

DIARY DATES

MONOLOGUE BATTLE	SHIRLEY VALENTINE by Willy Russel	THE WASP by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm	BANCROFT PLAYERS AGM
17 SEPTEMBER 2021	11-20 OCTOBER 2021	9-13 NOVEMBER 2021	3 SEPTEMBER 2021

ART DIRECTORS BLOG

'There is a tide in the affairs of men (and women), Which taken at the flood, leads onto to fortune. ..On such a full sea are we now afloat' Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

So - theatres are now fully open it seems. Well more or less. And the population, starved as they have been of live entertainment are poised to return in their droves to take the many seats we have to sell them. All we have to do now is to provide plays and productions and we're ready to accept that challenge. As you can see above, we have some shows to - er - show and more to come in the New Year. We will need actors of course so don't forget to audition. To give you extra confidence I've put together an article with some audition advice elsewhere in this learned journal. We will need directors too and set builders and lighting crew and front of house (FOH) staff and people to serve at the bar. You see, it takes a myriad of staff to make a theatre run. Want to help? We give full training by the way and you only need come down when its convenient to you. Why not use one of the links below to contact someone who can talk to you about all these things:

I would like to know more about ACTING: bigspirittheatre@hotmail.com

I would like to know more about DIRECTING: bigspirittheatre@hotmail.com

I would like to know more about LIGHTING/SOUND: roman.turney@sky.com

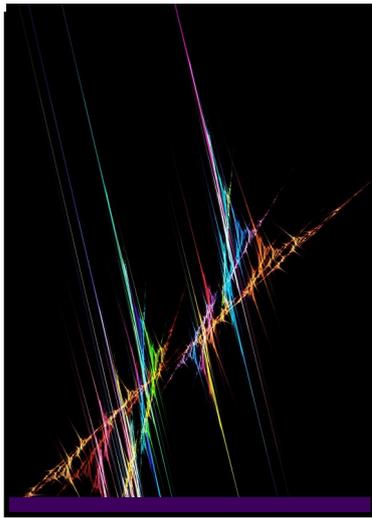
More about STAGECRAFT: emmajosaunders@hotmail.com

More about FOH or SET DESIGN: qmtbarcrofters@gmail.com

Rory Reynolds

Arts Director

COMING UP AT THE QMT:



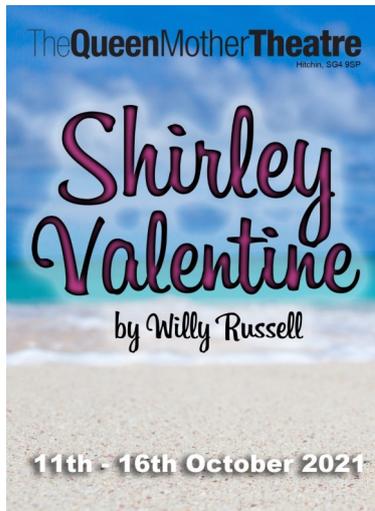
MONOLOGUE BATTLE

September 17 —MAIN THEATRE

The Youth Theatre compete with one another in a Monologue battle for cash prizes. Our panel of judges will rule on the night and there will be lots of fun guaranteed.

See the stars of tomorrow—today. All tickets £5

[Book online now now](#)



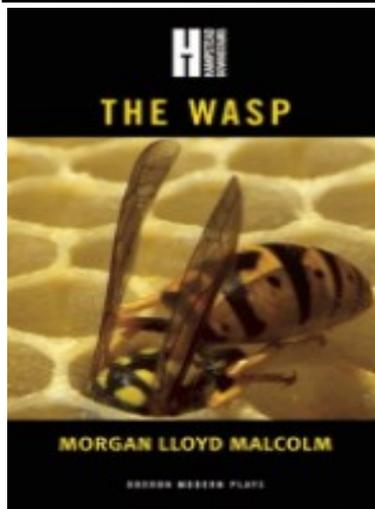
SHIRLEY VALENTINE

Written by Willy Russel

Directed by Elliott Bunker

October 11-20 —MAIN THEATRE

An ordinary middle class English but bored housewife goes about her daily life whilst telling us all about her husband, her children, her past, and about an invitation from a girl-friend to join her on holiday in Greece to search for adventure and romance. Shirley does escape to Greece, has an "adventure" with a local fisherman and decides to stay. A hilariously engaging one woman play .



THE WASP

Written by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Directed by Keith Swainston

November 9-13 —STUDIO

" This two-hander is sprung like a bear trap, a play with very sharp teeth... Just when you feel you have sense of the characters and what they want from one another, the writing shifts. It s a weapon of a play in this respect: the rules keep changing as rug pull follows rug pull. The tension, of jeopardy, is palpable."



The Stage

MORE COMING UP:

Our Xmas show: **THE SNOW QUEEN**

DECEMBER 10 , 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19

AUGUST AUDITION NOTICE

The Snow Queen

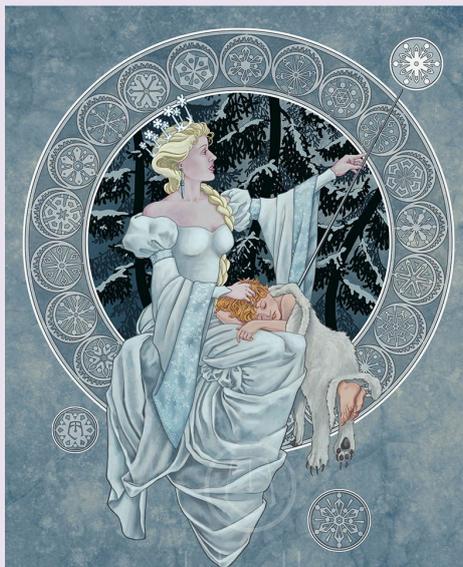
by Ron Nichol

- **Audition dates:** Monday 20th and Thursday 22 September
- **Rehearsal nights:** Tuesdays and Thursdays

So—what's the story?

