

SEPTEMBER 2016

Diary of Events for September & October

Sat 3rd Sep	“Eddie the Eagle” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
Sat 17th Sep	Directing Masterclass (Estelle van Warmelo) 10.00am - 1.00pm
Sat 17th Sep	“Ukulele Man of Ross (Matthew Stead)” Charity Concert 7.30pm
Sun 18th Sep	“Untouchable” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
Sat 24th Sep	Directing Masterclass (Estelle van Warmelo) 10.00am - 1.00pm
Sat 1st Oct	Directing Masterclass (Estelle van Warmelo) 10.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 8th Oct	“Eye in the Sky” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm
Sat 15th & Sun 16th Oct	“Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (Phoenix Youth Theatre) 2.00pm
Mon 17th - Weds 19th Oct	“Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (Phoenix Youth Theatre) 7.00pm
Sat 29th Oct	Performathon 11.00am - 4.00pm & Gala Concert (Phoenix Theatre Singers) 7.30pm
Sun 30th Oct	“The Big Short” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm

(please see the Members calendars for September & October at the end of this Newsletter)

Membership Subscription Renewal

Subscriptions for 2016-2017 are NOW DUE. Would you please complete a renewal form (see back of this Newsletter) and send it to Alison Clarke, our Membership Secretary, at our theatre address. Please ensure that you have ticked all the relevant boxes, particularly with regard to FOH, bar and box office so that we have up-to-date details of your interests. For those paying by **Standing Order**, would you also please complete a renewal form and send it to Alison. Should you wish to start a standing order, a form to do so is also included.

Graham Russell

Production Co-ordinator's Column

The Phoenix Youth Theatre performed “**Stags and Hens**” by Willy Russell from in July. The play was a great success achieving 96% seat occupancy and rave reviews from all. Congratulations to Sarah O’Neill, her cast and crew for an outstanding production. Their next production is “**Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland**”, dramatised by V A Pearn from a story by Lewis Carroll, running from **15th - 19th October**.

At the **Members Evening** on Tuesday 2nd August we were entertained by two one act plays, “Between Mouthfuls” from “Confusions” by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Amanda Smith; and “Can Malone Die?”, written and directed by David Pollard. Both plays were excellent, the first extremely funny with wonderful comic timing, and the second tense and enthralling throughout. There were about 40 members present and afterwards in the foyer everyone was so excited, catching up with old friends and engaging in much self-congratulation and banter. Many comments were heard to the effect that we should hold members evenings more often! Congratulations to Amanda, David and their casts and crews.

Masterclass in Directing for the Stage – by Estelle van Warmelo

We are fortunate in acquiring the skills of Estelle van Warmelo, director at the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford to provide directing classes on three Saturday mornings in September and October. The dates will be **Sat 17th Sep, Sat 24th Sep and Sat 1st Oct from 10am to 1pm**. These classes will be **FREE** to members and all are welcome. Please let Suzanne Hill know if you wish to attend. This is an opportunity for aspiring directors to learn directing skills and for current directors to update their knowledge. This should be an exciting and informative masterclass.

Brian Jackson and Mary Brigg will be directing Gilbert and Sullivan’s “**Ruddigore**” in March 2017. A reading with musical interludes, was held in August and **auditions will be on Tuesday 13th Sep at 7.30 pm** at Christ Church in Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye. The auditions are for the principal roles. Should you wish to audition please contact Mary Brigg for sight of audition songs prior to the auditions. If you wish to be in the chorus, please let Mary know. The production will run for 6 nights from **Mon 27th March to Sat 1st April 2017**.

On **Sat 17th Sep the Ukulele Man of Ross**, Matthew Stead, will be performing at the Phoenix Theatre together with the Ross Uke Troupe. This will be a charity concert in aid of the Evelina Children’s Hospital, who carry out vital living saving work with babies and young children, as well as supporting families who have lost a child. More details to follow.

The annual **Performathon** will take place on **Sat 29th October**. It will run from **11.00am to 4.00pm** and all members and friends are invited to come along and perform in 20 minute slots. Contact Mary Brigg if you wish to perform. The general public and members are invited to watch or take part to raise donations for Children in Need. In the evening there will be a **Gala Concert at 7.30pm with the Phoenix Theatre Singers** and invited soloists. Tickets £10 are available online or from Rossiter Books.

