



A new chapter ...

The last few years have seen a lot of change; we've had refurbishments, updates, new logos, we've gone online, we've had new names on the membership list, as well as new faces on stage and our beautiful little theatre has gone from strength to strength with some first class productions. Fabulous darlings! But behind the scenes and the success and the reviews, a lot of hard graft and long hours goes in to making all this happen, from production teams and directors to actors and FOH volunteers.

Overseeing all this has been our most excellent chair, Sarah Williams, who sadly, is now standing down from the role. To her, I'm sure you'll all join me in giving our most humble thanks and all due praise for a job well done. It's been wonderful working with her on the board of trustees and she'll be greatly missed - but only for a short time as I'm certain she'll be back on stage with us soon enough! Sarah, thank you for all you've done; we hope to continue upwards with the same gusto and momentum that you've pushed us along with over these last two years.

But, without Sarah, who's at the helm I hear you ask, a ship can't be without her captain! It truly is a great honour to have been chosen by the trustees to carry the baton, to lead our little theatre into the next chapter, and following the summer break, the next season. We've got some wonderful shows lined up; Naomi, Hayley and Oliver promise me, *Legally Blonde Jr.* is going to be a spectacular close to the season! We've had some great outside hires too and some great ones still to come. Oh, and get yourselves ready for auditions galore as the next season approaches, it's literally just around the corner.

I would like to take a moment now to honour one of our old stalwarts, long time supporter and actor extraordinaire, Derek Morrissey, who very sadly passed away in April. Truly a legend, highly regarded and never to be forgotten in the history of our theatre. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Deanna at what must be a very sad and difficult time. We hope she knows how respected and well loved Derek was by our community of friends and how greatly he will be missed.

Well dearest ones, that's it from me. I really am very excited about the future and feel so privileged to be part of the perfect team to take us onwards in the next leg of our theatrical endeavours. It truly is the most rewarding thing to be so involved with such a marvellous troupe.

Chairman • Oli Beech

Artistic Notes

Things are already hotting up for autumn season, even before the summer season has closed.

Thanks to the parents of children who have contacted me about taking part in the first show of the season, *The Turn of the Screw*. I shall be meeting the young hopefuls in the next few days and the auditions for the adult roles will take place at the theatre on Friday 17 May - see reverse for audition notice.

Then there is Alan Ayckbourn's *Living Together*. The auditions are on Wednesday 29 May and I do hope as many members turn up to support our debutant director, Mervyn Harrowven. Mervyn is an experienced director but a recent member of the Wharf and I hope we can all rally round with a warm Wharf welcome.

The Wharf's panto team will be in action again near Christmas, this time for their take on *Cinderella*. Be prepared for lots of local jokes and a whole heap of songs and tomfoolery. The audition notice will appear in due course, so keep an eye on the website.

In January I will fulfil a long-held ambition to direct a play by Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming*, which has a lot of good roles for male actors but, sadly, only one female role. Then, in March, John Winterton and Oli Beech want to present their version of Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. I hope we can bring this to fruition as the Dynamic Duo have some superb ideas for it. Keep in touch. I can be contacted directly at lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk

Artistic Director • Lewis Cowen

With sympathy

All of us at the Wharf Theatre have been saddened by the news of the death of Derek Morrissey, a former Chairman and Artistic Director of the theatre, who worked on the original refurbishment of the old council warehouse to make it the building it is today.

"It has been my privilege to work with Derek on numerous occasions and his performance as Salieri made my production of *Amadeus* in 1994 the success it undoubtedly was. His dedication to creating the very best of theatre for our audiences has been an inspiration to me and every time I look at the season I have devised, I think, would Derek approve?"

Artistic Director • Lewis Cowen



Audition notice

THE TURN OF THE SCREW Henry James
Stage adaptation by Ken Whitmore
Directed by Lewis Cowen
Playing dates : Monday 23 - Saturday 28 September 2019

Auditions : 7.30 - 9.30pm Friday 17 May at the Wharf.

The Turn of the Screw is one of the most famous ghost stories in the English language. Miss Grey is hired as governess to two orphan children, Miles, 10, and his eight-year-old sister, Flora. The children are delightful, but Miss Grey soon discovers a dark secret in the great mansion of Bly, Essex. She is soon involved in a supernatural struggle in which the ghosts of the former valet and governess attempt to dominate the two children.

Not for the nervous!

CHARACTER LIST

Miss Grey • Female 20
Very young but determined.

Mrs Grose • Female 50
The housekeeper who Miss Grey recruits in her battle.

Mr Crimond • Male 35
The children's uncle who hires Miss Grey, could double with...

Quint • Male 35
Former valet, a ghost, non-speaking role but central.

Miss Jessel • Female 28
Former governess, a ghost, non-speaking but most important.

Miles • Male 10
An extremely charming boy but troubled.

Flora • Female 8
Most intelligent and outgoing.

NB Although the adults will audition on May 17th, parents of children are asked to contact the Director to arrange individual auditions for them. The children will be properly chaperoned throughout all rehearsals & performances. Scripts available from Lewis Cowen : lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk / 07523 050 961

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 by Monday 17 June.

Registered charity no. 900417 wharftheatre.co.uk
A Member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain

Audition notice

LIVING TOGETHER Alan Ayckbourn
Stage adaptation by Ken Whitmore
Directed by Mervyn Harrowven
Playing dates : Monday 21 - Saturday 26 October 2019

Auditions : 7.30 - 9.30pm Wednesday 29 May at the Wharf.

Living Together is one of the Norman Conquests trilogy that made Ayckbourn's name in the 1970s. The same six characters feature in all three plays. They are typical Ayckbourn types, chronically flawed and stereotypically middle class. The play was revived in the West End in 2009 and won a clutch of major awards.

CHARACTER LIST

The ages of the characters are not stipulated but they should be in their 30s or 40s.

Norman • A serial womaniser, married to Ruth.

Ruth • Norman's long-suffering wife.

Reg • Ruth's brother, an anorak who invents board games, married to Sarah

Sarah • Quite uptight and proper.

Annie • Sister to Reg & Ruth, caring for their mother who is bed-ridden (unseen)

Tom • Annie's next-door neighbour, a vet, keen on Annie.

Scripts available from Lewis Cowen :
lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk / 07523 050 961
Mervyn can be contacted at harrowvenkm@gmail.com

