

ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE



SEASON 2016—2017

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

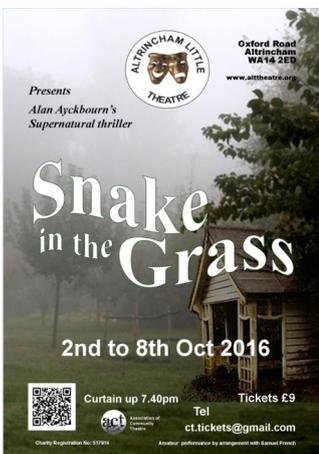
Welcome to the start of a new season. You will see from the brochures sent to you with your play vouchers we have a varied and interesting season planned for you. If you have not yet re-joined we have included a reminder letter along with this booking letter. If you don't re-join then you can still purchase individual tickets at £9 each.

We have been very busy during the period since Move Over Mrs Markham. There have been four productions. First there was the Margs with Follies, followed by two school productions (Forest School and Navigation Road School) and finally our drama school produced Sweeney Todd at the end of July.

Since then we have been busy changing the layout of the rehearsal room and redecorating parts of the theatre. Deep cleaning is due to be started once we have finished with the repainting. The set for the first play is well under way and rehearsals have been in progress for several weeks now.

Ian Bowden, Chairman

PLAY NO. 1 SNAKE IN THE GRASS by ALAN AYCKBOURN



Here we are at the start of yet another season of plays and we hope you enjoy what we have chosen for you. Once again our first play is by Alan Ayckbourn but this is very different from his usual comedies. Written in 2002, it has been described as “a suspense drama about murder, blackmail and haunting” and “a terrific piece—brilliant, bizarre and yet totally believable”. Unusually for us it is an all-female production, with a cast of three: Miriam has cared for her father in the family home during his vituperative last years with the help of a creepily polite nurse, Alice. On his death, Miriam's older sister Annabel returns from over 30 years in Tasmania to find she has been left the bulk of their father's fortune. Victoria Johnson and Cherrill Wyche are the two sisters and Lisa Barker the nurse, and we are delighted to welcome back Director Carla Stokes, who directed Humble Boy for us several years ago.

NOT MANY CHANGES—BUT THERE ARE A FEW

This summer we held our Annual General Meeting and at the end of it we had very few changes to report: annual subscriptions remain the same, as do ticket prices: the cost of coffees, programmes and raffle tickets have not been increased and an annual subscription to the 300 Club remains at £10. In fact, the only two changes to report are that Gillean and Charles Thomas are no longer members of the Management Committee. We thank them both for the work they have done for the theatre over the years. In their places we welcome John Chidgey, Charlie Welsh and John Grieve to the Committee in their place. Charles will continue as Props Master but we are looking for someone to replace Gillean as Archivist. This job consists of collecting all sorts of information about our theatre activities (with our help) and then filing it at the end of each season so that we have a complete history of our activities for future reference. Contact us if you are interested in filling this role or want further information.

Manchester and Salford Film Society—Season 2016/2017

With this newsletter you will find a leaflet advertising the new season's programme for the Manchester and Salford Film Society. As you can see, they offer a very varied programme of films throughout the year, at a very reasonable price, and in very familiar surroundings. If you are interested in finding out more, contact their Secretary:

John Grieve, 17 Bradley Close, Timperley, WA15 6SH, 0161 283 6565

Or email him on secretary@mandsfs.org.uk

BUYING TICKETS FOR OUR SHOWS

With this newsletter you will find a booking form for tickets for Snake in the Grass. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday September 14th and here are a few tips that may help.

- 1) To save you money, order your tickets by phone. The telephone is staffed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and you can pay by credit or debit card. You can also send us your ticket order by post (or put it through the theatre letter box). If you want your tickets posted back to you, please enclose a s.a.e. with your cheque, but we will hold your tickets at the door for you to collect when you come to see the show (saves the cost of postage).
- 2) Get your order in as soon as possible. If you leave it until close to the show date you may find we cannot let you have the seats you want. This is particularly important if you want gangway seats. These tend to sell very quickly and there are only a limited number of them available each night.
- 3) We apologise if we caused confusion by asking for cheques to be made out to two different names—The Club Theatre and Altrincham Little Theatre. It makes no difference which title you use. Our Bank quite happily accepts cheques made out in either name.

ANSWERING THE TICKET BOOKING PHONE LINE

(and other things you could do to help)

Could you spare us an evening to answer the phone at the theatre? It involves asking a few questions and filling in the answers on a form, ready for someone else to select and print the tickets. We are looking for people on Mon/Wed/Fri evenings from Wed Sep 14th to Fri Sep 30th. If you can help, please ring Meg (0161 881 8416) or email her on alt.theatre@msn.com. We only need a maximum of 8 people—could one of them be you?

We could also do with extra help on the ticket desk every night of the play—from 7pm to 7.40pm. Again, contact Meg if you can help.

We also always need front of house help every night of every production here. If you could help with that, please ring the theatre on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening to talk to Christine Heath about how and when you can help.



This last season was probably our most successful in terms of awards, both nominations and winners. Listed here are the winners. The full list of Nominees will be on display in the theatre during the play.

Association of Community Theatre—'OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT'

Excellence in Stage Craft—Set Design and Construction—Steve Smith and Team

Cheshire Theatre Guild

Best Costume—Altrincham Little Theatre for Veronica's Room

Best Actor—Gary Woodhall for Whose Life is it Anyway?

Best Actress—Rachael Horobin in Memory of Water

and Vicky Siddle in Veronica's Room (Joint Award)

Best Overall Production—Move over Mrs Markham

We also have a winner among our Audience Membership



Jackie Granger Brown has recently been honoured with a British Empire Medal for her decades of dedicated charity work She has been recognised in the Queen's 90th Birthday Honours List for her outstanding long service and fund-raising commitment to The Children's Society. Well done Jackie B.E.M. and congratulations from all of us.

Again, we are putting out an appeal for help in running the theatre. There seems to be more and more to do and fewer and fewer of us to do it. Some of the areas in which you could help are:

BACKSTAGE: the wonderful sets you see on stage don't just happen—they have to be built, and our award-winning team of set-builders could always do with an extra hand or two. You don't have to be an expert carpenter—we need help with painting and decorating, wallpapering, holding ladders and many other jobs.

ADMIN: You don't have to be a computer expert to help in the office. If you have a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel we would welcome you with open arms.

You would be welcome with open arms if you could help with any of these.

NEW FORMAT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We are printing this newsletter in a new format—one folded sheet rather than 2 pages. If you find this new format difficult to read, please let us know and we will provide you with a larger-print version.

HELP US ADVERTISE OUR THEATRE

When you come to see the first play, don't forget to top up your supply of season flyers which you can place at strategic places round Altrincham and the surrounding area to help spread the word about our wonderful Little Theatre. Believe it or not there are still people who have never heard of us. If you know of a suitable place to display flyers or posters for us, please ask us for some to take with you when you are next out and about in the area.

CONTACT DETAILS

Should you need to get in touch with us at any time, these are the relevant contact details;



By phone — 0161 928 1113

By email — alt.theatre@msn.com

Ticket sales — ct.tickets@gmail.com

Costume Hire Service — 0161 928 1113

Our website — www.alttheatre.org