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**TUESDAY 13TH—SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022, 7:45PM**



**JAMES BOURNER—Greg**



**GEORGINA STONE-Ginny**



**CAROLE ALLEN—Sheila**



**PETER COURT—Phillip**

## COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

The start of the 2022-2023 BLT programme has proved very disappointing. Our first main production was planned to be the comedy classic HABEAS CORPUS, and the first Studio production in October was to have been THE GOD OF CARNAGE - we were not able to fully cast either! It seems so many of our actors are in productions with other groups they were unable to take on parts in ours. We are not the only group that has had to cancel/ amend their plans for similar reasons.

Apologies to those of you who were looking forward to our now cancelled productions. Instead of Habeas Corpus, we have been able to cast the hilarious "RELATIVELY SPEAKING," also by Alan Ayckbourn—we urge you all to come and see this excellent production and support our Theatre.

We would like to thank those vital 'behind the scenes' volunteers who have been busy during our Summer recess. Without them, we would not be able to open our Theatre for the new season. See details on Page 5.

On the bright side, John Billington and Lindsay Jones are offering Adult Acting Workshops on Saturday mornings beginning 10th September for eight weeks (see Page 5. for details) and for details of read through and auditions for our fabulous Christmas play (A CHRISTMAS CAROL) see Page 6.

We look forward to seeing you at our lovely Theatre, either to watch or take part in one of our events, soon.

Best wishes, BLTC Committee

## ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

**Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is:**

**BLT Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG**

**Tickets £12.00 (with concessions) Members £6.00**

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at [www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) (*booking fees apply*)
- ◆ **WRITE** enclosing cheque (payable to BLTC) and SAE to BLTC Box Office (*address above*)

Tickets will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form, cheque and SAE. Where an SAE is not enclosed, tickets will be retained to be collected at the theatre on the night of the performance.

It is really easy to book online and, of course, so convenient. Whenever you decide you want to book tickets for a show—whatever the day and whatever the time—you can go ahead.

But—and there's always a but, isn't there? - it is also, sadly, easy to make mistakes.

By making your booking too quickly, it is easy to book on the wrong day—or even to book for the wrong show! So.....a word to the wise...

**CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN** at every stage of your booking that it exactly fits your requirements, and save all the hassle of making changes.

Of course, if you are not entirely happy with the on-line process you can always use the postal option detailed above in the second bullet point.

**A FINAL PLEA: If you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend, please let the Box Office know as soon as possible.**

**Thank you**

# Next MAIN Production – ‘Relatively Speaking’ By Alan Ayckbourn

## John Willmott - Director

John has been involved with local theatre for over 50 years, having acted and directed with CHADS in Seventies and co-founded Roundabout Theatre, a touring Company, in the Eighties.

You will usually find him in the lighting booth, having designed and operated the lighting & sound for several recent BLTC plays.

John has directed a wide range of plays in the past including entries in the All England Drama Festival.

He last directed the very successful 'The Kitchen Sink' for BLTC in June this year, and had hoped to return with Habeas Corpus by Alan Bennett. As he was unable to cast it, he did a re-think, and came up with the hilarious 'Relatively Speaking' by Alan Ayckbourn.

With rehearsals well underway and the Creative Team working on the set, we are all looking forward to staging and seeing a fun packed play to start the season.



## ABOUT THE PLAY:

Greg only met Ginny a month ago but he knows they're meant for each other. When she announces that she's going to visit her parents, Greg decides this is the moment to ask her father for his daughter's hand in marriage. Discovering a scribbled address, he follows her to Buckinghamshire where he finds Philip and Sheila enjoying a peaceful Sunday morning breakfast in the garden but the problem is – they're not Ginny's parents!

This fast-paced play made Alan Ayckbourn's name in 1967 and is an enduringly hilarious comedy of mistaken identities and excruciating misunderstandings.

It is a very well-constructed plot, plus a slightly dark streak, with a sting in the tail to keep everyone guessing !



# COMING SOON

## The Extraordinary Theatre Company, in association with Brownsea Open Air Theatre (BOAT), are proud to present William Shakespeare's masterpiece, KING LEAR.

Widely considered one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, King Lear is the timeless and searing story of an aging monarch, a kingdom divided and a family in turmoil.

Lear's decision to divide his kingdom among his three daughters ignites a storm of greed and betrayal. Displaced as king and cast out as patriarch, the declining Lear discovers the fragility of familial bonds and his own pride as he descends deeper and deeper into madness.

Shakespeare's sublime poetry infuses this towering tragedy; a classic tale of family, love, loss and mortality.

