

'STILL LIFE' by Noel Coward

20th-24th July 2021 at 7:45pm



directed by Patricia Richardson

CAST:

<i>Laura</i>	Tracey Nicholls	<i>Mildred</i>	Mica Sharples
<i>Alec</i>	Richard Cawte	<i>Dolly</i>	Tracie Billington
<i>Myrtle</i>	Beverley Beck		Beardsley
<i>Albert</i>	Lee Tilson	<i>Bill</i>	John Sivewright
<i>Beryl</i>	Bethany Davies	<i>Johnnie</i>	Michael Tong
<i>Stanley</i>	James Bournier	<i>Young Man</i>	Alan Lodge



Committee Corner 2

Box Office Details..... 2

Next Production..... 3

Appeal..... 3

2021-2022 productions..... 4

2021-2022 productions..... 5

Studio productions, benefit concert & membership renewals 6

Obituary 7

Giving support..... 7

Contact Details 8

COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Patrons,

We hope this Newsletter finds you all well after this long disruption to everyone's lives. Hopefully we will be able to get back to "normal" learning to live with the new risks around Covid.

Like most over the past 15 months, the Committee has discovered the joy of Zoom meetings, complemented, when allowed, with face to face meetings to come up with our exciting 2021-2022 programme of productions -details of which are in this Newsletter.

We were only able to stage one play during the 2020-2021 season—a Studio play "Bull" by Mike Bartlett, directed by Tim Fearon. A complete success, even though strict Covid restrictions were in place. Well done, and thank you to the team involved and supporters who attended the sell out production.

Our next production (Still Life) is being staged during an equally uncertain time. We are in Stage 3, but on the cusp of Stage 4, so we may be able to sell additional tickets from the 28 per night allowed under Stage 3. We will release these tickets as soon as we know, and will send out a mailshot if this is the case. Patricia and her cast and crew have worked tirelessly to bring you this beautiful play - one not to miss. We hope to see you at the Theatre during the run.

BLT 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 (*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 Production - STILL LIFE

by Noel Coward

Having been involved in theatre all my life – starting acting at the age of 17 and directing at BLT since 2003, I can hardly remember life when theatre was not playing a large part in my day-to-day activities. So, like so many others, it felt very strange to be without any form of theatre over the long period of lockdown.

With the Covid 19 Crisis giving us so much uncertainty for life in general, and theatre in particular, I was beginning to think that I had come to the end of my theatrical adventures....

However, this was not to be as, after a conversation with one of the BLTC committee regarding the future plans for BLT, I found myself discussing and then directing this re-opening production for the club after the latest lockdown.

Still Life was written, along with ten other one-act plays, by Noel Coward in 1935 under the title of 'Tonight at 8.30pm' and starred Gertrude Lawrence and Noel Coward in the title roles of Laura and Alec. This was a very successful production at the time but it was ten years later that Coward adapted Still Life for the screen and it became the black and white film which has become the all-time classic and much loved 'Brief Encounter'.

It felt to me the perfect piece to reintroduce our audiences to the theatre, being a very gentle, if bittersweet, love story of a time gone by – it has humour, a good story and, written by the master, it seemed to have something for everyone to enjoy.

The process has been somewhat testing, we had to wait until Stage 3 of the UK roadmap before we could arrange a reading of the play and auditions – fortunately there were a number of actors equally starved of theatre, waiting to burst into action once again and we are lucky enough to have, I believe – just the right cast for this piece.

Covid has continued to play its part during the rehearsal period with several contact isolation casualties – but with a very committed team it will take more than this to stop us now.

We have had a very enjoyable rehearsal period working on this special piece and with a great cast and creative team we look forward to bringing the production to the BLT stage from the 20th – 24 July 2021 when we invite you to join us and share the theatrical experience that is Still Life.

PATRICIA RICHARDSON, director



AN APPEAL - for 1990's production photos

As you may be aware, we have been collating photos of productions of BLTC. These for the website, and to decorate the Theatre. There is a decade where there seems to be very few good quality photographs.

If anyone has any we would love a copy (these will be scanned and returned to the owners), please contact Lindsay if you can help (01202 083504)

2021-2022 Productions



7th–11th September 2021

At last....maybe...lockdowns permitting...

