

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

Advance Booking Form

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone Number Mobile

Email Address:

(Please print clearly)

***Birthday Club* by Phil Olsen**

DATE	No. of full price tickets	No. of concessionary tickets	Total Amount
Saturday 9th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	@ £10	
Monday 11th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	@ £10	
Tuesday 12th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	@ £10	
Wednesday 13th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	N/A	
Thursday 14th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	N/A	
Friday 15th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	N/A	
Saturday 16th March 2024 @ 2.30 p.m.	@ £12	N/A	
Saturday 16th March 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £12	N/A	

***On Shingle Beach* by Robert Meadows**

DATE	No. of full price tickets	No. of concessionary tickets	Total Amount
Thursday 11th April 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £10	N/A	@ £8
Friday 12th April 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £10	N/A	@ £8
Saturday 13th April 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.	@ £10	N/A	@ £8

Tickets for *Against the Grain's* production of *Roleplay* by Alan Ayckbourn, are available via Ticket Source

Ticket confirmation by email is free. For confirmation by post please add £1

Cheques enclosed for £ payable to: Chester Little Theatre.

Send to: The Box Office, The Little Theatre, Gloucester Street, Chester CH1 3HR

Other ways to book: by phone: TicketSource on 0333 666 3366. Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Pay by Credit or Debit card.

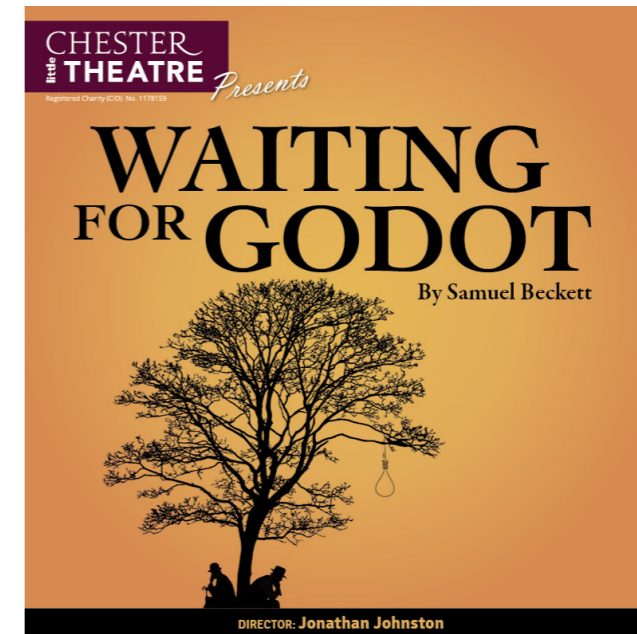
Booking Fees and Postal Charges apply.

Website: www.chestertheatreclub.co.uk, click on Booking. Pay by debit or credit card. Booking Fees apply

CHESTER
little THEATRE

Registered Charity (CIO) No. 1178159
NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 246 JANUARY 2024
Editor: M. Bennett



***Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett**

Directed by Jonathan Johnston

Reading: Tuesday 6th February at 7.30 p.m..

Auditions: Thursday 8th February from 7.30 p.m.

Production Week: Saturday 4th May 2024, Monday 6th - Saturday 11th May 2024

A Liz Stafford auditorium production

Jonathan tells us:

In *Waiting for Godot*, two wandering tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, wait by a lonely tree, to meet up with Mr. Godot, an enigmatic figure in a world where time, place and memory are blurred and meaning is where you find it. The tramps hope that Godot will change their lives for the better. Instead, two eccentric travellers arrive, one man on the end of the other's rope.

Waiting for Godot is a prime example of what has come to be known as the theatre of the absurd. The play is filled with nonsensical lines, wordplay, meaningless dialogue, and characters who abruptly shift emotions and forget everything, ranging from their own identities to what happened yesterday. All of this contributes to an absurdist humour throughout the play.

However, this humour is often uncomfortably mixed together with tragic or serious content to make a darker kind of comedy. The results are both funny and dangerous in this existential masterpiece.

Characters: 4 Men (any age) plus 1 Boy (under 18. Parent/guardian would need to be present during rehearsals and performances).

If you are interested in this production but cannot make either the reading or the auditions, please contact Jonathan directly via JonathanJohnston33@gmail.com



Birthday Club

by Phil Olsen

Directed by
Charlie Núñez

Production week:

**Saturday 9th March,
Monday 11th – Friday
15th March,**

Saturday 16th March at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

A Liz Stafford auditorium production

The older you get, the more difficult is finding ways of making new friends. Specially friends who support you through hard times. Cheryl, Emily, Abbie, Kathy and Jennifer met in yoga and became that kind of friend group. They called it "Birthday club" and they met on each of their birthdays to make life of death decisions, like whether to drink vodka or wine! Now that Jennifer is not able to join the meetings anymore, there's an opening that Sarah hopes to fill, but she needs some... "training" before she can be considered fit for the role! Join these five fantastic ladies for a drink and some cupcakes

(they are smaller so they can eat six of them!) while they navigate their different lifestyles, relationships, hobbies, and unexpected situations. Will the "Birthday club" succeed and stay united through it all? *Birthday club!*

Phil Olsen (a noted American author) said of his play at the time of the first production:

'I'm dedicating Birthday Club to my girlfriend, Nancy. I was the designated driver and observer of her Birthday Club for several years. Nancy has a close-knit group of loyal friends, with different personalities and backgrounds, who get together to celebrate, commiserate and support each other while partaking in a glass or four of wine. I won't mention what parts of the play actually happened.

