

STAGEWrite

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 26 - May 2026

our next production : THE ACTRESS by Peter Quilter

Lydia Martin has been giving her all to the theatre for decades, but the time has now come for her to hang up the wigs, costumes and greasepaint and retire reasonably gracefully from the stage.

As she makes her swansong appearance, we are taken into the intimacy of her dressing room where she can reflect both on the life she has devoted to her art, and everything associated and sacrificed for that devotion.

Peter Quilter's *The Actress* is sometimes touching and poignant, often emotional and thought-provoking, and frequently funny, as Lydia is visited by friends, family and colleagues to see her final dramatic performance.



Directed by Trish Richings, this production is a love letter to the stage, balancing comedy with poignancy as Lydia Martin takes her final bow.

It features Tricia Pape in the lead role, with fine support from Roland Boorman, Marilynne Sharpin, Roger Trace, Kirsty Turner, Dan Williams, and Peter Quinn, plus the welcome return of Sylvia Aston to Seaford's stage, and the debut at the Little Theatre of Lucy Parkin.

The show opens on Friday 5 June 2026 and runs through to the following Saturday 13 June with matinées only on both Saturday 6 and Saturday 13 June. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm.

Tickets are on sale now at all our usual venues.

“ All these thousands of nights staring at this decaying face before every performance. At least I won't have to do that again. ”

Lydia Martin

Don't forget there is a special offer of two tickets for the price of one on the first night - 5 June

(subject to availability)

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Sue Williams

HELLO EVERYONE. My thanks to so many of you who turned up for the AGM in March. It was lovely to see members showing that they care about the theatre and want to give their support. As usual the business side of things was over very quickly and we were able to move swiftly into the coffee lounge to enjoy cheese, wine and a chat.

We are lucky to have our own building and we do our best to maintain it to a good standard. Of course an old building like ours is never going to be perfect and now that the roof work is almost complete we must think about any issues with damp affecting the interior. So it looks as though our fundraising efforts will continue into the future. We have done very well so far with donations and fundraising events. Not forgetting the wonderful efforts made continually by Roger our fundraising supremo who applies for grants to all possible organisations! As always, if you'd like to know details of money raised please go to our website www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk and click Donations and Grants on the home page.

We are not a wealthy theatre but we hold our heads above water very nicely. So, alongside the larger sums needed for building maintenance we are able to support members with a low annual membership fee of £15. We are able also to fund scripts and to keep refreshment prices at a very reasonable level. This all helps us to be an effective and welcoming part of the Seaford community.

The production staged since the last newsletter was *The Graduate*, directed by Mike Truman. The many audience members were

highly entertained by this well-known story and we have had lots of positive feedback. Now rehearsals are well underway for *The Actress*, directed by Trish Richings. This is a funny and touching account of an actress's 'swan song' as seen backstage as she prepares to take the lead in *The Cherry Orchard*. An ex-husband, a future husband, a daughter who is determined not to be impressed and various theatre people drop into her dressing room and pose challenges. I'm sure you will enjoy the resulting drama! *The Actress* is on from Friday June 5 to Saturday June 13.

I am more than delighted to be able to thank Kate Baker, our new publicity officer, who has stepped up and offered to take on the organisation of the tea and coffee rota with all it entails. Kate is a relatively new member who is proving an invaluable asset to the theatre. Thank you Kate!

As always my thanks go to Debbie, our social secretary, and her team of helpers who are so willing to help make events a success. Everyone on the management committee has a specific job to do and most of them are time-consuming and taxing! The theatre does not run itself and I'm sure you will join me in applauding these behind-the-scenes heroes. Away from the committee Alan continues to be our webmaster and oversee the workshop team, and the amazing Simon Fox, together with his wife, works wonders to make our theatre garden so beautiful.

That's about it for now. Enjoy the summer and don't forget to come along and see *The Actress*.

Love to you all

SUE





Debbie Cox
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 Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



As I write this we are nearing our next social event, Dean Ager will be entertaining us on the stage of the Little Theatre as Elvis and The Rat Pack. The event is kindly supported and sponsored by Gill Watson.

A big thank you to Jenny, Gail and Phil who are my invaluable helpers, as always.

For the future we have another of Roger's music quizzes which proved to be such a success last year and Tanya will be bringing us a Game's Show which I will tell you more about nearer the time.

On top of that we will be staging a Country Rock event. So dust off your cowboy boots and stetsons. Yeehaw! Watch this space.

I'm also looking for anyone who is willing to do us a quiz night. Always popular and great fun for our members.



Please let me know what you would like to see at SLT this Summer... We've done a few successful Seaford's Got Talent events in past years as well as bring a plate, celebratory afternoon party events incorporating our beautiful garden.

Maybe we could even have a simple cheese and wine gathering to catch up with friends and reminisce over past plays . We could bring out the archives and John Guyatt's scrap books which have been passed on to us. We could raise a toast to all our past and present members and the successful future of our wonderful Little Theatre.

*As always thank you for your continuing support,
 Debbie x*

TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Tea and Toast is as popular as ever and we continue to raise money for the Raise The Roof Fund. A big thank you to all the tidy uppers and, of course, everyone who comes along and supports us. And a special thank you to the kind members who bring along items for the raffle. First Monday of each month, eat and drink all you like - just £2. Next one: June 1st

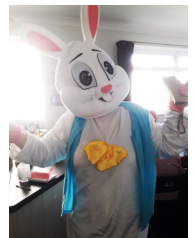
We were unexpectedly visited by the Easter Bunny last month who came laden with choccie eggs for everyone who was there.

