

Shakespeare in Love
Dir. Steven Illidge



AUGUST 2023

SCENE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTER DRAMA SOCIETY

The
Little
Theatre

Visit our website for more information: thelittletheatre.co.uk



Editor's Letter

The end of a wonderful season of quality storytelling makes way for the beginning of a new one. We've had an array of genres from drama in *The York Realist* to musical comedy in *Anything Goes*. And we wrapped it all up with the much talked about Sooty Awards, which were a complete success. If you're in the mood to reminisce, read the season summary on pages 4-5.

While the theatre goes into darkness for the rest of the summer, repairs and improvements will be taking place such as the installation of a new stage floor. Once complete, we'll be ready to welcome you all back with the first show of the season *A Murder is Announced* on September 11. As a horror fan, I'm particularly looking forward to *The Innocents*

as well as *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horrors* in October.

In the meantime, remember there are plenty of acting workshops and Connections evenings to get involved in, as well as plenty of active audition notices (pages 8-9). And if you're an LDS member, please do attend the Open Mic Night pre-seasonal social on August 25!

Kerry

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The Team

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Deputy Theatre Manager ► **Carolyn Young**

Head of Wardrobe ► **John Bale**

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Scenic Workshop ► **Dave Towers**

Youth Theatre Leader ► **Andy Longley-Brown**

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Trustee without specific responsibility ► **To be co-opted**

Scene

Editor of Scene ► **Kerry Smith**

Design of Scene ► **Cross Productions**

Contributions to Scene are invited. Our deadline is a week before the end of each month. If you have a story, let us know before then to guarantee that we reserve space for you. Contact us via email on hello@thelittletheatre.co.uk.

200 Club Winners

The winners of July's 2023's draw:

1st	52 (£250)
2nd	133 (£100)
3rd	148 (£50)

Join the 200 Club

for a chance to win upto £250 every month

The Little's big cash-prize lottery

Donate £50 to The Little Theatre to enter the remaining 9 monthly lottery draws for 2023.

The next draw takes place at the end of August.

To enter, call us on:

0116 255 1302

hello@thelittletheatre.co.uk

thelittletheatre.co.uk



The Season in Summary

Our marketing trustee Tom Young saw, crewed, or was in every senior production of the season. This is his summary of 2022-23.

September

It was an honour to play a significant role in the opening play of the season, *Black Coffee*. Unfortunately, my identity as the murderer was spoiled for my colleagues, after my boss's Dad indirectly informed them: "You wanna get rid of that Tom; he's already killed one boss this week."

LAOS's visit for *Adrian Mole* showed off so much of the younger talent in our community, supported by some of our veterans. An utterly charming production with a Leicester-link, and a strong lead performance from Zach Ball.

October

I was prompting for *The Shape of Things*; a hard-hitting play, with a brutal twist. The four-person cast delivered incredibly strong performances, underscored by a killer soundtrack.

The Idols' production of *42nd Street* was best remembered for



its stunning, Broadway-inspired choreography, with the stage filled with tap dancers.

Alphabetical Order was a study of the micro-interactions that occur between colleagues during the workday, and the clash between the blandness of order and the vibrancy of chaos.

November

Black Comedy *Entertaining Mr Sloane* was heavy on the black – the kind of play that stays with you for a couple of days. Top marks for commitment to Carolos Dandolo, who remained dead on the floor throughout the interval.

By contrast, KPAOS' *9 to 5: The Musical* was one of the lighter shows of the year, and one of my favourites. The chemistry between the cast was palpable, with no shortage of memorable musical numbers.

December

I watched *Aladdin* several times from the dome, manning a follow spot for some performances. Nice to play a small role in bringing joy to families at Christmas and illuminate the glitter!

January

Educating Rita gave David Lovell and Leeann Rana a chance to stretch their dramatic chops, with Willy Russell's legendary two-hander. A pair of great actors holding the audience captive for two hours – bravo to them.

February

The York Realist was an intimate story. John Moulding presented a sympathetic but tragic figure, whose sense of identity got in the way of his own happiness.

March

A unique set transformed the stage for *Bedroom Farce*, with three very different bedrooms on display. An incredibly strong cast provided much hilarity and authentic relationships.

