

SEPTEMBER 2017

Diary of Events for September - October

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Sat 2nd Sep | “La La Land” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm |
| Weds 6th - Sat 9th Sep | “Their Greatest Hits” (Phoenix Theatre Singers) 7.30pm |
| Weds 13th Sep | Rossiter Books “The Music Shop” by Rachel Joyce 7.00pm |
| Sat 16th Sep | “Point Blank” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm |
| Weds 20th Sep | Reading of “Murder in Company” by Phillip King and John Boland 7.30pm |
| Weds 4th Oct | Auditions for “Murder in Company” 7.30pm |
| Sat 7th Oct | “Viceroy’s House” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm |
| Sat 14th - Weds 18th Oct | “Wendy & Peter Pan” (Phoenix Youth Theatre) 2pm & 7pm (see inside for details) |
| Fri 20th Oct | “Patriots Day” (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm |
| Sat 21st Oct | Members’ Evening (Aspects of Betrayal & Almost an Evening) 7.30pm |
| Sat 22nd Oct | Keith James “The Songs of Leonard Cohen” 7.30pm |
| Weds 25th Oct | Rossiter Books “Secret Life of Cows” by Rosamund Young 7.00pm |
| Sat 28th Oct | Performathon 10am - 4pm & Gala Concert (Phoenix Theatre Singers) 7.30pm |
| Sun 29th Oct | BBC Hereford & Worcester Open Recording Sessions |

Membership Subscription Renewal

Subscriptions for 2017-2018 are NOW DUE. Would you please complete a renewal form (see back of this Newsletter) and send it to Jenniffer Wood, 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 Jenniffer. Also please complete a new standing order form to notify your bank of the increase in membership fee to £20. The form is also included with this Newsletter.

Graham Russell

Production Co-ordinator's Column

This year **The Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show**, entitled **'Their Greatest Hits'**, will take place from **Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th September**. **Get your tickets now to avoid disappointment!**

'Arsenic and Old Lace' by Joseph Kesselring will be our November production running from **Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th November**. The play will be directed by David Pollard. The cast comprise Tony Hearn, Gareth Wigg, Suzanne Hill, Jane Bovell, Les Davis, Tim Betts, Zoe Hutton, Tom Lee-Hynes, Nigel Patrick, Sam Callen, Roger Williams, Jacky Bedford, Gordon Brigg and Brian Jackson, with Amanda Smith and Billy Jones as dead bodies!

The **Members' Evening on Friday 4th August**, when Lizzie Nicholson and Renée Field directed rehearsed readings, was a great success. Lizzie directed, 'I Bring You Flowers' by William Lang. Michelle Cooper and Gareth Wigg were the cast members. Renée directed 'Coffee Break' by David Tristram. The cast was Lucy Davies and Veronica Scully. Both plays were extremely well played and well directed. Congratulations to all involved. There is a review by Brian Jackson elsewhere in the Newsletter.

David Pollard's company, Hand to Mouth Theatre, performed **'Billy Liar'** on Saturday 22nd July. The play was a sell-out. Congratulations to David and his company.

'An Evening of Ukulele and Guitar', with Steven Sproat and Matt Stead/Robert Ash on Saturday 12th August, was also a sell-out and well received.

There will be a **Rossiter Books** event on **Weds September 13th** featuring **"The Music Shop"** by the author **Rachel Joyce**. There will be another on **October 25th** by the author, **Rosamond Young**, about her book **'The Secret Life of Cows'**.

There will be a reading of **'Murder in Company'**, by **Phillip King and John Boland**, on **Wednesday 20th September** with **auditions on Wednesday 4th October**. Brian Jackson wishes to direct this play in March 2018.

The Phoenix Youth Theatre will perform **'Wendy and Peter Pan'**, by **Ella Hickson, original author J. M. Barrie** from **14th to 18th October**.

There will be a **Member's Evening** on **Saturday 21st October** when we will hold two rehearsed readings for members. Michelle Cooper will direct **'Aspects of Betrayal'**, by David Pollard and Tom Lee-Hynes will direct **'Almost an Evening'** by Ethan Coen.

Keith James will be returning to the Phoenix Theatre on **22nd October** with **'The Songs of Leonard Cohen'**, and on **17th December** with **'Duende, the Poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca'**.

Our annual **Performathon** will be held on **Saturday 28th October**, followed by a **Gala Concert** in the evening performed by **The Phoenix Theatre Singers** with invited guests.

BBC Hereford and Worcester will be returning to the Phoenix Theatre on **Sunday 29th October** to hold another of their Open Recording Sessions when about 5 local groups will be performing. This is a free event to promote local talent. The recordings will be aired at later dates on BBC Hereford and Worcester.

The Phoenix Theatre Singers Xmas Show will take place on **7th, 8th and 9th December**.

The **Theatre Xmas Party** will take place on **Friday 15th December**.

Suzanne Hill

The Phoenix Theatre Singers

Wow what an incredible year we've had so far, with even more planned for the last part of the year!

