



CONTENTS

	Page
Committee Corner	2
Box Office Details	2
NEXT PRODUCTION	
The Lying Kind	3
2023-2024 SEASON—notice of our exciting planned productions	4
UNREHEARSED PLAYREADING ..	4
AUDITION NOTICE	
‘The GHOST TRAIN’	5

CONTENTS

	Page
AGM and Social evening	
Notice	6
Summer work—update	6
Stage Lighting upgrade	7
Membership renewal	
Reminder	7
SCENEONE+ review of NEVILLE’S ISLAND (June 23)	8
WHO IS THIS MAN?	9
MEMORIES OF 2022/2023	9
Getting involved & Contact Details	10

COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

Last season was a great success with sell out production nights—an average of over 86% of tickets available being sold for our main plays. In addition, we ended the season in a very hot June with a moving and thought-provoking Studio play 'An Intervention' acted by two very talented actresses.

All of the above involved an incredible amount of work for both members and volunteers—whether on stage, back-stage, set building and painting (we are sure you will agree the sets were fabulous!), manning the bar/coffee shop, undertaking Theatre maintenance—everyone worked very hard to bring the marvellous, memorable, high quality plays to our audiences.

Thank you all.

As the season drew to a close, we were informed by our landlord that the Theatre was to have new windows installed in the auditorium, kitchen and downstairs changing room—obviously this deserved a front page photograph on our Newsletter! More details on this and what has been going on recently are on page 6—read on!

We can't wait to start the 2023/2024 season and thank you all for your support.

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 £14.00 (with concessions) Members £8.00

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at 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, as our booking agent does not make changes and refunds are only given if booking protection is take out with TicketSource, and the reason for cancellation is covered by their insurance.

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.

NEXT PRODUCTION
THE LYING KIND BY ANTHONY NEILSON

Bournemouth
Little
Theatre

24th-28th
October
2023



THE
LYING
KIND

By Anthony Neilson

Director: Rachael de Courcy Beamish

Tickets: BournemouthLittleTheatre.co.uk

11 Jameson Road, Winton, BH9 2QD

**This amateur production of 'The Lying Kind' is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd -**

www.ConcordTheatricals.co.uk

Two policeman have to tell a distinctly odd, elderly couple some terrible news, but what if it's too much for them? An imminent lynching hardly helps in what is (surprisingly!) a hugely entertaining and bizarre black comedy/farce that will have you in stitches.

GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY TO ENSURE YOU GET YOUR PREFERRED SEATS

FUTURE BLTC PLANNED PRODUCTIONS

2023-2024 planned productions (TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW)

Production dates	Play:	To be directed by:	About the plays
24-28 th October 2023	The Lying Kind by Anthony Neilson	Rachel de Courcy Beamish	Two policeman have to tell a distinctly odd, elderly couple some terrible news, but what if it's too much for them? An imminent lynching hardly helps in what is (surprisingly!) a hugely entertaining and bizarre farce that will have you in stitches.
12 th -16 th December 2023	The Ghost Train (Revised version) By Arnold Ridley	Lindsay Jones	In this, classic Christmas spine-tingler, a motley collection of train passengers is stranded for the night in a run-down station on the anniversary of a tragic accident which re-occurs every year to terrify all who witness it...
13-17 th February 2024	The Memory of Water By Shelagh Stephenson	Anne Charbel	In The Memory of Water (winner of the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy), three estranged sisters meet on the eve of their mother's funeral. As the conflicts of the past converge, everyday lies and tensions wittily reveal the particular patterns and strains of family relationships. ' <i>"Stephenson is a mistress of comic anguish"</i> Guardian
9 th -13 th April 2024	Murder Room By Jack Sharkey	Don Cherrett	An hilarious, energetic and terribly British farce packed with vivid characters in which attempts to cover up a murder become progressively more frantic as the one-liners ricochet around!
4 th -8 th June 2024	Plaza Suite By Neil Simon	Caroline Burr	Simon's most popular play traces the travails and relationships of three very different couples occupying the same New York hotel suite at different times. Fast-paced, moving and hilarious.

Unrehearsed –play reading

Our next unrehearsed play reading—the first of the 2023/2024 season, will be on **29th September starting at 7:30.**

In case you haven't been before, this is a relaxed, social event where anyone attending can enjoy reading various parts in a play, or just listen to others doing so.