Our November production will be “**A Doll’s House**” by Henrik Ibsen, to be directed by Gordon Brigg. Auditions have been held and the cast comprise David Pollard, Di Hughes, Tim Betts, Ray Smith, Amanda Smith, Diana Tubb and Jacky Bedford. The play will run for 5 nights from Tues 22nd to Sat 26th November.

The Phoenix Theatre Singers Xmas Show will run for 3 nights on **8th - 10th December**.

Suzanne Hill

Review of Stags & Hens

Phoenix Youth Theatre has an enviable reputation for quality productions, much of it due to the dedication and skill of the backstage technical team. This has helped to set the standard for Director Sarah O'Neill's prizewinning company of young actors. And 'Stags and Hens' by Willy Russell (Shirley Valentine; Educating Rita) did not disappoint us.



Ripe with innuendo the comedy is set in the toilets of a seedy nightclub and the set designer and construction team excelled in creating a ladies powder room stage R complete with toilet cubicle and a sink with water (repeated for the men stage L) and between them a central flight of steps in a dingy corridor leading up to the throbbing dance floor. Here the Hen party of Linda (Morgan Harris) and (unknown to her) the Stag night of Dave, her intended (played by Dan Canham) is being held. Thus we know we are in for humorous misunderstandings and some unexpected revelations as the play explores the pre-marital misgivings of Linda with her friends. Bernadette, unhappily married (superb blowsy vulgarity cameo'd by Zoe Hutton) out to get herself a bloke for the evening; Frances (a feisty characterisation by Yasmin Poole); Carol (Daisy Canham in a very mature performance combining

world weariness and innocence) while Maureen, innocent and naïve (in a lovely display of comic timing by Hannah Callen) simply wants everyone to be happy!

The girls' scenes alternated with the stags; young men looking for a pick-up, full of bravado and terrified lest their fragile egos are shattered by rejection. Thus 'Jack-the-lad' Robbie, (beautifully portrayed by Sam Callen) distraught at the mess drunken groom-to-be Dave has deposited on his trousers ('And me best suit too!') only to be turned down by a girl; 'I don't dance with men in suits!' Kav (young Owen Needham-Church) all cocksure arrogance; bullying Eddy (Adam Warner), only interested in the football team he's trying to hold together, and finally insecure Billy (a terrific comic creation by Billy Jones). Into all this appears Peter, a celebrity pop singer with his 'Roadie' - Billy Jones and Sam Callen doubling up to create totally new characters demanding some astoundingly slick costume changes (a huge 'Well done' to Billy and Sam). Amongst all the comings and goings two performances stood out. With not a single line to say newcomer Dan Canham's drunken groom-to-be Dave was totally convincing throughout. And in a particularly poignant scene Morgan Harris gave a spellbinding performance as bride-to-be Linda revealed her unhappiness and fears to Peter, leading to the final denouement when, as her friends pair up with the boys, Linda abandons her drunken fiancée Dave, leaving him unconscious on the toilet floor to run off to an uncertain future with Peter. The capacity audience loved it and at every level 'Stags and Hens' was another triumph for Phoenix Youth Theatre, who tackled the issues raised by Willy Russell's adult comedy in a mature and confident production.



Brian Jackson

Phoenix Youth Theatre News

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

The PYT cast and crew are busy in rehearsal (see below) and enjoying the experience of preparing our show for the audience at The Phoenix. Tickets are now available on our website and we urge you to get your tickets in advance. We are performing two matinee performances and three evening shows and we hope you will come and see it. We have a few surprises in store and hope that the magic of this enchanted story reaches out to you through our vivid and imaginative interpretation of this classic tale. Be prepared to be wowed and transported into the magic world of Alice's wonderland! The play is suitable for all ages from 4 - 94! Please come along if you can....

