

SCENE

The Newsletter of the Leicester Drama Society

Calling *all* members...!

If you're receiving this edition of *Scene* in the post then you are or have recently been a member of the Leicester Drama Society. That means you have an interest in live theatre and have previously been involved in the theatre's activities. Thank you.

Times are tough, you don't need us to tell you that. They are particularly tough for the theatre. It's easy to assume that because the pandemic is in check and the theatre is re-opening, everything is back to normal.

It isn't.

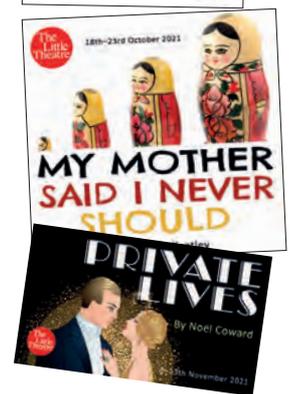
While support from the government has enabled the theatre to stay afloat while closed, it hasn't replaced the staff that we were forced to make redundant. It hasn't given confidence back to a large section of our audience – and many volunteers – to venture out into a busy auditorium to watch a show, or take part in staging it. Many people are, perhaps understandably, still reluctant to get back into the habit of theatre.

Which gives those of us who love live theatre and who in particular support the Little Theatre as audience members or volunteers, a big problem. We have limited resources, both financial and in terms of people; those resources have to see us through to such times when audiences are more confident to attend, and more volunteers are happier to get involved once again.

So we need your help. All of you... every single member. You clearly care about the theatre or you wouldn't have joined as a member. So now we must ask that you put yourself out a bit and help us drum up more audience, more volunteers. Without an increase in both, the theatre risks having to reduce its programme of shows in order to maintain the quality of its shows. None of us wants that.

We've made it as easy as we can for all members to help us get the word out to audience and new volunteers alike. This issue of *Scene* includes four A3 posters – three for forthcoming

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The Little Theatre
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Scene

Editor: Emma Bamford
Design: Jeremy Thompson

Contributions to Scene are invited. Our deadline is a week before the end of each month – but if you have a story let us know before then to guarantee that we reserve space for you. Contact us via email using the email above.

All photos in each edition of Scene are by the fabulous Sally Evans, unless otherwise stated. If members use any images of Little Theatre productions in any social media post please give a photo credit to the person who took the photo. In most cases, for production photos, this will be Sally Evans.

Emma Bamford

Editorial

Welcome to Autumn!

And with that, October begins, bringing with it colder weather, lovely colours on the trees, and now, apparently, a petrol shortage?!

But here at The Little, October is the start of our step back into a regular programme of excellent plays, concerts and shows!

Blue Stockings opened on Monday 27 September and will run until Saturday 2 October; *Six Feet Away* by our friends at IDOLS runs between Monday 4 October until Saturday 9 October; *My Mother Said I Never Should* is Monday 18 October to Saturday 23 October; Robert Habermann's 'The Rat Pack' hits the main house on Wednesday 27 October, and the month is finished off by 'The Carpenters Experience', running between Thursday 28 and Friday 29 October.

Of course, we don't stop there; November promises to bring even more in the way of a variety of entertainment ... but we'll get to that in good time!

You can buy tickets for any of our shows at www.thelittletheatre.co.uk, or by giving our friendly Box Office a call on 0116 255 1302.

We look forward to seeing you in the audience!

But we also urge you to help us promote our shows... even though some normality is returning to the world, many people are still wary of going out and getting an audience is harder than ever. This issue comes to you as a printed issue so that we can provide every LDS member with posters that they can display at work or college, in the local shop or anywhere where people will see them. And there are lots more resources online that anyone can use to help us get to our audience (see page 1) – there's nothing quite so demoralising as an empty auditorium when you've been working hard on a show!

Emma

Your theatre needs your help!

continued from page 1

shows, one to call for new volunteers – which we’re asking that you take and put up on your workplace noticeboard, at college, in a local shop window, in a school, maybe your own front window... anywhere where people might see it. Publicity like this is free for the theatre, yet it can attract a wide audience. And it doesn’t cost anyone a lot of effort.

