

Altrincham Little Theatre Newsletter – August 2021

Welcome Back: It has been a very long time since we wrote to you but, though much has happened in the world since then, nothing, other than background administration activities and paying bills, plus general caretaking has occurred at Altrincham Little Theatre – not through our choice but because there has been very little else we were allowed to do under the Covid 19 rules.

We have finally moved to a lifting of the restrictions and are now attending 3 evenings per week to get the place back on its feet properly once again. At least there is finally some light at the end of the tunnel!!

Rehearsals for our first play of the season have just recommenced as from Monday 16th August, the play being 'Dead Certain' by Marcus Lloyd. This was actually the play that we scheduled back in March 2020 and played to the opening night only before all remaining performances were cancelled by the Government. This will now be showing between Sunday 3rd October until Saturday 9th October 2021.

Play Dates: We have now identified our dates for the 2021/2022 season at Altrincham Little Theatre. We have a provisional list of 4 of the plays which are detailed below although some elements of the order of plays remains to be confirmed. One play still has to be selected and a director agreed. We have also added dates below for other performances at the theatre during the season, together with titles where we know them.

PRODUCTIONS BY ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE

Dead Certain: Sunday 3rd October to Saturday 9th October 2021

Abigail's Party: Sunday 14th November to Saturday 20th November 2021

TBC: Sunday 16th January to Saturday 22nd January 2022

TBC: Sunday 13th March to Saturday 19th March 2022

TBC: Sunday 22nd May to Saturday 28th May 2022

Confirmed plays but unconfirmed slots are:

'Hysteria' by Terry Johnson and 'Suddenly At Home' by Francis Durbridge

PRODUCTIONS BY SALE AND ALTRINCHAM MUSICAL THEATRE

We Will Rock You (Youth Production)

Week commencing Tuesday 30th November to Saturday 4th December 2021

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

Wednesday 30th March to Saturday 2nd April 2022

PRODUCTION BY SOUTH MANCHESTER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Week commencing Sunday 24th July 2022

Other Shows: During the season we will also be hosting productions by Forest School, Navigation Road School and Film Shows by Manchester Film Weekender. We are also hoping to welcome back Manchester and Salford Film Society but available dates are yet to be confirmed and/or agreed.

AGM Dates: The Annual General Meeting for this coming season is planned for Wednesday July 13th 2022 and we hope to arrange the AGM date for the past (closed) 2020/2021 and the part closed 2019/2020 season in the last few months of this year – very late unfortunately, but we will notify you as soon as we have a confirmed date.

Finances & Membership Renewals: Theatres have obviously suffered throughout the last 17 months although we have to be very thankful for the grants offered by the Government. Even so, our bills have still been coming in regularly even though the building has been essentially empty. We have been as frugal as possible with utilities throughout. The committee has decided to end the longstanding 'Buy One Get One Free' offer on Sundays. This was originally intended to try and bring in new members. Whilst popular, it was not having the intended effect.

You will have seen on the renewal letter that we have reduced the cost for renewing members based on you not getting a full season last time. We hope that this will help at a potentially difficult time. It is likely we will reinstate previous membership prices at the end of this season.

COVID Measures: Although many covid precautions are no longer legally required, we will continue with as many preventative measures as we possibly can. We will urge front of house volunteers to continue to wear masks during performances (although we obviously will not be requiring the cast to do so!). We will also suggest that audience members should wish to consider using masks themselves. We will be sanitising all hand contact areas during each performance as far as possible and will be carrying out deep cleaning and sanitising after each performance in accordance with recommendations.

We obviously request that anyone who displays any Covid symptoms should not visit the theatre in any capacity. Any attendees, including cast, crew, volunteers and audience members, should also have undertaken a recent lateral flow test with a negative result.

Team work is critical to the success of our theatre and for everyone's safety we all need to work together, use our common sense and follow the rules. Remember, if anyone involved at the theatre – be it cast, volunteer or audience – tests positive, this may well result in a production being cancelled. So please be mindful of the implications and help us get through this season without any further cancellations. We need everyone to do their bit!

We are not intending to provide specific Covid spaced seats in the theatre for our productions, but will obviously act in line with Government advice. Remember that some nights of a production have historically been quieter than others, so perhaps you might consider attending on a different night of the week where there may be opportunities for more even spacing of audience members. We can advise you when booking - just ask if you are concerned.

Building Readiness: We have started doing some improvements and getting the theatre ready for audiences again. However, as ever, there will always be more to do and we predict we will be severely short of volunteers across all areas of the theatre until everything settles down.

If you feel you could offer a few hours of your time, even if only once a week or fortnight, or know someone who may be looking for a volunteering activity, then please get in touch with us – email is alt.theatre@msn.com, or call 0161 928 1113 (Mon/Wed/Fri evenings after 7.30pm We can teach you new skills if necessary or practice your existing skills. We really would be very grateful for all volunteers and any help you can give us.

We are all eagerly waiting for everything to start up again. We have missed theatre dreadfully, and we have missed seeing all of you at the theatre. We look forward to seeing you again soon in the beginning of October 2021 for Dead Certain.

Take Care and thank you for your ongoing support..