

PROMPTER

Workington Playgoers - Bringing Amateur Theatre to Cumbria for 88 years

Editor of the Prompter
March/April 2023
Jenni Rushton

March/April Events in the Theatre Royal

**Playgoers' Coffee
Morning
25th March**

10.00am - Noon

**Remember they are
Every last Saturday of
the month !**

**DEBRA CHALMERS
and CHRIS DREW
AN EVENING OF
MEDIUMSHIP**

**Thursday 30 March
7.30pm 1 £10**

**THE MCDUGALLS
MAGIC CASTLE
Friday April 14th | 1pm
£9.50 & £36 for 4**

Event's Leaflet

THEATRE ROYAL 2023

THEATRE ROYAL

Washington Street , Workington



Photograph by Andrew Dale



Our theatre is used, not only by the Playgoers but by organisations from the local community. We are hiring out the theatre, much more, to small touring theatre companies, who find our small theatre perfect for their productions. All seats in our Auditorium provide a clear view of the stage and have excellent acoustics. There is well-stocked, licensed bar in the Foyer. Here we serve a wide variety of alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, fresh coffee, tea and a small selection of confectionery. The bar opens approximately half an hour before the start of each performance. Interval refreshments can be pre-ordered and drinks may be taken into the Auditorium. Which ever event you come to see at the Theatre Royal we hope you have an enjoyable time and don't wait too long to come back.

ACCESS

There is Wheelchair Access throughout the ground floor. There are no steps from the front door through to the Auditorium

Assistance dogs welcome.

PARKING

Car parking is generally available at the Marks and Spencer car parks opposite the theatre. There is also a multi-storey car park on New Oxford Street.

HEARING LOOP

The Main Auditorium has a hearing loop installed. If you use a hearing aid, switch it to the 'T' setting to amplify the sound from the stage.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Sign up to our email list at www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk/ Subscribe to receive updates on all events at the Theatre Royal.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CLUB

Our Golden Jubilee Draw has been paying out cash prizes since 1985. There are only 365 numbers available. With a small lottery of only 365 numbers, there's a very high chance of winning, so join this year. Remember, you have to be in to win! For only £12 a year, you could win prizes worth up to £1000! There are 35+ numbers available for 2023 Visit www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk/golden-jubilee-fund-2/

Season Ticket 2023
Four tickets for any of Playgoers' productions for the price of £48. You can use them all on one show or mix and match.

How to book
Visit www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk/ to book online. You can choose your seats, pay securely and have your tickets emailed to you. We don't charge booking fees. Ring the Theatre Royal Box Office Tel. No. 01900 603 161 and leave a message. You will be contacted within 48 hours.

Book with confidence
If you can't attend a Playgoers' performance for any reason, let us know before the show begins and we'll exchange your tickets for another performance or give you a credit to see another Playgoers' show. Latecomers aren't eligible for refunds or credits.

Group Bookings -
Make a booking for a party of 10 for the same date and get 10% discount.

Buy tickets in the theatre on the night of the event.

The above leaflets are in the theatre. If you know of a venue that would display some of these leaflets please ask either Anne Bowmer, Jenni Rushton or Gilda Wells for some.

**HAPPYTHOUGHTS
DRAMA COMPANY
TARZAN**

**Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd
April 6.30pm | £8 & £6**



Edgar Rice Burroughs tale of fantasy and adventure brought to life. A family show about the importance of caring for endangered species and what it means to find your place, performed by local young actors.

Deep in the African jungle there lives a reclusive tribe of apes. The Mangani, led by Chief Kerchak, are the missing link between humans and apes and for the past hundred years they've lived in peace. However, when a shipwrecked human baby is left alone in the jungle by the death of his parents, things are about to change. Especially when Kala, the matriarch of the Mangani, adopts the boy and raises him as her own. She names him Tarzan, and things will never be the same again.

Tarzan grows into a protector of the jungle, but when a group of strangers arrive it seems things are about to change. Why do they look like him, and do they hold the answers he needs to where he ultimately belongs? A family show about the importance of caring for endangered species and what it means to find your place, performed by local young actors.
#findwhereyoubelong
#embracewhatmakesyoudifferent



The Playgoers Film Club

The film club was started by Morgan Sweeney with the assistance of professional cameraman Peter Tyler when a small but keen group of Playgoers wanted to make film shorts as professionally as possible. A number have been made, mainly for the enjoyment and interest of the participants, but also to show to Playgoer audiences and a wider public.