This hugely entertaining, long-awaited, many times rescheduled play looks possible....PHEW!!!

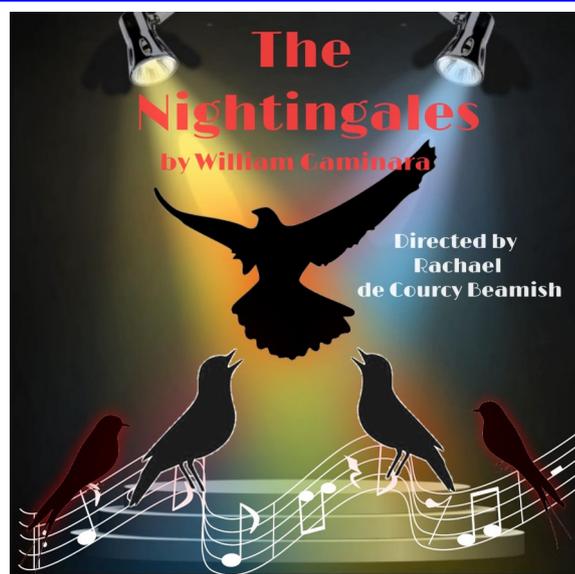
The year is 1669 and theatres have just re-opened after 17 years of Puritan suppression, allowing the first English actresses to appear on stage. This is a fast-paced, modern classic, rich in memorable characters, poignancy and bawdy humour!

26th–30th October 2021

The Nightingales are a group of friends who meet in the village hall once a week to practise their a capella singing.

Maggie, a newcomer to the small village, joins the group, disrupting the harmony. Eventually she urges the group to enter Talentfest (a route to Britain's Got Talent).

As the Talentfest audition approaches though; loyalties are tested, tempers fray, suspicions are raised and secrets may be revealed about some of the members of the group.



14th–18th December 2021

Cheating at snakes and ladders, fighting over comic books, a bungled infidelity beneath the tree, the usual disastrous Christmas Eve lamb, the dreaded annual puppet show and even maybe a murder...

Christmas has arrived in the Bunker household along with family and friends. But as the children lurk just out of sight, it's the adults who are letting the side down.



Tickets for the all of the planned plays are available through Bournemouth Little Theatre Box Office : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/dorset/bournemouth-little-theatre> and on our website

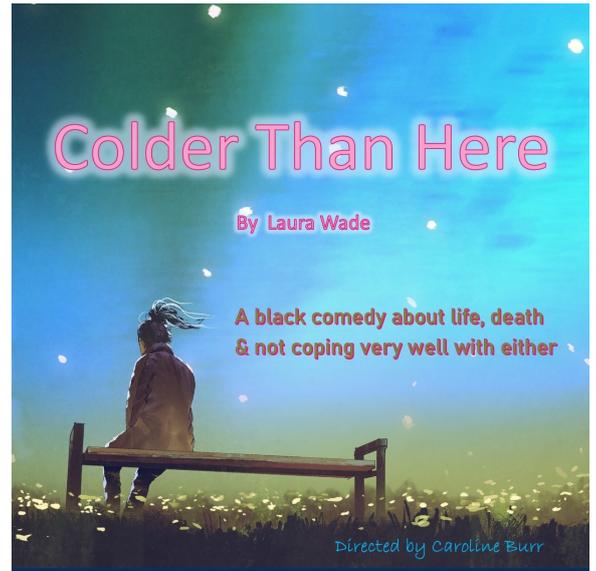
Bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

2021-2022 Productions

15th–19th February 2022

Myra may be dying of cancer, but she's hardly going to let that dampen her spirits. Instead, she decides to face things head on, planning out her own end while trying to mend the relationships between her husband and daughters.

Though a play about cancer, Laura Wade's *Colder Than Here* finds frequent opportunities for joy and laughter.