And there’s more that you can do as well, again at no cost to you... we’ve made a range of resources available on our website (www.thelittletheatre.co.uk/publicity) that can be downloaded for each of our Main House LDS shows. There are PDF files of posters and leaflets for our shows that can be printed off at home and put up anywhere where there are people; there’s a range of graphics that you can download and use on your own social media accounts to promote the Little’s shows; and there’s even a press release that you can download and send to your local community magazine, Rotary newsletter, club mail-out... anywhere that might be interested in a bit of free copy for their own audience. Each new show’s resources will be added a few weeks in advance of the show being staged, so that shows being promoted are only a few weeks away. Please help us by using the resources as best you can – especially if you are involved in a show yourself.

The theatre has necessarily had to reposition itself over the last eighteen months as a predominantly volunteer-run society; gone are the days of employing a large team of people to do the day-to-day legwork – the money simply isn’t there. The work needed to both keep the theatre running on a daily

basis and to stage 10–20 shows each year largely has to be done by volunteers... and at the moment, it’s the same group of volunteers doing pretty much everything.

That is not sustainable. So we need new people to get involved, in whatever capacity... there are plenty of people who want to act on stage at The Little, and while new actors are always welcome, it is backstage, behind the scenes and front of house where we need more people to get involved to maintain the quality of what we do. So help us reach those who might be interested by displaying the poster in this issue of *Scene* that calls for volunteers.

If you have been involved in any capacity at The Little before, please consider volunteering to do something different... actors can work behind the bar, anyone who uses social media can help promote shows – there are countless opportunities to get involved in helping to run *your* theatre, as well as benefit yourself from being involved in a show. If you’ve only ever prompted before, consider stage management; if you’ve only ever acted previously, what about getting involved in helping to market shows; if you’ve only ever volunteered front of house, maybe it’s worth considering a spell behind the bar? Theatre is all about people, but for that we need... well, people!

The past eighteen months has sent shock-waves through The Little Theatre – the world is a different place now, one that is going to need a lot of work by a lot of people to get us back to where we once were. Please join us in getting our theatre back by getting involved once again, in whatever way you are able, and by helping to build our diminished audience.





Family Drama



WY
C
H
E
D

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD

By Charlotte Keatley

.....

18th – 23rd October 2021

Box Office: 0116 255 1302 Book online: www.thelittletheatre.co.uk

Directed by Nadine Beasley

This amateur production of *My Mother Said I Never Should* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk.



Sparkling
Comedy

PRIMAVERES

By Noël Coward





8th–13th November 2021

Box Office: 0116 255 1302 Book online: www.thelittletheatre.co.uk

Directed by John Ghent

An amateur production presented by special arrangement with
Samuel French Ltd, a Concord Theatricals company.



Traditional
Pantomime

Cinderella





Traditional Family Pantomime

10th December 21 - 2nd January 22

Box Office: 0116 255 1302

www.thelittletheatre.co.uk

Devised and Directed by John Bale



GET INVOLVED IN LIVE THEATRE!

THE LITTLE THEATRE IN LEICESTER IS RUN **ALMOST
ENTIRELY BY VOLUNTEERS. PEOPLE LIKE
YOU WHO GET INVOLVED FOR THE CAMARADERIE,
EXCITEMENT AND ENJOYMENT BRINGING GREAT
DRAMA TO OUR STAGES.**

VOLUNTEERS IN PROPS,

SET CONSTRUCTION, STAGE MANAGEMENT, LIGHTING, SOUND, COSTUMES, ACTING, DRESSERS, FRONT OF HOUSE, THE OFFICE AND BAR...

If you'd like to find out more we run open evenings most months on a Tuesday evening - our **TUESDAY CONNECTION**. Free to attend, you'll get a tour of the theatre backstage and front of house, a chance to see a show being rehearsed on stage... and if you want to join us as a volunteer, the first year's membership is free!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE, EMAIL US AT

TUESDAYCONNECTION@THELITTLETHEATRE.CO.UK

CONSTELLATIONS



Romantic
Drama

By Nick Payne



17th–22nd January 2022

Box Office: 0116 255 1302

Book online: www.thelittletheatre.co.uk



Directed by Jane Durant



This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd, a Concord Theatricals company.

RELATIONS



Members' notes...

► **Quiz answers.** As promised last issue, here are the answers for September edition's quiz!

1. 'Macbeth'
2. 'Six Degrees of Separation'
3. 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'
4. 'Raisin in the Sun'
5. 'Amadeus'
6. 'Our Town'
7. 'Madame Butterfly'
8. 'Noises Off'
9. 'True West'
10. 'Glengarry, Glen Ross'

► **Tuesday Connection is Back...** and we need you! We need volunteers now more than ever, and it's essential we advertise the great opportunities we have here at the theatre for people of all ages and interests.

