

Issy Coombes
"Meg Bowles"



Noel Davenport
"Petey Bowles"



David Vintner
"Stan Webster"



Alan Dester
"Shamus McCann"



Lindsay Jones
"Nat Goldberg"



Denise King
"Lulu"

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Monday 2nd to Saturday 7 September 2019

COMMITTEE CORNER—end of year roundup

Dear Patrons

As we head into our Centenary year, with a full programme of events and productions planned, we must look back at the season just ended.

We have been thrilled with the high quality of performances in a very diverse set of productions. Many thanks to directors, actors and crews. Though our club (like so many others) sometimes struggles to get 'bums on seats', our audiences are always extremely appreciative and we've enjoyed very positive feedback for all our productions. Press reviews have been similarly enthusiastic.

The Centenary year looks just as exciting, and as Steve O'Neil said in his review of Doubt. A Parable - see page 5- "The only shame about the whole evening was a small theatre only one third full. Come on people, turn off the telly, get off the sofa and go to Bournemouth Little Theatre to see what real theatre is about. If we don't use it, we'll lose it and we will all be poorer for that!"

As always, we really need your support for our own productions and those of our friends who use our theatre!

Several Committee members have decided to step down over the past year, and we would like to thank Lotte, Rachael and Kerry for all of the work they have done for BLT committee over the past years—the Theatre could not have continued to function without them.

Stepping into the breach are Hayley Tucker and Adam Stoddart who have been co-opted onto the Committee. We welcome them both. If anyone else is interested in helping with this vital work, please step forward.

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)
- ◆ **PHONE** to book by calling Sue on her home number **01202 417484** **

**** ONLY between 8.00pm and 9.00pm during the week
Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th August 2019 ****

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.

During the run of the show, enquiries should be made direct to the theatre on **01202 513361** either by leaving a message on the ansaphone or, between 6.00pm and 6.45pm, when the Box Office is open for telephone calls or callers in person.

It is also possible to book tickets for some of the visiting companies. Please check the website for full details.

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 - The Birthday Party

Written by: Harold Pinter

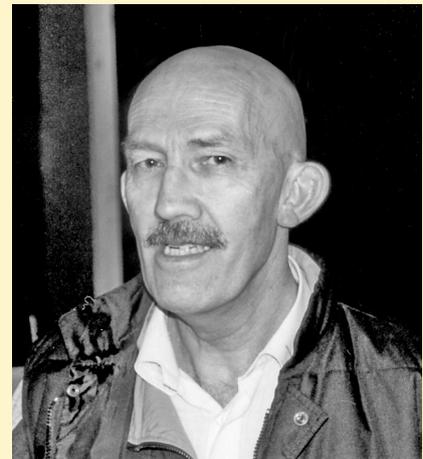
Directed by: Jack Snell

Monday 2nd - Saturday 7th September, 2019 7:45pm

The Birthday Party is where modern post-war theatre can be said to truly begin. It is a sinister, enigmatic and compelling play shot through with dark humour and has fascinated audiences since it was first produced in the late 1950's.

In the setting of a rundown seaside boarding house, a little birthday party is turned into a nightmare by two sinister strangers. The play has been classified as a comedy of menace characterised by Pinteresque elements such as ambiguous identity, confusions of time and place and dark political symbolism.

- Why is Stanley hiding out in a South Coast seaside resort?
- Is it really his birthday?
- Who are Goldberg and McCann and what do they want with Stanley?
- What is 'the organisation'?
- and why has poor Petey never strangled Meg?



Directed by award winning Director, Jack Snell who has reprised the play he successfully directed in 1999 for our Centenary year. A nod to that production sees two of the previous cast (Denise and Noel) in the same roles now as then.

Don't miss this one—book your tickets as soon as you can!

NEWSFLASH



Alan Johnson: In My Life
Friday 20th September 2019

***** CANCELLED *****

Unfortunately, just as we are going to press, we have heard that due to unexpected and unavoidable film commitments, Alan has had to postpone a number of performances on his tour, ours being one of them. We are waiting to see when it is rescheduled and will let you know.

We will be in contact with those who have already bought tickets to discuss refunds.