It was extremely entertaining and often times hysterical to be a "fly on the wall" and hear the candid conversations between these accomplished women. It was so entertaining that I asked Nancy if it would be okay to write a play about it, and with her permission and blessing, I wrote *Birthday Club*. Thank you, Nancy.



On Shingle Beach

by Robert Meadows

Directed by
Robert Meadows

Reading: Tuesday 30th
January 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Auditions: Thursday 1st
February 2024

Production Dates: Thursday 11th April to Saturday 13th April 2024

A Salisbury Studio production

Summary of the play

When a boat, wrecked off the south coast of England, spills its migrant cargo onto the shore, one child is left stranded on the shingle beach, alone and frightened. Alone until sees a man, waiting and watching on the shoreline, making his own choices about her destiny in ways that will have consequences for himself, his family, and the place he calls home.

This new play (by one of our members, who will also direct it) explores a very contemporary concern: the way in which we respond to the debate about our borders, the changes to our culture and what this says about our humanity. It is also a mystery; asking the audience to piece together the truth from a story that intends to intrigue and baffle. Set in a single location, it is a multi-layered narrative that hopes to engage and entertain leaving an audience much to discuss and share.

Characters

Each of these roles have the same weight and significance.

David Parker, a retired secondary school English teacher in his seventies. He has lived on one place all his life. Widowed. Complex.

Steph, David's stay-at-home daughter in her thirties, a local primary school teacher, also rooted in the area. Artistic. Diffident.

Cathy, David's stepdaughter in her mid-forties. She is a woman of a mixed ethnic background: black father and white mother. Metropolitan. Grounded. The actor taking on the role of Cathy also plays Reid, a BBC journalist, as a letter reader and a witness Ms Way, a primary school head teacher, also in her mid-forties. The actor playing this role also takes on the part of the reporter's voice, a letter writer, and a witness.

About the Playwright/Director

Robert has had work staged at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff and Calgary Theatre, Canada as well as pub theatres in London and Leicester.

He has written numerous site-specific works for Heritage Lottery, many in Cheshire, from 1993-2015. In the dim and distant past, he ran a TIE company and one specialising in murder mysteries.

Robert is a senior member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators working across the UK and abroad. He works as a professional arts and culture consultant, providing project management support as well as conducting independent evaluations for Arts Council England-funded organisations.

This followed time spent working in the education sector: in schools, advisory services and universities.



Against The Grain presents

'Roleplay'

by Alan Aychbourn

Directed by Simon Phillips

Production dates:

**Wednesday 21st -
Saturday 24th February
at 7.30pm.**

There will also be a matinee performance at 2.30pm on Saturday 24th February as well an evening performance at 7.30pm

A Salisbury Studio production.

Following their production of "Agnes of God" last October, visiting company Against the Grain are delighted to be returning to The Salisbury Studio in February with their production of the Alan Aychbourn comedy 'Roleplay'.

Computer nerd Justin Lazenby and his girlfriend Julie-Ann Dobson are having a selective dinner party for both their parents at his riverside apartment in order to announce their engagement.

The PMT stressed Julie-Ann wants everything to be perfect for her prim and proper parents and becomes obsessed about clean cutlery and missing forks. Discovering a dessert fork missing she rushes out of the flat in a whirlwind of panic hoping to purchase a new one before her parents arrive. However, when a woman falls on to their balcony from four floors above, the odd couple have far more than cutlery to worry about.

The fallen woman is Paige Petite who is desperate to escape her boyfriend, violent boxing promoter Rudy Raven, who was having her held captive by one of his thugs, Mickey Rale. It is not long before Mickey comes looking for Paige and the uninvited duo impose themselves for the evening upon Justin and Julie-Ann's hospitality.

Add to this mixture, Justine's drunken mother Arabella and Julie-Ann's bigoted parents and you have a typical Alan Aychbourn blend of subterfuge and disarray.

Tickets for this production (£12) are available via Ticket Source.

Members Social Evenings

Members Christmas Party:

The CLT Christmas members party took place Saturday 16th December with 30 members attending. All enjoyed a two-course hot meal followed by a riotous evening of party games. Anyone with any photos please send them on to Margaret Bennett

World Poetry and Monologue Challenge: Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.45 p.m

It's World Poetry Day on 21st March and World Theatre Day on 27th March 2024. As the both are performance based they have some links with CLT, so how about an evening challenge of poetry and monologues.

Learn a poem (or a section of a poem) or learn a monologue (or a section of a monologue) preferably by heart, and come along and perform what you've learnt and tell us why you chose it. You could always write a poem or monologue and perform that for us.

Any subject, any style, any language

The WPM challenge will take place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.45 p.m. in the Studio or the bar – whichever is the most comfortable.

There will of course, be further events throughout the season, so look out for emails from either Charlie Núñez or Andy Fox-Hutchings.

We'd like to encourage any member who has an idea for a social evening (be it a Tuesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday) or an itch to lead some other theatrically related event to contact either Charlie Nunez or Andy Fox-Hutchings.

CONTACT US AT

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