April

We started what will hopefully become a tradition with our Easter musical, *The Railway Children*. I adored being Mr Perks; working with some of my favourite LDS veterans as well as some very talented young actors. The future of the LDS! Leigh



White took on a ridiculous amount of work as director, MD, and one-man orchestra. I will not let his commitment be forgotten (he was getting up at 4am to record orchestrations before work).

Switching from trains to ships, LOPs arrived for *Anything Goes*. The Cole Porter classic had everything I'd want from an iconic musical, while still feeling fresh and fun. Some brilliant choreography and a show-stealing turn from Russell Webster made for a highly memorable production.

Unfortunately, the only production I missed this season was the youth theatre's take on *James and the Giant Peach*. I heard excellent things, and I'm excited to see Andy Longley-Brown's progress with our young actors continue to bear fruit.

May

Home I'm Darling was the most recently written play of our season and had an original concept that was easy to buy into from the first surprise reveal. A captivating performance from Caitlin Mottram and a fascinating exploration of gender roles and expectations.

WAOS' production of *Ghost: The Musical* moved audiences to tears with the story of Sam and Molly. A fantastic use of technology and projection to help establish this in New York, and great use of lighting to distinguish between the dead and the living.

June

I really enjoyed *Bouncers (Remix)*, featuring one of my best mates. This updated "remix" version is a little dated now, with certain attitudes looking out of place in 2023... But,



as a reflection of 1993, right on the money. The physical theatre and dynamic performances made for a very funny play.

KW Productions returned for musical epic *Gypsy* following their recent NODA award recognition for 2022's *Calendar Girls*. A career-defining performance from Debbie Longley-Brown as Momma Rose was rightly recognised at The Sooty Awards, but the rest of the cast was phenomenal too.

July

I got to tread the boards again for *Shakespeare in Love*. I was blown away by leads Ed Turner and Nicole Collins who put in great performances every night. Great to share the run with such a large and talented cast; many new friends made.

Our final show of the season was Last Word Productions' *Celebratory Centenary Old Time Musical Hall*. A charming show rife with audience participation and singalongs. I'm leading the campaign for Bill Hinds to be the chairman of every variety show going forward!

The inaugural Sooty Awards closed out the season, and it was my genuine honour to host the event. It's possibly the proudest I've been of any show or event I've ever produced, as it was so wonderful to see both LDS and the operatic societies members celebrating together and dancing the night away. Thank you to all who came, and hopefully, see you again next year.



Member Profile

Karen Gordon

With a degree in visual and performed arts from the University of Kent, Karen landed her dream job in The Little Theatre costume hire team. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the department is now closed. You can currently catch up with Karen in Holly's Coffee Shop in St. Martins.

Karen emphasised that she's always enjoyed the steadfast support of her partner Andy who has been a perceptive and honest critic! She introduced him to the theatre and he now loves attending plays as much as she does (she's yet to convince him about opera). However, Karen says he'd never tread the boards, although his dulcet tones have been heard in recorded voiceovers in a couple of productions. At this point, I had to remind Karen that this profile was about *her*.

Hobbies

She is an amazing artist and takes huge inspiration from the photos she shoots backstage, creating paintings and drawings from the results. She held an exhibition of her work when she joined The Little. Karen sees many ballet, opera and theatre as time and funds permit, including a yearly visit to the Edinburgh Fringe and International Festivals. Karen secretly would love to be able to tap dance. Well, watch this space as it's not much of a secret anymore!

Recently, Karen had a dream trip to the Royal Opera House, enjoying a backstage tour with Royal Ballet Director Kevin O'Hare and watching a rehearsal with legendary dancers Marianela Nunez and Vadim Muntagirov. She had a privileged view of the construction of sets and costumes for a new production of *Cinderella*, and it amused her that the Fairy Godmother was in Lilac, the same colour John Bale dressed her in when she played Fairy G in his production for The Little.

Productions

Karen has enjoyed being part of the Little for over a quarter of a century. I for one love to see her on Stage – she has an amazing stage presence. She has special memories of numerous outings in the plays of Alan Ayckbourn, with Mary Jones as Director and Adam Jones as her stage husband.