In January 2017 Mary Brigg, our Musical Director, teamed up with Director Brian Jackson to produce a stunning piece of Gilbert and Sullivan in their production of **Ruddigore**, which came to stage in March. The show featured incredible performances from both Phoenix Singers and Actors, which was a great triumph. The show played to good audiences and received great feedback from both audience members and NODA.

Then in July they participated in a very special one-off **charity concert** at St Mary's Church with another local choir The Roaring Megs, which raised an impressive £1,500 for local charity St Michael's Hospice. A fantastic result and something that we plan to repeat next year – so watch this space!



Since then the Singers have been getting ready for their annual show, this year entitled '**Their Greatest Hits**'. A concert that will celebrate the greatest hits of some of the world's most iconic music legends. The programme has been put together beautifully by Musical Director Mary Brigg and the show offers a great variety of music, which is sure to delight audiences of all ages. From opera to rock and from Lloyd Webber to Queen, this concert is bound to take you on a trip down memory lane, with beautiful arrangements and harmonies. Mary will be joined by the master of the keys, Mr Richard Watson, with our very own Di Hughes as MC. We're also excited to welcome back Jack Campey and Harry Abbott who will be accompanying us on drums. The concert will be running from **6th - 9th September** and we hope to see you all there.

You'd think that would be enough for one year – but no – we have more on offer! On **28th October**, Mary will be running her annual Performathon from 10am - 4pm, which will be raising money for **Children In Need**. This will be followed by a very special **Gala Concert** in the evening led by the Singers and

featuring guest soloists. Last year we raised over £1000 for the charity and we hope to equal or beat that sum this year, so please do come along and support the event. If you are interested in doing a performance slot in the daytime, then please contact Mary Brigg, who will book you a slot.

At the same time we will be practicing for our annual **Christmas Concert**, which will be performed from **7th - 9th December**. I'm told that Mary has already begun her quest in selecting Christmas sheet music - now that's what I call organised! So as you can see we've been very busy bees and we hope to see you all at the upcoming events.

Michelle Cooper

Members' Evening

The members' evening on 4th August included performances of two one-act plays. Ever mindful of its growing reputation for high quality productions, and with an eye to the future the occasion, it was an opportunity for 'showcasing' new talent. What an evening it was with two contrasting plays. It opened with 'I Bring You Flowers' a gentle comedy to begin until we realised the tragedy behind the pathos as a young mother (Michelle Cooper) is revealed as a mother in denial, grieving for her dead baby, while her husband (Gareth Wigg) struggles to bring her back from her dark world bordering on insanity. Two towering performances most ably directed by newcomer Lizzie Nicholson. Lizzie is already scheduled to bring Shakespeare to the Phoenix with a production of 'Macbeth' in the 2019 season.

The second half of the evening was in complete contrast. 'Coffee Break' was a short comedy of manners directed by Renee Field in which the company's highly talented Lucy Davies, playing a bitterly disillusioned young woman, is inveigled into sharing a table in a trendy coffee shop with an erstwhile friend. Under a barrage of relentless condescension and snobbery, Lucy's quiet authority delivered ripostes with devastating timing. The friend, played by newcomer Veronica Scully in a high camp comedy performance, revealed the shallow aspirations of her gold-digger character in classic style. We look forward to seeing what other 'characters' Veronica has in store in future productions.

All in all, a very entertaining evening was had by the members.

Brian Jackson

Phoenix Youth Theatre News

Wendy and Peter Pan

The Youth Group are full steam ahead now in preparation for the October production of "**Wendy and Peter Pan**". We have chosen to perform this classic but using a modern RSC version of the original play based on the writing of J M Barrie and is adapted by Ella Hickson. This is a wonderful adaptation and we are so excited to be performing this show. It is our most challenging and comprehensive production to date and we are really excited to be trying new things technically and creatively. Tickets are now on sale and we will be doing two matinee performances and three evening shows. Suitable for aged 6years plus only. Ticket prices.... PYT special offer price for this year only! £8.50 per ticket.

October show dates:

Saturday 14th

matinee 2pm (doors 1.30pm)

Sunday 15th

matinee 2pm (doors 1.30pm)

Monday 16th

evening 7pm (doors 6.30pm)

Tuesday 17th

evening 7pm (doors 6.30pm)

Wednesday 18th

evening 7pm (doors 6.30pm)



Other PYT News

We wish **Katie Potheary** well as she leaves us to take her place at university in Falmouth to do interior design this September. Thank you for joining our group and for all you have done.

We wish **Ben Butler** the best of luck as he takes up his place at The Drama Centre London from September onwards.... so pleased and proud of our boy!!! Well... man now!!

We wish **Rosie Williams** the best of luck as she takes up her place at East 15 School of Acting on a one year acting course.

Zoe Hutton is back with us full time now at PYT and will be directing her own production alongside me next October 2018. We are very pleased to have her back with us and she is such an asset to the group.

2018 and beyond

PYT will be entering the One Act Play festival with an entry that will be directed by Zoe Hutton and Sam Callen.

