



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

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Happy New year everyone, I hope that 2024 finds you all well. Our last production of Calendar girls was I hope you agree a great success and has now been nominated for a national award from NODA, the awards evening is in May this year, so fingers crossed and what a marvellous way to begin 2024.

We are very excited at the theatre about the year ahead as you can see, we have a very wide and exciting programme planned for you this season. Rehearsals are well under way for the next production, the tickets are now on sale and are going quickly, I know a lot of you missed out in November so don't delay in booking those tickets.

Please stay in touch with us we really love to hear your comments and ideas, this is YOUR theatre and we are so lucky to have such a unique building to keep live theatre going in our local area. Best wishes, Alison.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is a condition of our constitution that all people attending our productions must become members of the Theatre.

Also, any actors who wish to participate in a production must be a full member which helps promote a friendly atmosphere at the club and gives support to the Theatre.

Annual membership renewal is due on the 1st of January each year and becoming a member is easily done, just follow instructions below.

How to Renew / Join

Method 1. Download and complete [a membership form from here](#), or download it from our website (see link Below) and send payment to the Membership Secretary.

Method 2. When purchasing tickets for your next visit, use the Non-Member rate which includes the £2.00 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 or new member form for the coming year.

MANIFEST JUNIOR AND YOUTH GROUPS



We have a Junior Group for those aged eight up to the end of school Year 6 and a vibrant and enthusiastic Youth Group for School Years 7 to 11.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Junior and Youth groups, which meet at the theatre on Thursday evenings during term time; Juniors from 5:30 to 6:30 and Youths from 6:30 to 7:30.

We have three terms a year in line with School years. If you think that you could help our enthusiastic young people develop their stage skills, please contact Chris at juniors@manifesttheatre.co.uk



JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS



Our next production is "Jumpers for Goalposts" by Tom Wells,

Performance Dates Wednesday 14th – Saturday 17th February 2024. 7.30pm at the Manifest Theatre.

Directed by Ben Maytham with kind arrangement of Nick Hern Books.

Luke wants Danny, but Danny's got a secret. Joe's happy in goal but Geoff wants a headline gig. Viv just wants to beat the lesbians to the league title. Game on.

Containing adult humour and language, Jumpers for Goalposts is a hilarious and heart-warming story about football, friendship and finding your way.

For more information about tickets, which are now on sale and selling quickly, go to [Ticket Source Booking Office](#) or for further information on booking, pricing and seating plan click here for [Manifest Booking Office](#). You can find many ways of contacting us on this website.

GAS LIGHT



Auditions dates are 19th and 21st February 2024 7.30pm at the theatre for Our second offering of 2024.

"Gas Light" by Patrick Hamilton.

Performance Dates Tuesday 21st – Saturday 25th May 2024. 7.30pm at the Manifest Theatre. Directed by Will Parrick parrico@outlook.com

Gas Light, written in 1938, is an enduring dark thriller written by author and playwright Patrick Hamilton. The play is a dark tale of a marriage based on deceit and trickery, and a husband committed to driving his wife insane in order to steal from her. Is Bella Manningham going mad, or does she feel this way because of the actions of her sadistic husband Jack? As the story unfolds, Bella is aided by retired Detective Inspector Rough who suspects there is more to this than meets the eye. [Ticket Source Booking Office](#) Our visit our website <https://manifesttheatre.co.uk>

MADE IN DAGENHAM (The Musical)



Coming later in the year we will be presenting a production of "Made in Dagenham (The Musical)".

Audition dates to be announced, check our website for updates.

Performance Dates, Monday 4th – Saturday 9th November 2024.

7.30pm at the Manifest Theatre.

Based on the book by Richard Bean with Music by David Arnold and Lyrics by Richard Thomas.

Directed by Alison Baker with Musical Director Phil Toms.

The musical is about the leader of an historic strike, Rita O'Grady, after women are re-classified as unskilled workers. She encourages the women of the Ford factory in Dagenham to walk out after their male counterparts see their wages increase.

When Rita is patronized and snubbed at a union meeting, the women's grievances over their worker status turn into a fight for equal pay. Determined not to be treated like second class citizens, the women vote unanimously to strike action ("Everybody Out") and encourage the women at the Liverpool factory to strike also.

It should be mentioned that this play contains adult language and humour, in line with the social and economic environment of the time and place depicted.

MANIFEST COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Health and Safety

The well-being and safety of our members has always been high on the Manifest agenda. A recent first - aid course at the theatre secured several new diplomas for our members. At least one qualified first aider will usually be in the building for each performance.

It has long been our intention to install a defibrillator at the theatre as soon as funds allowed and now, we are excited to announce that a recent donation and funding from grants makes this possible.

This will be located on the external wall of the theatre, to provide easy access to our members and the local community, in the event of any adult or child experiencing a cardiac arrest.

We are hoping this will be in place in the next few months. In the meantime, we need one more thing to happen! Is there an electrician in The House who can volunteer their time and expertise to install this amazing piece of equipment that could save lives?

Please let us know if you are that person by contacting our Health and Safety Officer;

Jon Abbott on 07581 060 492

- Thankyou!

SUPPORT GRANTS

We are very grateful to Essex County Council (Locality Fund) and Lawford Parish Council for their grants to allow us to bring our IT and office equipment into the 21st century. These grants were obtained through our local councillors, to whom we will be eternally grateful.

In these days of social media, it is essential to keep up with modern technology so that we may effectively promote the theatrical arts that are provided by the Manifest Theatre.

MANNINGTREE CHRISTMAS MARKET

We had such a fun evening singing at the Manningtree Christmas Market!

The event took place Saturday 2nd December in Manningtree High Street (3pm - 8.30pm) and the theatre had a table/stall there giving out leaflets, posters and answering any inquiries from interested parties. We had a good number of our members singing! with lots of audience participation. We would love to hear from anyone who saw us and would like to get involved. We are already looking forward to next year's performance and bringing our theatre to the forefront in our community! Not an actor? No problem! Come and visit us at the theatre. For more information on all our up-and-coming performances and events! Visit our website at <https://manifesttheatre.co.uk>.

PLAY READINGS 2023

Next reading is on 25th January and will be "Speaking in Tongues" by Andrew Bovell,

Followed on 29th February by "Peace in Our Time" by Noel Coward

The following dates: -



28th March

25th April

29th May

27th June

Are awaiting material yet to be decided by our directors. When information is received it will be

displayed on our website and our interactive calendar

Starting at 7pm at the theatre usually running until 9ish pm. Come along and help shape future productions and enjoy a sociable evening.

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

BOOK & COSTUME SALE

A date is yet to be decided. So, you still have a chance to donate your saleable books for this fundraiser. Bring them to the theatre for the attention of Sarah. Watch this space for further information!!!!