

The Prompter

The newsletter of Workington
Playgoers and the Theatre Royal



Welcome to the May edition of *The Prompter*. The next plays at the Theatre Royal are coming thick and fast. We start with two for the price of one and are following that up with another rummage into Shakespeare's back catalogue.

Tues 22nd – Sat 26th May

DOUBLE BILL



BOSOM PALS By Carol Donockley
by Kind Permission of Carol Donockley

Written by Cumbrian playwright Carol Donockley, *Bosom Pals* was first performed at Penrith Playhouse in 2012 (when it was one of the winning entries in the 'One Voice' competition) and has since been made into an acclaimed film. This brave, touching play, filled with humour, hope and optimism, charts Sylvia Boyd's journey from being a full-breasted doormat to a one-breasted, confident, happy, healthy, sexy woman...via breast cancer.

It's early evening and Sylv is getting ready for a visitor, her boyfriend Dan. She's excited (sort of), but she's also terrified because it's a long time since she's been to bed with anyone – except her teddy bear...



SNAKE IN THE GRASS By Alan Ayckbourn by Kind
Permission of Samuel French

Ayckbourn's play has many a twist. Part thriller, part comedy and part psychodrama, it focuses on the tensions between three women, mousy Miriam, her aggressive sister Annabel and a creepily polite nurse called Alice. Miriam has cared for her demanding, manipulative father in the family home during his final years, with Alice's help.

When her father dies, Miriam's older sister – attractive, divorced Annabel – comes home, after 35 years in Tasmania, to find that Daddy has left her the bulk of his fortune. Meanwhile, Nurse Alice has her own agenda; there are revelations of dark deeds, followed by threats of blackmail. Where will it all end?

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

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

2018 Programme



MAY:

Tuesday 22nd - Saturday 26th

Snake in the Grass

by Alan Ayckbourn &

Bosom Pals

By Carol Donockley

A Playgoers Production

JUNE:

Friday 1st **Half Term project:**

Showcase

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production



WORKINGTON RNLI FUNDRAISERS

An Evening with the Harlequin Choir

The Theatre Royal
Friday 8 June 2018
7pm.

Doors open - 6.15pm

Refreshments / Bar:

Raffle

TICKET - £5.00

Available from the Theatre Royal and Fundraisers.

For more information contact: workingtonfundraisers@gmail.com



JULY:

Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

A Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players Production

Also, don't forget every other Sunday there is a chance to watch a movie in the theatre with the Dancing Lights Film Club.

AUGUST:

Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd

Cat in a box

by Morgan Sweeney

AUGUST:

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th

SUMMER PROJECT: OLIVER TWIST

adapted by Millie Hardy-Sims

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

SEPTEMBER:

Wednesday 26th - Saturday 29th

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

NOVEMBER:

Saturday 10th—Sunday 11th

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

DECEMBER:

Tuesday 4th - Saturday 8th

Brassed Off!

By Paul Allan adapted from the screenplay by Mark Herman

A Playgoers Production

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

Bookings: www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Shakespeare production for 2019

It may seem early, with THE TEMPEST still two months away, but we need to choose our Shakespeare play for 2019 soon - so preparations for it can begin.

A shortlist of five plays has been drawn up and Morgan Sweeney would like to invite every member, with a preference, to make a choice. In alphabetical order, here they are:

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

JULIUS CAESAR

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

THE WINTER'S TALE

Every member of The Playgoers Club is entitled to cast a vote for their favourite and every member is entitled to take a role in the (now annual) production - since the Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players are part of the wider club.

Please reply, with your preferred title, to: morgrom@yahoo.co.uk Joint membership also means that the Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players group is open to all members of the Workington Playgoers too. If you are interested in taking part in one of the Shakespeare productions, please look out for announcements of read-throughs in the Prompter and come along.

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-](mailto:membership@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk)

[workington.co.uk](mailto: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.

Prompting Opportunities!

Any Playgoer who would like to join the Prompting Rota for future shows, please get in touch with Morgan Sweeney at the above email address.

