



# STAGE GOSSIP

October 2021

## We Are Back



Marcus Lloyd with the Cast Victoria Johnson and Chris Burton

After our first play in 18 months we can safely say we are back again. As you will have read in our previous newsletter we restarted where we left off, with the completion of the play run that we had planned when theatres were told to close by the government. The play was well received by the audience and at the Friday night performance the author Marcus Lloyd came to see the play. He was very impressed and talked with the cast and crew in the bar after the play.

The actual audience percentage was down on our pre-Covid numbers at 36% overall. This did give us the opportunity to isolate each group of attendees by putting at least 1 seat and normally 2 seats between each group. The majority of the audience followed our recommendation and wore face covering.

## 300 Club Winners

We still have quite a few unclaimed 300 club prizes from last year, is yours one of them? A list is at the top of the stairs into the theatre you could be £100 richer by reading this.

The first draw was held on 21st October 2021 The winners were

£100	Mr & Mrs J C Finlay	£50	Mr J P Tickle
£30	Mrs D Laver	£30	Mrs D Barker
£15	Mrs V Smith	£15	Mr J Wooler
£15	Mr R Ballantyne	£15	Mrs H O'Callaghan
£15	Mrs S Wooler	£15	Mr & Mrs P Wyche

### Contact Information

Telephone no 0161 928 1113  
Email [alt.theatre@msn.com](mailto:alt.theatre@msn.com)  
Ticket Email [ct.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:ct.tickets@gmail.com)

### Address

Altrincham Little Theatre  
Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
WA154 2ED

## Building Maintenance

Those of you who came to the first play will already know that the gas heating boiler failed on the Friday before the play. The plumber who came out to it told us the boiler was 20 years old and he could not get the parts. After promising to give me a quote he left and despite several calls he has not responded. Our regular plumber Martin Howard, who was unable to service our current boiler due to its size, has stepped in and is to install a new set of boilers as soon as he can. In the meantime we have arranged emergency heating for the theatre.

## Next Play

The first newsletter listed the plans we made and followed to ensure a covid free environment. In case you missed them I will repeat them.

**Ticket Desk** – we will ask that people do not crowd this area whilst waiting to collect any tickets. Groups of people are encouraged to congregate outside the theatre until all attendees are present, then will be allowed to collect tickets and go into the theatre. We will be reducing the number of chairs available in the foyer but will keep one each side should anyone need to sit down briefly on arrival or leaving.

A free programme will also be available for you to collect at the ticket desk – this will be an A4 sheet – so minimal compared to our usual booklet program but will still contain the vital information about the play, cast and setting.

**Coffee** – we do not propose to serve milky coffee in the auditorium for the start of the season but will still be selling black coffee which is available at the usual coffee bar. This can then be taken into the auditorium or consumed in the bar. For coffee, we will not be issuing the usual red or blue plastic tokens but will instead issue a single use paper voucher which can be exchanged for a coffee. Milk will be poured into your coffee on your request by the volunteer behind the coffee bar and sugar/sweeteners will equally be available on request.

**Bar** drinks will also be sold in the usual manner. At present, our suppliers have not had our usual range of drinks in, so whilst we hope to have a wide range of drinks for sale, we cannot guarantee each line normally sold will be available.

To reduce the pressure on the bar's capacity, all drinks purchased can be consumed in either the bar area or can be taken into the auditorium. However, any drink containers taken into the auditorium will need to be returned to the bar area before the play will be permitted to restart – so any crockery, cutlery, or glassware, must be back in the bar before the end of the interval.

**Bar Closing** – we will now be closing the bar at a set time after the end of each night to enable sanitisation and other cleaning to occur in the bar area (as well as typical bar restocking and clearing the till). This will be earlier than our licensed hours but anticipate that this is likely to be about 40 minutes after the end of the play. This is not to be a 'drinking up time' request which would roll on for further time but will instead be a drink up and leave the building request so that the bar staff can restock and clean thoroughly the bar area for the next night.

### Front of House Staff

As ever, we are reliant on a small number of volunteers whose valuable help enables the play and associated refreshments and operations to run smoothly. We are finding out already that we have fewer volunteers than usual going forwards which obviously increases the pressure on those that are available. If you feel that you may be able to help on front of house, it would be

appreciated, even if only for one night during the play week. Front of house staff will obviously have revised roles and duties, retaining the essential fire marshal roles. Some activities such as preparing milky coffee will now cease, however coffee vouchers will still be sold and we hope to still have a raffle. Front of house staff will however be needed to help clean contact surfaces within the theatre both during the play and after the auditorium is closed.

### **Cleaning Arrangements & Sanitisation**

During the first part of the play, all entrance handrails, door contact surfaces, tables, toilets & sinks will be given a contact clean using virucidal wipes or suitable disinfectant washes. After the interval and once the tables are cleared, then all tables and contact surfaces will be cleaned again. Once the play is over, the auditorium will be closed off to allow the usual rubbish pickup to occur but also a clean, as above, of all the handrails, seat backs and armrests – so that the auditorium is ready for the following nights performance.

Once the bar is closed after the 40 minutes has elapsed, then a further detailed clean of all bar tables, shelves, contact surfaces and seat armrests will be done in readiness for the next nights performance.

**Hand sanitiser** will be available in various places but as a minimum in the entrance foyer, the auditorium foyer and the bar area. Toilets will also have hand sanitiser provided.

**Masks** will be encouraged to be worn by all volunteers, especially as some may come face to face with hundreds of people through the week of the play. I certainly will be wearing one for my own protection and for the protection of people around me. We would strongly encourage all theatre visitors to wear a mask, but we will not enforce this. However, it is agreed widely that this is an eminently sensible precaution especially given the rapid changes in infection numbers at the present time.

### **Covid Awareness**

As with any venue, if you show any of the signs of Covid infection or have had a recent positive lateral flow test or pcr test, then please stay away from the theatre. Whilst we are keen to welcome everyone back, we also must protect our members and volunteers for us to carry on. Please take heed of the latest government advice and ensure you are following the guidelines in both your interests but the interests of the theatre.

## **Remembered, Not Forgotten**

Over the last 18 months there have been a few of our actors and helpers who have died.

Firstly Peter Nawn died while visiting his daughter in Australia. Peter was an accomplished actor and director. The second actor was Anne Robinson who many will remember, she acted for Altrincham Little Theatre in many plays she also directed plays mainly at Urmston. Finally Kathy Russell, an excellent actress and wife to our play selection chairman Mike, died a few weeks ago.

Last year Victoria Lane-Young died following a fight against bowel cancer and recently Gil Lane-Young, her husband and our treasurer also died. Victoria and Gil were the last link with the Lane Family that the theatre had.

# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Abigail's Party	15 Abigail's Party	16 Abigail's Party	17 Abigail's Party	18 Abigail's Party	19 Abigail's Party	20 Abigail's Party
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 SAMT We Will Rock You	2 SAMT We Will Rock You	3 SAMT We Will Rock You	4 SAMT We Will Rock You
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	