



NEWSLETTER

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WE NEED YOUR HELP! Often unseen by the audience, every production in theatre is supported by a team of 'Techies', working tirelessly to support the director and actors to stage the play. We are always looking for potential stage managers, wardrobe managers, Sound and Lighting crew. If you have no wish to 'tread the boards' but would love to be part of our team we need you! Interested? Please contact alisonbaker10@me.com. Best wishes, Alison.

THE BIG SALE

Saturday April 6th 10.30am – 2.30pm



We're very excited to be holding our first vintage sale at the theatre!

We have dozens of vintage clothes, theatrical costumes and uniforms from our own extensive wardrobe at the theatre.

Our team of wardrobe managers have worked tirelessly over many years to collect and

maintain our costumes. Now they have had a massive spring clean!

The result is an amazing array of many and varied costumes to delight keen shoppers of vintage items.

Book lovers can browse both fiction and non-fiction second - hand books ancient and modern. Paperbacks and hardbacks to choose from.

Tea, coffee and cakes available in our bar.

FREE ENTRY!




JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS



A brilliant ending to our first production. We are super happy to announce we raised a whopping **£801.69** for The Terrence Higgins Trust!

The lovely Ellie from the Trust recently came to our theatre for a photo and the handover of the cheque with Director Ben Maytham and Chairperson Alison Baker!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported this brilliant play and wonderful charity. We are all overwhelmed at the generosity and support we received. Here's to the next one! [Terrence Higgins Trust](https://www.terrencehiggins.org.uk) 

GAS LIGHT



Rehearsals of our production of this classic thriller, by the playwright and novelist Patrick Hamilton, are well under way.

Performances Tuesday 21st – Saturday 25th May 2024. 7.30pm. Directed by the talented Will Parrick.

First performed in London in 1938, has endured the test of time. Adapted twice for the Big Screen it received best actress and production in 1944 with Ingrid Bergman in the leading role.

Unfortunately, we are familiar with the term 'Gaslighting' – psychological manipulation intended to make the victim question their sanity. This is the play that gave its name to abusive relationships and it is an uncannily insightful and accurate depiction of a marriage based on deceit and trickery.

Tickets are now on sale. [Ticket Source Booking Office](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) Our visit our website <https://manifesttheatre.co.uk>

Tickets- Members £10, Non- members £12

MANIFEST MINIFEST



Now for something completely different. We are incredibly excited to announce our first "Manifest Minifest"! We have been given special permission to perform 2 iconic episodes from "The Vicar of Dibley"! The catch? We are doing it all in just 24 hours.

You read right.... we get the scripts on Saturday 8th June at 2pm and in just 24 hours we will set build, rehearse, line learn and everything in between, and then perform them on Sunday 9th June!

We will all be staying up in the theatre throughout the the night ready to perform for you on **Sunday 9th June**. This is a fundraiser for our theatre. More details coming soon how you can be involved in this unique project, but keep **Sunday 9th June** in the diary free!

MADE IN DAGENHAM (The Musical)



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

AUDITIONS ON SUNDAY 30th JUNE FROM 10.30 am.

All welcome at the theatre.
Performance Dates, Monday 4th – Saturday 9th November 2024.

Directed by Alison Baker with Musical Director Phil Toms.

Based on real life events of the 1968 Ford sewing machinists strike in Dagenham.

There are many parts available including a couple of children's parts.

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 JUNIOR AND YOUTH GROUPS



To quote lyrics from a Whitney Houston song, "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way, show them all the beauty they possess inside, give them a sense of pride"

We are looking for members with acting experience and skills that they would be willing to volunteer to assist with the development of our younger members. If you would like to be involved in introducing our junior members to the thrills and skills of the theatre? We are looking to increase the Junior and Youth group team and the number of activities offered from September 2024. If you can spare from two to eight hours a month (two hours a week on Thursday evenings) and have or are willing to obtain a DBS or Chaperone licence please contact spookysadd@gmail.com

If you are unable to commit regularly, perhaps you could go on our "back up list" to cover in the event of illness or holidays. It is very rewarding; the kids are talented and very enthusiastic. We look forward to hearing from interested members.

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, 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.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

From next year we are planning to increase our productions from 3 to 4 a year. Traditionally, we have tended to concentrate on 3 productions while offering smaller events slotted in between.

The focus will now be on these productions with one probably being a one act play festival to allow new directors to develop their skills. Watch this space!

MANIFEST COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Following a generous donation from a life member and several council grants, The Manifest Theatre is happy to announce the purchase of a defibrillator!

A MASSIVE thank you to volunteer and Manifest member, Alistair Mitchell of A. D. Mitchell, Electrical Contractors. With his help the defibrillator now has prime position on the exterior wall of the theatre in Oxford Road, Manningtree. Another massive thank you to our dedicated first responder Simon Tavner, who registered the defibrillator for us and will continue to do regular checks on the device throughout the year!

We are also extremely grateful for the continued generosity of Lawford Parish Council, and we thank its Chairman Councillor Val Guglielmi for the latest grant to the theatre; and also, our Essex County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi who over the years, has supported our theatre with various grants from the Essex Locality Fund. Hopefully, this defibrillator will not be used too often, but if it needs to, it will now be available for use becoming the fourth asset to our community in Manningtree.

Visit our website at <https://manifesttheatre.co.uk> .

PLAY READINGS 2024



The following dates: -

28th March
25th April
30th 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. Read in or just listen, no pressure.

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