





DOUGLAS CHORAL UNION



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GAIETY THEATRE 6th - 20th MAY 2017

BOOK MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN Music and MEL BROOKS

Original direction and choreography by SUSAN STROMAN

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Life Members

Mr John Bowring, Mrs Carol Clarke, Mrs Olga Gray, Mrs Jenny Green, Mr Michael J Lees, Mrs Joyce Lockstone, Mrs Jan Percival, Mrs Jean Webb, Mr S Whittam and Mr John Wright

Winners of the MADF Festival will be eligible to compete in the **National Drama Festivals Association** All Winners Festival.

Our ChairmanClare Austin

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 65th Manx Amateur Drama Federation Festival of Full Length Plays.

A warm welcome too, to our competing teams, some who have visited the festival many times and others, for whom this is their first year.



Come and meet them at the Green Room, aka the bar at the Empress Hotel, each evening after the adjudications, along with the adjudicator, committee and audience members, all ready to discuss the evening's play.

Last, but by no means least, welcome to our adjudicator Robert Meadows, GoDA. Some of you may remember him, particularly from last year's One Act Festival. I hope he enjoys the week: much adjudicating, a lunchtime talk and hopefully some spare time to enjoy all the island has to offer.

This year saw Olga Gray, former President and festival supporter for many years, honoured with an MBE for Service to the Manx Community. So well deserved, I'm sure you'll agree. I and the rest of the committee very much appreciate her continued support and committee contributions.

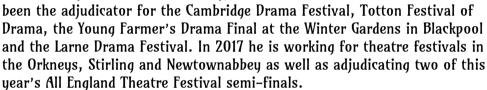
We have a fantastic festival lined up for you this year. A full week of plays which will make you laugh, cry and perhaps question the meaning of life!

All that remains for now is for you to sit back and enjoy tonight's production - open tabs!

Our AdjudicatorRobert Meadows

Robert Meadows has adjudicated for many festivals in England, Wales, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man since 2003, including the All Ulster Drama Festival Final at Newtownabbey in 2015 and the All England One Play Festival in the same year.

Since his visit to the Isle of Man for the One Act Play Festival last February, he has



Over the years, he has written and directed many community theatre plays and street theatre festivals across the North West of England as well as having professional performances of his work presented in the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff and Calgary Theatre in Canada. He also ran his own 'Murder Evening' company and his scripts continue to be performed in the UK and abroad. He also works as an arts consultant: promoting partnership working between the amateur and professional theatre sectors; providing advice and support to schools and universities in the field of arts learning; and undertaking evaluation work for museums, galleries, orchestras and, of course, theatres.

He is delighted to be the adjudicator for this year's Full Length Play Festival and looks forward to enjoying the feast of theatrical delights on offer.

Olga and Michael Gray wish the Teams, adjudicator, audience and everyone involved in the Festival a very happy week.



Coonceil Ellynyn Ellan Vannin

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Many thanks

The Manx Amateur Drama Federation is extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to our festival once again.

This includes the financial support and invaluable advice from our sponsors, the companies who have helped us and advertised for us and in this programme.

The time given by our committee, all the volunteers who work to organise all our festivals each year and the Friends of Manx Drama for their continuing support.

The Gaiety Staff and Friends who keep the venue running smoothly and the Empress Hotel who host our Green Room each evening and our Festival Lunch.

Finally, we would also like to thank the teams whether local or from further afield who are entertaining us so wonderfully each evening, and lastly our audience, all the regular theatre goers who are joining us every night.

We sincerely thank you all.

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Saturday 15th April

Beiou Productions

The Night Alive by Conor McPherson

Cast:

Maurice **David Streames** Richard Foster Tommy Joanna Mitchell Aimee Doc Robb Stow

Kenneth Jeremy Battersby

Backstage:

Director John White Stage Manager Carole Jonas Tracy Foster Stage crew

Running Time: 2 hours (one interval)

Synopsis:

"You only get a few goes at life. This is it." Tommy's not a bad man, he's getting by, keeping his ex-wife and kids at arms' length. One day he comes to the aid of Aimee, who's not had it easy herself. But the past won't let go easily. Together there is a glimmer of hope.

