



*“I’m late, I’m late!
For a very important date!
No time to say ‘hello, goodbye,
I’m late, I’m late, I’m late!”*

Alice in Wonderland | Lewis Carroll

The SS20 brochure has suffered a delay but all is well. It has now been finalised and the press is rolling! This was due to last minute bookings and late confirmation.

Publicity | Louise Scammell

BOX OFFICE

Theatre 01380 829743
TicketSource 03336 663 366

General Enquires

info@wharftheatre.co.uk

Membership Secretary

memberships@wharftheatre.co.uk

Artistic Director

artistic.director@wharftheatre.co.uk

Venue Hire

hire@wharftheatre.co.uk

Costume Hire

info@wharftheatre.co.uk

Publicity

publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk

Facebook

@WharfTheatreDevizes

Twitter

@WharfTheatreDev

Instagram

@wharftheatredevizes



HNY!

Welcome back dearest ones! I trust we all enjoyed a suitably relaxing Christmas; family & friends gathered, tables overflowing with food, the expensive port opened and a wake of wrapping paper torn from the presents you asked Santa for! I'm sure the celebrations continued through to that glass of champagne, welcoming in the New Year; a toast to everyone's good health and happiness! A joyous and prosperous New Year to you all - oh, and it's the 20's again!

We had a couple of firsts last season - in chronological order; accolades and congratulations overflowing to Mervyn Harrowven. His directorial debut at the Wharf, with his vision of an Ayckbourn classic, *Living Together*. I had the pleasure of playing Norman in this one. Fantastic cast and fantastic a director, it was a joy to be part of. We had a riot in rehearsals and I hope this showed on stage for the run.

Thanks also to our own Pete Winterton. He provided the perfect pantomime, penned by his own fair hand. His directorial debut, *Cinderella*, took the Box Office by storm and a splendid evening too! Glowing reports and full houses; says it all eh? I was in this one too! Working with such a terrific team on such a terrific production was a blast!

It has become tradition, under John Winterton's guidance, to end the year with our Wharf winter social. A big thank you to John and all involved. A night of fun, frolics and laughter, but most of all, the company of theatrical companions. If anyone should like a turn on stage; singing, dancing, reciting, other - please contact John via email hire@wharftheatre.co.uk Our next social event, The Quay Awards, is at the end of this season, so get practicing!

I should quickly like to welcome Beth Ramsay, to our committee. Beth has taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Hayley Baxter, who has had to stand down due to new duties at work. Thank you for all your help Hayley, and congratulations on your promotion - we'll see you on stage again soon I'm sure! Also, welcome to Debby Wilkinson - I'll let her tell you about her new role herself...

We've an exciting season ahead; musicals, plays, comedy, tragedy - the works! All matching, even exceeding the high standards of last season, delivering the quality productions our dear little theatre is renown for - I pronounce this season open!

Chairman | Oli Beech



A new Artistic Director!

Since standing down as a trustee and having recently found a more than suitable successor, our thanks once more to Lewis Cowen. Long standing member, accomplished actor and director extraordinaire, he will be sincerely missed on the committee, but will very much continue to be involved at the Wharf. In his stead, we welcome Debby Wilkinson - I'll simply say welcome aboard Debby, and let her introduce herself below.

Chairman | Oli Beech

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year! When I moved to Wiltshire almost 20 years ago, one of the first things I set out to find was quality amateur theatre. I had come from a background of professional theatre, secondary school drama teaching and many many years of acting and directing in youth and non-professional theatre.

I had been a member of numerous 'Little Theatre' groups so I knew what I was looking for. Although the internet was out there it wasn't as helpful as it is nowadays and so it took me a while before I literally stumbled across the Wharf Theatre. The side door was open, and I snuck in for a quick peek! Excited I booked tickets for the forthcoming show, sent my membership form in the next day and shortly afterwards took part in my first show, *Murderer*. This was 18 years ago and I have been a member ever since. I directed one of the Wharf's first ever youth productions, *Grimm Tales* and have performed fairly frequently in a variety of roles, most recently as Fran in, *Things I know To Be True*.

I believe passionately in the role of local amateur theatre. It serves many people providing a valuable place to foster creativity, community and friendship. We are so very fortunate to have a beautiful little theatre to call our home. I have pondered and procrastinated for some months over whether or not I could 'step up' to the role of Artistic Director, whether I would have the energy to cope with the various duties and have finally decided to take the role on and give it my best shot!

BUT... I need help. We need more experienced directors to come forwards with suggestions of plays that they would like to direct and importantly, we need plays that can be cast! Which means more roles for our female members. So do please contact me if you would like to direct via email artistic.director@wharftheatre.co.uk The season for 2020 is pretty much set and so I am looking for directors for 2021. I will be directing the September 2020 slot, which will most likely be an all-female cast. Details available soon. Wish me luck!

Artistic Director | Debby Wilkinson

Diary

Jesus Christ Superstar Fri 20 - Sat 28 March

The Navy Lark Sat 18 April

Joe Edwards | Album Launch Fri 24 April

The Lonesome West Sat 25 April

AGM Monday 27 April - Agenda to follow

The Woman who cooked her Husband Sat 2 May

Glorious! Mon 11 - Sat 16 May

I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again... Again! 5 & 6 June

Far from the Madding Crowd | BOVTS Sat 20 June

2020 QUAY AWARDS Friday 31 July

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 Mon 17 February

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