

SEPTEMBER 2021

Latest News

We are pleased to announce that the Phoenix Theatre will be reopening this month!

The first show will be Our Star Theatre Company's production of "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" by James Barry. The show dates are **Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th September at 7.30pm**. (Further details below).

Covid Practices

After careful consideration by the committee, to ensure the the well-being of our audiences we will be implementing the following practices:

- Encouraging our audiences to use face masks and hand sanitisers.
- The front row of seats are not to be made available to minimise interaction with the cast on stage.
- An enhanced air extraction system has been installed in the auditorium and the front doors to the foyer will remain open.
- Between performances the theatre will be thoroughly sanitised including using a smoke system in the auditorium.
- Our Front of House team, backstage crew and all performers will either be fully vaccinated or have carried out a recent lateral flow test.
- The cast of "Our Star Theatre Company" will be both fully vaccinated and recently tested.
- The bar will be open to serve drinks only at the interval to minimise congestion in the foyer (with drinks pre-ordered on arrival at the theatre).
- Contactless payment will be available in addition to cash.
- We have a theatre QR code for registering on the NHS app on entry to the theatre.

Youth Group

On Saturday 18th September, the Youth Group will restart under the direction of Rebecca Cook from the Courtyard Theatre (see below for more details).

Phoenix Singers

The Singers are planning a concert for Saturday 2nd October.

Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are due for renewal this month. A renewal form is to be found below.

Graham Russell (Newsletter Editor)

Production Co-ordinator's Column

Future events in chronological order are:

[Our Star Theatre Company's production of 'Sherlock's Excellent Adventure' by James Barry](#)

This will be our first event when the theatre re-opens and will take place from 16th to 18th September. Tickets are on sale now!

[Phoenix Youth Theatre](#)

The Youth Group will restart on Saturday 18th September with a new facilitator from the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford. Sessions will run from 10 to 11.30 am in term time.

[Phoenix Theatre Singers](#)

The Phoenix Theatre Singers are planning a concert on Saturday 2nd October in aid of the Friends of the Ross Cottage Hospital. Rehearsals to begin on 2nd September. Contact Mary Brigg for more information.

[Abelard and Heloise' by Ronald Millar](#)

Brian Jackson would like to direct this play in March 2022. It is a love story set in 1131 in France. A reading was held at the theatre on Tuesday 20th July. **Auditions will be held on Wednesday 20th October. DO COME ALONG!**

[Screen at the Phoenix](#)

It is our intention to restart the cinema in October

['The Ladykillers' by Graham Linehan](#)

Our next in-house production will be 'The Ladykillers' by Graham Linehan directed by Tom Lee-Hynes. The set remains in place and the cast and crew are keen to get back to perform to our audiences. It will run from 20th to 27th November. **Rehearsals to start on Friday 3rd September.**

[Phoenix Theatre Singers Xmas Show 2021](#)

This annual show will run from 2nd to 4th December.

[Our Star Theatre Company's production of 'Dick Whittington'](#)

Ben Mowbray's talented company bring their pantomime 'Dick Whittington' to the Phoenix from Wednesday 5th January 2022 for 11 performances through to Saturday 15th January.

[Wilton Bridge Petanque Club](#)

The Wilton Bridge Petanque Club have hired the theatre for a concert on Saturday 4th February 2022.

['The Weekend' by Michael Palin](#)

Directed by Renee Field, this comedy will be our May production in 2022.

[Venice Revisited](#)

This musical will now take place in November 2022. More information when available.

Suzanne Hill

Sherlock's Excellent Adventure

Our Star Theatre Company Presents

Our Star Theatre Company

SHERLOCK'S
EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

A New Comedy by James Barry
Inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Sherlock Holmes'



16th - 18th September at 7:30pm

THE PHOENIX
THEATRE

Tickets £12 (Students £10)
BOX OFFICE: phoenix-theatre.org.uk | 01989 564464
in person from Rossiter Books, 7 High Street, Ross-on-Wye

A comedy by James Barry and performed by Our Star Theatre Company, the show runs from Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th September.

Synopsis:
Follow Sherlock Holmes and his incomparable sidekick Dr John Watson on this riveting, hitherto unpublished case ...

Damsel in distress Lucy Matravers engages Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth Holmes and his partner Watson to resolve a dispute over a family will. Little do they know that this small case brings Holmes straight into the clutches of his arch enemy, James Moriarty!

This hilarious spoof is taken on by four actors, minimal furnishings and a ton of jolly-good fun!

*** The Reviews Hub (Brighton Fringe 2021)
"Like a modern day Flanders and Swann".

Tickets can be booked at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the phoenix theatre> or from Rossiter Books.

Abelard and Heloise

Following a reading of the play on 20th July, auditions will be held on Friday 20th October. A synopsis of the play follows.