Visiting company productions

September 2019

Poole & Parkstone Players present "Cheshire Cats"

12-14 September 2019, 7:45pm

Written by: Gail Young

Directed by: Tim Berry

Cheshire Cats follows the antics of a group of friends as they stride across the capital in record time in their decorated bras and posh new trainers, but one of the team doesn't seem to meet the physical criteria!

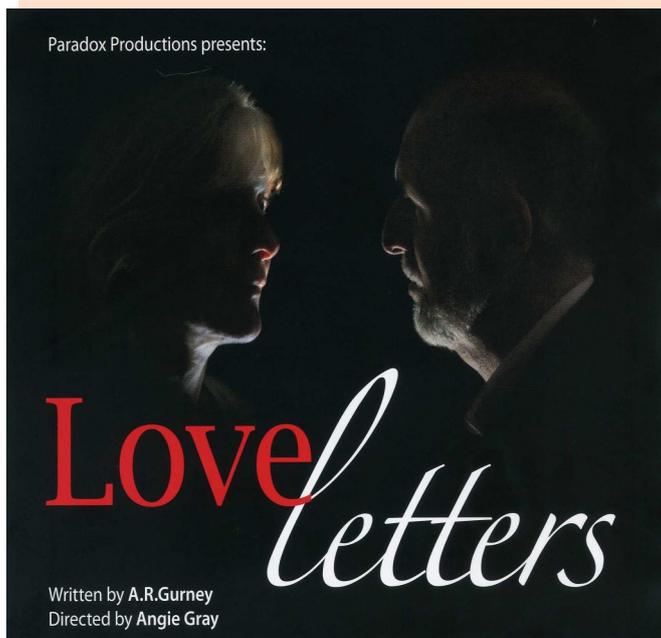
This London Moonwalk adventure is a cross between a girls' night out and a real mission to support a cause so close to many hearts, with plenty of laughs and a few tears along the way.

"A genuinely funny and even touching ensemble piece" "Moving, emotional, poignant, and best of all it makes you laugh..."



Paradox Productions presents "Love Letters" by A.L Gurney
one night only at BLT, Saturday 21 September 2019, 7:45p

Directed by Angie Gray



"Amusing and deeply moving, a unique piece of theatre."

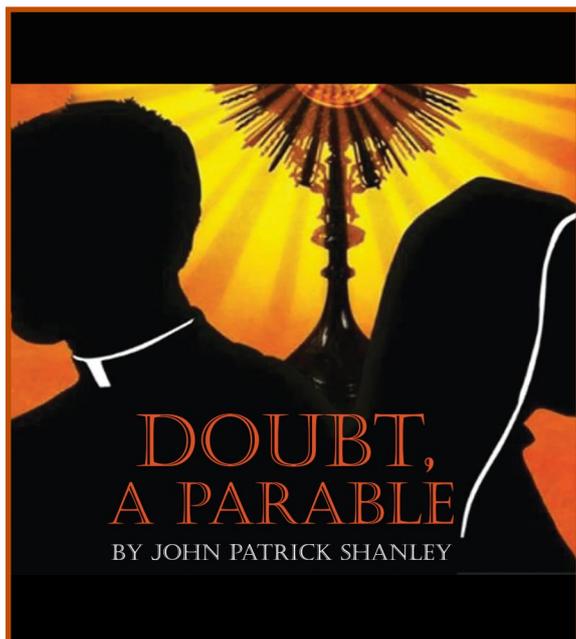
A play about love, friendship, loss and life's challenges.

Sometimes humorous, this a 'one of a kind' performance by very well known and highly talented local actors, Harry Susser and Louise Thomas, who have been cast in many acclaimed productions from here in Dorset to as far afield as London and Edinburgh.