This is not a 'weekly-meeting' type group, and just comes together when someone has an idea for a film project. We would like to broaden its appeal, and ask any Playgoers who have an idea in mind, or who are interested in any of the aspects of film-making - producing, screenplay-writing, directing, acting (whether principal or extra), set construction and design, costumes, camerawork, or just plain 'goffering' - to get in touch with me and Morgan on parkerstbees@outlook.com. Anyone who can do sound (or has some film-sound equipment) will be especially welcome.

Tony Parker

Haven't had any feedback so I don't know how well the Film Club's Film Evening was attended or how many new members they have signed up. J.R.

**FIRST
PLAYGOERS'
PRODUCTION
OF 2023**

**Remember all
tickets are £14.00**

Meet the Cast



Millie Hardy-Sims
Kay Mostyn, the
"richest girl in
England"



Owen Evans
Simon Mostyn,
Kay's husband



Andy Greenwood
Canon Ambrose
Pennefather, Kay's
uncle and guardian



Sarah Delorme
Louise, Kay
Mostyn's maid



Becky Wilson
Dr Bessner, a
psychologist and
physician



Matt Poynton
William Smith



Liz Chapman
Miss Helen ffoliot-
ffoulkes



Megan Smeaton
Christina Grant, Miss
ffoliot-ffoulkes's niece



Lauren Elliot
Jacqueline de
Severac, Kay's ex-best
friend and Simon's ex-
fiancée



Ivan Middleton
Steward, the head
waiter



Devan Sims
McNaught, the Lotus's
captain

The novel ***Death on the Nile*** started out as a play entitled ***Moon on the Nile***. This play was never performed nor published. Subsequently, In the late 1930s Christie developed the work into her better-known novel which was published in 1937.

In the 1940s, at the behest of her actor friend Francis L. Sullivan, Christie made a stage adaptation of ***Death on the Nile***, either by resurrecting the old play or adapting afresh from the novel. A script was completed in 1942 and was also at first entitled ***Moon on the Nile*** but was soon renamed ***Hidden Horizon*** and then ***Murder on the Nile***.

Formed in 1930, **The Detection Club** was a group of British mystery writers which included Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Ronald Knox, Freeman Wills Crofts, Arthur Morrison, John Rhode, Jessie Rickard, Baroness Emma Orczy, R. Austin Freeman, G.D.H. Cole, Margaret Cole, E.C. Bentley, Henry Wade, and H.C. Bailey. Anthony Berkeley played a big role in setting up the club.



The Detection Club would not only help each other with technical aspects in their individual writings, but they also wrote a number of works together, with members of the club contributing one or more chapters in turn. Agatha Christie was the president of the Detection Club between 1957-1976.

(Source: Agatha Christie Limited.)



Director - James Last

Murder on the Nile – James Last Director

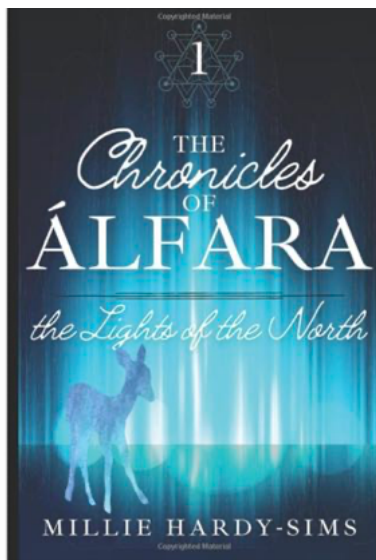
Rehearsals for *Murder on the Nile* started at the beginning of the month and the production is now well under way. The set crew are already constructing the observation lounge of the steamship *Lotus* where this classic Christie takes place. It will hopefully be quite a light space that will work well with the lighting to shift from a pleasant cruise to claustrophobic murder mystery.

Since starting to work with the actors, I think the thing that has struck me most has been the vividness of Christie’s characters. On the page they can sometimes appear as rather thin stereotypes, but as soon as they are brought to life by an actor the world of play immediately begins to take shape around them. We’ve discovered that the people flung together on this boat cursing up the Nile are exuberant, funny and delightful while also being entitled, arrogant, selfish and secretive. Everyone’s a potential suspect. Most of them have something to hide or a grudge to settle and, needless to say, much fun is already being had by everyone involved.

