
THE EAT DRAMA COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENTS:
THE EAT 2023-2024 SEASON OF SHOWS

Welcome to our exciting season for 2023 / 2024.

We have six wonderful plays and two, 2-night Weekend Specials for you to enjoy.

Keith Neville, The Drama Committee Chairman.

AUDITION DETAILS

Auditions will be held in May and June, at the Edward Alderton Theatre.

The productions are listed in the order in which they will run. You can find the individual audition dates and production directors' contact email at the end of each listing.

Just click on each directors' [email address](#) to send them a message.

2023 Productions

CHEKHOV COMEDY SHORTS

(Two-Night, Weekend Special)

by Anton Chekhov

Sat 5th - Sun 6th August, 2023

Directed by Harry Denford

Following the success of our short-run production *Ruffian On the Stair* last February, we are happy to present two, 2-night weekend special performances, starting with *Chekhov Comedy Shorts*

Five farcical short plays each lasting between 3 and 20 mins

The Problem With Smoking - 15 mins

15 min comedy solo monologue who is giving lecture to the audience on smoking but keeps going off track

Cast: Male or female ages 40 +

The Bear - 20 mins

Comedy about a rough landowner who hates everyone coming to a widow's house to collect money and she refuses. No one ever stands up to him apart from her so he makes a quick decision he loves her, she has other plans.

Cast:

The Bear: male, rough and ready and bellows age 30 to 60, no manners

The Widow: feisty, age 25 to 50

The Servant: male or female - any age -always giving bad advice and worries about everything

The Proposal - 20 mins

A father is hen pecked by bratty daughter and tries to marry her off to the neighbour who is unsuitable and a hypochondriac

Cast:

Father: drunk, who loves to argue but makes very little sense in his arguments, ages 40 +

Daughter: Feisty, bratty, spoilt and argumentative female 18 +

Neighbour: skinny, awkward, nerdy Male ages 25 - 50

The Ninny - 3 mins

A nanny comes to ask for a pay rise and the home owner works out that after deductions for silly things, she owes them

Cast:

The Ninny: female any age

Homeowner: Male or female 40 +

The Russian Illness 20 mins

Very silly piece about the over the top use of language in Chekov boring plays and how someone can't stop talking Chekhovian, so visits a doctor to find a cure

Cast:

The Actress: any age

The Doctor: male 40+

Chekov: male any age.

Audition date: **Saturday 27 May 11am**

Contact: [Harry Denford](#)

Email: shootershillplayers@gmail.com

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2023 Productions

CONTINUED...

THE LADYKILLERS

Classic Black Comedy

by Graham Linehan

21st - 28th October, 2023

Directed by Keith Neville

Based on the Ealing Comedy film, *The Ladykillers* is a classic black comedy set in the 1950's. A sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing. Posing as amateur musicians, Professor Marcus and his gang rent rooms in the lopsided house of a sweet but strict Mrs Wilberforce. The villains plot to involve her, unwittingly, in Marcus' brilliantly conceived heist job. The police are left stumped but Mrs Wilberforce becomes wise to their ruse and Marcus concludes that there is only one way to keep the old lady quiet. She has to be bumped off! With only her parrot, General Gordon, to help her, Mrs Wilberforce is alone with five desperate men. But who will be forced to face the music?

Cast:

6 Men, 2 Women and a few extras posing as old ladies (Could be men in drag)

Constable MacDonald: Pleasant "*Dixon of Dock Green*" type of policeman.

Mrs Louisa Wilberforce: Sweet little, but determined, old lady.

Professor Marcus: Leader of the gang. Sinister and oily character.

Major Courtney: Ex-military. Middle class upright gentleman but a crook.

Harry Robinson: 'Flash Harry' type. Teddy Boy of the period.

One-Round: A big bruiser of a man. Not very bright.

Louis Harvey: Ruthless, psychopath. Central European in origin.

Mrs Jane Tromleyton: A dotty old woman who is a friend of Mrs Wilberforce.

Various female friends of Mrs Wilberforce.

Audition date: **Saturday 27 May**
1.45pm - 3pm

Contact: [Keith Neville](mailto:keith.neville@tiscali.co.uk)

Email: keith.neville@tiscali.co.uk

BRIGHTON BEAT

A New Musical (Two-Night Special)

Book by Keith Neville, Music & Lyrics by Mike Lewis and Simon Pergande

A Concert presentation

Sat 11th - Sun 12th November, 2023

Directed by Keith Neville

This is a new musical written by the award winning team who brought you *The Princeford Pals* - winner of 3 major awards in 2017. Set in Brighton in 1964, during the "tribal" conflicts of the Mods and Rockers, it tells the Romeo and Juliet theme of a Mod boy and a Rocker girl who fall in love and find themselves in conflict with their gangs. All the songs are original and the show is entirely sung through with pastiches of the period including a flashback to the 1940's with a wonderful close harmony piece in the style of the Andrew Sisters.