The play first opened in Connecticut in 1988 and was so well received that it has since been performed by such prestigious cast members as Tom Hanks, Sissy Spacek, Charlton Heston and

Tickets for our productions and the visiting company productions above are available through Bournemouth Little Theatre Box Office : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/dorset/bournemouth-little-theatre> and on our website

REVIEWS: *Doubt, A Parable* (Last play of 2018-19 season)



These are the reactions from our opening night audience :

"Gripping", "Really fantastic", "Excellent" "I loved this production from start to finish....it turned out to be for me one of the best I've seen for a long time". "Such a well written play deserves the very best performance and that's just what we got. The cast of four were absolutely outstanding. I would thoroughly recommend going to see it." "Wonderfully strong cast, each of whom was very convincing in their respective roles. A very good set which was well used and contributed to an atmosphere which conveyed the era well. Extremely thought provoking." "A most powerful script acted by a most believable cast. Truly powerful and thought provoking. It will take a long time before I forget the strong emotion that I experienced tonight"

Bournemouth Little Theatre

SCENEONE PLUS REVIEW - DOUBT, A PARABLE—Steve O'Neil: 4 June 2019

It's a real privilege being asked to review plays for Scene One. I get to see plays I wouldn't normally go to see. I'd never heard of this play which seems a little surprising given it's so current and on-topic considering historical child abuse cases perpetrated by clergy back in the '60s. I definitely wouldn't have gone to see *Doubt, A Parable*... ..probably. Which would have been a shame. It's always a marvel BLT can fit any set onto their tiny stage and what they did fit was an excellent, very cleverly conceived set that, with simple light changes, was both the inside and outside of a church and St. Nicholas Catholic School.

Opening music transported us into the church where Father Flynn gave us a beautifully paced parable about doubt. Charlie Ralph portrayed a very gentle, confident, charismatic Father Brendan Flynn but he also brought flashes of mischief, occasional highly suppressed anger and just enough hints of 'something' percolating underneath the character. His was a beautifully judged performance throughout.

Which can also be said for Chrissie Derrington (Sister Aloysius Beauvier) and Marie Bushell (Sister James). The chemistry of the pair was superb. Sister Aloysius a harsh, no-nonsense school principal who is there to do a job; one of which is to protect her children. She has no doubt of her abilities or her method. Her 'project', the young enthusiastic naive teacher nun, Sister James, will be moulded to her image. The relationship and tension between the two is palpable. They were simply brilliant!

It's a hard play to review without giving too much away. It's a very complex play dealing as it does with one person's effectively baseless accusation of child abuse against the priest. The effect of these accusations on an innocent(?) man; the undermining of trust and hope in the younger teacher. It all sounds terribly bleak and yet it is written and directed with such a gentle touch that it is also lightly amusing and very touching at times.

This play has a currency that sadly still resonates today. Who was the victim and who the villain? It had me thinking all the way home.

The only shame about the whole evening was a small theatre only one third full.

Come on people, turn off the telly, get off the sofa and go to Bournemouth Little Theatre to see what real theatre is about. If we don't use it, we'll lose it and we will all be poorer for that!

What have we been doing this summer?

'The Birthday Party' rehearsals are in full swing so don't delay getting your tickets.

We had a fantastic response to read throughs and auditions for both 'Mystery at Greenfingers' and 'Yes, Prime Minister' with so many interested that there was an overflow out of the Green Room into the corridor.

Both plays caused guffaws of laughter during read through, and are now fully cast, ensuring the run to Christmas will be a fun one.

Timon of Athens' auditions also had good numbers showing up at both read through and auditions—more next Newsletter.



Above—photos of read throughs

Alastair Griffith removed, tested and rehung all of the Theatre lights, then tested all electrical appliances in the theatre. A tedious task, but vital.

Thanks Alastair.

Mo Hamill cajoled nine willing volunteers to start repainting of the Theatre corridors. Thankyou all who came to help, notably Rachel our 'masking tape queen', who asked if we needed help with costumes, and spent a whole day painting.

Welcome Rachel...please come back and see us again!

Lindsay spent his time painting the front door, and seemingly himself, a rather fetching shade of blue. No worries now about finding the Theatre!

Three days over...still more to do, so contact Mo or Gwen if you feel like joining us.

Once the painting is finished, the unstoppable Mo is to start organising the Theatre wardrobe (around 16-18th August)—if you would like to lend a hand please contact Mo.

Get Involved Get Involved Get Involved



Each season, Bournemouth Little Theatre brings six 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 six 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
- ◆ Set Dressing

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.

GIVING SUPPORT

As well as attending 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, hire our facilities or take an advertisement in one of our programmes.

Membership Subscriptions year commencing 1 July 2019.

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.

A membership form can be downloaded from our website www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk.