Sunday 16th April

Peterborough Mask Theatre

The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh

Cast:

Katurian Pete Unwin Tupolski Phil Lewis

Ariel Matt Robertson
Michal Carl Perkins
Father Jonny Hate

Mother Becky Owen-Fisher

Maria Faith Perkins

Backstage:

Director Helen McCay Performance Guide Laura Smyth

Running Time: 2 hours 25 minutes (one interval)

Synopsis:

Katurian, a writer of short stories which often depict violence against children, has been arrested by two detectives, Ariel and Tupolski, because some of his stories resemble recent child murders. When he hears that his brother Michal has confessed to the murders and implicated Katurian, he resigns himself to his execution but attempts to save his stories from destruction. The play includes both narrations and reenactments of several of Katurian's stories, most notably the autobiographical "The Writer and the Writer's Brother", which tells how Katurian developed his disturbed imagination by hearing the sounds of Michal being tortured by their parents.

www.masktheatre.co.uk

Monday 17th April

White Cobra Productions

Dizzy Boo by Brian Wright

Cast:

Nick Brenner & D.S. Duval
Donna Brenner & Mrs Fiona McNee
Hugo Fogg & Jez Herbert
Ben Toye & Prof. Rory McNee
Paddy Nolan-Toye & Sergeant Radda
Louise Herbert
Lucy Pasco

Fraser Haines
Kate Billingham
Richard Jordan
Rod Arkle
Kimberley Vaughan
Bernie Wood
Denise Swann

Backstage:

Director Producers Stage Manager Lighting and Sound Technician John Myhill White Cobra Productions Ltd Denise Swann Ella Drake

Running Time: 1 hour 45 minutes (one interval)

Synopsis:

Set on the Brenner and Toye barbecue terraces from July-October 2017. The Brenners, Toyes - and later the Herberts - live at Saxon Mead, a gated estate of detached five-bedroom houses with landscaped gardens overlooking old water meadows and a picturesque bend of the river. Perfect in every way - until compulsive womanizer Nick Brenner's latest conquest, a lissom solicitor working for the Council, breathes the words "new housing development" across the pillow, and a mysterious stranger appears, changing our three marriages forever.

www.whitecobraproductions.co.uk

Page kindly sponsored by Joyce Lockstone

Tuesday 18th April Legion Players

The Last Obit by Peter Tinniswood

Cast:

Millicent

Stephanie Gray

Backstage:

Director/Producer Stage concept, design & effects

Stage Crew

Olga Gray

Beniamin Heath

Members of Legion Players

Running Time: 1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

Synopsis:

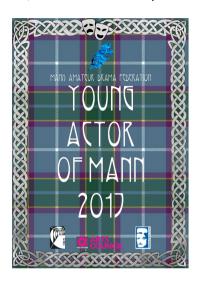
Millicent has been computerised. After a lifetime's work in the Obituary Department of the Morning Telegraph she has been made redundant. The firm, however, has allowed her to go out in style - she can write her last obit in her own hand with her own fountain pen. But whose last obit will it be? She plunders her memories, her fantasies and her friendships before she makes her decision.

www.legionplayers.com



Young Actor of Mann 2017

The final will be held on Wednesday 19th April at the Studio Theatre, Ballakermeen High School at 2pm.



Finalists will perform one of their original pieces and a test piece set by the adjudicator Robert Meadows, GoDA,

All playgoers are invited to attend this event and tickets are available on the door - £3 per person.

The winner will be announced after the final play of the Easter Festival at The Gaiety Theatre.

The Manx Amateur Drama Federation (MADF) provides a Bursary to the value of £500 for the winner to be used for fees towards attending a UK Summer School/Holiday workshop at a Drama school of the winner's choice.

Thanks to Jacqui Hawkes for organising the Young Actor of Mann Competition

Wednesday 19th April

Wellington Theatre Company

The Lying Kind by Anthony Neilson

Cast:

Gobbel Mattu Richardson Dave Beddows Blunt Gronua Laura Delves Garson Ali Fear **Balthasar** Ben Branson Reverend Shandu Joseph Maclean Carol Victoria Cooper Woman Jasmine Walsh

Backstage:

Director Brian Hughes
Producer Jack King
Set Design Andrew Foster
Lighting Fiona Boyle
Sound Effects Jack King

Running Time: 1 hour 30 minutes (one interval)

Synopsis:

A darkly comic farce featuring policemen, a mad old couple, some local chavs, a chihuahua and a vicar! Constables Blunt and Gobbel have one last duty to fulfil before they can finish for Christmas Eve; telling an elderly couple some terrible news. But what if the shock is too much for them? They didn't join up in order to ruin people's lives. And maybe it would all be easier if they weren't also stuck in the middle of a full-scale village lynch-mob.

