



The Manifest Theatre

NEWSLETTER

January 2023

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Hello everyone. As this is our first newsletter of the new year, we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Christmas almost seems a distant memory now but we would like to thank all of you who came, helped, cooked and contributed to the Christmas party last year on the 10th December. You all helped to make the evening a fun and happy one.

Due to everyone's effort we raised £200.

As it proved so popular, we're planning a similar event for this year. So, put the 9th of December 2023 in your diary now – it's never too early to think about Christmas!

OUR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION

Our 2023 season kicks off next month with two great one act plays.

IDNA

By Dennis Kelly

A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that their cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their once fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right.

This play is part of this year's GCSE text.

plus

SHAKERS

By John Godber

The play tells the story of a typical night in a wine bar (aptly named Shakers) as four waitresses; Carol, Adele, Nicky and Mel struggle through their long shift, serving demanding customers who come and go on their nights out.

Performance dates

23rd to 25th February

Tickets, priced at £10 for members and under 16s and £12 for non members (inclusive of £2 Associate Membership for the whole of 2023), are on sale now.

Bookings may be made on our website at manifesttheatre.co.uk, via our dedicated booking line on 07444 724271 (messages may be left at any time) or by post to The Manifest Theatre at the above address.

BOOK SALE

We are still collecting books for our sale, date yet to be confirmed. If you have any saleable books you'd like to donate please bring hand them in to the theatre for the attention of Sarah McCarthy.

PLAY READINGS

Play Readings are continuing with gusto! We got together between Christmas and New Year and read Neville's Island by Tim Firth – a black comedy that had us laughing out loud!!

Future play readings dates are as follows:

Thursday 26th January, 7pm we will read:

The Cripple of Inishmaan by
Martin McDonagh

Thursday 2nd March, 7pm we will read:

Evelyn by Tom Ratcliffe.

The author will be zooming in for our read and will hold a Q and A session afterwards – very exciting, don't miss it!

Thursday 30th March, 7pm we will read:

Made in Dagenham – the musical by
Richard Bean

Thursday 4th May, 7pm we will read:

When We Are Married by J B Priestley

Our readings are informal, fun, and open to all, so come along and get involved. We are now reading prospective plays for our 2024 season. If you are an aspiring director or have you a play to put forward, this is the forum for you.

For any further information contact Sarah McCarthy sdyer1@hotmail.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023

All annual memberships are due for renewal on the 1st January 2023. Due to Covid your membership has been automatically renewed since 2019, but annual renewal is again now in operation. The Theatre runs on a membership basis to promote a friendly club atmosphere and give support to the Theatre.

How to renew

Method 1. Complete the attached form and send payment to the Membership Secretary.

Method 2. When purchasing tickets for your next visit, use the Non-Member rate which includes the £2 annual membership fee and your membership card will be emailed to you.

Members receive our newsletters and are welcome to purchase tickets for all our productions, attend our Wednesday Club Nights at the theatre for a friendly social evening or come along to our Play Reading Evenings as advertised.

At all these events our bar will be open for competitively priced drinks and snacks.

We look forward to receiving your membership renewal for 2023.

A CHANGE TO OUR SCHEDULE FOR 2023

Sadly, we will be unable to stage An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley in April due to a licencing issue. That's the bad news. The good news is that we are adding a special comedy extravaganza on Friday the 14th April fronted by Ryan Curtis.

The event, entitled Raising the Roof, is a fundraiser to help cover the cost of repairing our roof and Ryan will have a great line up for you, including comedy acts, sketches, songs and lots more. Tickets, £13 each, will be available soon, so put the date in your diary now.

If you cannot make it to the performance but would like to help us raise funds, there will be raffle tickets on sale during the weeks leading up to the big night.

AND LATER THIS YEAR...

New Writers Week - 23rd to 24th June. Two nights only to promote new talent.

Summer and Smoke by Tennessee Williams, to be directed by Alison Baker - Bank Holiday weekend 25th to 28th August 2023.

Calendar Girls by Tim Firth, to be directed by Kerry King - 7th to 11th November 2023.

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To make it easier for members to attend the AGM, it will now be held in September in future, starting this year.

The date will be announced soon.

WEDNESDAY CLUB NIGHTS

Whether we are in rehearsal or not, Club Nights are held at the Theatre every Wednesday from 7:30pm to around 9:30pm. when our extremely well priced, licensed bar, probably the cheapest in Manningtree, is open to members. The only time it won't be possible of course, is when it's show week.

We hope to see you there.

LIGHTING DESK

The lighting board hasn't been working properly for a while and in December it finally failed.

A new one has been sourced which will set us back around £1900. Fortunately, we have received a grant of £500 from Lawford Parish Council and another for £1,000 from Tendring District Council, so a new one is now on order.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Regretfully, Jo Simons has had to relinquish the handling of our publicity.

Jo, who lives near Chelmsford, was finding the distance and juggling her already heavy workload too much.

Is there anyone out there who has a little time on their hands and would like to help and fill the void? The job itself, takes very few hours a month and is not difficult.