She enjoys singing and has a lovely voice. Her friend Keiran Whelan of KW Productions gave her a chance to become involved in musicals when he cast her in the iconic role of Joanne in Sondheim's *Company*. Karen has done a bit of singing in Panto, *Old Time Musical Hall*, and as Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz* but she was known primarily as a non-singing, non-dancing actress! Recently, Karen was on stage in KW's production of *Gypsy* playing two hugely contrasting roles, secretary Miss Cratchit and stripper Miss Mazeppa.

Karen has some indelible memories of her time helping Julia Meynell with specials and the Leicester Comedy Festival, meeting celebs as diverse as Jonathan Agnew, Barry Norman, Michael McIntyre, Patricia Routledge, Lee Mack, Josh Widdicombe, Rhod Gilbert and the legendary John Shuttleworth. Karen nearly had a breakdown with Barry Norman, a delightful man, as he only turned up at the theatre with 15 minutes to spare. Rhod Gilbert turned up in a snowstorm, announced "I'm sick", and a dash to procure Strepsils followed. The Leicester audience was fortunate as he was forced to cancel subsequent shows. And Chris McCausland made it to the theatre despite a car crash en route.



Funniest on-stage memory

During the first scene of *She Stoops to Conquer*, the audience seemed restless and amused before a word had been said. Agitated fluttering of wings signalled the presence of a non-paying, avian punter; a bird had found its way into the auditorium. Karen tweaked a line, declaring: "Here we are, living in a bird-infested old inn." The audience enjoyed the acknowledgement, and the bird dutifully made its escape.

Jackie Caunt

Review: *Shakespeare in Love*

What amazing talent we have at the Little Theatre. I so enjoyed this production. We had the lot: a dog, music, singing, dancing acting, sword fighting and costume contemporary/period.

It was lovely to see new faces in this production. Ed Turner who played Shakespeare had great stage presence and you could feel the chemistry between him and Viola de Lessops (Nicole Collins). Hopefully, we'll see more of Ed. In November he'll be playing Mr Poppy in KPAOS's *Nativity!* I know I've singled out Ed but the whole cast was brilliant. The comedic timing was spot on, and it kept a good pace, which to me is very important. With how many cast members were in this production, it could have easily sagged, which goes to show the talent and the brilliant directing by Steve Illidge.

I enjoyed the angst between many of the characters, especially between Fennyman (Pete Bing) and Henslowe (Ian Carr). Fennyman was the equivalent of today's lone sharks and Henslowe – a bit of a con man really – put me in mind of Fagin from *Oliver Twist*. The sword fighting was great with some nifty footwork from Graham Muir who played Burbage. Rory the dog played Spot and won all the hearts of the audience.

Costumes designed by John Bale were very clever and gave an essence of Elizabethan dress whilst allowing movement, which this incredible play needed. The music in



this production brought everything together and also took you back to that period in history.

I asked my niece Michelle her opinion and I'll let her words sum it up: "It was brilliant. The set worked brilliantly and looked great. It was well designed and actors were able to make use of all of it and it enhanced their performances. There was some great comedy in the play and of course; the dog! The acting was amazing and very well-rehearsed. I'd never seen the film but found it very easy to follow."

Jackie Caunt

Connections Report

We had four new joiners from this Connections meet. Hopefully, you'll see them around the theatre as some are currently working backstage, behind the bar and FOH. We're grateful for them as we need more and more around the areas I've mentioned.

Heading over to 52 down, we caught the last rehearsal of *Shakespeare in Love* before it moved to the stage. I was so excited when I saw Rory the dog in rehearsal playing the part of Spot – every dog has its day! I very much laughed at Rory's actions cleverly guided with the aid of treats. Spot belongs to Burbage

(Graham Muir) and I couldn't wait to see the duo on stage – albeit Spot is very well-behaved, he does quite a lot of adlibbing in his own special canine way.

I loved the acting from Edward Turner who played Shakespeare. After a minor altercation with Henslow (Ian Carr), Shakespeare said he was going to hang himself – I laughed out loud as I realised artistic temperament existed in Shakespeare's time too.

There will be a preseason social for members only on August 25. Tickets are £1 per ticket. Please come along and join in this fabulous open mic night!