Tuesday Connection is a good way to introduce prospective members to the theatre, giving them a tour around the building and explaining more about what The Little can offer. As these tours take place every Tuesday of a show fit-up week (the week the set goes up and the actors get to do their first dress rehearsals), so your tour members might be lucky



enough to see the upcoming play being walked through on stage!

All Tuesday Connections start at 7.30pm in the bar. If you would like to help lead a tour, please contact Richard Payton on: 07572109685 (best option!) or TuesdayConnection@thelittletheatre.co.uk.

► **Assistance required!** *Private Lives* needs a double seat piano stool. If anyone has one they are prepared to loan for 10 days from Weds 3rd to Sat 13th November, please contact Lisa Thirlby (07816472998). Thank you.

► **Acting Workshops are back!** We're delighted to announce that Thursday Workshop will be back after its enforced 'rest', and we're very pleased that it will again be in the very capable hands of David Cross.

Thursday Workshop was originally conceived as a regular opportunity for new and possibly inexperienced acting members to polish their performance skills and, at the same time, experience the many opportunities to be found in a busy working theatre. Our varied and challenging programme of plays is constantly looking for new talent to swell our acting strength, and there are numerous other ways in which you can become involved in the presentation of our season of shows.

The first workshop will be on Thursday 14th October, same time as previously, 7–9pm, and the same venue, the Haywood Studio and they are *free for members*. You will need to be a member in order to gain access to the theatre. Your first year's membership is free, so it won't break the bank. The theatre office will be closed during the evenings, so you will have to join online or in person during office hours.

David Cross will be leading all the workshops apart from those on Thurs 4th (Sarah Garrett) and Thurs 24th Nov (TBC), when there will be guest leaders. Over the term, workshops cover both improvisation and script work, each session being self-standing. The approach is inclusive with both experienced and those new to theatre being catered for. Come along...and enjoy!

Audition

Handbagged

Show dates: January 31 – February 6 2022

Directed by Russell Hughes

Auditions will be held in the Heywood Studio for this comedy on:

Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th October, 7.30pm.

Handbags, hairspray and sensible shoes. The reigning monarch, Elizabeth II; her most powerful subject, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One believed there was no such thing as society, the other had vowed to serve it. *Handbagged* explores the battle of wills between these two giants of the 20th century during Margaret Thatcher's period in office in this funny and feisty play.



Cast

T	An Older Margaret Thatcher	F	65+
Q	An Older Queen Elizabeth	F	65+
Mags	A Younger Margaret Thatcher	F	Late 40's to mid 50's
Liz	A Younger Queen Elizabeth	F	Late 40's to mid 50's
Actor 1	See below	M	See below
Actor 2	See below	M	See below

Actor 1 plays: A palace footman; Kenneth Kaunda; Nancy Regan; Enoch Powell; Michael Shea; Neil Kinnock; Kenneth Clarke and a protester.

Actor 2 plays: Denis Thatcher; Peter Carrington; Gerry Adams; Ronald Regan; Michael Heseltine; Arthur Scargill; Rupert Murdoch; Geoffrey Howe and Prince Philip.

Actors 1 and 2 must be versatile character actors as they play a variety of cameo roles throughout. Therefore while my ideal age range would be the same as Mags/Liz, I can be flexible to an extent. I'd like the accents to be as believable as we can get them for the majority of characters but for the women in particular.

Rehearsals will begin w/c 6th December with performances from 31st Jan to 6 Feb 22.

If you would like to audition please get in touch by email at russell.hughes@thelittletheatre.co.uk to let me know which part(s) you are interested in and which audition you would like to attend. If you have any questions then you can either email or phone me on 07922 979801.

If you are interested in reading then scripts are available to borrow on short term loan. Please phone the box office between 10am and 4pm to arrange collection. There are a limited number of scripts so please return borrowed copies in good time so I have enough for both the audition and rehearsal period.

