The Bancroft Players

November 2021 Newsletter

SHOW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE WASP	Big Spirit present 'JUNK'	THE SNOW QUEEN	THE MAIDS
By Morgan Lloyd Malcolm	By Melvyn Burgess	By Han Christian Andersen Adapted by Ron Nichol	By Jean Genet
9-13 NOVEMBER 2021	24-27 NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021	JANUARY 2022

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BLOG

Hello lovers of culture! Thanks for reading this November 2021 edition of the BP Newsletter. First may I welcome aboard the new editor – Elliott Bunker. Muchos gracias Elliott for taking charge of our fave newsletter and we look forward to a long reign! Our grateful thanks too to Christine Neal who did a wonderful job of reviving and re-energising the newsletter as we came out of lockdown.

So what's on the menu here at the QMT? Going in order, we start with The Wasp directed by Keith Swainston and starring Laura Mead and Georgie Bennett. It's a sensational piece of writing with a mega cast and director. Then in late November Big Spirit Youth Theatre presents Junk. Junk was originally an award-winning novel by Melvyn Burgess about teens running away from home then falling into drug abuse and this is the stage version of that book directed by the force of nature that is Katie Rallison. Taking us into December we have a delightful and engaging stage version of the Hans Christian Anderson tale – The Snow Queen. It's a great show with a happy mixture of adults, youth theatre and Junior BPs in the cast in a production that will appeal to all ages. As always – book now as there are only a set number of tickets available for each performance listed above an' you don't want to be left behind, do you?

You're presumably receiving this newsletter because you are already a member of the Society and I would like to ask you all to continue to support our work here at the Queen Mother Theatre as best you can. Your money spent on tickets and so forth is always welcome and very necessary but we would love you to be very involved too – well as involved as you can be with the busy lives you lead. It's not all about being actors (although we love finding new performers, of course) but about helping run the bar or FOH, helping backstage or learning a new skill as a technician. It's lots of fun too so why not join the party?

Happy November everyone!

Rory Reynolds
Artistic Director

JOHN LAMBERT – A TRIBUTE

In the last few weeks we've heard of the very sad passing of long-term member, John Lambert.

John and his wife Sue joined the Bancroft Players many years ago and were regular faces and firm favourites in the Box Office, behind the bar and as part of the Front of House team. Reading all the beautiful tributes on Facebook recently you can see how beloved they both were due to their amazing warmth and glowing personalities.

Sue passed away a couple of years ago, and while John was supporting Sue through this he was too battling his own ill health, but he continued to remain positive and active; walking hundreds of miles for his chosen charities right up until September this year.

John's funeral has been confirmed by Austin's as taking place on:

Tuesday 9th November 2021 @ 3pm

at North Herts Memorial Park & Crematorium

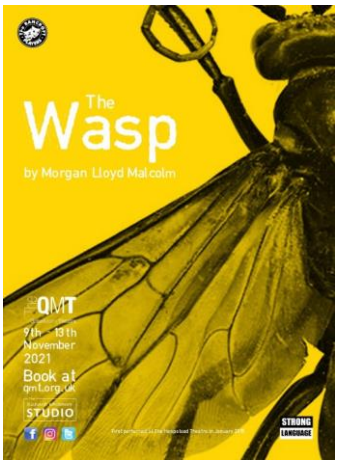
Please confirm attendance to Julie.Novis@hrjforemanlaws.co.uk by 4th of November so they can ensure attendance stays within the allocated limit at the crematorium.

For any friends who cannot attend John's funeral, there is a live webcast
(Username: ruco3504 – Password: 293581)

Donations can be made in John's name directly to

The Garden House Hospice

COMING SOON TO THE QMT



THE WASP

Written by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Directed by Keith Swainston

'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*

Book Now>

BIG SPIRIT present 'JUNK'

Directed by Katie Rallison

Tar loves Gemma but Gemma doesn't want to be tied down—not to anyone or anything. Gemma wants to fly! But no one can fly forever. One day, somehow, finally you have to come down.

Book Now >

THE SNOW QUEEN

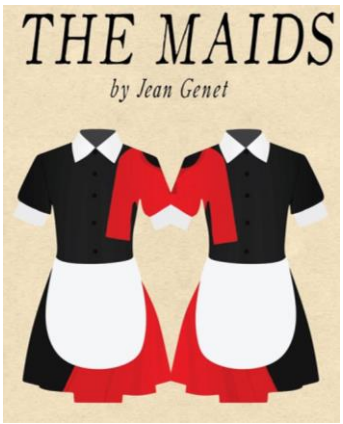
Written by Ron Nichol

Directed by Rory Reynolds & Katie Rallison

Adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale in which little Gerda searches for her friend Kai who 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.

Book Now>



THE MAIDS

Written by Jean Genet

Directed by Lisa Hutchinson

Two sisters, Clare and Solange, live and work as maids in a grand house. When the mistress is out, they play an obsessive game of role-play in the fine clothes belonging to the mistress. Acting out the power structures which define their lives with great theatricality, the line between make believe and reality becomes increasingly distorted, it becomes clear that the aim of the game is to murder their mistress.