There are a lot of lines to learn but we are having a lot of laughs along the way. Our challenge going forward is going to be realising these characters in more detail, finding little moments that make you look beyond their stereotypes. Subtler, darker moments that make you think they might just be able to kill. Building suspense and making the audience continually wonder – who done it?

The Set for Murder on the Nile

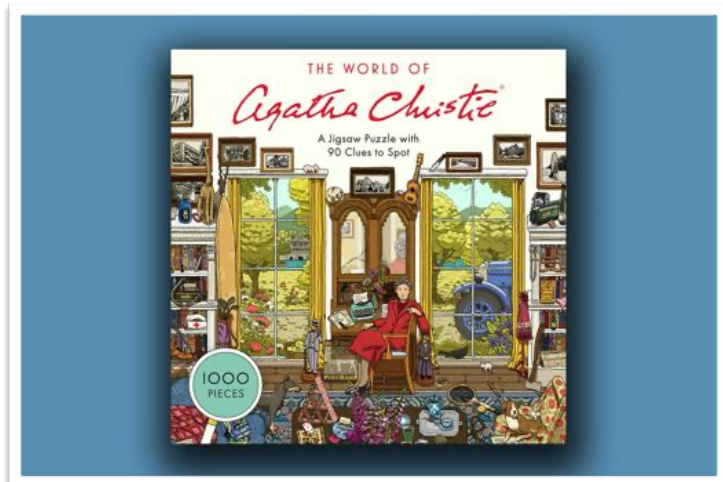




The debut novel from Cumbrian writer Millie Hardy-Sims; *The Chronicles of Álfara: The Lights of the North* is the first of a three-part series.

The story draws on Millie's Scandinavian family ties to build an epic fantasy world for young readers to immerse themselves within. Available now on Amazon; Kindle Marketplace; and Lulu Direct.

The world of Heimur has been calm for centuries. The darkness was once banished and the races created by the gods live in harmony. That is, until Álfara begins to dream of mysterious lights in the northern skies that seem to be calling her name. That, and her unusual friendship with a banvaenn boy - a mortal - who may just be the destiny everyone has been searching for. Álfara is a Ljosalfar, a light elf. She is part of a long line of Ljosalfar descending from the great Einar, who once banished darkness from the world.



The World of Agatha Christie: 1000-Piece Jigsaw 1000-Piece Jigsaw With 90 Clues to Spot- £23.27

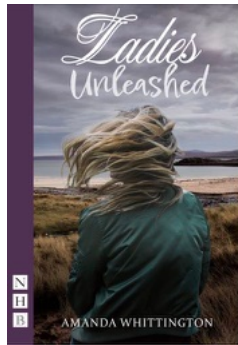
Follow the trail of murder and mystery set by the Queen of Crime! Travel down the Nile, on the Orient Express and into the drawing rooms of English country homes, hot on the heels of Poirot, Miss Marple and other famous characters, as you piece together this detailed jigsaw featuring Agatha Christie and her real-life inspiration. Includes a fold-out poster highlighting 60 baffling and brilliant characters and clues that together make up *The World of Agatha Christie*.



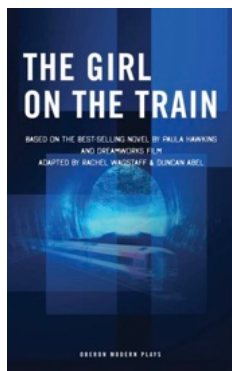
This new 54-card deck is filled with colourful illustrations of Christie's most baffling and brilliant characters and clues, as well as being accompanied by an informative booklet including expert notes on everything featured on the cards.

£12.99,

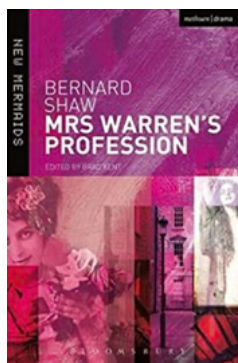
Suggestions for Season 2024 plays



The third play in Amanda Whittington's Trilogy. about a group of women friends. We have performed *Ladies Day* (2011) and *Ladies Down Under* (2014)



Based on the bestselling novel by Paula Hawkins and DreamWorks film / Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel *The Girl on the Train* is a gripping mystery/ suspense thriller.