At least I hope it was the Easter Bunny.

Either that or I was in full James Stewart mode and hallucinating in an alcoholic haze.

I think the photo proves it was real.

A great morning was had by all.



SCRIPTS

When East Dean Players sadly closed, they gave us many, many boxes of playscripts. Ray and others kindly moved them over to Seaford.

I have now catalogued them all and they are in eight plastic boxes in the loft above my garage. I am happy to store them for as long as I live in Seaford, or until SLT has space for them, whichever is the sooner.

Alan has magically attached the catalogue, in spreadsheet form and as a PDF, to the website on a page which you can find at this web address.

<http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk/Link%20Pages/pastproductions.html>

There are 230 titles. There aren't enough copies of any one play for a play-reading, but there are lots of duplicates. They range over the genres and you can also sort by the date they were first performed.

If you want to see any of these copies or borrow them to read, please get in touch with me and you can pop by. The loft ladder is very sturdy!

Lesley Drew

Email: ljdraw2@gmail.com



GIFT VOUCHERS



Are you looking for the perfect gift for friends, family or colleagues and feel stuck for ideas? Then why not give them a Seaford Little Theatre Gift Voucher?

Whether you're saying Happy Birthday, wishing them Merry Christmas, or just delivering a Thank You, choose one of our Little Theatre Gift Vouchers and help to make their day.

Valid for one year from date of purchase, they give the recipient a choice of four different productions to choose from and are provided in multiples of our ticket prices - you decide how much. (Minimum spend £10).

If you would like to purchase one or know more then please email the theatre on

mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Without passion we are only machines.

Joanna Quinn, The Whalebone Theatre

REMAINING PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2026 SEASON

05- 13 June

THE ACTRESS
by Peter Quilter

directed by Trish Richings

04 -12 September

THE DEEP BLUE SEA
by Terence Rattigan

directed by Tim Telford

04 - 12 December

MURDERED TO DEATH
by Peter Gordon

directed by Kim Sanger White

AUDITION NOTICE
THE DEEP BLUE SEA

by Terence Rattigan
directed by Tim Telford

Audition Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026- 7.30pm
Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 4 - 12 September 2026

"To see yourself as the world sees you may be very brave, but it can also be very foolish."

As we become ever more connected online, many of us are feeling more disconnected than ever. According to the Office for National Statistics, around a quarter of adults in the UK report feeling lonely always, often, or sometimes.

Terence Rattigan's powerful post-war drama *The Deep Blue Sea* lays bare the emotional cost of loneliness and longing. Hester Collyer, having left her husband for a younger man, finds herself caught between passion and despair as her fragile relationship begins to crumble.

Written in 1952, this is one of Rattigan's finest and most frequently revived plays - a portrait of love, loss, and the quiet courage it takes to go on living. With his trademark compassion and precision, Rattigan captures the ache of being human in a world struggling to reconnect.

CHARACTERS	AUDITION PIECES
PHILIP	Page 1 to 5
JACKIE	Page 42 to 44
FREDDY	Page 68 to 74, Page 42 to 44
MRS ELTON	Page 1 to 5
COLLYER	Page 25 to 31
ANN	Page 1 to 5
HESTER	Page 25 to 31, Page 68 to 74, Page 81 to 82
MR MILLER	Page 81 to 82

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition date, please contact me so that I can arrange an alternative. If you are able to help behind the scenes, I would also be very pleased to hear from you.

Scripts are available from me if anyone would like to see one or read the audition pieces. And I also hope to have those audition pieces available as pdf downloads from the website in due course. Please check the auditions page for their availability.

Tim Telford

Email: Tim.Telford@outlook.com

07399 483306

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

The Hulk before the intermission, Bruce Banner after it.

Lin Manuel Miranda



Photos from the set of
The Graduate
taken by Andrew Parkinson

With Honours



The Graduate with Joel
Messenger, Jodie Taylor,
Sandy Truman, Roland
Boorman, Josie Hobbs,
Peter Quinn, Peter
Anidjar-Romain and Ann
Allan.





BOOKING INFORMATION



The ticket prices are £11.00 each for the tiered seats and £10.00 each for all other seats.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and Friends of the theatre are available at our box office:

SEAFORD TOURIST OFFICE,
37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG
Telephone Enquiries & Booking:
(01323) 897426

Email: seaford.tic@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
We also have an on-line booking system

via TicketSource. This can be found at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/seaford-little-theatre
or through our website, address below.

Please note a small booking fee applies to all on-line sales. Unfortunately, due to the way in which the system operates, this facility cannot be used when exchanging Friend's Vouchers. These must still be presented at the Box Office as usual.

Postal applications should be sent to:
Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsye Court, Sutton
Drove, Seaford, BN25 3ET

They must be accompanied by a cheque made out to 'Seaford Dramatic Society' and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If the position you seek is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

Could you also provide an alternative date in case the the one you request is sold out.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE ON THE OPENING NIGHT!
(subject to availability)

Tickets for this production on sale now



Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:
newsletter@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk



For an on-line version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website:
www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter:
17 JULY 2026