This production is dedicated to the memory of Marianne Foster. A talented actress, director, and the heart and soul of Wellington Theatre Company.

www.belfreytheatre.com

Page kindly sponsored by Dorrie and Harvey Garton

Thursday 20th April

University Players, Hamburg

Lift Not the Painted Veil

Original script by Julie Lerpiniere & stage adaptation by Nigel Harvey

Cast:

The Nurse
William Godwin
Old Mary Shelley
The Creature
Young Mary Shelley
Percy Bysshe Shelley
Jane Claremont
Lord Byron
Dr.John Pollidori
The Maid / Mary Godwin
Critic / Young Dr.Frankenstein
Critic

Svenja Baumann
Paul Kahre
Jana Stüven
Jasper Koch
Clara Kasten
Marc Borchert
Gesa Penthin
Steven Montero
David Heuberg
Annika Gosset
Simon Deggim
David Rothmaier

Synopsis:

Lift Not the Painted Veil tells the story of Mary Shelley and her creation Frankenstein. An old Mary Shelley in her final hours is visited by her creation. Through this meeting Mary is transported back to the period when she got the ideas for her famous novel. But why is the monster here? What does he want?

Continued...

University Players, Hamburg

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley (adaptation by Svenja Baumann)

Cast:

Elisabeth Svenja Baumann

Young Creature
Agatha
Jana Stüven
Old Creature
Jasper Koch
Safe
Clara Kasten
DeLacey
Marc Borchert
Justine
Gesa Penthin
William
Steven Montero

Alphonse David Heuberg
Chorus Annika Gosset
Victor Frankenstein Simon Deggim

Felix David Rothmaier

Synopsis:

In the second half, the Creature himself gives his account of the story through Mary Shelley's famous words. The often neglected perspective of the so-called "monster" uncovers where the actual horror of Frankenstein lies: Prejudice, isolation, vengefulness and the lack of responsibility that human-beings feel for each other. Who are the real monsters in our society?

Backstage:

Lighting and Sound Tom White

Stage Management and Crew Arja Sharma & Annika Gosset

Producer Svenja Baumann
Director Nigel Harvey
Composer Marc Borchers

Costume Marina Schneemann & Marleen Jalas

Running Time: 1 hour 30 minutes (one interval)

Page kindly sponsored by Jean Webb

Friday 21st April

Garden Suburb Theatre

The Regina Monologues

by Rebecca Russell & Jenny Wafer

Cast:

Cathy Rachel Berg
Annie Jemima Lane
Jane Bryony Taylor
Anna Fiona White
Katie Freya Carroll
Katherine Trudi Dane

Backstage:

Director
Production Assistant
Stage Manager
Lighting & Sound
Props
Veronica Woolf
Mo Colmans
Crew
Debbie Lane
John Colmans
Charlotte Lane
David Lane
Veronica Woolf
Mo Colmans
Richard Kinder

Running Time: 1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

Synopsis:

Six women, at one time all married to the same man called Henry - it just couldn't happen nowadays.....The Regina Monologues is a modern take on a certain 16th century English king whose wives tell their stories, separately and yet all together, in a room in which they have all once lived. A funny, thought-provoking reflection on love, sex, motherhood and marriage.

Tonu Newton

www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk

@GdnSubTheatre

Page kindly sponsored by Jenny Green in memory of her husband Brian Green

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Remembering happy times with dear members and friends of MADF

MADF members were deeply saddened to lose three of their most valued friends and loyal supporters over the last few months of 2016.

Brian Keenan was one of the most colourful, charismatic, caring and much loved members of our Island community. A constant supporter of MADF and indeed all live theatre, arts groups and events on and off the Island, Brian also helped many local charities. As General Manager of the Empress Hotel, our Easter Festival headquarters and Green room, his hospitality and help were outstanding, and his sense of humour and quick wit, unsurpassed. He was indeed a "Star" and his loss is immeasurable.





