STAGEWrite

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER Issue 27 - November 2026

our next production : MURDERED TO DEATH by Peter Gordon

Our December production promises to bring a lot of laughs and good cheer to those long winter months.

Murdered to Death is a comic spoof on the classic whodunnit genre by Peter Gordon and directed by Kim Sanger White.

A murder mystery in true Agatha Christie style, it is set in a 1930's English country manor where an eclectic and eccentric group of characters are gathered for the weekend.

When the owner of the house is mysteriously murdered, the case falls to the bumbling and inept Inspector Pratt who, alongside his much more capable sidekick, Constable Thomkins, attempts to solve the crime, leading to frequent chaos, red herrings, and a rising body count.

With over 1000 professional and amateur productions world-wide this is a very popular comedy-whodunnit which will send you home with a big smile on your face.



Our production features Kirsty Turner as Mildred, Debbie Cox as Dorothy, Roger Trace as Bunting the butler, Alan Lade as Colonel Craddock, Josie Hobbs as Margaret Craddock, Simon Fox as Pierre Marceau, Phoebe Bazzard as Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington, Corinne Jones as Miss Jane Maple, the debut at Seaford of Bernie Keohane as Constable Thompkins, and the return here of Steve Darvill as Inspector Pratt.

The show opens on Friday 4 December 2026 and runs through to the following Saturday 12 December with matinées only on both Saturday 5 and Saturday 12 December. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm.

Tickets are on sale now and selling well at all our usual venues, so don't delay and get yours sorted.

"Look here, Inspector, you can't posibly think it was one of us. Respectable people, dash it!"

Don't forget there is a special offer of two tickets for the price of one on the first night - 4 December (subject to availability)

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Sue Williams

Hello everyone. A couple of things stand out as I write to you.

The first is the exciting news that Seaford Little Theatre has been short-listed for an award! The Theatres' Trust is hosting an event in early November where recognition will be given to many community groups, including amateur theatres. Our short-listing is in The Great British Amateur Theatre category. Our fundraiser Roger Trace has made successful grant applications to the Theatres' Trust, and he put SLT's name forward. Roger will be travelling to the Central Hall Westminster for the ceremony with Kate Baker, our Public Relations Officer, and Kirsty Turner one of our leading actors. I'm sure we all wish them the greatest good fortune.

The second, more mundane but equally important, news is that damp affecting the foyer and the front wall has been treated, and the walls re-plastered. Now that the plaster is dry Alan Lade and I have repainted the affected areas, Alan's work pristine and mine a tad blotchy! Anyway, it looks clean and fresh. Very unfortunately the outside front-of-theatre clean-up has been affected by damp which seeped through the wall before it was treated and has caused some of the new white paint to fall away. This can be put right by applying a special damp-defying treatment, and it will be done as soon as we manage a few days' dry weather.

The Deep Blue Sea, our September production was beset with difficulties, not least of which was the devastating news that the husband of Chloe Franks, who played Hester, died suddenly a few weeks before we opened. Chloe was determined to carry on and found that the friendly and supportive cast, together with the need to do something distracting, helped her through a very dark time. In the event the play was well received and attracted an excellent review with praise for all and for Chloe in particular.

Now ***Murdered to Death*** is into rehearsal with ticket sales going well and many positive reports from the cast who are enjoying themselves under the expert direction of Kim Sanger-White. Kim has been acting with us for a few years but this is her first time as a director with SLT, although it is certainly not the first time she has directed. We are lucky to have her and hope she will want to direct for us again.

The March production, ***Blithe Spirit***, has been cast early to give the leading actors plenty of time to learn their lines. There are lots of lines to learn and of course it is especially important to be accurate with Coward's exacting and stylised language. Achieving a successful "Coward" production is no mean feat and we wish everyone, including first-time director Tanya Baxter, many broken legs! I'm sure it will be a great success and a real crowd pleaser. Our thanks to Tanya for bravely stepping up, and we hope she will find the challenge really enjoyable and rewarding. We should love to learn of any other members who would like to direct.

Our members do enjoy getting together for a chat, and the members' event on August 8, run by Debbie Cox and her team, gave everyone the chance to share some food and drink, look through the archives, and listen to Jenny Humphries singing some favourite numbers. Debbie organises these events so cheerfully and they are much appreciated, as is 'Tea and Toast' held on the first Monday of each month in the coffee lounge.

I am not going to mention Christmas … there, I've mentioned it! Have a happy time all of you.

With love

Sue





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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



In a year of unprecedented temperatures plus a partial eclipse, we enjoyed our Summer Shindig at SLT. A big thank you to Jenny Humphries and her singing partner Chris, as well as Graham Tubb, who kept us all entertained. Members kindly brought along oodles of food to share and plenty of delicious homemade cakes and goodies.

Throughout the day we remembered lots of friends who have passed and are still very much missed. Vicky Palmer donated her late daughter Milli's meticulous collection of theatrical notes and belongings from her time here as Assistant Stage Manager and set and prop builder, as well as her professional life in the film industry, while Diane Guyatt donated husband John's scrapbooks from when he was Assistant Stage Manager at Seaford Little Theatre and also at The Barn Theatre.

It is always a pleasure to see friends and acquaintances gather, relax and enjoy each others company. It really is a special theatre family.