*A number of BLTC members are involved with this production—Come and see them*  
**25th-29th October at BLT.**

Tickets on sale: [bournemouthlitletheatre.co.uk](http://bournemouthlitletheatre.co.uk)



### *A Sad Good-bye to an Old Friend.*

**JUNE LORD (Smith)**  
**1942 - 2022**



We are very sad to report the death on May 1st of one of our most loyal and long-standing Club members. Joining in the late 1950's, June appeared regularly on the Palace Court Theatre stage in a variety of roles. When we moved to Jameson Road, she continued her interest and her husband, Eddie, acted small parts and also directed.

June had an extraordinary memory and, presented with photographs, she was frequently able to identify the relevant play title, date of performance, and all the names associated with it. Despite her own increasingly serious health problems, losing her husband and both of her adored cats, she was able to assist Eileen Rawlings with casting the BLTC Centenary play. She also came with her daughter, Julie, to the Palace Court Theatre Revisited and supplied the best anecdote of the day: having her bra accidentally set on fire during a performance of "Salad Days"! We shall miss her.

# ACTING WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

Do you want to perform on BLT's stage?

Do you want to develop your acting skills ?

Are you frustrated because you 're never cast in anything despite attending auditions or even been to shy to audition, despite really wanting to? Do not despair!

John Billington and Lindsay Jones (both highly experienced Drama teachers, performers and directors) are offering a series of Acting Workshops especially for you at Bournemouth Little Theatre. These will give you a valuable opportunity to hone your performance skills in a real theatre.

The workshop sessions will be held over an eight week period, every Saturday morning from 10.30 - 12.30 for 8 weeks, starting 10th September 2022. The course will cover basic acting skills, including physical and vocal work, creating a character and deconstructing a text. We hope you will be able to show-off your newly-acquired skills in a special **Showcase Evening**, in which workshop attendees will perform a variety of monologues, duologues, sketches etc on the stage at Bournemouth Little Theatre in front of a paying audience!. The last few workshops will take the form of rehearsals for this special event.

Costs are a very low £6 per session or £40 in advance for the full course.

Places are very limited so, if you are interested please contact **Gwen** on **07825 064731** or email **Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com**

Places will be reserved on a first-come-first-booked basis.

A special thanks to Alastair Griffith, Glan Noye and Peter Fairbank who spent many days this summer PAT testing all of BLTC's electrical equipment, and taking down and cleaning, testing and re-hanging our Theatre lights. They then joined our merry band of volunteers (15 in all) on our "clear out" day on 13th August sorting the Theatre's excess baggage of old flats, wood and broken furniture, and filling a 6 yard skip to the brim. Grateful thanks to you all - Byron (whose fit-bit logged over 51 trips up and down the stairs carrying huge loads!), Anthea, Adele, Les, John B, Chris, Eileen, Adam, Mo, Caroline, Lindsay and Gwen.



## AUDITION NOTICE

**ACTORS**, it is time to start the fun wind up to Christmas by getting involved with an all-time, feel-good, Yuletide classic.

### **'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens**

Adapted and Directed by Lindsay Jones

**Read through Friday, 9th September 2022 at 7:30pm,**

**Audition Sunday, 11th September 2022 at 7:30pm**

**at Bournemouth Little Theatre, 11 Jameson Road, BH9 2QD**

*(Auditions are being held early as costumes need to be made.)*

Performances: 13th—17th December 2022, 7:45pm

All are welcome to audition, there is no pre-casting. If you're not a member of Bournemouth Little Theatre Club and are cast, then you must become a member.

This new highly-entertaining, fast-paced adaptation is packed with humour and pathos, includes all the usual favourites : Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Ghosts, Tiny Tim, etc., as well as some new characters blended into the mix.

It needs actors of a variety of ages and experience to bring it to BLTC's great supporting public.

Come along to the read through and see which characters you would like to audition for.

If you are interested in auditioning, and need more information then please call Lindsay on 01202 083504. or email [Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com)

If you would like to audition but can't make the above dates, please call Lindsay for a separate appointment.

#### **REHEARSALS** –

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Evenings :  
7:30pm to 10pm from mid October.  
(Not everyone is needed every rehearsal)

Technical Rehearsal – Sunday 11th December:  
Dress Rehearsal – Monday 12th December.



# The Kitchen Sink—review



First night (7th June 2022) review by John Newth

Had I been asked, before this evening, what the connection is between a small town on the Yorkshire coast, a clapped-out milk-float and the music of Dolly Parton and Cat Stevens, I wouldn't have had an answer – but now I can tell you that the answer is this five-hander by Tom Wells.

The small town concerned is Withernsea, which at first I thought was entirely fictitious but it's not – I looked it up on Wikipedia during the interval. The clapped-out milk-float belongs to the paterfamilias, Martin (Chaz Davenport), who has been a milkman, “doing milkmanny things” for 30 years, but lately struggles against the competition from Tesco (other supermarkets are available). We learn that, in earlier days, Martin's wife Kath (Amanda Hyatt) also worked the milk-round but these days she supplements Martin's meagre income by cooking school dinners and working as a crossing-patrol operative. Daughter Sophie (Georgina Stone) now works the milk-round with Martin but aspires to a career as a Jiu-Jitsu sensei (teacher). The family is completed by Billy (James Bourner), an aspiring art student, inspired by the life and music of Dolly Parton. The fifth role is Sophie's would-be boyfriend, Pete (William Lent), a plumber who struggles to maintain the family's kitchen sink (and there we all were thinking that the title of the play was just a dramatic term), which the family can't afford to replace, in spite of Kath's pathetic jam-jar of 20p pieces.

