

Manx Amateur Drama Federation

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THEATRE

MADF

ISLE OF MAN EASTER FESTIVAL OF PLAYS

2024

 **ARTS
COUNCIL**
ISLE OF MAN


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Manx Amateur Drama Federation

Affiliated to NDFA, NODA and AETF

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Platform Theatre School
Rushen Players

Friends of Manx Drama
The Service Players

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Michael J. Lees

MADF Stage Manager

Andy Simpson

Stage Team

Sandie Simpson, Anthony Lawler

*The awards will be presented on Wednesday evening for the Full Length Plays
and on Thursday evening for the One Act Plays by Chris Baglin*

**Winners of the MADF Festival will be eligible to compete in the
All England Theatre Festival Semi-Final and may be
invited to the National Drama Festival in Coventry**

MADF Chairman

Sharon Walker



Hello and welcome to the Gaiety Theatre! We are very glad to be back in our theatrical 'home' and presenting another fantastic selection of plays for you to enjoy over our festival week. Our main aim has been to get the Manx public to 'fall in love with theatre' so if this is your first festival we are delighted you have decided to try something new! And if you are one of our returning festival goers - thank you for your continued support, it means so much to us.

Our adjudicator this year is Chris Baglin of GoDa who has previously adjudicated our One Act Festival. Based on our programme for this year, we have no doubt he will enjoy presiding over the whole festival as much as he did the One Act.

We thank all our sponsors who have enabled this festival to happen - in particular the IOM Arts Council and Lloyds Bank International, the latter as our principal sponsors for the Young Actor of Mann. I would like to extend a personal thank you to the MADF Committee and Friends of Manx Drama who have worked so hard to bring the festival together and the teams for their hours of rehearsal to showcase some fantastic productions this week.

I hope you are able to join us for as many of the productions this week as possible and support the high quality productions on offer. Please sit back and enjoy the show!

Spencer Wright Bursary

The fund is available to assist with the purchase of equipment or materials needed by students enrolled on an Undergraduate/Musical Theatre training course.

www.madf.im

This page is sponsored by Ramsey Crookall



As part of our commitment to inspire **participation**, **creativity** and **excellence** in the arts, the Isle of Man Arts Council are proud to fund amateur groups and societies enabling opportunities to perform at the magnificent **Gaiety Theatre**.



**ARTS
COUNCIL**

Isle of Man Arts Council
Department of Education, Sport and Culture
Unit 8, Villa Marina Arcade, Harris Promenade, Douglas, IM1 2HN

www.iomarts.com
01624 694598

Adjudicator

Chris Baglin BA Hons, GoDA



Chris Baglin has been a multi-disciplinary Drama practitioner for over twenty years. He read Drama at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and worked as a professional actor for some years afterwards. He eventually retrained as a primary teacher, and now pursues a mixed career as a teacher, performer and adjudicator. Over the years he has worked as an actor, director, stage manager, puppeteer, compere, variety artist, writer, storyteller, podcaster and developer of site-specific performances. He has a working knowledge of drama, puppetry, stage magic and direction all of which he brings to his adjudications. He has been an adjudicator for a decade and has adjudicated in the Welsh rounds, Nidderdale, Isle of Man, Welwyn Drama Festival, Welwyn Youth, Worcestershire, and the All England Festival amongst others.

Professional Associations.

- ✓ Guild of Drama Adjudicators
- ✓ The British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild
- ✓ The North Wales Magic Circle
- ✓ Punch and Judy Fellowship

Professional Qualifications and Skills.

- ✓ BA Hons Drama (Acting, Directing, Stage Management)
- ✓ PGCE (Lower Primary, Welsh Medium)
- ✓ LAMDA Bronze Medal Acting 2003

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Easter Festival of Plays
75th Anniversary
19th - 25th April 2025

**Many special events being planned
including a Masked Ball
on Sat 26th April 2025**

***Keep checking the MADF website
for more details.***

**We will be inviting past teams
to support us**

MADF President, Michael J. Lees



Welcome to our new look Easter Festival which following on from last Easter proved successful both in numbers of teams and audience which also helped financially. Thanks to all sponsors. Once again we appreciate the financial help from the IOM Arts Council.

I give a warm welcome to the teams from the UK who have made such an effort to be with us.

I particularly want to thank Mike Percival for his artistic help with the programme and all our advertising.

You will have noticed our flyers and programme cover show off "The Lady" curtain. This unique and very valuable curtain was painted by William Hemsley and was on display on the opening night of the Gaiety on the 16 July 1900. It depicts a Sultan in a lavish tented palace. I would like to see the curtain on display more often.

