the vision of play directors ahead of the new season and preparing this for use by the set building team. It is envisaged that this new system of working would help directors who may have ideas of what they want but are unable to set down instructions that the Technical team can work from.

Anyone interested should get in touch using the contact details on page 3.

Breaking news about Second Stars Youth Theatre!

We are coming to the end of the first year since we made changes to the way SSYT was run. It has been a bit of a turbulent year with some set-backs and some very positive things happening. The biggest set-back was the half-term project involving a production of 'The BFG' not being able to go ahead due to us not being able to obtain a licence to do it. It was to be Sophie Mackenzie's debut as a play director which was a shame, but Sophie rallied everyone and they pulled together another Showcase which was very well received.

Another set-back was that the summer project had been set-up a year ago and as the date got closer it became apparent that most of the young actors were not going to be around and so 'Oliver Twist' (not the musical!) has moved to Friday and Saturday 31st August/1st September. It was to be directed by Millie Hardy- Sims, but will not be now. A new director will be appointed very soon. The script will be specially written for the group by Paul Adams, who has written scripts for school groups and for BBC Radio.

Our positives: the first was the production of 'Alice In Wonderland'. This marked Georgia Douglas-Brown's debut as a play director and an excellent job she made of it bringing out some topnotch performances by our young actors. We do have some real talent in the group. The other big positive was our application for funding from Workington Town Council was successful. We have been given £2,500 with an option on further funding for the next two years as well. In order to justify this we need to be able to perform the plays for at least three performances and this means we need your support!

Need to send us a cheque?

If you need to pay your subs or want to send a donation to support the theatre, here's how:

Please make cheques payable to:

Workington Playgoers

Theatre Royal

Washington Street

Workington

CA14 3AW

Tel: 01900 603161 (Answer-phone)

Email: membership@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Prompter Email:

news@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Don't forget to provide details of what the payment is for in any correspondence.

The really big news is that we are changing the name. We felt that Second Stars Youth Theatre sounded like a separate group and our aim has been to integrate the young people in all aspects of the Theatre Royal. We are also trying to establish the 'brand theme' for the theatre and so the new name will be THEATRE ROYAL YOUTH – watch out for the new logo.

Finally we are losing one of our Youth Council and founder members, Amy Clark. Amy has secured a place on a course at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle. We all congratulate Amy on that achievement, wish her every success and thank her for her commitment and input to the youth group.

Paul Adams

Playgoers Junior Section Reunion!

Back in the day, when I was a mere child, barely more than a twinkle in Geoff's eye, some very brave people, namely Malcolm Strutt, Louise Richardson (nee Jackson) & Sally Burgess (nee Wanless) decided that it would be a super idea to have a junior section in the Playgoers, and that they would be the "responsible adults". The idea was that we could put on our own plays, learn how to direct, do make-up, costume and all the other skills involved in productions. Our first play, *The Front Page* was, of course, a huge success!



This thankless task was soon taken over by Gwyneth & Mike Savage who, though recently married and let's face it, not much older than us, gave up an evening every week to spend with a load of unruly kids. As well as the acting lark, they took us away on trips, let us invade their house, provided spiritual guidance and led us gently through our formative years (which does explain a lot!).

Though some of us drifted off to far flung lands, many kept in touch and about 18 months ago, David suggested that it would be a jolly good idea to have a reunion! The job fell to Ian (aka Titch) and yours truly to round up the troops (thank goodness for Facebook) and plan a gathering.

We were kindly given permission to use the theatre for this event and I'm delighted to say that about 20 of us made it there – coming from as far afield as Cornwall, the Isle of Man and even Australia!

After a brief catch up (it's amazing how the years apart become irrelevant), we had a tour of the old place to look at the new bits, some "highly intellectual" games, a few turns by some of the less inhibited (namely Wendy, Alison, Jilly, Jane, Ian & of course, Jasper!), an Indian takeaway, copious amounts of alcohol (bar takings should be good) and hours of chat and reminiscing!

It was really wonderful seeing everyone again after, dare I say it, 40 years! Let's not leave it another 40, eh?

Sarah Delorme



Our Next Production!



Doors open: 6:30pm
Performance: 7:30pm

by Morgan Sweeney

This intriguing new play takes the philosophical puzzle of Schrödinger's cat as its starting point. No-one has ever had the courage, or folly, to put themselves in a Schrödinger Box. So no-one really knows whether it's true: that his famous cat is both dead and alive at the same time; or what it would feel like to be there, hovering in a limbo between the two.

Kate and Henry have taken a holiday let on a small island in the Firth of Lorn. He is a poet, about to complete the second volume of his published works. Meanwhile, Kate has decided to leave him and intends to use the opportunity of a week away to break the bad news. But something is wrong with the wiring in the house. Whenever they use the waste disposal unit, in the kitchen sink, the whole day resets to breakfast and begins again – with renewed hope of a better future. But what does 'a better future' really mean, for each of them?

Welcome to Kate and Henry's World, where they cannot both be happy at the same time. Or can they find a way – in a box where a cat can be, simultaneously, alive and dead?

Last of the Quantum Timekeepers!

In June, the Theatre Royal played host to the latest filming associated with the Doctor Who spoof, "Last of the Quantum Timekeepers!" The project is the brainchild of Philip Hewitson who will be well known to anyone involved in film-making in Cumbria. LOTQTK is a labour of love for Philip and he's been filming across the length and breadth of Cumbria as he's built a parallel universe of fictitious storylines and history of a science fiction show that never existed! This time, film group members, Ben Brinicombe, Sarah Delorme, Phil Gable and Pippa Cahill helped out both in front of and behind the camera. Sarah took a turn at the lead role of the Timekeeper and Ben shot a short scene in which he took great delight in delivering the role of Arch-Villain. Both were shot on "green screen," a medium new to both actors. In other film news, Reflections, the group project from earlier this year is still in post production but is nearing completion.