It is a chance to get to know others who are as interested in theatre as you are ! It is free - drinks and nibbles served - and great fun. Just turn up.

Caroline Burr is hosting the evening in BLT's Green Room/Bar and the play being read is the hilarious 'How the Other Half Loves' by Alan Ayckbourn. The play is known to have secured Ayckbourn's runaway success as a playwright.

Audition Notice

BLT Friday 8th September 2023.

7:30pm - Read Through

Sunday 10th September 2023

6:30pm - Audition

Performances 12th-16th December 2023 7:45pm

As a diverse group of stranded railway passengers wait out the night in a deserted rural station they learn that tonight is the anniversary of a terrible train crash. Every year since, the terrifying ghost train roars through the station driving all who see it insane.

What horrors do the hours ahead hold for them?

'The Ghost Train' is a spine-tingling, festive favourite!



CHARACTERS

Two young married couples – 20's - 30's

One upper-class male twit – 20's- 40's

One eccentric spinster - 50's +

An eccentric Stationmaster (west country accent needed) – 50's +

One young, excitable female psychiatric patient – 20's

One sinister psychiatrist (her doctor) 40's +

One policeman (could double up as Stationmaster)

Auditions are open to all, but if you are cast you must (for insurance purposes) become a member of Bournemouth Little Theatre Club (annual membership £25, which entitles you to a discount on all tickets for Club productions)

If you wish to audition, but cannot attend on 10th September 2023 please email:

bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com so that a mutually convenient date can be arranged .

BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE, 11 JAMESON ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH BH9 2QD

AGM & SOCIAL notice..date for your diary

Our AGM for the year ended 30 June 2023 is being held on SUNDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2023 at 7pm followed by drinks, snacks and time to socialise.

You are invited to join us to hear the results of all of the hard work of our members and volunteers, our future plans and how you can be involved. Please note, anyone is welcome to join us on the evening, but only fully paid up members can vote on any matter arising at the AGM.

An agenda and reminder will be circulated separately in a separate mail shot nearer the date.

SUMMER WORK

Where do we start? A huge amount of work has taken place and has been ongoing since we closed at the end of June:

New windows—many thanks to our landlord, who had new windows installed in the auditorium, kitchen and downstairs dressing room. This allows light and air into the theatre and it looks great—see progress on the front cover.

New auditorium curtains—as we go into print, Adele Smyth, Hilary Guess-England and Mo Hamill are busy cutting and stitching great swathes of curtain material for all of the auditorium windows. Well, it is what you do when you get new windows! We didn't dream that windows and curtains in a theatre could raise such excitement, discussion and interest, but it has—we can't wait to see it all finished!

Electrics and Theatre lights Alastair Griffith and Peter Fairbank have spent huge amounts of time upgrading the electrics system. Our programme of improving our stage lights was kicked off by us receiving a substantial donation for a new lighting desk and several LED stage lights. These have been installed and will be fully operational for our first production of the season. (See more on page 7)

BAR update -Plans are afoot (September/October job!) to decorate the bar and source and fit grills at the front of the bar rather than the boarding we currently struggle with. We will be shouting out (in a mailshot) with dates, if you fancy joining us.

Stage Lighting modernisation

Over recent months BLT has started a programme of work to update our stage lighting to the modern LED equipment now in use in the professional world. This is a very significant capital outlay for the club that is driven by:



- The obsolescence of the lamps for our existing (very old) equipment. Without this update our stage would have become progressively darker as we ran out of lamps.
- The need to reduce our energy use and associated costs – something we are all very aware of.
- The increased flexibility of the modern equipment that enables us to do more with less.

To date we have updated:

- Our control desk to an up-to-date version capable of controlling the modern LED equipment.
- Updated the power distribution arrangements required by the modern equipment.
- Replaced 4 of our oldest lights with modern equivalents, these use only 20% of the power of the old units and are capable of providing any colour required out of the same unit by simple control on the desk.

This is just the start of the changes required, over the coming years there will be a progressive update of all our old equipment to this new technology as funds permit. I anticipate this will open new approaches to how we light our productions that takes advantage of the new capability offered.

If you have operated lighting before or indeed would like to have a go at operating or designing, I will be happy to introduce you to our new equipment. My contact details are on the back of the newsletter, give me a call to arrange a suitable time to show you our new toys.