Barbara Curtis was a delegate for The Legion Players on MADF's committee for many years. Her quiet and unassuming manner hid a great ability for "getting things done" efficiently and without any Drama. An accomplished actress she always supported amateur theatre. Our thoughts are with her family and especially her two grandsons, one of whom she was confident would be treading the boards in her footsteps before too long.

Peter Bradley - (or "Mr Fix It" as one of our visiting teams named him) was someone who would provide that "certain elusive prop" not to be found anywhere. His cellar at The Gresham Hotel was indeed an Aladdin's cave and he never let us down, nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He, together with his wife Gill, offered hospitality and support to MADF over many years.



Thank you Brian, Barbara and Peter for many happy memories.



Ron Blackburn (1940 – 2017)

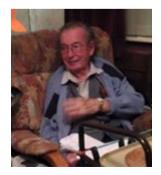
Ron was a founder member of Group Theatre Company (The London Lot) and acted in nearly every play we brought to the Easter Festival. He played a wide variety of parts from the bandit, Tajomaru, in "Rashomon" via Laurence in "Abigail's Party" and Mr Gradgrind in "Hard Times" to Vladimir in "Waiting for Godot".

Not only an actor, Ron also loved the backstage get-in/get-out and along with the rest of the company built and painted sets (when we had them!) and was our primary driver whenever we brought the minibus.

Ron was as much involved in festival activities off stage as well as on, not least the infamous darts matches at the "Mines" in Laxey. He was also instrumental in instigating, organising and running the Friday Night Green Room Cabaret which he loved to MC. He is sadly missed.

Stan Woollock, President of Rushen Players died in his 102nd year, April 2016. He played the lead in "Sunshine Boys" at the age of 90 and his last role on stage was at the age of 96, playing Theseus in the "Dream". His voice was heard in the theatre as a Radio announcer in 2015. Stan was an actor and director par excellence.





Don Williamson who died January 2016 aged 94 was the last founder member of Rushen Players, formally known as The Rushen Amateur Dramatics Society. It was formed in 1948 and Don acted, directed and chaired the society until having a stroke in 1990. He then continued his support and could often be seen at their performances.

We offer our deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones in their loss.



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1986 - Tudor Players, Manchester Accrington Pals

1987 - Clarence Players, Belfast The Goodbye People

1988 - Martello Productions, Wicklow Children of a Lesser God

1989 - Group Theatre Company, London Hard Times

1990 - Martello Productions, Wicklow Agnes of God

1991 - Sedgefield Players, Co. Durham Stepping Out

1992 - Sedgefield 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 - Sedgefield 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 Daus of Wine and Roses

2015 - Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport Frozen

2016 - White Cobra Productions, Northampton Scaramouche Jones

For Winners prior to 1985, please see our website - www.madf.im

Awards

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Trophy	Nominations	Winner
The John Bryan Award		
Audience Appreciation		
The David Sugden Memorial Trophy		
Set Conception, Design and Construction		
The J & B Green Award		
Costume and Makeup		
The Jackie Banner Award		
Comedy		
The Michael J. Lees Award		
Drama		
The Olga Gray Adjudicator's Award		
Outstanding Contribution		
The Raven Players Award		
Best Producer/Director		
The Richard Harris Memorial Trophy		
Ensemble Acting		
The Frances Isaac Award		
Best Performance over the age of 60		
The June Edge Cup		
Most Promising Performance under 21		
The Mollie Corkill Award Best Female		
Performance in a Supporting Role		
The David Kennaugh Award Best Male		
Performance in a Supporting Role		
The Vanda Lambert Award		
Best Female Performance		
The S. E. Benn Award		
Best Male Performance		
The Jack Lynch Cup		
Second Runner Up		
The Dick Craine Cup		
1st Runner Up		
The F.M. Cubbon Trophy		
Best Play		

Certificates and frames kindly donated by Meg and Peter Cooper

The commemorative plaques given to each team participating in the festival have been donated by Karen and Michael Goodman and Patricia Wilkinson.

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More information available at www.madf.im/friends-of-manx-drama





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Duty Managers: John Foster & Neill Cowin **Sound and Light Technician:** Alex Davidson

Stage Manager: Ted Faragher

Assistant Sound and Light Technician: Carl Crellin Front of House Leisure Assistant: Kevin Faragher

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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 this 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.

Do not run or push.

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- C) The safety curtain shall at all times be maintained in working order and shall be lowered and raised during the time of the performance

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