We must offer a well-deserved salute to Trevor Jones and his vivacious Seaford Sunshine Strummers who staged a concert in September. They strummed, sang and gazooed themselves into a frenzy, with infectious enthusiasm that spread lots of joy to a packed auditorium over two days. All money taken was kindly donated to our Raise the Roof fund. Thank you to Gail & Phil Armstrong, Jenny Humphries, Marilynne Sharpin, Ray Cox and Tanya Baxter for their invaluable support. The Social team got in on the fun too, all dressed in unison in sunshine colours.

A few days later they were then all dressed in denim and diamonds for the Diablos two day country rock event. Did I hear someone mutter '*bunch of posers!*'?

Looking ahead, in November we hope to have a social evening and a film premiere starring our very own Alan Lade and Simon Fox. ***The Kingdom of Muricidae*** is a short film written

and directed by Simon's son-in-law, Harrison Perry, that was shot over the summer and has just completed post-production. Date and times TBC.

Other events are in the pipeline but yet to be firmed up, so I will keep you posted when I have more information.

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Theatre Clean Up ***Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm***

All cast and crew members of ***Murdered To Death*** to please attend and clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The set will need to be dismantled and costumes, props etc. sorted and returned and the Theatre cleaned through.

Please feel free to get in touch and let me know what you would like to see at SLT on our social calendar. I am always happy to hear your ideas.

As always thank you for your continuing support, Debbie x

FUN IN THE SUN

Some pictures from the Summer shindig



Pictured Left: Going, Going, Gawn! Graham Tubb tries to auction off an old suitcase, a tatty hat and some left over props from the store cupboard!



Pictured Right: Surprise! Kirsty Turner turns up for the fun with the most realistic pop-up recipe book anyone had ever seen!

TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Tea and Toast is still going strong. A big opportunity to socialise and get together with everyone. First Monday of each month (unless it's the run of the play week). Eat and drink all you like - just £2.
A big thank you to all the helpers on the day and, of course, everyone who comes along and supports us.

PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2027 SEASON

05 -13 March

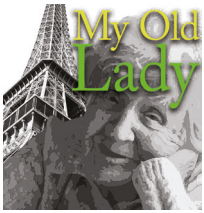


BLITHE SPIRIT
by Noël Coward
directed by Tanya Baxter

A timeless classic from 1941, this is a witty supernatural comedy. Adapted for film, television, radio and a musical it's delighted audiences around the world for generations.

Sceptical novelist Charles Condomine invites an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to conduct a séance for research purposes which accidentally summons the ghost of his mischievous first wife, Elvira. She delights in disrupting his happy life with his second wife Ruth, who believes her husband is imagining things. Chaos and hilarity ensues as Charles finds himself caught between two wives, neither of whom is willing to let him live in peace. Their lives descend into mayhem, jealousy and ghostly revenge as Madame Arcati struggles to restore order through the supernatural hijinks.

04 - 12 June



MY OLD LADY
by Israel Horowitz
directed by Trish Richings

By acclaimed American writer Israel Horowitz, this play was a successful film with Maggie Smith, Kevin Kline and Kristin Scott Thomas.

New Yorker Mathias Gold arrives in Paris hoping his estranged father's apartment will save him from financial ruin. Instead, he finds 94-year-old Mathilde Giffard living there under a lifetime tenancy. Unable to sell the property without her consent, Mathias is forced to move in with Mathilde and her outspoken daughter, Chloé, and is drawn into the secrets of his father's past - and the wounds of his own. Funny and poignant, My Old Lady reveals how the past can shape, haunt and ultimately transform a family.

03 -11 September



ROMEO & JULIET
by William Shakespeare
directed by Tim Telford

Two households, both alike in dignity. Romeo, a Montague, Juliet, a Capulet, the archetypal star-crossed lovers who, in spite of their family's enmity, are fated to fall in love.

One of Shakespeare's most popular plays in his lifetime, it is still one that is most frequently performed now and has always resonated deeply with audiences.

This tragic tale of love, loss and heartbreak has inspired multiple adaptations for film, stage, musicals and opera over the years however, ultimately, none of them can surpass the original. And it is now being brought to the Seaford stage.

03 -11 December



OUT OF ORDER
by Ray Cooney
directed by Peter Barnes

A hugely successful sequel to Ray Cooney's Two into One this play received the 1991 Olivier award for Comedy of the Year.

Junior Minister, Richard Willey, plans to spend the evening with Jane, an Opposition typist, but things go disastrously wrong, beginning with a "body" trapped in the hotel's sash window. Anxious to avoid a sticky situation, Richard calls his PPS, George Pigden who, through Richard's lies, only sinks them further and further into trouble. As things go from bad to worse, the arrival of Ronnie, Jane's husband, an unscrupulous waiter, Mrs. Willey and Nurse Foster, mean matters really come to a head!



Photos from the set of
The Deep Blue Sea
taken byAndrew Parkinson

Skin Deep

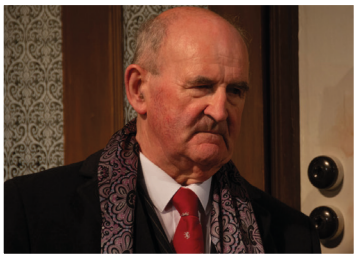






























The Deep Blue Sea with Chloe Franks, Robert Woodbridge, Roland Boorman, Sue Williams, Polly Sands, Tim Telford, Edd Ginn and Alan Lade.







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 Pondsyde 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:
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