Happy summer hols to you all hopefully see you all next season. Get those tickets booked, it's going to be a good one, don't miss out.

Jackie Caunt

CONNECTIONS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

September 5
September 26
October 17
November 7
December 5
January 16

Operating Teams:

Facilities/Marketing/Membership/Productions/Backstage

Your chance to make a difference to The Little Theatre
Our operating teams are crucial to running The Little Theatre in these key areas. Having not conducted elections since the pandemic, we're restarting recruitment afresh this year. Teams meet approximately once a fortnight.

Nominations to these teams are now being sought. The closing date is Friday, August 31, 2023. To apply, please email david.moore@thelittletheatre.co.uk.

Backstage (Co-ordination) team (One-year term*)

Seven members to be elected

The backstage team coordinates the staffing of all LDS shows and specials and plans closed-season maintenance work. The team undertakes training in and provides mentoring/shadowing for Stage Manager (SM), Deputy Stage Manager (DSM) and Assistant Stage Manager (ASM) roles, as well as lighting and sound design/operation. It supports designers and workshop staff on production sets, furniture needs and properties (props), as well as script prompting. The team liaises with productions committee on LDS show requirements and the facilities team on maintenance, equipment, health & safety, and insurance facilities, as required.

We currently have a vacancy for the Technical Trustee role but contact me if you can help or want to find out more on: simon.dickens@thelittletheatre.co.uk
Simon Dickens – Honorary Secretary

Facilities team (Two-year term*)

Four members to be elected

Essential work and sometimes glamorous! We maintain the toilets, heating and cooling systems, and keep electrical systems in compliance with regulations and gas systems in certification. We take care of IT systems and lead the maintenance and preparation for insurance inspections of flying equipment. Public safety and security requirements are also a significant part of our work.

Our current team has many technical skills, but there are areas we can make sufficient progress in. Documentation and administration need more resources and we have a major opportunity to develop our sustainability and improve energy efficiency. We meet in the theatre on alternate Tuesdays and members of the team work together at mutually convenient times. If you like a challenge and enjoy working with others to get things done in the most effective and efficient way, we'd love to hear from you. Email me on: martin.scott@thelittletheatre.co.uk
Martin Scott – Trustee for Facilities

Marketing team (Two-year term*)

Four members to be elected

The marketing team is responsible for promoting the work of the society, developing its audiences, and delivering a consistent brand image. Much of the day-to-day and design work is currently handled by an agency, Cross Productions, but that allows for the marketing team to have a more creative or "small job" focus, and to lead and develop our approach.

Support is needed in coordinating reviewers, distributing print materials, liaising with directors, finding opportunities to reach new audiences, generating ideas for marketing content and helping to execute them. We aim to meet fortnightly. To find out more, email me on:

tom.young@thelittletheatre.co.uk

Tom Young – Trustee for Marketing

Membership team (Two-year term*)

Four members to be elected

The membership team is responsible for recruiting and retaining members and encouraging participation in the theatre. We welcome new folk with fresh ideas and energy to help give members the best experience of our theatre. Our Connections group meets on the Tuesday before each production, touring the theatre and seeing rehearsals in progress. Connections help new members to find their niche. To get involved, email me on:

jackie.caunt@thelittletheatre.co.uk

Jackie Caunt – Trustee for Membership

Productions Committee (Two-year term)

Six members to be elected

We're responsible for furthering the artistic reputation of the society by planning a season of plays that meet target audience figures within budgets. We monitor the Youth Theatre's work and assist the organisation of open auditions and workshops. We're responsible for the planning and implementation of 12-13 in-house productions every year, including reading and researching plays, checking rights, appointing directors, and overseeing the production from initial concept through to final performance.

We're seeking creative members who can bring their knowledge and apply it in a way which will entice audiences and build for the future of our theatre. To find out more, email me on:

joe.middleton@thelittletheatre.co.uk

Joe Middleton – Trustee for Productions

*Term can be extended.

Cast Announcements

Stags & Hens (The Remix)

by Willy Russell

October 2-7, 2023

Directed by Simon Dickens

We're delighted to announce the cast and crew for our early-October play.