Shaw's 1893 play centres on the mother and daughter relationship between Kitty Warren and her Cambridge-educated daughter, Vivie, who is currently enjoying a comfortable and financially

NEWS FROM PRODUCTIONS

We had a fairly successful casting evening on the 5th January with about 10 members attending and several others who couldn't attend expressing interest in acting/directing or saying they couldn't! All the directors gave a brief resume of the play and sections were read.

Afterwards the directors and I had a very amicable meeting and provisional casts were agreed upon ensuring, as much as possible, that everyone who wanted a part was to be offered one.

It may take time for members to get used to this method of casting but I think we should try it again next year including all the plays.

MURDER ON THE NILE

Rehearsals are going well. Everyone attending and lines being learnt!!

OFFICE SUITE- Joan Hetherington, Steph Daly-Parks, Ruth Hellen and Andy Greenwood. There is a small part for a man in Green Forms and Mike Savage is to be asked on his return from his cruise. If he cannot do it Andy has said he would be willing.

4 WEDDINGS AND AN ELVIS

Karen, Millie Sims, Karl Sanderson, Matt Poynton, Alison Shutt, Maynall Weir, Morgan Sweeney have all accepted parts. Mike Hogarth is interested but can't commit yet. Still to hear from Becky and Paul.

Still need a couple of men.

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE

Stuart Grant, Thom Robb, Pam Hayes, Megan Smeaton.

Tony Parker is to ask some older members of CADS if they would be interested.

Jane Douglas - Productions Director

Productions Committee

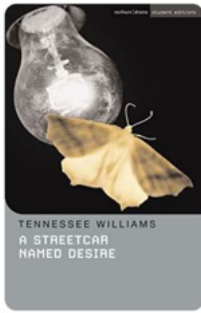
Jane Douglas

James Last

Scott Ashton

Becky Wilson

- Working on the Play Selection and Casting Policy
- Director's Job Description
- Looking for members to read plays and give their honest opinion



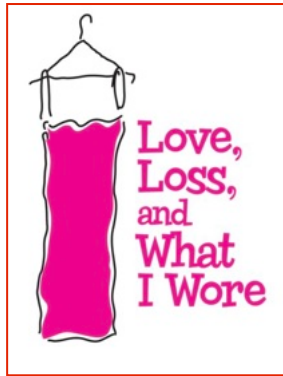
Fading southern belle Blanche Dubois depends on the kindness of strangers and is adrift in the modern world. When she arrives to stay with her sister Stella in a crowded, boisterous corner of New Orleans, her delusions of grandeur bring her into conflict with Stella's crude, brutish husband Stanley.



Playgoers Production 1973

Other suggestions have been:

- A Christmas Pantomime
- An event with Something to do with Halloween
- A radio production of It's a Wonderful Life



"So funny and so powerful; so dear and sweet; so remindful of our female wiles, our worries, our insecurities, our remembrances of mother, father, sisters, brothers, lovers—I think it can't miss." – WowOwow.com.

Please contact Jenni Rushton if you are interested in this production. There will be minimum rehearsals and it will probably be for one night only. Date of production to be discussed and decided by Productions.

Scene 12 - The Dressing Room

I can't even zip it up.

OMG, I'm up a size

Is there something with the lighting in here?

I look like my mother.

Explores the lives of women through 28 characters sharing their memories of love and loss as framed through the lens of the clothes they wore. From wedding dresses to miniskirts, the universal obsession with black, and the hunt for the perfect purse, the play reveals the idiosyncrasies of the female experience. This show will be performed by five women (possibly more) assuming various roles throughout the show. Seeking actors of all ages, races, and physical types who able to create a variety of distinct characters, voices/dialects, and physicality.

"Funny, compelling...Brought down the house...but [the play] is not a comedy: A story about black cowboy boots becomes a sad tale of being under appreciated in a relationship; a tale of two women shopping for their wedding outfits ends bittersweetly; and the recollection of a new bra is a quiet testament to a women's search for dignity while undergoing treatment for breast cancer." –NY Times.

Scene 3 - What my Mother Said

Go right back upstairs and take that off!

You'd be so pretty if you —

Lost weight —

Gained weight —

Stood up straight —

Are you wearing that to deliberately annoy me?