I wish to put on record my thanks to our hard working chairperson Sharon Walker who works tirelessly for MADF.

Wishing all teams and you our audience a Happy Easter Festival.

MADF wish to express their gratitude to the Staff and Management of the Gaiety Theatre, the Friends of the Gaiety and to the Empress Hotel who host our Green Room each evening and the Festival Lunch

We are grateful to G4S for storing the F.M.Cubbon trophy for the past year.

“The video and/or audio recording of any performance is not permitted without the prior approval from the licensor”.

Saturday 30th March

Escaped Alone by Caryl Churchill

**Rushen Players (Black Comedy)
Published by Nick Hern Books**

Three old friends and a neighbour. A summer of afternoons in the back yard. Tea and catastrophe! Caryl Churchill's convention-defying play mixes backyard tea with environmental disaster, exploring themes of politics, crisis, communication and female endurance.

This pleasant conversation is frequently interrupted by the neighbour, Mrs Jarrett, who stands to address the audience for long monologues about an apocalyptic world.

Cast

Mrs Jarrat - Sarah Lockyer

Lena - Oonagh Walsh

Vi - Danny Berry

Sally - Ailsa Harrop

Director - Catie Angus

Backstage - Sharon Roberts

This page is sponsored by Dorrie and Harvey Garton

Saturday 30th March

Victoria Station by Harold Pinter

Parodos Theatre Company(Drama)

Published by Concord Theatricals

Victoria Station consists of a radio dialogue between a minicab controller (or dispatcher) and a driver who is stopped by the side of a dark park. in Crystal Palace, supposedly waiting further instructions.

The controller attempts to instruct the driver to pick up a client from Victoria Station, but the driver declines to move, focusing on his current client. The Controller's mood shifts through various degrees of mystification towards irritation and then possibly compassion masking some more nefarious intention of what to do with this Driver.

Controller - Geoff Pugh
Driver - Lorcan O'Mahony

Director - Tony Eccles

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Sunday 31st March

Lilies on the Land by Lion's Part **White Cobra (Comedy/Drama)** **Published by Nick Hern Books**

Lilies on the Land is an extraordinary piece of theatre telling the story of Britain's Women's Land Army of World War Two.

Based on hundreds of actual letters from original Land Girls, the play focuses on four very different women who all come together during Britain's darkest hour determined to "do their bit" for King and Country.

Cast

Margie - Victoria Miles

Peggy - Samantha Harrison

Poppy - Olivia Hulley

Vera - Mo Shapiro

This page is sponsored by Christine Sugden

"Break a leg"



To those taking part in the Manx Amateur Drama Federation 74th Easter Festival

We are proud to celebrate the Isle of Man's wonderful diversity in art, culture, sport and thriving community spirit through our wide-ranging support of individuals and groups, events, charities and good causes each year.

Supporting our communities since 1830

Monday 1st April

The Father by Florian Zeller

White Cobra (Drama)

Published by Samuel French

Seen through the eyes of a man with dementia, *The Father* exposes the emotional toll it has on him and his family. Moving and at times heart-breaking, Andre's story will be recognised by all too many families. Blistering honest but ultimately uplifting, it's a story of our times.

Recently an Oscar and BAFTA winning film starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Coleman, this production includes the founders and stalwarts of White Cobra and original music by Martin Heath.

NB The subject matter of this play could be upsetting

Cast

Andre - Ian Spiby

Anne - Kate Billingham

Man - Fraser Haines

Woman - Bernie Wood

Laura - Kim Arkle

Pierre - Richard Jordan

This page is sponsored by June Radcliffe and Shirley Currie

Tuesday 2nd April

TWO by Jim Cartwright **Rushen Players (Comedy/Drama)** **Published by Methuen Drama Modern** **Classics**

A real time, one scene snapshot of life in a local pub one weekend evening. The action revolves around the landlord and landlady, who run the pub, and different pairs of people who are customers. It moves back and forth, spotlighting the different relationships, coming back to the landlord and landlady each time. All the characters are portrayed by the two actors on stage.

Cast

Landlord, Old Man, Mr. Eiger, Fred
Jack Verity

Landlady, Mrs. Eiger, Alice, Other Woman
Jude Dicken

Little Boy - M. Quine

Directed by Jack Verity

Costumes - Adrienne Sanderson

Stage Manager - Matthew Warren

Prompt - Dave Burnett

Sound/Lighting - Ron Beswick

Chaperone - Sarah Lockyer

Special Thanks - Martin Brunnchweiler

This page is sponsored by Evelyn and Andy Corrin

Tuesday 2nd April

Viral by Maria McConville **Platform Theatre School (Drama)** **Published by Stage Partners**

In this ensemble-driven drama featuring an all-female cast, five high school girls recount a cruel locker room bullying incident that is initially cloaked in secrecy, but ultimately goes viral online. What happens next forces the students to question their respective roles in the events that unfolded on that fateful day.

