



The Manifest Theatre

NEWSLETTER

September 2017

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It is with great sadness we have to inform you that Jan Watkins, who served on the Manifest Committee and was elected as Social Secretary at this year's AGM, passed away on the 30th July.

Many of you will remember Jan for her performances on stage but she was also a driving force behind the scenes. Jan started our youth group this year and made it a success. She also directed the very successful Lynn Britney short play, 'A Different Way to Die' in 2015 which picked up the award as part of the best drama production in our district from NODA as well as no less than four awards in the Brantham Play Festival last year.

The Manifest Youth Group evenings will resume in October.

MAKE-A-WISH CHARITY MUSICAL EVENINGS

The recent production 'Songs From the Musicals', organised by Ryan Maslen, a Make-A-Wish Foundation ambassador, raised £1,200 for the charity over the two nights. Thanks to all of you who came to support this worthwhile cause.

OUR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Following the success of 'The Lady in the Van', we will be staging three of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads' this autumn.

Of the six that are available for stage performance, we will be presenting three. Three very different characters living or reliving their memories and experiences as each remembers them.

In the first, 'A cream cracker under the settee', we see an elderly lady, aware of causing her own situation but perhaps unaware that it derives from both her obsessive nature and determination.

The second, 'Her big chance', features Lesley, a young aspiring actress who believes she has much to offer, both as a person and especially as an actress with 'stardom' in her sites.

'Lady of letters', the third story concerns Miss Ruddock who writes copious letters. She regards herself as public spirited in the comments she makes. This appears to be her downfall but is it?

Performance dates will be Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th November. Tickets, price at £7.00 are available now via our website or by telephoning 07444 724 271.

Our first production of 2018 will be 'A Bunch of

Amateurs' by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, directed and produced by Nigel and Amanda Rowe.

Ageing, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford only to find it is not Stratford on Avon the home of the Bard but sleepy Stratford St John in Suffolk. Instead of Dame Judi and Kenneth Branagh he has a cast of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. His enormous ego, vanity and insecurity are thus tested to the limit by a very enthusiastic bunch of amateurs as acting worlds collide and his career implodes.

As a film, it was chosen for the 2008 Royal Film performance which the Queen so enjoyed she requested a special showing at Sandringham for Christmas.

The cast consists of 3 Men 4 Women.

A read through will be held at the theatre on Tuesday 3rd October and auditions be on Tuesday 17th October. On both evenings we will commence at 7.30pm in the Manifest bar. Production dates will be Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th February.

2017 NORTH ESSEX THEATRE GUILD AWARDS

We are proud to have received no less than 16 nominations for our 2016-2017 productions in this year's North Essex Theatre Guild Awards. These include nominations for best play, 'The Lady in the Van' and best musical, 'Scrooge', as well as nominations for costume, technical achievement, best actor and best actress in the musical and drama categories.

The awards will be announced this month. Let us all keep our fingers crossed!

MANIFEST MOVIES FILM NIGHTS

Our next film, 'August Rush', a 2007 American drama film directed by Kirsten Sheridan, will be shown on Friday the 15th September.

It is the story of an 11-year-old musical prodigy living in an orphanage who runs away to New York City. He begins to unravel the mystery of who he is. All the while his mother is searching for him and his father is searching for her.

The many different sounds and rhythms he hears throughout his journey culminate in a major instrumental composition which concludes the film - August's Rhapsody.

On Friday 6th October the Frankenberg Partnership will host a Film Night at the Manifest Theatre. The film is 'The Lives of Others' (in German with English sub titles) which won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2007 and European Film Award for Best Picture.

It is a powerful drama depicting the terrifying presence of the Stasi in East Berlin. The film is full of suspense and intrigue that will keep you on the edge of your seat and the characters will linger long after you have left the theatre. PG15.

Our film on November 17th is the comedy, 'The Time of their Lives', starring Joan and Pauline Collins with Franco Nero.

A former Hollywood star (Joan Collins) leaves her London retirement home with a friend to go to her ex-husband's funeral in France. On the way, the two women get romantically involved with a Frenchman.

On December 15th we will be showing 'Despicable Me 3', the sixth-highest grossing animated film of all time featuring the iconic and strangely adorable Minions. Rated U, it is suitable for all ages, so we invite you to bring your children along to enjoy the show.

Doors and bar open at 7pm on film nights. Films begin at 7.45pm. Tickets are just £5 for Manifest Theatre members. Non members pay additional £2 annual theatre membership. This entitles them to reduced prices on all Manifest productions during the year. Pay on the door.

But, to book in advance for the German film night only, you may contact Pat Chandler Tel. 01206 396686 Email : paddy Chandler@aol.com.

SONS OF THE DESERT

The Laurel and Hardy Society continue to hold their regular film nights at the theatre. The next two screenings will be on Saturdays, the 7th October and 2nd December. Doors open at 7.30pm and films commence at 7.45 pm. Tickets are £3.00 on the door. Manifest Members are welcome to attend but will be required to pay an extra £1.00 for membership.

PLAYS, PINTS AND POT-LUCK!

We are going to resume reading plays, informally, in the bar. This is a chance for all members who love to hear a good story lifted off the page to get together and do just that. We will meet on Friday 26th January 2018 to read "August: Osage County" the multi-award winning black comedy by Tracy Letts. It's a three act play so we'll start at 7pm: why not bring a cold buffet style dish to contribute to a pot-luck supper.

For further information, contact Sarah McCarthy 01206 395649.

IT WILL SOON BE CHRISTMAS!

This year's Manifest Christmas Social Evening will be on the 9th December, so save the date. Further details to follow on the Manifest web site.

YOUR 2017-18 COMMITTEE

Five members of the 2016-17 committee stood down at this year's AGM.

Vice-Chairman, John Roberts, who has been an active member of the Manifest for many years and played a major part in the planning and execution of the recent building works; George Sparkes, who kindly stepped into the breach last year as Publicity Officer and Lea Friend, last year's joint Social Secretary. Both Alison Baker, and Rosamund Pettett who have been Manifest members for many years also stood down.

Your current committee members are: Alan Wheeler, Chairman; Chris Sadd, Vice-Chair; Sue Halsey, Treasurer; Jude Hussey, Secretary; Andy Terry, Membership Secretary; Amanda Rowe, Box Office Manager; June Wheeler returns as Publicity Officer; Nigel Rowe, Bar Manager; plus the following ordinary committee members: Patience Ling, Kate Sheffield and new to the Manifest committee are Karen Baker and Sarah McCarthy.