



# Stage Gossip

August 2022

## **Next Production**

Our opening production this season is a comedy by Terence Frisby "Funny About Love". Terence Frisby is probably best remembered for his comedy "There's a Girl in my Soup" which he wrote both the play and the film, Starring Peter Sellers, not often does a playwright keep control of the film version of his play.

The play is in the capable hands of Malcolm Cooper, an excellent actor and director, who has directed several very successful plays for us ranging from strong drama by one of his favourite playwright Terence Rattigan to comedy.

He intends to set the benchmark for the rest of the season, a season where we hope to lift your spirits with some excellent comedy.

## **300 Club**

Last season we had 50 winners ranging from £15 to £100.

There is still time to buy your tickets for the 2022/23 season 300 club. You can buy up to 8 numbers which are valid for the 5 draws where at each play we draw prizes worth £300. For each £10 ticket you buy you will be entered into 5 draws (one at each play) with a chance to win £100. The odds are better than the lottery as it is only 300 to 1 for the top prize and only 30 to 1 chance of winning any prize.

We don't have many places left and once the first draw takes place no further tickets will be sold.

### **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  
WA14 2ED

## **Tickets Missing?**

I mentioned this in the last newsletter and I repeat this here, if your tickets have not arrived please contact us to make sure we have received your booking. We have detailed records of what seats you have so will be able to inform you of your seat numbers. Some people prefer to collect their tickets on the night, if you have not spoken to one of our ticket office volunteers we will always contact you with the ticket details. If you have spoken to us directly then your seats are reserved

## **Mail Strike**

As you will know there is a series of mail strikes being planned. Ticket booking is available as usual by telephone on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights from 7.30pm till 10pm by telephoning us on 0161 928 1113—Please note the phones are not manned outside that time and our answering machine gets filled quickly with unwanted sales calls. Where possible we will always respond to the calls.

Alternatively send an email to [ct.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:ct.tickets@gmail.com) with your details and what night and the number of tickets and we will book the seats and leave the tickets for collection on the night. Additional tickets can be purchased by credit card and for security reasons we will always call you for the card details, once the card details are processed the information is no longer available to us. Never email card information it might fall into the wrong hands.

## **Stage Work**

We have a small stage crew working on all the plays led by Alan Reidsma, we still need more as the set is being built by on average three to four persons per night, and for some nights just one. If we are to continue putting on productions with our traditionally high quality sets we do need more help, it isn't a male only domain, there is work for everyone. Most of the work is easy with all tools and refreshments provided.

The only alternative will be to lower our standards regarding the presentation of plays—something we definitely don't want to do.

We would like to thank the people who have come forward to help us we just need a few more to lighten the load on the current stage crew.

## **New Sound for Old**

The sound and lighting has been operated since 2013 using two laptop computers. Over the years we have improved things and for some time now the two computers have been linked together so that one person can control everything. However we have always had difficulties when attaching additional equipment such as our radio microphones and onstage controlled devices. In addition the power switch on the mixing desk has had to be replaced and for some time now has been operating with a switch

connected onto the power source, not really a good thing as it causes all the speakers to make a noise when it is switched on.

We are replacing the manual mixing desk with a new electronic one which will link into our computers to allow us to control every aspect of the sound and lighting from one place. The new desk is what is known as a virtual desk, which is expandable for as many channels as we want. The desk is shown on the computer screens freeing up a large amount of desk space in the sound area.

The equipment will be installed over a period up to Christmas, when we will require it's additional functionality for Sale and Altrincham Musical Theatre's production. There will be a period of retraining led by Simon who has used this equipment elsewhere and is familiar with it.

## **Publicity**

Our publicity team are looking for people who will display posters of forthcoming productions or who can go round asking their local shops to display our posters.

We are also looking for new advertisers for our programme so that we can keep the printing costs down and yet produce a quality informative document well worth the small cost of £1. If you know anyone who would like to advertise in our programme please ask them to get in touch or give us the details. For only £90 per half page they will get their advert printed in all five play programmes and also get two tickets for each show which they can use or pass on to staff or customers.

Listen to Wythenshawe FM and Radio Alty who both have regular theatre spots on Sundays and will have regular updates on the South Manchester theatre scene.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Simon one of our committee members and one of our small tech team, who is getting married to Telle on Thursday 1st September.

Even with the hectic preparations for his wedding he has found time to work with us on the new sound system.

## **Films**

We have two separate film groups showing films at the theatre.

**Manchester and Salford Film Society** is one of the oldest film societies being in existence for over 90 years. Their mission is to show the best international classic and contemporary films that are not often shown in mainstream cinemas.

Their season of ten films all shown on Saturday nights are

17th September 2022	La Strada (Italy 1954) directed by Federico Fellini.
8th October	Parallel Mothers (Spain 2022) directed by Pedro Amodover
12th November 2022	The enigma of Kaspar Hauser (west Germany 1974) directed by Werner Herzog.
10th December 2022	Il Postino (Italy / France 1994) directed by Michael Radford
14th January 2023	Les Diaboliques (France 1955) directed by H G Clouzot
11th February 2023	Belfast (UK 2021) Directed by Kenneth Branagh
4th March 2023	The Tree of Wooden Clogs (Italy 1978) directed by Ermanno Olmi
15th April 2023	Camille Claudel (France 1988) directed by Bruno Nuytten
13th May 2023	The Blue Angel (Germany 1930) directed by Josef von Sternberg
17th June 2023	Good Morning (Japan 1959) directed by Yasujiro Ozu

For tickets contact 07913 036645 or email [secretary@mandsfilmsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mandsfilmsociety.org.uk)

**Manchester Film Weekender** shows seasons of films from one country. This year in partnership with Alliance Francaise they are showing a season of French films

2nd October 2022	Les Choses Qu'on Dit, Les Choses Qu'on Fait (2021) directed by Emmanuel Mouret
16th October 2022	Cyrano my Love (2018) directed by Alexis Michalik
30th October 2022	Les Invisibles (2011) directed by Louis Julien Petit
20th November 2022	Roubaix, Une Lumiere (2019) directed by Arnaud Desplechin
4th December 2022	Deux (2018) directed by Filippo Meneghetti
18th December 2022	Quai d'Orsay (2013) directed by Bertrand Tavernier
8th January 2023	Petit Paysan (2017) directed by Hubert Charuel
29th January 2023	Medicin de Nuit (2020) directed by Elie Wajerman
3rd to 5th February 2023	A weekend of seven French comedy films
19th February 2023	Delphine et Carole (2018) directed by Callisto McNulty
26th February 2023	Les Hirondelles de Kaboul (2018) directed by Zabou Brietman and Elea Gobbe-Mevellec

For tickets contact John Grieve on 07925 382805 or email [info@manchestersfilmweekender.org.uk](mailto:info@manchestersfilmweekender.org.uk)