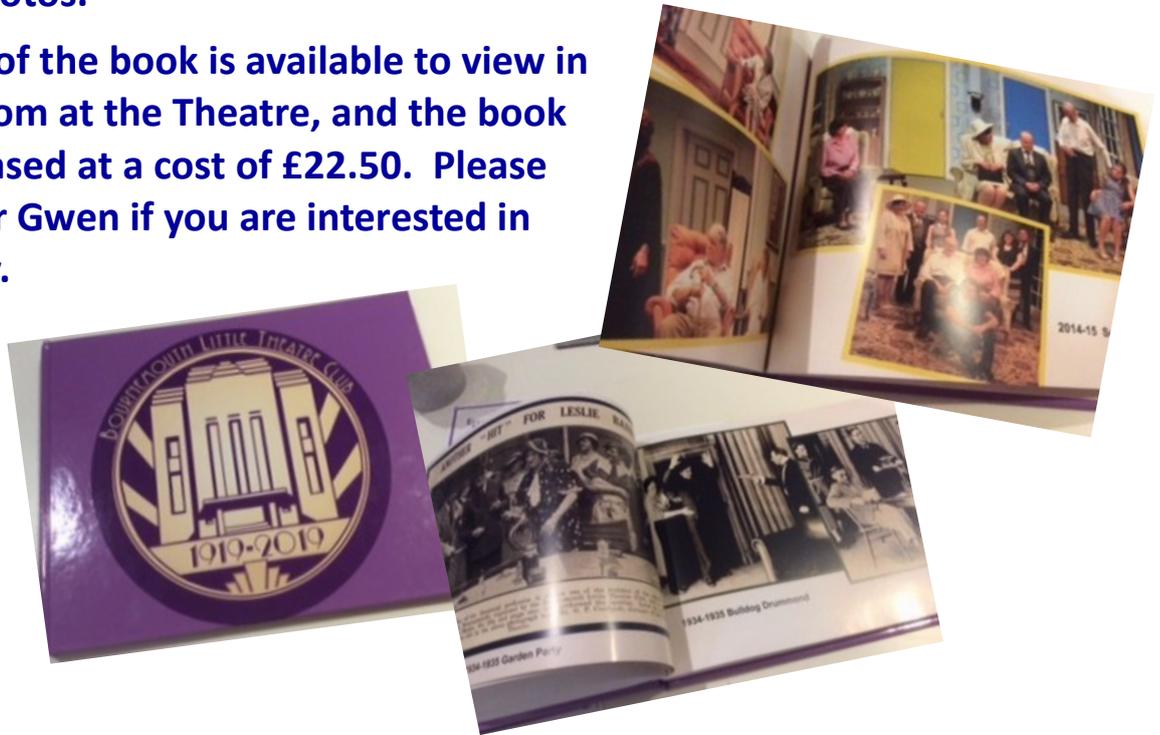
As a Registered Charity we rely entirely on the support of our members.

Keeping Live Theatre Alive!

CENTENARY SEASON 2019/20

In celebration of the Club's Centenary, we have prepared a beautiful, limited edition, 100 page coffee table book, which documents the Club history in words and photos.

A proof copy of the book is available to view in the Green Room at the Theatre, and the book can be purchased at a cost of £22.50. Please contact Mo or Gwen if you are interested in buying a copy.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Your Council Members: (Email: bourne-mouthlittletheatre@gmail.com)

Don Gent (*Centenary Co-ordinator/Programmes/Bar Rota Organiser*)
.....01202 389725
Gwen Jones (*Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/
Venue Hire*)07825 064731
Hayley Tucker (*Marketing, acting Company Secretary*)...07794 646114
Lindsay Jones (*Play Selection Committee/Photographer*)01202 083504
Mo Hamill (*Properties Co-ordinator*).....07585 504500
Adam Stoddart

Not on the Council:

Alastair Griffith (*Lighting Design*).....07400 014135
Andrew Whyatt (*Play Selection Committee*)
Chris Huggill (*Bar Stocks Manager*).....07443 626484
June Garland (*Coffee Shop Rota Organiser*)01202 700516/07867 801348
Lotte Fletcher-Jonk (*Play Selection Committee*).....07905 728333
Sue Hyder (*Box Office/Programmes*)07968 845744

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