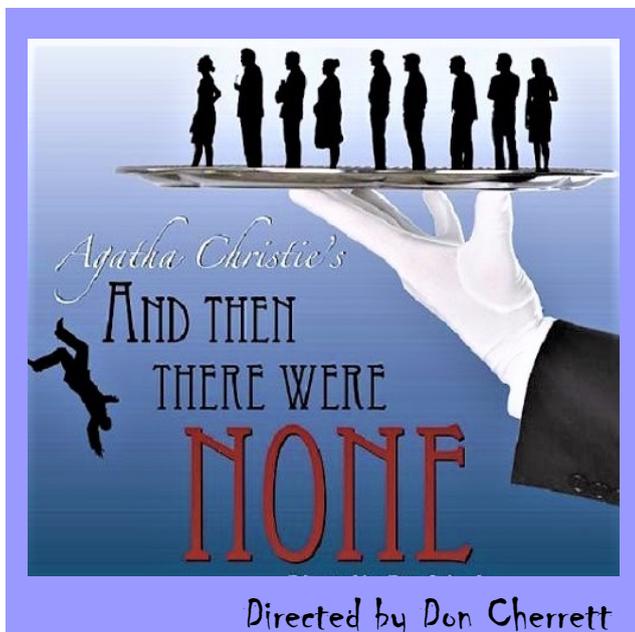
5th–9th April 2022

Ten people dead on a remote island which has not a living soul on it.

It doesn't make sense.

Who did it? Why? How?

This play is Agatha Christie at her best..



7th–11th June 2022

Things aren't going to plan for one family in Withernsea.

Pieces are falling off Martin's milk float as quickly as he's losing customers and something's up with Kath's kitchen sink. Billy is pinning his hopes of a place at art college, whilst Sophie dreams of becoming a Jiu-Jitsu teacher.....

Amid the dreaming, dramas and dirty dishes, something has to give. But will it be Kath or the kitchen sink?

An irresistibly funny and tender play about big dreams and small changes.



2021-2022 STUDIO Productions

26th-29th January 2022 (Pieces of) EIGHT by Ella Hickson – (dir. TF, LJ, RdCB)

Eight was formed around the results of a survey that asked twenty-somethings what defined their generation; Hickson tried to answer their almost unanimous response of 'apathy', with a show that works to find the glimmers of faith amidst wholesale cynicism. Eight looks at the singular, personal effect of an otherwise social phenomenon.

16th-19th March 2022 SPINNING by Dierdre Kinahan (dir. Rachael de Courcy Beamish)

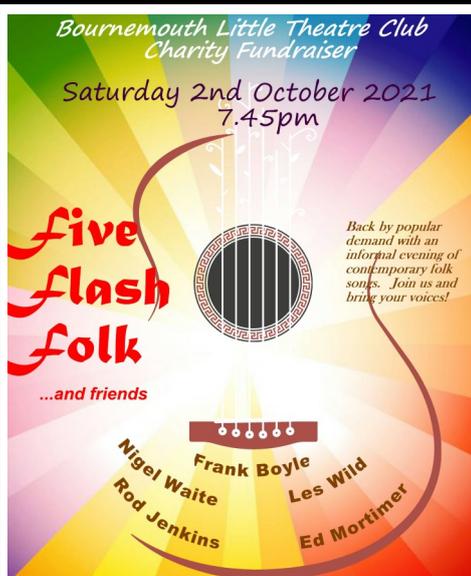
What does it feel like to lose everything? To explain? To forgive? In small town Ireland, father-of-one, Conor, is desperate to hold onto a life that is disintegrating before his eyes. Susan is a mother searching for reason, in the darkness of her teenage daughter's killing. A contemporary tragedy comes to light when they finally meet.

11th-14th May 2022 THE RIVER by Jez Butterworth (dir. Tim Fearon)

On a moonless night in August when the sea trout are ready to run, a man brings his new girlfriend to the remote family cabin where he has come for the fly-fishing since he was a boy. But she's not the only woman he has brought here or indeed the last..

Studio productions are shorter than 'main' productions, were first produced in 21st Century and include a Q&A session after the play.

They enjoy reduced ticket prices of £10 standard (+concessions) and £5 for members.



Five Flash Folk - these popular local musicians have kindly offered another evening of new songs and old, with proceeds from the concert going to BLTC. The last concert these musicians performed at our theatre was a sell-out, and fun was had by all,

resulting in cries of "When are you coming back" from the audience. We are delighted they listened!