Book Now >

NEWS from BIG SPIRIT

Big Spirit (our youth theatre) are currently putting together a show called *Junk* by Melvin Burgess. Junk is about two rebel lovers who run away from home to end up in a squat in Bristol, where they encounter challenges including drugs such as heroin. They battle addiction and abuse all while trying to keep up their relationship as they adjust to their move to Bristol. The show includes great physical theatre including lifts as well as movement the whole shebang is directed by Katie Milward. **Book Now >**

Not only this but Big Spirit are involved in our Christmas show, The Snow Queen, this December. The Snow Queen is based on the story written by Hans Christian Anderson and is a show suitable for younger audiences. It's all about a little girl called Gerda and her friend Kai. Kai encounters *The Snow Queen,* and she puts a piece of ice in his heart and in his eye, making him see the world as evil. Rory directs the show with the help of Violet Morris (a former member of Big Spirit). Dates: 10-12th and 17-18th of December with some matinees.

Zoe Bednarz
Youth Theatre

The Wasp

by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

9TH -13TH November

Performed by Laura Mead & Georgina Bennett
Directed by Keith Swainston

"You see? There is an impact to everything a person does. Even the simplest moment. Even a single word can have an effect. It could be that this has only a very minuscule effect or it could be bigger. I just kind of wish we could all be nicer to each other."

Please note: This play contains adult language, smoking and scenes of a sensitive nature

Book Now >

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP EVENINGS

So, we've now had two of our Monthly Membership Evenings –with fantastic quiz fun & game-show fun from everyone. Here are the dates for the next few months of events, please put them in your diary now!

The bar opens at 7.30pm and the main event starts at 8pm for all our Monthly Members Evenings.

Friday 19th November
Game Show Night
Another evening of game-show fun—not your normal quiz night!

Weds 22nd December
The QMT Christmas Quiz
Great night of festive general knowledge quizzing for all!

We hope to be able to run additional events, such as workshops for playwriting, acting, technical and direction in the future too. So, keep your eyes peeled for more on these very soon.

Elliott Bunker – Membership Secretary – members@qmt.org.uk

AUDITION NEWS: CLEO, CAMPING, EMMANUELLE & DICK

Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle, and Dick – by Terry Johnson and directed by Matt Gray

Audition Dates : 15th & 17th November 2021 at 7:45 pm
Performance Dates : 21st to 26th February 202
Rehearsals : Mondays and Wednesdays

MORE AUDITION INFO >

About the Play

In 1964 a fifty-one-year-old man meets a twenty-seven-year-old woman at work.
She's young, buxom, blonde, pretty. And just about to get married…
Over the years, as they work together, the two grow closer; they become friends. He becomes obsessed with her. She promises him one night of lust in Brighton. Just one night. Just to get it out of his system. He takes her up on her offer and then begins one of the most well-known secret affairs of the twentieth century.
He was Sid James.
She was Barbara Windsor.
Terry Johnson's biographical play follows the affair from their first meeting all the way to its conclusion. Focusing on the events during the making of four Carry On films, and all set in a leaky and distinctly unglamourous caravan. It's funny, touching and ultimately tragically sad as the lives of these icons of British comedy are put under the theatrical microscope.

Cast

From the outset, it's important to recognise that whilst four of the characters were real people, three of these characters are iconic public figures and even to this day they remain well-known to millions.
But I am not looking for people who look like them or asking people to do impressions of them. I am looking for people who can work at developing these characters to bring them to life on the stage. The ages are just a guide – it is a period piece, and much can be done with performance, costume, and make up.

- **Sid James** – Comedy actor. Also, a gambler and womaniser. Not a fan of Kenneth. (Age late 40s – 60s)
- **Kenneth Williams** – Comedy actor. Bitter at the lack of recognition of his own acting genius. Good friend to Barbera. Not a fan of Sid. (Age late 30s to 50s).
- **Barbara Windsor** – Actress. Eastender. She is confident and strong from the outset but also vulnerable. (Age 25-40)
- **Sally** – Sid's young dresser. She puts up with Sid's endless demands (Age 18-30)
- **Imogen Hassell** – A young actress looking for her break. Naïve. (Age 18-25)
- **Eddie** – Barbara's driver and bodyguard. An Eastend heavy. (Age 40s/50s)

CASTING NEWS: THE MAIDS

THE MAIDS
By Jean Genet
Directed by Lisa Hutchins

CAST
Solange: Hannah Conway
Claire: Lauren Tillbrook
The Mistress: Scott Henderson

LATER IN THE SEASON

JANUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2022	MARCH 2022
THE MAIDS	MACBETH (Juniors) CARRY ON CAMPING, CLEO & EMMANUEL	BIG SPIRIT SHOW

MAY 2022	JUNE 2022	JULY 2022
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE	STUDIO SHOW (to be announced soon)	JUNIORS SHOW END of SEASON SHOW

Auditions and production details will be published very soon

200 CLUB – NOVEMBER WINNERS

Did you know that the 200 Club only costs £1 per month! And you have a 1 in 50 chance of winning a cash prize EVERY MONTH!! Please contact Paula to sign-up.

Congratulations to our all-female October winners. Will the November list contain YOUR name? There's only one way to find out…sign-up today!

Pam Chohan	**£ 25**
Wendy Whitmore	**£ 20**
Jane Sherry	**£ 15**
Barbie Gardiner	**£ 10**

Paula Downes - paula.downes@ntlworld.com