Linda – Holly Matuisiewicz

Maureen – Olivia Phillips

Bernadette – Angelica Robinson

Frances – Amy Hollis

Carol – Carla Field

Eddy – Lewis Cole

Robbie – Joey Perez-Jones

Billy – Russell Webster

Kav – Matt Zebrowski

Peter – Nick Wilkins

Dave And Roadie – Simon Butler

Director: Simon Dickens

Set Design: Simon Dickens

Stage Manager: Lydia Clemence

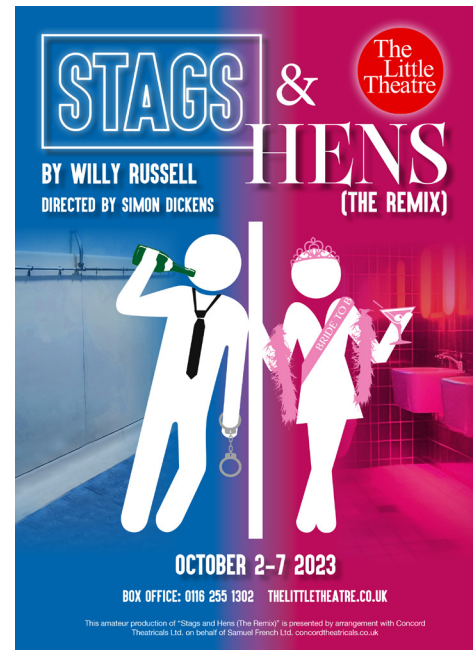
DSM: Andy Mear

DSM Shadow: Steph Allured

Lighting: David Moore

Sound: Stu Wale

Mentor: Mary Jones



Fallen Angels

by Noël Coward

November 13-18, 2023

Directed by Jordan Handford

We're delighted to reveal the cast for our November production.
Thank you to all who auditioned.

Julia Sterroll – Cathy Sullivan

Jane Banbury – Ranata Maynard

Saunders – Charlotte Beaver

Fred Sterroll – John Moulding

Willy Banbury – Freddie Dobrijevic

Maurice Duclos – Steven Feeney



Audition notice

Breaking & Entering

A fast-paced, one-act comedy by Mark Davenport

Audition Date/Time: Sun, September 3, 1:00PM

Production Dates: November 30 to December 2, 2023

Director: Tom Young

Location: Little Theatre (studio), Dover Street

Contact Info: tom.young@thelittletheatre.co.uk

Description: A couple break into a house with the intention of burgling it, only to encounter the couple that owns it. Matters become more entangled when the two couples realise that they're also each other's exes.

Characters:	M/F	Age
Gary	Male	28-35
Kirsty	Female	28-35
Mike	Male	28-35
Jan	Female	28-35

If you are unable to make the audition date, please get in touch as we may be able to make other arrangements. Rehearsals pencilled in to start week beginning September 18, 2023 at a maximum of twice a week.

Anyone Can Dance

A comedic drama about soulmates and if they exist, by Sean Baker.

Audition Date/Time: Sun, September 3, 2023 3:00PM

Production Dates: November 30 to December 2, 2023

Director: Nikki Favell

Location: Little Theatre (studio), Dover Street

Contact Info: nikki.favell1@gmail.com

Description: Sam and Joe fall into a discussion one night – what if they had met at different points in their lives? Told in a series of 'what if' scenarios depicting alternate pasts, interspersed with Sam and Joe's present day discussion, this two-hander invites the audience to consider the concept of 'meant to be'.

Characters:	M/F	Age
Samantha	Female	29-35
<i>Sharp and witty, a harder shell on the outside than Joe</i>		
Joe	Male	35-41
<i>Softer than Sam, a kind and caring soul.</i>		

This play gives two actors the chance to play these characters across varying ages. Joe must be (or believably look) 5-8 years older than Sam for the script.

The Good Life

A comedy by John Esmonde & Bob Larbey

Audition Date/Time: Mon 25 September, 2023 7.00PM

Production Dates: February 5-10, 2024

Director: Ruth Cheetham

Location: Little Theatre (studio), Dover Street

Contact Info: ruthcheetham@btinternet.com

Description: When Tom and Barbara Good decide to exchange the pressures of the rat race for an alternative, more sustainable way of living, they set about turning their suburban home in Surbiton into a model of self-sufficiency. They grow their own fruit and veg, keep livestock in the garden, make their own clothes and even generate their own electricity from Manure. It's the good life for them – but not for Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, who live next door and are desperately trying to maintain the Surbiton status quo.