The Prompt is a vital part of every one of our productions and as important a role in each one as the actors on the stage. For mature members, who, nowadays, may be finding dialogue difficult to memorise, it's a relatively relaxed way to keep involved with new plays and old friends.

And you know, from experience, how grateful the cast will be for your help!

The Little Theatre Guild National Conference 2018, a report by Tony Parker

In April, I travelled to Newcastle to attend the LTG National Conference at the Peoples Theatre in Jesmond. Like ours, the theatre had been recently renovated, and its public areas largely rebuilt to give a most impressive modern theatre, which was fortuitously situated on the main road to the coast. We had a meal in their new Green Room, followed by a theatrical-based quiz of devilish complexity, though there's always one team that gets all the answers, isn't there?

On Saturday morning I took a tour around the theatre which had started life as a cinema, so was much larger than most 'little theatres' and the facilities were impressive. The props and wardrobe areas were huge and well-stocked, and they hire out at very reasonable rates, which might be useful for us in the future.

I attended two workshops later in the day. One on Youth Theatre, and it was interesting to hear other experiences in this field. The size of their youth groups varied enormously, the Questors having 250 kids in on a Saturday morning! It was interesting also to hear how other theatres dealt with policies on chaperones, changing rooms, licensing and other problems that arose.

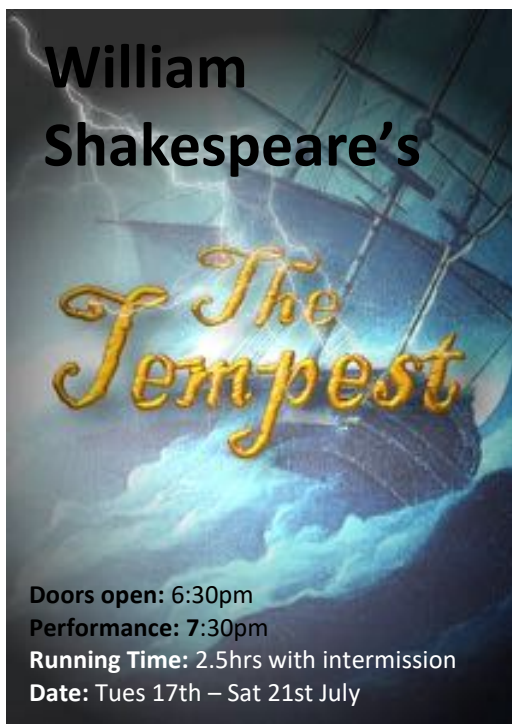
The second workshop was on Marketing. Presenters stressed the importance of branding, and the increasing reliance on social media. I was interested to hear they now did little with posters and newspaper advertising. Their graphs showed their audiences were steadily growing, so the strategy was working.

After attending the AGM, we saw a performance of *Trainspotting*, their current production, which was well-produced and beautifully acted, though I think our audiences might have found it a little challenging (lots of bad language and very loud music, and even some nudity)! It was virtually a sell-out with a young audience very different to the normal theatre-going public. Perhaps something we should think about?

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend; the best bit being meeting attendees from other theatres and discussing mutual problems, our successes and learning a great deal from each other. After all, it's always good to spend time in and talking about theatre! I would certainly go again.

Tony Parker

Our Next Production!



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 afeard; 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.

Not at all Brassed off!

We are delighted to announce that Workington town Band will be participating in our December production of *Brassed Off!* The play charts the exploits of a colliery brass band and what better way to do it than with the real thing! More information to follow in future Prompters

General Data Protection Legislation (GDPR)

The new rules coming into force in May 2018 change the way organisations deal with personal data. In broad terms, the rules require that personal data should be:

- a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
- b) collected for legitimate purposes and not further processed
- c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary
- d) accurate and kept up to date;
- e) kept in a form which permits identification of people no longer than is necessary
- f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data,

Of course, members of Playgoers can expect their contact details to be retained by the organisation but is important for us as an organisation to stay abreast of the new rules and manage our (and your) data accordingly .