The group will perform its annual showcase in March with 3-4 small pieces directed by Julie Church, myself, Sam Callen and Zoe Hutton.

Our main shows for October will be a new way forward for us. We have decided, that to accommodate the ever growing size and talents of our group, we will perform two shows in October 2018. I will direct "The Railway Children" by Mike Kenny and Zoe will direct "Goodnight Mr Tom" by David Wood. Both "plays will be performed on the same evening. Two plays for the price of one!

PYT auditions for 2017/18 season are **Sunday 5th November 2-5pm** at the theatre. See our youth page on the website for more details about the audition process for this group new members welcome.

Alternatively, we have weekly classes available for all ages 5-18 plus years with The Drama Company . Check out our website for details of mid week and NEW Saturday classes. www.dramacompany.co.uk

Sarah O'Neill

Big Amateur Weekend

The RSC is holding workshops at The Other Place on the weekend of 14th & 15th October. The workshops will focus on their approach to performing Shakespeare as well as looking at a wide range of performing techniques suitable for other texts. The cost is £220 to include a ticket to see Coriolanus.

For more information, please e-mail: davidandalexpollard@gmail.com

David Pollard

Members Calendar for September 2017

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| The Drama Company, setting up for workshop in auditorium 11:00 am - 2:00 pm | The Drama Company, workshop, A Play in 5 Days 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | The Drama Company workshop, A Play in 5 Days 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | The Drama Company workshop, A Play in 5 Days 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | The Drama Company workshop, A Play in 5 Days 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | The Drama Company, performance of A Play in 5 Days to parents in auditorium 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Screen at the Phoenix - LaLaLand 7:00 pm | PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers dress rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm Phoenix Committee Meeting 7:00 pm | The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm Read through of Aspects of Betrayal 7:30 pm | Rossiter Books Event - Rachel Joyce 7:00 pm | Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | The Drama Company, in auditorium 9:00 am - 2:00 pm PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Screen at the Phoenix - Point Blank (French) 7:00 pm | PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Reading of 'Murder in Company' by Phillip King and John Boland in foyer 7:30 pm | Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | The Drama Company, in auditorium 9:00 am - 2:00 pm PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm | PYT in auditorium 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |
| The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | The Drama Company, in auditorium 9:00 am - 2:00 pm PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm | PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| September 2017 | | | | | | |

Members Calendar for October 2017

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| 25 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | 26 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | 27 Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 28 Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | 29 Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT Tech/Set 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 30 The Drama Company, in auditorium 9:00 am - 2:00 pm PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm | 1 PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 2 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 3 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm PYT in auditorium all cast 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | 4 Auditions for 'Murder in Company' in auditorium 7:30 pm | 5 Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | 6 Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT tech 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 7 PYT in auditorium 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Screen at the Phoenix - Viceroy's House 7:00 pm | 8 PYT in auditorium 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 9 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 10 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm PYT in auditorium all cast 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | 11 Rigging flying equipment for Wendy and Peter Pan 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 12 Rigging for Wendy and Peter Pan 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers in foyer 7:30 pm | 13 Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am PYT production dress rehearsal 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | 14 Phoenix Youth Theatre production 2:00 pm | 15 Phoenix Youth Theatre production 2:00 pm |
| 16 Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal - out of theatre 7:30 pm | 17 Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm | 18 Phoenix Youth Theatre production 7:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal - out of theatre 7:30 pm | 19 PYT production - striking the set 9:00 am Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | 20 Screen at the Phoenix - Patriots Day 7:00 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal - in rehearsal room 7:30 pm | 21 Members Evening - Rehearsed reading of 'Aspects of Betrayal' by David Pollard 7:30 pm | 22 Keith James performs the Songs of Leonard Cohen 7:30 pm |
| 23 Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 24 Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 25 Rossiter Books Event - Rosamund Young, The Secret Life of Cows 7:00 pm | 26 Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | 27 Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 28 Performathon in aid of Children in Need 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Gala Concert in aid of Children in Need 7:30 pm | 29 BBC H & W Open Recording Session 2:00 pm |
| 30 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 31 The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm | 1 Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 2 Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm | 3 Zoe Hutton, Story Makers 9:45 am - 11:15 am Arsenic and Old Lace rehearsal 7:30 pm | 4 The Drama Company, in auditorium 9:00 am - 2:00 pm | 5 PYT Group Auditions 2017/2018 season 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm |

October 2017

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY
Reg. Charity No: 508668

There are two types of membership as set out below. 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 ✓ the appropriate box: New Membership Application Renewal of Membership

FULL MEMBERSHIP £20

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.

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 productions and attend social events.

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

Name:

Address:

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Telephone:

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 interests are by ✓ the appropriate boxes:

- Acting Directing Stage Management Set Construction Set painting
 Sound Lighting Wardrobe Props Cinema Singing General Backstage
 Front of House Bar (serving drinks) Box Office

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

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

Date:

Signed:

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 £20.00 ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2017 AND EVERY YEAR
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

MY NAME _____

MY ADDRESS

POST CODE _____

MY SORT CODE _____

MY ACCOUNT NO _____

SIGNED _____

DATE _____