Based upon the very successful 70s TV show and has recently been on tour throughout the UK.

Characters:	M/F	Age
Tom Good	Male	35-50
Barbara Good	Female	35-50
Margo Leadbetter	Female	35-50
Jerry Leadbetter	Male	35-50
Sir	Male	50+
Harry the pigman/ Police man/Joe	Male	30-45
Felicity/Milkwoman/Mary*	Female	30-50

* these parts could be split

Unable to make the audition? Get in touch and I will be happy to arrange an alter-native date.

Rehearsals to begin approximately at the start of December 2023.

April in Paris

A funny 'Brits abroad' romantic comedy, featuring John Godber's unique brand of observational comedy.

Audition Date/Time: Wed, September 6 & Fri, September 8, 7.00PM

Production Dates: January 22-27, 2024

Director: Leigh White

Location: Little Theatre (studio), Dover Street

Contact Info: leighbwhite@hotmail.com or 07787 834781

Description: Al and Bet's relationship is on the rocks and they're slowly getting sick of each other. Al recently lost his job and tries a new hobby while Bet works in a shoe shop and can only dream of a better life. But things are about to change. When Bet wins a romantic break in Paris, 'the city of love', Al wonders who she'll take with her. Resigned to taking her husband, Paris reignites their relationship as never before, but the reality of returning home looms large.

I really want to encourage new and existing society members to read for this play. Please do not presume any roles have been precast. I assure you, the door is open for everyone. All I ask is that you've read the script before the audition and have an understanding of the story and characters.

Scripts are available from the office or you can contact me for a digital copy. Please let me know which night you'll be auditioning.

Characters:

Al

M/F

Male

Age

30+

Married to Bet, recently made redundant and although has an air of confidence on the surface, he is very much a man of low confidence and heightened anxiety. As the story develops, Al welcomes change and quickly warms to the excitement of being in Paris and we see his passion for art shine through and the excitement of what the future might hold.

Bet

Female

30+

Married to Al, wanting more from life and feels frustrated and bored by the day-to-day routine and longs for something to change. Bet shows bitterness towards Al at first but regardless, she shows that you can love someone without liking them all the time. Despite ups and downs, and every day mundanity of marriage, at its heart there is a bond that is strong and unbreakable.

The ages of AL and BET are open to cast older if needed, but for the relationship to work, and for the audience to appreciate the ups and downs of a long co-habitation, the minimum playing age is early 30s. Convincing Yorkshire accents desirable.

Dial M for Murder

A thriller by Frederick Knott (later filmed by Alfred Hitchcock)

Audition Date/Time: Fri, October 13 &

Wednesday October 18, 7.00PM

Production Dates: March 4-9, 2024

Director: Mary Jones

Location: Little Theatre (studio), Dover Street

Contact Info: adamary86@hotmail.com / 07814 510059

Description: Tony and Sheila Wendice have had a fractious marriage for many years, resulting in Sheila's affair with Max Halliday, an American crime writer. However, when the affair ended and Tony retired from his professional tennis career, the couple reunited and rekindled their love... Or did they?

Characters:

Sheila Wendice

Female, the charming, naïve and wealthy wife of Tony

Max Halliday

Male, an American murder mystery writer

Tony Wendice

Male, an arrogant former professional tennis player and husband of Sheila

Captain Lesgate

Male, an old schoolmate of Tony's and a convicted criminal

Inspector Hubbard

Male, a British Inspector of Police who's a bit eccentric

Please get in touch to register an interest or any queries. Scripts will be available from the theatre box office.