Tickets £8.50 each, available from the theatre website or Rossiters. The performance dates are:

15th and 16th October matinee show (2pm)

17th, 18th and 19th October evening show (7pm)

Sarah O'Neill



(The cast are shown on the set of Stags & Hens before the set for Alice had been constructed. This is the group in the early stages of rehearsal for the show with costumes and scripts in hand. It will all be very different when you come and see the show but reflects how hard at work we all are - Sarah)

Members Calendar for September

29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Rehearsals for 'Can Malone Die' in auditorium 7:30 pm			Read through of 'A Doll's House' in foyer 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'Eddie the Eagle' 7:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm		Herefordshire Carers in foyer 10:30 am – 12:30 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm		Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Auditions for Ruddigore out of theatre 7:30 pm Rehearsal for Uke Troupe in auditorium 7:30 pm	A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Directing Masterclass in auditorium 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm The Ukelele Man of Ross & the Ross Uke Troupe Concert 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'Untouchable' (French) 7:00 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Herefordshire Carers, Parent Carer's Group in foyer 11:00 am – 1:00 pm The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Phoenix Comittee Meeting in foyer 7:00 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Directing Masterclass in auditorium 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Directing Masterclass in auditorium 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Youth Group	Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Members Calendar for October

26	27	28	29	30	1	2
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Directing Masterclass in auditorium 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Phoenix Youth Group 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Herefordshire Carers in foyer 10:30 am – 12:30 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'Eye in the Sky' 7:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in foyer 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Phoenix Youth Group 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	A Doll's House rehearsal in foyer 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Theatre production 2:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Theatre production 2:00 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Herefordshire Carers, Parent Carer's Group in foyer 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm A Doll's House rehearsal out of theatre 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm	Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm A Doll's House rehearsal out of theatre 7:30 pm	Phoenix Youth Group striking set 9:00 am Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm		A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm		Performaton and Gala Concert in aid of Children in Need 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'The Big Short' 7:00 pm
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Herefordshire Carers in foyer 10:30 am – 12:30 pm A Doll's House rehearsal in auditorium	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm			Phoenix Youth Group - AUDITIONS FOR 2016/2017 SESSION 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

There are three types of membership as set out below. All members receive a bi-monthly Newsletter and also receive concessionary drink prices at the Bar on production nights. Memberships are renewable annually on 1st September. (Subscriptions for new members joining on or after 1st May are not renewable until the September of the following year.)

Please appropriate box New Membership application Renewal Membership

FULL MEMBERSHIP.....£15

This form of membership enables you to fully participate in all activities within the theatre which include: acting, directing, backstage, the Singing Group, Front of House, Cinema and attend Social events. With this membership you have full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). You are also eligible to stand for election to any Committee post at the AGM.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP £10

This form of membership enables you to do Front of House duties, and attend social events. However it carries with it no voting rights or the ability to be involved with productions.

FULL JUNIOR OR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP£10

This membership is open to any persons under the age of 21 or full-time students above that age. You are able to fully participate in all production and social events.

Please fill in your details below and send this form, with the appropriate subscription fee, to the Membership Secretary at the address below. Cheques should be made payable to: **The Phoenix Theatre**

Please indicate whether you would prefer or are currently paying by **standing order**.

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone No:

Date:

E-mail:

I agree to my name, telephone number and e-mail address appearing in the **Members Directory in the Members Only area of the theatre website.**

I agree to my address, telephone number and e-mail address appearing in the **membership database accessible by Committee members only.**

Please tell us what your main interests are by ticking the appropriate boxes:

Acting Directing Stage Management Set Construction Music

Singing Lighting Sound Wardrobe Set Properties Cinema

General Backstage Front of House Bar (serving drinks) Box Office

Membership Secretary
The Phoenix Theatre
St Mary's Street
Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5HT

Tel: 01989 564570
www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk
E-mail: info@phoenix-theatre.org.uk

STANDING ORDER FORM

THE MANAGER _____ BANK

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

PLEASE CREDIT THE ACCOUNT OF THE PHOENIX THEATRE AT LLOYDS BANK

SORT CODE 30-94-14 ACCOUNT NO 02231108

WITH THE SUM OF £ _____ ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016 AND EVERY YEAR
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MY NAME _____

MY ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

MY SORT CODE _____

MY ACCOUNT NO _____

SIGNED _____

DATE _____