Alastair Griffith

BLTC MEMBERSHIP

A gentle reminder that BLTC Membership subscriptions are now due for the 2023/2024 season.

Your paid membership entitles you join in all Club activities, to vote on matters at the AGM and to a reduced price tickets for BLTC productions for you, not any of your friends, unless they are also paid up members.



6th June 2023

At first glance at the publicity for this comedy by Tim Firth I didn't think I knew any of his work – but then I realised that his was the brain behind both *Calendar Girls* and *Kinky Boots* (with Geoff Deane). This play is an earlier work dating from 1992, of which (I read) “it has been in almost continuous production since its première”. The script was updated in 2014 with some modern references – mobile ‘phones, for example, scarcely existed in 1992 and *Strictly Come Dancing* certainly didn't.

Cards on the table here. I have never been on a corporate team building weekend – which this play concerns. I have, however, got very wet while hillwalking in the Lake District – including getting all my spare clothes wet, which is why I now always pack them in airtight grip seal bags, much to the amusement of my family. As recently as 2018, I overturned a kayak on Derwentwater and (terminally) drowned my supposedly waterproof ‘phone. So I do have some empathy with these characters.

We are introduced to four middle managers, from a Salford mineral water company, as they arrive lost and marooned, having sunk their boat, on Rampsholme Island in Derwentwater (approx. grid: NY264214). There are immediate recriminations as it transpires that their elected team leader, Neville (David Maxwell), has gone downstream rather than upstream in his cryptic-crossword understanding of simple navigational instructions – which have probably led the other teams to a nice pub and a cosy campsite. Chief amongst the critics is Gordon (Lindsay Jones), while Angus (John Billington) is the one based on me – with clothes packed in waterproof bags and everything bar the kitchen sink in his rucksack. The final member of this four-hander is Roy (Chris Huggill), a keen birder (that's me again) with a troubling health issue in his recent past that has led him towards God (definitely not me).

Think *Last of the Summer Wine* crossed with *Lord of the Flies* – and that is pretty much it for the first half – there are lots of laughs and it all seems to be going well. Suddenly, at the end of Act I, it all takes a dramatic turn; I am reminded of the first *Predator* movie – though none of these guys are action heroes!

Act II continues in this tense, threatening vein – I overhear someone behind me “It gets you gripped, doesn't it?” The fog effect works really well – hanging over the island with the “lookout” tree rising above it. Water and performance stages rarely mix well but Derwentwater laps throughout in a pool on the left and quite a lot of that water ends up on the stage in one way or another. Sound and lighting effects for a boat, aircraft and fireworks also work well – though I am a bit surprised not to hear any bird sounds, especially given Roy's interest.

It is in this second half that the characters and toxic relationships of our 4 hungry and sleep-deprived castaways really emerge. I suspect that we all know people like these and there is pathos and some shocking revelations. Each of these 4 seasoned performers are very good in their rôles but Lindsay Jones works particularly well as Gordon – maintaining the humour amidst his cruel mockery and negativity.

I will let you experience the rest of it yourselves, but this is a remarkably well acted and staged production ... I am really struggling to praise it as much as it deserves – we enjoyed it and tonight's audience loved it. Congratulations to the director, Barbara Evans, and to this excellent cast.

FOUND AT BLTC IN A RECENT CLEAR-OUT

DO YOU KNOW THE GENTLEMAN IN THE PICTURE?

His name is Mr "SPOT" Newton and he was employed by Bournemouth Little Theatre Ltd as General Manager, Palace Court Theatre (BLT's previous "home").

The picture seems to be a high quality drawing, and we would like to donate it to a friend or relative of Mr Newton who may like a memento. Get in touch if you know more -email Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com or contact Lindsay Jones (contact details on page 10).



**MEMORIES OF A
VERY SUCCESSFUL
2022/2023
SEASON**

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:

YOUR THEATRE

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



NEEDS YOU!

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

**Bournemouth
Little
Theatre**

Bournemouth Little Theatre Club
11 Jameson Road
Bournemouth BH9 2QD
www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

Email:
bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com

Facebook:
<http://facebook.com/BLittleTheatre>

Co Reg No: 2639332
Charity Ref: 1019571

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*).....07905 650952
Adele Smyth (*Properties and Costumes*).....07883 095884

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*).....07443 626484
Sue Hyder (*Box Office*)
Hilary Guess-England (*Costumes*).....07718 188203