Skilfully adapted from the original story by Hans Christian Anderson, this is the tale of Gerda, a little girl who searches for her friend Kai when he is bewitched and imprisoned by the Snow Queen in her Ice Palace. Gerda's strength and innocence charms everyone she meets along the way as she journeys to Lapland where the cold Queen lives. A wonderful story for Christmas with a cast of adults, youth theatre actors and children.

Scripts will be available from 10 September from the Box Office at the QMT. All are welcome to audition, you can readily audition without reading the script as the auditions are in the form of games and exploration. We will only be doing a small amount of reading.



CAST NOTICE

THE WASP

Written by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm
Directed by Keith Swainston) is now cast

CAST

HEATHER: Georgina Bennett

CARLA: Laura Mead

REMEMBERING ALAN BAILES

A memorial is planned to include tributes from friends in theatre organisations Alan worked with over the years.

11 am Sunday 5th September
Queen Mother Theatre Walsworth Road,
Hitchin SG4 9SP

Please join us afterwards for one of Alan's favourite BBQ's at **Woodside Hall**)

For catering purposes please email to let me know if you will be attending. Thank you

Sarah sarah.bailes@ntlworld.com

The Bancroft Players Amateur Dramatic Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, September 3, 2021 at 8pm

Queen Mother Theatre, Woodside, Walsworth Rd, Hitchin SG4 9SP

After a long period of darkness at the theatre, you are invited to the Bancroft Players AGM which will roll the postponed 2020 AGM and the 2021 AGM into one. All members are invited to attend and a free glass of wine or soft drink will be provided.

All positions are open to interested individuals and we invite members and interested parties to come forward and fill a number of vacant positions within the Society.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE!

Renew before the end of September at get **25% off** full adult membership

Please remember to renew your membership this year either by standing order or online at

www.qmt.org.uk/membership

BANCROFT PLAYERS' 200 CLUB

Gosh, we are finally going to have an AGM – possibly already concluded by the time you read this. My report at that meeting will not be terribly positive. Sadly the last few years have not been kind to the 200 Club and we have lost a few members for various reasons. As a result, the mega Christmas draw, which is usually £100 had to be reduced to £50 and the usual contribution to the theatre was reduced from £500 to £300. Therefore, much like the Bancroft Players themselves, we do need new members. I will have forms with me at the AGM but if you weren't there, you can still contact me on paula.downes@ntlworld.com. For £12 a year you are in with a chance of winning one of our monthly prizes plus have your number in the two six monthly draws in December and June. Let's hope I can increase the December draw back up to £100 and the June one is always £50. Plus of course you are also helping the theatre with its ongoing costs. Please think about it.

Finally congratulations to our August winners.

August 2021

Jenny Rushbrook	£25.00
Joan Armstrong	£20.00
Mark Bianchi	£15.00
Diana Linnett	£10.00

Paula Downes

The Successful Actor's Guide to Auditioning

The auditioning process is central to the actor's life. Amateur or professional, school nativity or big West End blockbuster – its all starts with the audition process. So love 'em or hate 'em the truth is you can't escape the bloody things. Well then, what to do? Answer: get good at auditioning! It's a skill and like all skills, you will improve with practise.

So here is some pretty good advice to set you on the right path. These are points that come from my own experience both sides of the auditioning panel as well as from actor friends who do well in the casting game.

Be prepared! I think it was Benjamin Franklin who said 'failing to prepare is preparing to fail..' You can never be too prepared by the way. I think there is a folk myth that you are at your best when you sort of jazz everything, improvising on the spot. That's not true. He or she who wins – prepares.

Read the whole script at least once if not more. It is full of important information about the character you are playing, the story they are involved in and how they get along with other people in the story.

Make a list about your character:

- Age
- Job/work
- Relationships with others in the play
- Social class
- Accent
- Their upbringing
- Their interests

Ignore the Audition Panel: The panel can be very distracting and can set you off on an internal dialogue that will drive you crazy! You think: 'oh they look bored..' or 'I know they prefer that person to me, I don't stand a chance...' and so on and so forth. So let the panel see you act and you train you focus on your performance – if you spot the panel members speaking think: 'they must like me because they are discussing me..' rather than anything negative. Negative thinking is your greatest enemy in auditions and – in fact – in life generally.

Get 'in the zone'. Take your time. When you get up to audition, take a moment to feel the character, feel your energy and to focus on what you are doing. That moment of focussing, gathering your thoughts and energy, is hugely important.

People want you to succeed. That's the real secret. The panel want to cast you so if you're prepared, they'll see it and you'll stand a greater chance of getting the role you want. If you don't get the role you want by the way, take another role in the same show if it's offered. That way you'll build up a network of friends and influencers who will be your foundation for the next audition.

Be friendly and generous. We like to like people. So be likable! More actors get work because they get along with others rather than possess any great talent. Speak well to people's faces, be generous with your praise and resist the temptation to be catty behind people's backs - it always get back to them and that will affect your castability.