We are looking for soloists and ensemble singers to take part. All the backing tracks have been professionally recorded in a studio and the singers will perform with these in the concert. All singers will have microphones.

NB. No audition dates have been set yet but if you would like a CD of the recording please write to keith.neville@tiscali.co.uk giving your mailing address.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A LIVE RADIO PLAY (FULL LENGTH VERSION)

Classic Fantasy

It's a Wonderful Life is based on the story, *The Greatest Gift* by Philip Van Doren Stern adapted by Joe Landry

9th - 16th December, 2023

Directed by Lindsay Dale

Billed as the holiday classic to define all holiday classics, and set in 1946 up-state New York. This is the story of George, a frustrated businessman who feels trapped in his home town. He becomes suicidal and Clarence - a trainee angel, is sent from heaven to try and change his mind. Clarence shows George what life in the town would have been like without his existence. It is a truly heart-warming tale about the power of good, This is presented as the recording of a radio play, so the actors will be playing radio actors gathered in the recording studio, complete with live audience (our audience), to record *It's A Wonderful Life* for broadcast. These actors will play multiple parts.

The play is written for 5 actors - 3 male and 2 female. It could be more actors with fewer characters to play. Ideally I would like 5 men and 3 women.

Playing ages are very flexible because these folk are recording for the radio, so their ultimate audience will not see them. Ages given below are very flexible.

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Cast:

George: The main character, also plays young George – ideally 25 -40

Mary and young Mary: Same age as George

Clarence: The trainee angel who tries to rescue George – any age

Joseph(ine): Clarence's boss in the angel world – any age

Potter: The bad – guy -older 50/60

All other female parts: George's mother and daughters,

Violet: – Small town siren and others – any age

Male parts: George's brother Harry and various other parts (could also play Clarence) – any age

Older Male parts: George's uncle Billy and other parts (could also play Potter) -older 50/60

New York accent required.

Audition date: **Saturday 17th June - 11am**

Contact: [Lindsay Dale](#)

Email: lindsaydale45@gmail.com

2024 Productions

THE REVLON GIRL

Drama

by Neil Anthony Docking

10th – 17th February, 2024

Directed by Eric Whiting

At 9.15 on the morning of 21 October 1966 a huge wave of debris from a local coal mine swept down onto the Welsh Village of Aberfan. Directly in its path was the local Junior School. 116 Children and 28 adults lost their lives.

Based on actual events, The Revlon Girl takes us to a meeting held the following summer by a few of the mothers – women struggling to cope with life after the disaster, and struggling to find some 'normality'.

Sian, the meeting's organiser, has booked a young woman from Revlon to come and give a talk and demonstrate some make-up techniques. Just three other women turn up. What follows is one of the most powerful pieces of theatre you will ever see.

Cast: 5 Women

Sian: Bright, hopeful and eager to help, Very much the instigator (and defender) of the evening's event and is desperate for it to go well.

Revlon: A smart, well groomed, trusting woman, who clearly does not come from a Welsh working-class mining village.

Marilyn: Introverted, tense and fearful of change. Though outwardly simple, she is very focused.

Rona: Fiery, foul – mouthed and indomitable. She finds strength in rage, rejects authority and is easily set alight.

Jean: Stately, conservative and sociable. Though she hails from the same background as Marilyn and Rona, she is now the wife of a respected church minister and therefore regards herself as a pillar of the community.

While there is some flexibility with the playing ages, Marilyn, Jean and Rona should ideally appear to be around the same age as they went to school together, with Sian and Revlon a few years younger.

Audition date: **Saturday 27th May - 3pm to 5pm**

Contact: [Eric Whiting](#)

Email: the.eric1@gmail.com

A TASTE OF HONEY

Drama

by Shelagh Delaney

30th March – 6th April, 2024

Directed by Van Corbould

NB: As this play was postponed during the previous season it is being staged with the original cast.

There are no auditions for this play.