Membership Subscriptions - year commencing 1 July 2021.

We urge all readers to support the Club by becoming members and remind existing members to renew their membership for our Centenary Year.

You must be a current year member to take full part club activities and to obtain reduced price tickets for all of the above nine productions.

A membership form can be downloaded from our website www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk. As a Registered Charity we rely entirely on the support of our members.

Keeping Live Theatre

*We say a sad goodbye to a much loved, long term member of BLTC,
John Headford*

John Headford, a very private man who touched the lives of hundreds of people, has died aged 94. Born in Bristol in 1926, John's youth included a grammar school education and national service in the Royal Engineers, a Regiment of which he was very proud. In Bristol he was a member of the Cathedral Players and the Shakespeare Society and he produced the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Colston Hall.

John's university life, studying maths and music, was cruelly cut short by a year in a sanatorium with tuberculosis.

A career in insurance brought him to Bournemouth as Manager of the London and Edinburgh in 1959. He and his new wife, Maureen, joined the Bournemouth Little Theatre Club and took an active part in productions at the Club's own Palace Court Theatre in the centre of Bournemouth. They were also involved in staging Shakespeare's "The Tempest" on Brownsea Island, the precursor of the group now established as the Brownsea Open Air Theatre.

Equally skilled backstage as he was on it, John stage managed for local groups including Poole and Parkstone, Bournemouth and Boscombe Light Opera Company and the Bournemouth Operatic Society. He and Maureen produced the Bournemouth Hospital Pantomimes for many years. Later, John worked with the late Joanne Marston Blackwell on staging the finalists' concerts of the All-England Dance Festival at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London.

John was generous in sharing his abilities. An accomplished pianist, he regularly played for ballet classes at Maureen's Stage Door School of Dancing. He was happy to pass on his expertise and technical knowledge of theatre, and his children, Julie and Stephen, remember hours sitting in the prompt corner taking everything in. Simon Bagnall, Technical Stage Manager for BH Live, says he would not be where he is now without everything he learned from John.

After ten years in insurance, John retrained at King Alfred's College, Winchester to teach maths, and he taught at Winton Boys' School until his retirement. Amazingly, into his nineties, John would drive to Winton and climb the stairs to support his beloved BLTC in their new home in Jameson Road.

A funeral, meticulously planned by John himself, took place at the Bournemouth Crematorium on February 3rd. It was attended by family and friends in the limited number permitted by covid restrictions, and followed on line by others from as far away as Florida.

John will be fondly remembered by his loving family and the hundreds of friends who owed him so much.

John's family, kindly named BLTC as the requested beneficiary of donations made in his memory. We are very grateful for these donations, which have helped us through these strange times.

GIVING SUPPORT

As well as attending or being involved in productions, events and activities, there are many other ways to support Bournemouth Little Theatre.

You could make a donation, leave a legacy, sponsor a production, attend our working parties for set builds and property maintenance, give goods and services or hire our facilities.

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
- ◆ Prompt

YOUR THEATRE



NEEDS YOU!

- ◆ Stage Manager
- ◆ Costume
- ◆ Props
- ◆ Front of House
- ◆ Bar Manager
- ◆ Coffee Shop
- ◆ Theatre maintenance & cleaning

To get involved, either come along to a set strike (the Sunday following each of our productions); to a read through and/or audition; to an unrehearsed play reading; speak to a Committee Member when you visit the theatre or contact us through the website <https://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk/>, by email - bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com or Facebook so we can discuss how you can get involved. No previous experience is necessary.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Your Committee Members:

- Gwen Jones (*Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/ Venue Hire*) 01202 083504
 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*) 0774 9409634
- Issy Coombs.....
- Tim Fearon (*Play Selection Committees/Website co-ordinator*)
07973 198811
- Caroline Burr (*Play Selection Committee/Company Secretary*)
07905 650952

Not on the Committee:

- Alastair Griffith (*Lighting Design*)07400 014135
- Andrew Whyatt (*Play Selection Committee*)
- Chris Huggill (*Bar Stocks Manager & Bar rota organizer*) 07443 626484
- Sue Hyder (*Box Office*)

(Email: bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com)

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