Your bra strap is showing...What do you mean, it's suppose to show?

Take that off you like a slut!



Workington Playgoers - Season 2024

If you have a play you would like to suggest to the Production Team for Workington Playgoers 2024 Season please fill in the form below and return

to Jane Douglas by the 30th June 2023

N.B. This form also allows you to indicate an ideal time when you would be available to act in /direct a play.

Title		
Playwright		
Short Synopsis of the play		
Number of cast members	Female	Male
Do you want to direct this play?	Yes	No
Do you want to be in this play?	Yes	No
The ideal time year for you to direct.		
Ideal time of year for you to be in a play.		
Are there any actors you see in the lead parts?		
If you are a regular director are you willing to mentor a new director?	Yes	No

**Some exciting news from our Chair Anne Bowmer
Our auditorium could soon look very different!**



FUNDING APPLICATION

We will be submitting a funding application very soon to make some exciting changes to our theatre.

The funding became available in January last year when the Community Partnership was formed to take forward discussions with the community about whether Allerdale is the right place to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for the disposal of higher activity radioactive waste. You can find out more from the following website

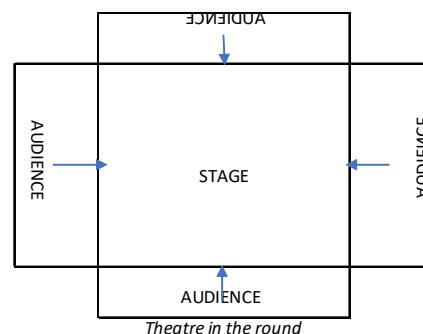
<https://allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk/>



The changes included in the funding bid are replacing our halogen lights for LEDs to reduce the ever-increasing electricity bills, we aim to address a damp problem and freshen up the paintwork of the auditorium but the main reason for the funding is to replace our existing seating with removable seating. This will enable us to offer a different theatre experience. One example of this is theatre in the round.

Here the audience feels included in the play.

SheppeyLittleTheatre.org says "One of the reasons why theatre practitioners love theatre in the round is because of the intimacy you can achieve with the audience. There is no longer a fourth wall, and the audience can get a lot closer to the action. It's a wonderful mix of being a fly on the wall and actually being involved with the performance."



The seats can be removed entirely enabling us to use the space for workshops, displays, craft stalls etc thereby increasing the use of building for our community that will help to maintain the theatre for years to come. If you would like to know more about the changes, please drop me a note at playgoersworkington@gmail.com

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that council meet once a month so if you have any issues, concerns, ideas that you would like discussed please let me, or anyone on council know and we will include feedback in the prompter or personally if you'd prefer



Playgoers' Council would like to welcome R.V. Projects our new tenants in 28 Wilson Street.

This is what David Richardson (Director and founder member of R.V. told Council about the company, "R.V. stands for **Real Volunteer** which we hold dearly at the centre of our organisation".

R.V. Projects were first established in 2008 after the Prince's Trust decided to withdraw from its *European Programme*. R.V. Projects filled the gap and continued to take young people abroad to work and live in countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Turkey.

The young people were mainly unemployed from the UK and the programme gives them a City & Guilds Diploma in Employability and of course work experience through voluntary work abroad. We operated across England in partnership with Further Education Colleges, YMCA's, Hostels, Priory Group and Premiership football clubs.

This work led us to Youth Exchanges and Training Projects from Iceland to Spain across to Turkey. When Brexit happened this made things harder to organise but not impossible, however when COVID 19 struck it even curtailed our UK classroom based work.

This move to Workington and a Partnership with Lakes College West Cumbria is the start of an exciting new era for us, We are set to launch The Prince's Trust Team Program www.princestrust/team

The first time in over 8 years it has been run here in West Cumbria. The programme is a 12 week full time study involving personal development, team work, confidence building and work experience. The programme takes the young people (16-24 years old) on a weeks outdoor activities residential, they plan and raise funds to deliver a community project.

They also do 2 weeks work placements (please contact us if you need a keen eager young person). The R.V. Team also spend a week helping others who are not as fortunate as themselves.

At the end of this 12 week journey they give a presentation to an invited audience. If you know of any 16 to 24 year olds who you think would benefit from this course please get in touch as we aim to officially start on 27th February 2023.

David Richardson
Director RV Projects (Europa) Ltd.
17.03.2023