This production contains flashing lights and scenes that might be upsetting

Abby Breward - Troll
Alexis Wilson - Troll
Eve Pussar - Megan - Instigator
Evie Cowell - Anna- Follower
Lucinda Mussan -Troll
Rosie Bullough - Morgan- Outsider
Sammy Winstanley - Troll
Seren Kirkpatrick - Lucy- Tattletale
Scarlet Brophy - Barbara - Teacher
Tegan Thompson - Troll
Tyla Clark - Debs - Jokestar

Director- Leandra Lawler
Assistant- Robyn- Mae Lawler
Stage Manager - Anthony Lawler
Stage crew - Kennedy Conner Hayley
Fiona & Linda

This page is sponsored by Helen and Johnny



**FEATURING 14 OUTSTANDING PLAYS
FROM THE WORLD OF AMATEUR THEATRE**



National Drama Festivals Association (NDFA)

... and you **MIGHT** be watching one of the
contenders right here, right now!

**Are you interested in watching the cream of amateur theatre in a
competitive showcase over a long weekend presenting their
award-winning performances of full-length and one-act plays?**



18TH - 21ST JULY 2024
THE ALBANY THEATRE COVENTRY
WWW.NDFA.CO.UK

NATIONAL
Drama
FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION
(NDFA)

Wednesday 3rd April

1984 by George Orwell **Wellington Theatre Company (Drama)** **Published by Nick Hern Books**

Winston Smith is in prison, found guilty of Thoughtcrimes against Big Brother. As part of his reconstruction, he must re-enact key moments from his past life, with the help of other thought criminals, so that everyone can learn from his mistakes. Including his biggest mistake of all: falling in love with Julia.

Constructed almost entirely from dialogue taken from the original novel, this bold and powerful dramatisation restores the blazing heart of Orwell's work: a doomed love story, with the lovers at its centre.

This is a terrific and terrifying play about what could happen, or is it happening now! Considering it was written 75 years ago it makes events that are happening today stunning and scary.

NB The subject matter of this play could be upsetting

Cast

Winston - Simon Painter

O'Brien - Joseph Maclean

Winston 2/Waiter/Thin Man - Allison Weir

Guard/Martin/Charrington/Doctor - Ali Maclean

Parsons/Drunk Woman/Ashley - Kimberlea Owen

Julia - Hebe Whitehead

Director - Tom Eidrys-Tuite

Lighting and Sound - Laura Delves

This page is sponsored by Mike Trout

Thursday 4th April

Babysitting Calvin

by John H. Newmeir

Service Players (Comedy/Drama)
Published by Concord Theatricals

Calvin, a ten-month old baby (acted by an adult), can still remember his previous life when he was happily married to Laura, despite the constant attentions of his womanising friend, Bob. Calvin will lose his blissful memories when he reaches his first birthday - or speaks - so he determines nothing will make him talk!

Cast

Kelly Firth, Kim Quine,
Rachel Martin, Tom Cain and Toby Smith

Directed by Lisa Smith
Stage Manager - Jenny Halstein



The AETF, now in its 8th decade is the only countrywide festival of one-act drama in England. The 6 month long competition is organised regionally and, after a series of preliminary, quarter and semi finals across the country, culminates in a grand final in which the four "area" champions compete for the title of "English Champions"



All-England Theatre Festival

OUR MISSION

“To organise an Annual One-Act Play Festival, open to any Amateur Drama Group in England”



This page is sponsored by Jan and Mike Percival

Thursday 4th April

The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter **Service Players (Comedy of Menace)** **Published by Samuel French**

The Dumb Waiter revolves around two would-be assassins waiting to learn what their next assignment will be.

These men, Ben and Gus, are polar opposites: Ben takes orders as they come without question, while Gus nervously awaits new assignments by peppering Ben with myriad questions. The final showdown occurs not between the two assassins and their victim, but between Ben and Gus themselves.