France – the early 12th C. High chivalry and the age of Troubadours. The great cathedral of Notre Dame is under construction in Paris, the first Crusade is in full swing. The throne of England is occupied by Henry 1st, youngest of The Conqueror's sons and the leading intellectual in Europe is Peter Abelard, cleric,

philosopher and principal of the Paris schools. Lionised by his students, Peter is held to be a future candidate for the papacy. When a friend and admirer, Canon Fulbert offers free accommodation for Peter and his servant in return for lessons for his niece, Peter demurs but his friend is insistent. The girl has a brain and intellect, (Perhaps Canon Fulbert also seeks some personal advantage for himself). Peter agrees and Heloise is introduced. At first Peter ignores her (she is twenty years his junior, he is too busy) but slowly he realises that Heloise is all her uncle claimed. And so the lessons begin. Peter's respect for Heloise increases alongside her admiration for him until the latent passion growing between them is irresistible and they become lovers. Peter begs Heloise to marry him but she refuses; a cleric with a mistress can be understood, but a wife? – that would end Peter's career. So intense is their public infatuation that Peter's students begin to lose their respect and Fulbert is outraged. He plans to teach Peter a lesson – but how? Peter's servant is vainly pursuing a local 'tart' Belle Alys but can't afford her and accepts Fulbert's bribe to leave the gate to Peter's quarters unlocked. Now Fulbert's ruffians carry Peter off and carry out a dreadful assault on him, leaving him castrated. But now is revealed the profound depth of Abelard and Heloise's love for each other, revealed in their surviving letters. When Peter dies Heloise survives him by some years as Abbess of a priory and there the play draws toward its close. But so profound is their story that in the early 19th C their bodies were disinterred and reburied together in Paris beneath an inscription "Abelard and Heloise Forever".

Brian Jackson

COURTYARD
YOUTH THEATRE
ROSS-ON-WYE

THE Phoenix
THEATRE

The Phoenix Youth Theatre

Saturdays (term time only) 10am - 11.30am | Ages 8 - 11 | £39 a term

The Courtyard is excited to announce that The Phoenix Youth Theatre will be returning to The Phoenix Theatre in Ross-on-Wye!

Sessions take place during term time and focus on theatre, fun and performing.

Each term a different area of theatre and performance will be explored, to build confidence, team work and acting skills.

For more information or to download a registration form visit courtyard.org.uk/youth-theatre or email takepart@courtyard.org.uk or call 01432 346526.

Bursaries are available.

The sessions at the Phoenix Theatre are run by Rebecca Cook from the Courtyard Theatre.

To book a FREE taster session, please contact:

01432 346526 or e-mail:
takepart@courtyard.org.uk

To contact Rebecca directly, e-mail:
rebecca.cook@courtyard.org.uk

BOX OFFICE **01432 340555**

courtyard.org.uk

In partnership with
Herefordshire
Council

Supported financially by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Off Centre Theatre back at the Savoy!

Off Centre Theatre
Registered Charity 1112602

WAITING FOR GOD

**Based on the
BBC TV comedy**

Thurs 9th - Sat 11th Sept at 7.30pm
at The Savoy Theatre Monmouth
Tickets £12 - Box office 01600 772467
www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk

The wait to return to the stage for OCT is over, with your local theatre group bringing the hilarious play derived from the BBC television classic comedy, *“Waiting for God”* to Monmouth this September.

This hysterical comedy was written by the prolific Michael Aitkens, who wrote the original series for the BBC which was aired to great acclaim in the 1990s.

Set in a south coast retirement home, the lead characters are the acerbic-witted, and ever complaining Diana, who is joined in the home by the effervescent and somewhat quirky and unpredictable, Tom.

At times chaos rules at the Bayview Retirement Home, as the two of them deal with Harvey, the incompetent care home manager and his ditsy assistant, Jane. They also suffer injury and misfortune put down in equal measure to the aging process and misadventure.

The play is full of incident, as the characters stumble from one drama to the next.

“Waiting for God” is brought to you by the experienced team of director, Jim Newcomb, assisted by Geoffrey Manning.

The show is staged as ever at the Savoy, Monmouth and is to be held over three nights – Thursday 9th through to Saturday 11th September, with performances commencing at 7:30pm

Theatre goers are urged to book early to avoid disappointment as tickets are already selling well!

Go to www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk for ticket information, or ring 01600 772467.

Off Centre Theatre is a Monmouth-based group, which has staged over 120 productions since 1986.

www.offcentretheatre.org.uk or, please contact Tony Summers on 07809 379231

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM 2021/2022
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.

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

I agree to my name, telephone number and e-mail address appearing in the Members Directory in the Members area of the theatre website accessible only by theatre members. This will enable you to look up contact details of other members.

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

(All the details that you enter on this form will be held on a secure database accessible only by the Membership Secretary and Committee Members using a dedicated password.)

Payment options (please tick the relevant box below):

- BACS Sort Code: 30-94-14 & Account No: 02231108** (preferred payment option)
- Cheque payable to “The Phoenix Theatre”**
- Standing Order** (if you already pay by standing order)
- New Standing Order** (see form below)

Please send this form, and cheque (if paying by cheque) to:

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

Tel: 01989 769425 E-mail: Catrionapearson@aol.com

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 2021 and every year until further notice

My name _____

My address _____

Post Code _____

My Sort Code _____

My Account No _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £20.00 and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity - The Phoenix Theatre – HMRC Charity ref no ZD08151

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____

First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____

Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.