The set is the family kitchen, in which all the action takes place. Water spurts out of the sink (especially when Kath hits it with a hammer) and smoke comes out of the oven and sets the smoke alarm off when she burns the cakes – how many of us have not done that thing where you flap a tea-towel or waft a newspaper at the smoke alarm to shut the #\*&%\$ thing up? There is an exterior door at the rear and a hint at some stairs to other rooms on the left. A window behind the sink gives a glimpse into the outside world, from where we see the characters approaching and leaving. It's all very realistic and familiar – it could be your kitchen, or mine; excellent work by the creative team.

Whatever the truth about the real town and community of Withernsea, the impression given in this play, which dates from 2011, is that it has seen better days. Martin says that he has seen pound shops turn into posh shops and then back into pound shops. The younger members worked at Woolworths, until that closed (it went into administration in 2008). There is nostalgia for the past, along with the realisation that people now buy their milk and yoghurts – even hummus – at Tesco. The prospects for the milkman (or woman) are diminishing. The future, for everyone, seems uncertain but the family sticks together through adolescent angst, career setbacks, a few arguments, lots of humour and the ever-present problems with the kitchen sink and the milk-float. Emotional scenes are counterpointed by the music of Dolly Parton, which manages not to be intrusive as she is evidently part of this family's lives.

There are excellent performances and characterisations by all the cast, and these engender a significant emotional investment by the audience into the future of this family. The words of the old show-business maxim about leaving the audience wanting more is rarely as well achieved (in a straight play anyway) as when we have to leave this family, still in their kitchen in Withernsea, at the end of this show.

## **Membership renewal:**

**A gentle reminder that membership subscriptions are due for the year commencing 1 July 2022. Thanks to those of you who have renewed without this prompt! And to all of you for your continued support—we hope you will enjoy our season's productions and look forward to seeing you at (or in) our productions.**

## **Dates for your diary:**

**Unrehearsed play readings have been scheduled on 30th September 2022, 4th November 2022, 2nd December 2022, 27th January 2023, 24th February 2023, 24th March 2023, 28th April 2023 and 26th May 2023. at 7:30pm These social readings are held in the Green Room/bar, open to all, and were enjoyed so much last season that we were asked to include an additional reading at the end of the season.**

**Come along and get to know us better!**



# Get Involved Get Involved Get Involved



Each season, Bournemouth Little Theatre brings six main productions and three Studio productions to the stage. Each production requires a Director and cast. In addition to this are the unsung heroes, who toil away (lark about) behind the scenes to make these productions possible. We are all volunteers at Bournemouth Little Theatre and if you have any occasional spare time and would like to get involved with a production or two in any of the following capacities, you would be very welcome:

- ◆ Set Construction
- ◆ Set Painting
- ◆ Lighting Design
- ◆ Lighting Operation
- ◆ Sound Design
- ◆ Sound Operation
- ◆ Stage Manager

## YOUR THEATRE



**NEEDS YOU!**

- ◆ Prompt
- ◆ Stage Hands
- ◆ Costumes
- ◆ Props
- ◆ Set dressing
- ◆ Front of House
- ◆ Bar Manager
- ◆ Coffee Shop

**Bournemouth  
Little  
Theatre**

### CONTACT DETAILS:

#### Your Committee Members:

Gwen Jones (*Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/  
Venue Hire*) ..... 07825 064731  
 Lindsay Jones (*Play Selection Committees/Photographer*)01202 083504  
 Mo Hamill (*Properties and Costumes Co-ordinator*)..... 07585 504500  
 Adam Stoddart (*Studio Play Selection Committee,  
Rota organiser*).....0774 9409634  
 Issy Coombs.....  
 Tim Fearon (*Play Selection Committees/Website co-ordinator*)  
 .....07973 198811  
 Caroline Burr (*Main Play Selection Committee/Company Secretary*)  
 .....07905 650952

**Not on the Committee:**  
 Alastair Griffith (*Lighting Design*).....07400 014135  
 Andrew Whyatt (*Main Play Selection Committee*)  
 Rachael de Courcy Beamish (*Studio Play Selection Committee*)  
 Chris Huggill (*Bar Stocks Manager & Bar rota organizer*)07443 626484  
 Sue Hyder (*Box Office*)

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 11 Jameson Road  
 Bournemouth BH9 2QD  
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**Facebook:**  
<http://facebook.com/BLittleTheatre>

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