Cast

Ben - Robert Pritchard

Gus - Daniel-Sebastian Gray

Directed by Sharon Walker

Stage Manager - Andy Simpson,

Stage Crew - Sandy Simpson , John Walker

This page is sponsored by Sharon and John Walker

Full Length Awards

(Presented on Wednesday night)

The F.M. Cubbon Trophy – Best Play

The Dick Craine Cup – 1st Runner Up

The Vanda Lambert Award – Best Female Performance

The S. E. Benn Award – Best Male Performance

The Raven Players Award – Best Producer/Director

The Jackie Banner Award - Comedy

The Michael J. Lees Award - Drama

AWARDS RETIRED FOR 2024

The Jack Lynch Cup

The John Bryan Award for Audience Appreciation

The Frances Isaac Award

June Edge Trophy

The Group Theatre Company Ensemble Award

The David Kennaugh Award

The Mollie Corkill Award

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www.madf.im

MADF - Manx Amateur Drama Federation

@madf_ion

Sign up for the email newsletter via our website to get all the latest information straight to your email inbox.

This page is sponsored by Karen and Michael Goodman

Awards presented on Thursday

Youth Awards

Cyril Spencer Trophy - Best Play
John Bowring Trophy - Best Director
Olga Gray (MBE) Award - Best Actress
Stan Woollock Award - Best Actor

One Act Awards

Northern Arts Rose Bowl - Best Play
Service Players Trophy - Runner Up
Caine Family Trophy - Best Director
Jean Webb Award - Best Actress
Mark Clift Award - Best Actor
Nadine Talbot Award - Best Dramatic Moment
Daphne Clark Memorial Trophy - Best Comedic Moment

Festival Awards

Sure Mobile Award - Best Use of Sound and Lighting
The David Sugden Memorial Trophy
for Set Conception, Design and Construction
The J & B Green Award for Costume and Makeup
The Olga Gray Adjudicator's Award – Outstanding Contribution

AWARDS RETIRED FOR 2024

Personal Choice Limited Adjudicators Award

John Hayes Trophy

Rushen Players Presidents Award

Personal Choice Limited

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PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1962 Rushen ADS IOM 'Ladies in Retirement'
1971 Legion Players IOM 'Angels in Love'
1990 – Martello Productions, Wicklow "Agnes of God"
1991 – Sedgfield Players, Co. Durham "Stepping Out"
1992 – Sedgfield Players, Co. Durham "Woman in Mind"
1993 – Group Theatre Company, London "September in the Rain"
1994 – St James' Players, Burnley "Last Tango in Whitby"
1995 – Sedgfield Players, Co. Durham "Dancing at Lughnasa"
1996 – Tryst Theatre, Falkirk "Under Milk Wood"
1997 – Brigstow Theatre Company "Driving Miss Daisy"
1998 – Tudor Players, Manchester "Hindle Wakes"
1999 – Tryst Theatre, Falkirk "Cemetary Club"
2000 – Tudor Players, Manchester "The Curious Savage"
2001 – Bovingdon Players, Herts "Abigail's Party"
2002 – Everyman Productions, Sligo "The Mai"
2003 – In Yer Space, Blackpool "A Night in November"
2004 – Tudor Players, Manchester "The Prisoner of Second Avenue"
2005 – Tudor Players, Manchester "Humble Boy"
2006 – Cytringan Players, Kettering "'night, Mother"
2007 – Cytringan Players, Kettering "Peggy for You"
2008 – Everyman Productions, Sligo "Juno and the Paycock"
2009 – Bejou Productions, Essex "Someone who'll watch over me"
2010 – Bejou Productions, Essex "Burn This"
2011 – Bejou Productions, Essex "The Birthday Party"
2012 – Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport "The Thirty Nine Steps"
2013 – Martello Productions, Wicklow "By the Bog of Cats..."
2014 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton "The Days of Wine and Roses"
2015 – Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport "Frozen"
2016 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton "Scaramouche Jones"
2017 – University Players Hamburg, "Lift Not the Painted Veil & Frankenstein"
2018 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton "Glorious!"
2019 - Martello Productions, Wicklow "Portia Coughlan"
2022 - Mutley and Minques, London - "The Importance of Being Earnest"
2023 - White Cobra - "The Lonesome West"

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If you are asked to evacuate the building, please do so as quickly as possible and leave by the nearest exit. You will be directed to this by the staff.

In the event of an emergency which by necessity requires that the Theatre be evacuated, you as a member of the audience are requested to co-operate by paying strict attention to any instructions, either by announcement from the stage, or given verbally by a member of the Theatre Staff.



The Friends of Manx Drama help the Manx Amateur Drama Federation to promote the art of amateur theatre on the Isle of Man

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Selling programmes on the night

*Helping to advertise the Festival
by distributing posters and flyers*

Helping to source props and furniture
for the visiting drama teams

*Providing food and refreshments
for rehearsals during the day*

If you would like to help, please contact:

Harvey - 432532 hadgar@manx.net

Christine - 817507 folly@manx.net

***Don't forget the lunch on Easter Monday at the Empress
Hotel. Details from Harvey or Christine***

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