LDS 200 CLUB

1st prize - £250 Share Number - 45

2nd prize - £100 Share Number - 131

3rd prize - £50 Share Number - 6

THE GREATEST SONGS FROM THE RAT PACK

ROBERT HABERMANN

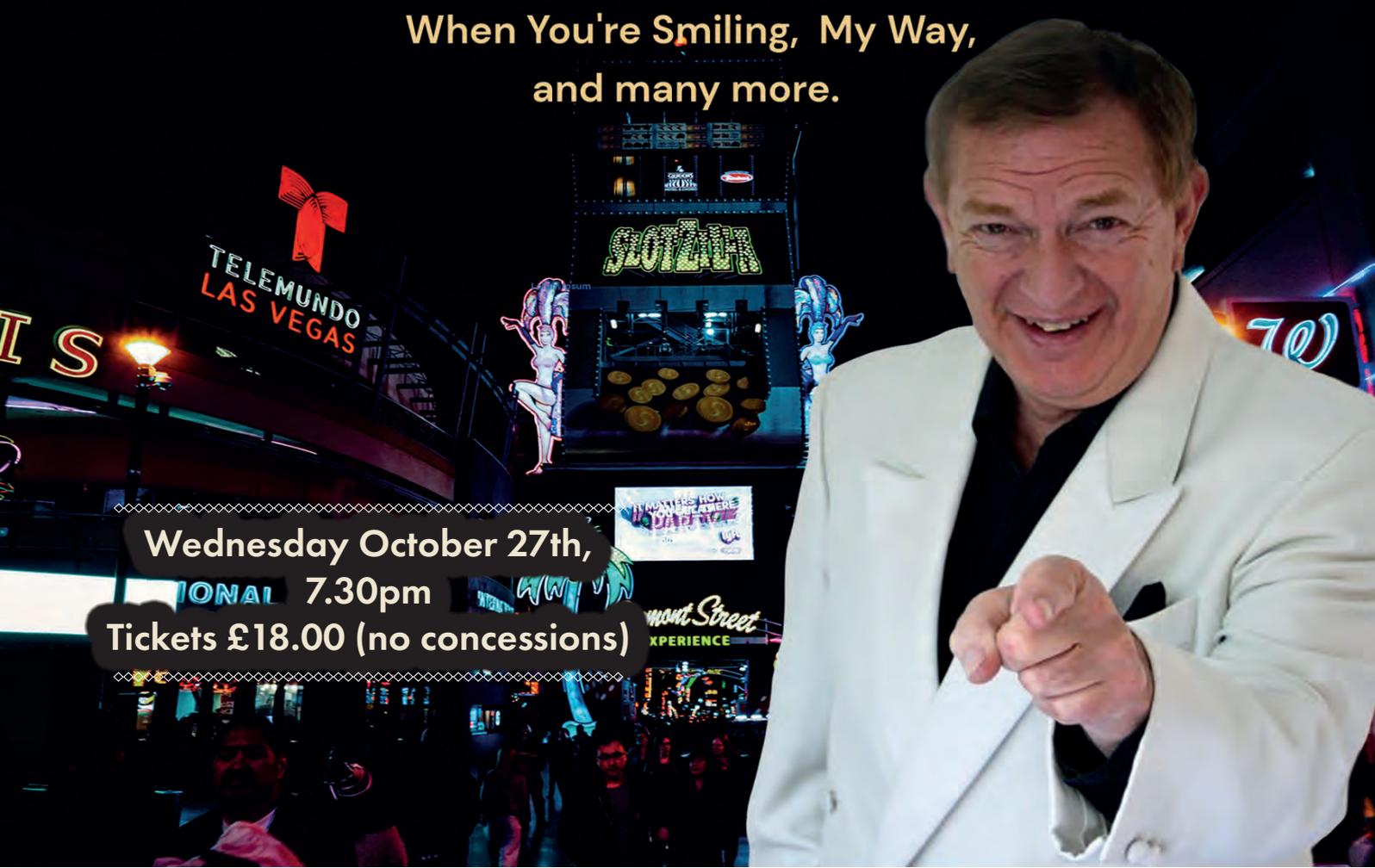
Sings The Great Songs and tells the amazing story of the most famous group of singers in the world.

– Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr.

Created as a prank, The Rat Pack carried the motto
"Never Rat On A Rat!"

Award winning singer Robert Habermann sings the songs and tells the fabulous story of this infamous group of film stars.

Songs include: My Kind Of Town, The Birth Of The Blues, That's Amore, Mr Bojangles, The Tender Trap, New York New York When You're Smiling, My Way, and many more.



Wednesday October 27th,

8.00pm 7.30pm

Tickets £18.00 (no concessions)