



## Hello

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. We are extremely fortunate in Devizes in that we have a wealth of local amateur groups that put on plays, musicals, concerts, recitals etc. In fact, I would say that there's something for everyone, pretty much every week. Great news, however, we are competing in a crowded market and we need to stand out and entice theatre lovers to our venue, first and foremost!

Our fabulous new look brochure and posters certainly do this and, you may have seen, that our social media presence is more consistent and fun! The publicity team and casts are coming up with more ingenious ideas to promote the shows and I hope you are enjoying their videos, pics and comments. The recent photography of the cast of Forum taken at the Roman Baths are a great example and my thanks to Karen Ellis for coming up with this brainwave. The only question is ... what ideas can we come up with next?

Chairman • Sarah Williams

**AGM** • Thursday 14 June : 7pm for 7.30pm start.

## Artistic notes

As I write this I am still glowing in the brilliance of the first readthrough of Broken Wing, a marvellous but challenging play by local writer Annie L Cooper. The story is about a therapist, Zara, who works with children traumatised by their experiences in war zones – a most topical subject you will agree. Zara is tremendously good at her job but has problems coping with her adopted daughter Thea, who, now 16, is aching to meet her birth mother and shows her frustration in furious rages against her adopted parents. Zara is working with another 16-year-old, Layee, who was raped and had a baby when she was 14. Her trauma is revealed in a heart-rending monologue when she finally opens up to Zara. It is not for the faint of heart, this play, but it is brilliantly written and will reward those brave enough to sit through it.

The first show of the autumn season in September is now fixed. It is a thriller by no less a writer than Sir Alan Ayckbourn. It is not what you expect of an Ayckbourn play but it is peppered with his brilliant dialogue and will keep you on the edge of your seats, I promise you.

Artistic Director • Lewis Cowen

## Director's notes

### A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

So ... "Forum" has finally erupted onto the stage after almost four months of rehearsals and has proved to be a massive hit. I hope nobody will take it the wrong way when I say that this is no real surprise to me! One of the reasons that I was keen to bring Forum to the Wharf was the simple desire to share it with as large an audience as possible. The script and the ridiculous plot entanglements are a work of comedy genius, and you would have to be made of stone not to react to it with full-blown laughter.

Of course, the other necessary ingredient is a cast of skilled comedians, and it soon became apparent to me that we had probably the best group of comic actors in the area. What I have learned from staging Forum is that comedy is a remarkably fine skill: a second's hesitation here, or an over-exaggerated reaction there, and the perfect comedy moment is lost. It was fascinating for me to observe the cast's dedication to getting the perfect mix. To give you an example of their attention to detail, I had wanted to change Act One's final cry of "Intermission!" to the more British "Interval!", but was assured (correctly) that four syllables would be funnier than three!

My particular thanks go out to a few unsung heroes: to Vicky Warren for playing Sondheim's fiendish score alone in a box at the back of the theatre with limited visibility; to those cast members who were unused to performing in a musical and finally to the publicity department, who worked tirelessly on a daily basis to sell this show to the audience it deserved.

Director • Liz Sharman





# Audition notice

## Little Shop of Horrors

Directed by Emily Holmes

Playing dates : Fri 26 October - Sat 3 November 2018

Workshop : Sunday 3 June at the Wharf 4 - 6pm followed by auditions later the same day at 7pm.

Please come along to our workshop to find out more! A deviously delicious sci-fi smash musical and one of the longest running off-Broadway shows, Little Shop Of Horrors charmingly tongue in cheek comedy has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years. The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his co-worker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, blood. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination!

### CHARACTER LIST

#### Seymour Krelborn Male 25-35

Vocal range top : G4 / Vocal range bottom : A2

A nerdy, insecure, put-upon florist's clerk and eventual hero. A genuine, well-meaning man who is taken for granted because of his clumsy ways and poor social skills.

#### Audrey Female 25-35

Vocal range top: D5 / Vocal range bottom : G#3

Bleached-blond, ditzzy, secret love of Seymour's life. She has poor self-worth and education, but incredibly good looks and a sweet and vulnerable demeanor.

#### Mr. Mushnik Male 50-65

Vocal range top : F4 / Vocal range bottom : G2

The seasoned owner of the failing East Side flower shop and Seymour's nosy boss. He is profit-driven, greedy, and manipulative.

#### Orin Scrivello Male 30-40

Vocal range top : G4 / Vocal range bottom : G2

An egotistical dentist with a passion for leather and sadistic tendencies. Audrey's abusive boyfriend, who is targeted by Seymour.

#### Voice Of Audrey II Male 20-50

Vocal range top : G4 / Vocal range bottom : G2

An actor/vocalist located offstage. The voice is that of a conniving, street-smart 'villain.' A funky Rhythm and Blues voice is best.

#### Crystal / Ronette / Chiffon Female 20-35

Vocal range top : F5 / Vocal range bottom : Ab3

American street urchins, acting as the occasional Greek Chorus. Young, hip, and smart, these girls are the only ones who have a grip on reality and really know what's going on throughout.

#### Various Company Male or Female any age

Minor Roles (including customers, Bernstein, Mrs Luce and Skip Snip) We will need approximately 3 additional company members to play a variety of minor roles throughout the production.

#### Audrey II Puppeteer Male or Female any age

We will require a puppeteer for the plant - Audrey II.

This person must be sufficiently able bodied to undertake theatrical manipulation of a large stage puppet (W1.3m x L2.6m x H1.8m). Will not be required until the latter stages of the rehearsal process.

Please contact Emily : [emilyphillis@hotmail.com](mailto:emilyphillis@hotmail.com) for audition material prior to the workshop/audition date.

# Audition notice

## Snake in the Grass by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Tess Richards

Playing dates : Mon 24 - Sat 29 September 2018

Audition : 7.30pm Monday 14 May at the Wharf.

Annabel has returned home following the death of her father. She is immediately approached by Alice Moody who tells her that Miriam murdered her father and, unless Annabel pays Alice £100,000 she will go to the police. What follows is never what you expect and there are shocks at every turn.

### CHARACTER LIST

#### Annabel Chester 50

Has returned from Australia following the death of her father

#### Miriam Chester 44

Annabel's younger sister

#### Alice Moody 40s

A nurse

Copies of the script are available from Lewis Cowen. [lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk](mailto:lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk) / 07523 050 961

**Please note that in order to take part in any Wharf Theatre production, you must be holding a current full Membership.**