The Sooty Awards 2023

The Winners



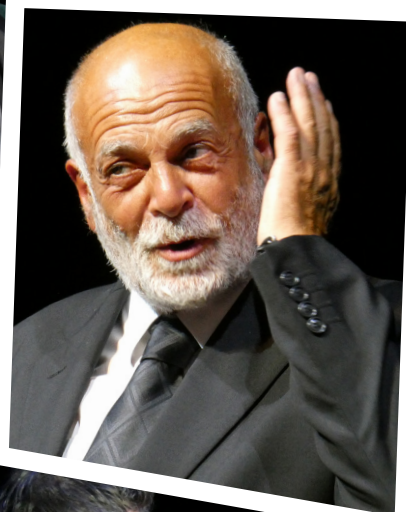
Ending the season with The Sooty Awards (which I hope to see become an annual event) was an inventive way to bring all those who love The Little together. So many of us share this beautiful space yet rarely get the chance to enjoy each other's company in such a way. This was an epic event that reminded me just how lucky we all are to be part of such a fun and friendly community.

"It's like a real awards ceremony," someone gasped behind me in the audience. And it really was! Each presenter gave it their all, taking on the challenge of appearing on stage as themselves rather than a character. Arranging for performances from shows over the past year was a real treat that gave everyone a chance to reminisce.

The Sooty Awards also acted as a clever marketing method creating more opportunities for word to spread about the talent coming from The Little. The theatre must continue to evolve and make room for new prospects. As with any new approach, there have of course been teething issues, which can be learnt from.

Working for an events and marketing company, I can say for certain that single-handedly organising an entire awards ceremony is complex, stressful, and almost impossible to make decisions that absolutely everyone will agree with. Well done to Tom Young and all those who played vital roles in the creation of this important event.

Kerry Smith



And the winners are...



BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE IN A PLAY

Karen Gordon *Black Coffee*

BEST SET DESIGN

Gem Greaves *The Railway Children*

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

Lizzii Hills *42nd Street*

BEST CAST

Bedroom Farce

BEST SOUND DESIGN

Stew Wale & Tim Neville *Bouncers (Remix)*

SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY

Fran Harris

BEST BACKSTAGE CREW MEMBER

Nikki Stickland

BEST DIRECTOR OF A MUSICAL/PANTOMIME

Joshua J Knott *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole: Aged 13¾*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Andy Crooks

BEST DIRECTOR OF A PLAY

John Bale *Black Coffee*

BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE IN A MUSICAL/PANTOMIME

Katie Wilson *Ghost*

BEST LIGHTING DESIGN

Jeremy Thompson *The York Realist*

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

John Bale *Aladdin*

BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION

Steve Duguid *9 to 5*

LEAD PERFORMANCE IN A MUSICAL

Debbie Longley-Brown *Gypsy*

LEAD PERFORMANCE IN A PLAY

Leeann Rana *Educating Rita*

AUDIENCE AWARD

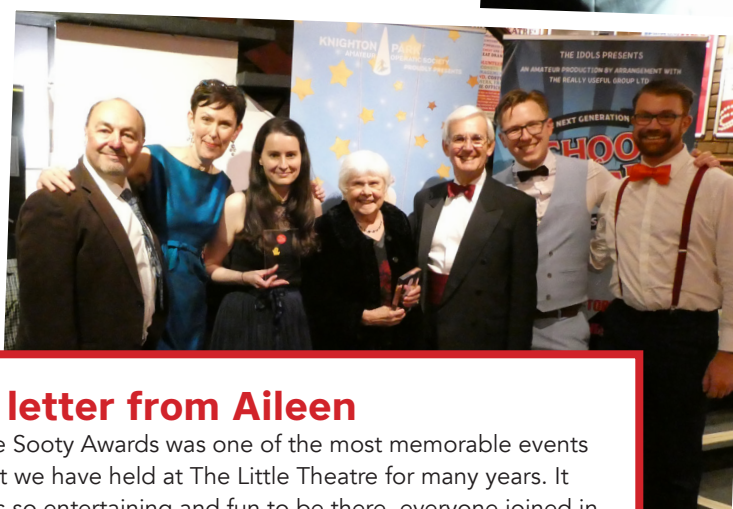
The Shape of Things

BEST MUSICAL/PANTOMIME

Ghost

BEST PLAY

Bedroom Farce



A letter from Aileen

The Sooty Awards was one of the most memorable events that we have held at The Little Theatre for many years. It was so entertaining and fun to be there, everyone joined in by dressing for the occasion, which helped to make it such a sparkly and special evening.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success.

