



## Hello

They say a week is a long time in politics ... but they obviously haven't been involved in a small, local theatre! As many of you will be aware, the cast of *An Ideal Husband* battled a number of issues, including serious illness which delayed the opening of the play. My huge thanks go to the cast for pulling together to deliver a fabulous production and to Tor Burt for standing in at such short notice – off book and word perfect in a matter of days!

Thanks also to our brilliant Treasurer Carol Rendell, who plugged away and managed to get hold of everyone who had booked for the cancelled nights. As ever, the volunteers who are involved in the Wharf, did what they do best – pull together!

Having to shorten the run by 2 nights was unfortunate, however the production was still a great success, which has made us question the length of future runs. With the Autumn/Winter season starting in September we intend to introduce a Monday to Saturday run with the exception of the Christmas pantomime.

Chairman • Sarah Williams

## Artistic notes

Plans for the 2018/19 season are all but complete, I am looking for shows to fill the slots from March 2019. I have received some suggestions, but I feel certain there are members who have always fancied directing a show but are a bit scared of taking on responsibility themselves. Please let me know what you would like to see on stage and we can discuss it and how we can bring it to reality. We are blessed with a talented artistic and technical team and we can offer advice & support all along the way.

Due to personal reasons, Jemma Brown has had to pull out of directing *One Man Two Guvnors* this September. This is one of the funniest plays I've ever seen and so I appeal for someone to step up and take this production on. If you have any ideas about another show to direct in this slot or one that you have always wanted to act in, do let me know.

The final show of the summer season is a new play by local resident Annie L. Cooper. I would like to include more new works by local writers in the Wharf season, so if you have a play you wrote yourself, don't be shy, dig it out of that drawer and let me look at it : [lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk](mailto:lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk) or call 07523 050 961.

Artistic Director • Lewis Cowen

## Diary

**Wharf Theatre Discovery Day**  
**Saturday April 28 • 10am - 2pm**  
Come & see behind the scenes !

**AGM**  
**Thursday June 14 • 7pm for 7.30pm**  
Agenda to follow in May newsletter

## Directors notes

### **An Ideal Husband**

The Wharf Theatre scores highly on all sorts of criteria but something that stands out with regard to the recent production of *An Ideal Husband*, is how people come together at times of crisis.

The show was beset by all kinds of problems right from the start. The fact that the director had to take one of the leading roles was not a good beginning. There were all sorts of snafus with the set, the costumes, in fact, with every aspect of the show. The final straw, which nearly put paid to the entire production, is when Freddie Underwood, playing Mabel Chiltern, came down with a terrible eye infection which ruled her out of the show entirely. The one name that was on everyone's lips at a time like this was Tor Burt. Sure enough, when contacted, Tor didn't hesitate. She took over the part and, despite my thinking she would go on with the script in her hand, she learned the lines within 36 hours and was dead-letter perfect, as well as portraying a well-rounded and delightful character.

Although the first two performances had to be cancelled, the rest of them were virtual sellouts and the comments from audience members were not just enthusiastic, they were ecstatic.

So my thanks to the entire cast, to Gill Barnes who costumed the show to the level I had fondly hoped, to John Winterton and Rob Bourne, who not only worked their usual magic on the lights and sound but built the trucks which were such an integral part of the set, to Debby Wilkinson's mum Margaret who designed and made her first act costume and created the jewel that was such an important part of the plot, to Jess Brown who proved an excellent Stage Manager and to the other trustees who gave their unstinting support to the show. This is a production I shall never forget, but in the end for the very best of reasons.

Director • Lewis Cowen



## Discovery Day

### Theatre Open Day

Saturday April 28 • 10am - 2pm

Come & see behind the scenes !

See how the many different departments run within the theatre - from acting to lighting; directing to publicity; costumes to Front of House and much more. If you are interested in helping in any way on the day, please do email us : [publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk](mailto:publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk)

## Get involved

Is treading the boards on your bucket list? Discovery Day will give you a great insight into the Wharf and how it operates. This is an opportunity to explore all aspects of the theatre and may encourage you to come along to a future workshop or audition.

If you don't see yourself in the spotlight, a warm welcome awaits any volunteers who'd like to work their magic 'behind' the scenes. Every Director and Stage Manager relies on an unseen support network to bring their production to life ... it simply wouldn't happen without them!

## Wanted

Recently we have been in the process of collating and organising the print archives. However, we are missing a big chunk of the theatre's history - specifically photo CDs. Every Director should have been given a copy of the head shots & promotional photos.

If you have been involved in any productions pre 2015 and have any posters, print or photographs, please do get in touch : [publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk](mailto:publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk)

We also have plans to create a history wall in the bar area and any memories from the theatre's early days would be most welcome!



### Copy deadline

If you have any articles or notices you wish to feature in the next newsletter, please contact us by email : [publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk](mailto:publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk) by Monday April 16