THE CHILDREN

by Lucy Kirkwood

Environmental Thriller

25th May – 1st June, 2024

Directed by Melinda Hunt

The play opens on a summer evening in a small cottage on the English coast. Rose is sitting on a chair with a bloody nose and it soon becomes clear that Hazel hit Rose in the face, falsely believing her old friend to be an intruder. Hazel has heard that Rose had died so her appearance is rather a shock. Rose catches up on Hazel's family as the two women have not seen each other for over thirty years while Rose worked in America. Yet, Rose still seems to be strangely familiar with the layout of the cottage. As the two women continue to catch up, Hazel reveals that, while she might be a grandmother, she is determined not to give in to old age. Hazel begins to describe the meltdown of the local nuclear power station and the devastation it caused to the area. Water and electricity are now limited and the air is affected by radiation. Rose, Hazel, and Hazel's husband, Robin, all worked at the plant when it was created and they share memories of the plant's early days.

So it goes in "The Children", a slow – moving but ultimately thought-provoking and haunting drama about legacies and how the past always catches up with the present.

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2024 Productions

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THE CHILDREN

Cast:

1 Man, 2 women, all playing age 60-65, but don't be put off if you are in your 50's as they are all youthful of age. All have to be prepared to dance!

Hazel: The epitome of rural capability yet subtly hints at her unresolved rage, based on past experience, towards her unwanted visitor. She relentlessly keeps up appearances not giving in to old age.

Rose: Suggests a woman who nurses private and public secrets and is aware of her sexual power. She is sanguine and somewhat ethereal.

Robin: An Unreformed rogue, one time laboratory tech. He has the energy of an old rocker.

Actors never leave the stage. All actors need to be available for all rehearsals.

Audition date: **Saturday 17th June - 1.45pm - 3 pm**

Contact: [Melinda Hunt](#)

Email: melindahunt51@gmail.com

YES, PRIME MINISTER

Comedy

by Antony Jay & Jonathan Lynn

20th - 27th July, 2024

Directed by Rod Henderson

The UK is in crisis, debt is spiralling, unemployment is on the rise and the fragile coalition led by Prime Minister Jim Hacker, is at breaking point. But salvation may exist in the form of a complex pipeline deal with the oil - rich country of Kumranistan that would entitle the government to a multi-trillion pound loan.

When the Kumranistan Foreign Secretary makes a shocking request of Jim's Private Secretary Bernard Woolley, moral considerations collide with the economic future of the nation. But how will Jim and his team: Bernard, Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby and special adviser Claire Sutton, reconcile the two? Political machinations, media manipulation and an appeal for divine intervention ensue.

Set several years after the original TV series, this stage adaptation makes no mention of the original Yes Minister or Yes Prime Minister, and acted as a soft launch for the rebooted TV series of 2013.

The Play is set in the Prime Minister's office at Chequers at the present time.

Cast:

5 men and 2 women (or 6 men and 1 woman if the BBC presenter is male)

Sir Humphrey Appleby: -Cabinet Secretary - playing age 50 - 60.

Sir Humphrey is the government's Cabinet Secretary, and unofficially acts as Jim Hacker's impenetrably loquacious advisor. Sir Humphrey knows everything that is going on, but unfortunately for the Prime Minister he doesn't always share his knowledge.

Bernard Woolley: - Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister playing age 30 - 40

Bernard is in charge of looking after the Prime Minister in his governmental role.

Poor Bernard faithfully tries to please both Hacker and Sir Humphrey - the two people he has equal loyalty to - but it's a hard thing to do when both men want completely different things.

Jim Hacker: -Prime Minister - playing age 40 - 50

There's trouble afoot for Jim Hacker, the fraught Prime Minister of the UK.

European economies are going down the toilet, there's a 'too good to true' energy deal on the table from an unusual source, a leadership crisis with his coalition partners, the threat of a Scottish independence referendum and the greatest moral dilemma he has ever faced.

Claire Sutton: - Special Policy Adviser - playing age 30s

Claire is the Prime Minister's personal political advisor and the head of his policy Unit inside Number 10. Jim turns to Claire whenever he needs help forming an idea or opinion. She is cool, calm and collected and can be relied on in a crisis.

Kumranistan Ambassador: playing age 30 - 40

While the role of the Ambassador features a fictional Middle Eastern country, the role need not be filled by an actor of this heritage, though diverse casting is encouraged in this role and across the rest of the cast (i.e. I will cast colour blind) It will not require an accent from any particular Middle- Eastern country.

Jeremy Burnham: Director - General of the BBC - playing age 40 - 60

A small role in Act 2. Friends with the Prime Minister from back in the day. Loud and entitled.

Simone Chester: BBC presenter - playing age 20 -40

A small role in Act 2. Originally written as a male character but can be female. Think Emily Maitlis or similar. Conducts a live interview with the PM.

Audition date: **Saturday 10th June - 1.45pm**

Contact: [Rod Henderson](#)

Email: rodhenderson@live.co.uk