John & Aileen Orme

Recent Productions

Shakespeare in Love

We staged our final play of the season in July with *Shakespeare in Love*, directed by Steven Illidge. The theatrical adaptation of the Oscar-winning film told a fictionalised version of how Shakespeare was inspired to write one of his greatest plays: *Romeo & Juliet*. A delightful romantic comedy to lead into the summer with a pair of beautiful balletic sequences to bookend the play.



"Such an amazing cast and phenomenal performance by all. Well done."



"Fantastic – the set pieces were brilliant. Loved the shipwreck at the end. Great job by everyone."



"Cracking show – so original and clever. Lovely performances. Huge congratulations to all the cast and crew."



"I absolutely loved this. The creative direction, choreography and beautiful harmonies were brilliantly delivered by such a strong cast. The set is fantastic and the whole stage is brought to life by the creative lighting and wonderfully vibrant costumes. It's an excellent production."



"We thoroughly enjoyed this production with amazing acting, especially by Ed Turner (and the dog). The dancing at the end was also brilliant"



"Thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done to everyone, a great production."

Celebratory Centenary Old Time Music Hall

Our final production of the season came from our extended family at Last Word Productions for Celebratory Centenary Old Time Music Hall, directed by Jenny Harding. This tribute to the history of music hall provided a charming evening of singalong audience participation alongside the hilariously sharp compering of Bill Hinds.



"Loved it."



"Not to be missed."



"Thoroughly enjoyed last night's show. Well done all for the singing, dancing, and compering."



"Absolutely amazing. This was a fantastic afternoon still singing the songs well done."

In The Spotlight



Name: Michael King

Profession: Drama Teacher

Upcoming production: *A Murder is Announced* (September 11-16)

Noteworthy: Current leader of the theatre's drama workshops. Played Poirot in last season's *Black Coffee*.

What was the first theatre show you saw?

I'm not sure what the first production I saw was, however I have a recollection of seeing my Uncle Matthew as The Big Bad Wolf in a production of Little Red Riding Hood when I was about five years old. This was somewhere in Melbourne.

What was the first play/musical you were in?

Does the Christmas Pageant during a Church service when I was around six years old count? I was one of the Three Kings, which I thought I got because of my last name. Other than that, it would be as an Elf in a school production of *The Night Before Christmas* when I was around 9 or 10. My family were performing one way or another all around me, so it just felt natural to be involved.

What's your favourite role you've played to date (and why)?

Poirot – this was a challenge as it was as far away from playing myself physically, vocally and mentally as I've had to play before, and he's such an iconic character.

King Finvarra in a musical called *Are There Any at the Bottom of Your Garden* which is about five kids who venture into Fairyland. I've been in around five or six runs of this play and I guess it means so much to me as it was my first ever professional role when I was 16 years old.

What's your dream role that you're yet to play (and why)?

I've never been sure how to answer this question. Something that has a strong character arc along with a good mixture of comedy and tragedy in it.

What's the best theatre show you've ever seen?

Any performance has something to give and enjoy, and with this in mind I don't have a favourite piece of theatre that I've seen. One that stands out I guess is seeing Marcel Marceau at the Melbourne Arts centre back in the early 80s. It was incredible.

What's your favourite thing about The Little Theatre?

It is such a warm, welcoming, and creative environment and community. There are so many opportunities for everyone to become involved in one way or another. It's a pleasure to be involved!

Tell us about your upcoming production!

The upcoming production that I'm in is *A Murder is Announced* by Agatha Christie. It's another classic Christie mystery, complete with a couple of murders of course, interesting characters and the ever-popular Miss Marple. I play Inspector Craddock, a sharp and slightly sarcastic character who at first does not take to Miss Marple's interfering ways. It's a strong cast with many familiar faces and some new, a great story, and on top of all that, directed by John Bale. I'm looking forward to it very much!



At a glance

What's on this season

SEPTEMBER



A Murder is Announced

Sept 11-16

I ♥ Musicals

Sept 23



OCTOBER



Stags and Hens (the Remix)

Oct 2-7

The Innocents

Oct 23-28



NOVEMBER



Fallen Angels

Nov 13-18

Nativity

Nov 21-25



Coming Soon





Visit our website for more information: thelittletheatre.co.uk