



# NEWSLETTER

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The Manifest Theatre

January 2018

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## Very best wishes for 2018 to all our members

A Happy New Year to you all.

2018 is a big year for the Manifest Theatre Group as we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary and we want to share this momentous occasion with all our members old and new.

We will be producing a really special Variety Show featuring some of your favourite performers and performances. The show will run from Tuesday 8th to Saturday 12th May 2018.

We are sure many you would love to be part of the production and perhaps recapture a performance you really enjoyed whether it was a solo or a chorus number.

We need your talent to ensure our celebration of 40 years entertainment at The Manifest Theatre will be a production our audiences will not want to miss so please contact Val Taylor or Kerry King before the end of January.

To contact Val; telephone 01206 393561 or e-mail: vgtaylor@talktalk.net.

To contact Kerry; telephone 01206 391435 or e-mail: kerrykingma@yahoo.co.uk.

We shall hold a selection night on 28th February at the theatre for everyone wishing to participate.

## Our Next Production

### **A Bunch of Amateurs** a comedy

by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

Performance dates are Tuesday 20th to  
Saturday 24th February 2018.

### **The Box Office is now open**

Just go to our website - manifesttheatre.co.uk  
and click on box office.

Alternatively,

telephone **07444 724 271** for tickets.

The story features fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele who, keen to boost his flagging career, arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford - only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard but sleepy Suffolk village Stratford St John. This terrific comedy packed with killer comic dialogue has a great story, with plenty of twists and turns.

Originally 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.

### **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING FUNDRAISING**

Thank you to all of you who attended our very enjoyable Manifest Theatre Christmas social gathering on 9th December.

The evening raised £70 for the NSPCC.

### **WANTED - No. 2 LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR**

This entails operating the Fat Frog computer controlled Lighting Board for rehearsals and on production weeks when required. The Operator will need to have the ability to concentrate on the instructions in the script and follow the cue synopsis precisely.

All cues will be pre-programmed and activated by the 'Go' button or Sub Masters.

This is a great opportunity for someone to join our jovial Technical Team. Full training will be given.

Please contact our Lighting Designer, Bruce Emeny, on 01206 392034 for more details.

### **MANIFEST THEATRE YOUTH GROUP**

The youth group, run by Chris Sadd with assistance from Kate Sheffield and Amanda Rowe, continued to progress well through the last term of 2017. So much so that they were able to perform a short play to parents, on the 14th December, their last session of the term. The production was greatly enjoyed by all.

A trophy in the name of the late Jan Watkins who worked so hard to start the Youth Group, will be presented to each term's Shining Star.

### **2018 MEMBERSHIPS**

Subscriptions are now being accepted for 2018 memberships. To simplify sales of tickets for our first production, it would be appreciated if members would kindly renew beforehand.

A form is included with this newsletter for your renewal. Alternatively, you may write to us if this is more convenient for you.

## MANIFEST MOVIES FILM NIGHTS

Our next film, 'Touching The Void' will be shown on 19th January. It's a true story of two climbers and their perilous journey up the west face of Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes in 1985.

An electrifyingly thrilling movie directed by Kevin Macdonald that makes the mountain more than a setting, almost another character in the story. The sheerness of the slope, the friable "meringues" and "cornices" of snow, the sweep and sparkle of the ice – the mountain's terrible beauty is alternately austere, majestic, implacable, ominous, and menacing.

Doors and bar open at 7pm on film nights. Films begin at 7.45pm. Pay on the door. 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.

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## SONS OF THE DESERT

The Laurel and Hardy Society continue to hold their regular film nights at the theatre.

They will be pitching their Men O' War Tent at the Manifest Theatre on the following dates: 10th February, 24th March, 28th April and 9th June.

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.

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## PLAYS, PINTS AND POT LUCK!

A chance for all members to come along and join our reading of "August: Osage County", the Pulitzer and Tony award winning drama by Tracy Letts. Called "the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen for years" this "corrosive black comedy reinvigorates family drama and brings it up to date."

If this intrigues you come and join us as we lift this text off the page and bring it to life!

The reading will take place at the theatre on Friday 26th January, starting at 7pm. The bar will be open and please bring a buffet style dish to contribute to a "pot luck" supper.

We are hoping to make play readings a regular event so do come along and if you have any suggestions on material for the future they will be gratefully received.

For any further information contact Sarah McCarthy 01206 395649

## A MUSICAL FOR THE AUTUMN

Our Autumn production this year will be The Matchgirls, a musical by Bill Owen and Tony Russell about the London matchgirls strike of 1888.

The musical focuses on the lifestyle of the match cutters at the Bryant and May factory in Bow, London, with strong references to the condition Phossy Jaw and the political climate of the era. With much of the action set in the incongruously named, but fictional, 'Hope Court', the musical portrays Bryant and May as callous and uncaring employers, with factory foreman 'Mr Mynel' representing the threatening and imposing regime in which the girls were forced to work.

Despite the subject matter of the musical, a strong emphasis is placed on the positive mentality and natural ebullience of the so-called 'cockney sparrows', this leading to a number of cheerful and entertaining vocal numbers and dance routines.

There will be a read through on the 23rd July followed by auditions on 25th.

Performance dates: 23rd to 27th October.

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## PARKING AT THE MANIFEST

We do understand that parking close to the theatre can be a problem but we must politely remind all members that parking on the forecourt is for those with reduced mobility (6 spaces) and we also ask that people do not park in Oxford Road itself as parking is already limited for our neighbours and this can make things very difficult for them.

The best places to park are

- New Road - on the East side, just a short walk down Norman Rd or Oxford Rd to the theatre.
- High Street - the few spaces between Townsend's and The Crown.
- Quay Street - at the sailing club end

From the High St there is a pedestrian path from Stour Street to Malthouse Rd, then to Oxford Rd. To help you there is a map on our website - [www.manifesttheatre.co.uk/about\\_map.shtml](http://www.manifesttheatre.co.uk/about_map.shtml). We really appreciate your help and understanding with this issue.

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## THE MANIFEST BOX OFFICE

Over the past two years tickets have been available online or via our dedicated telephone Box Office number.

Please let us know if you have found this more convenient or if there is anything we might consider to improve the ticketing system.