

60

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Stables Theatre
60th Anniversary
Merchandise



T-Shirt
(choice of colours)
£10.00

Sauvignon Blanc/
Merlot (Chile)
£10.00 per bottle



Souvenir Jubilee Book
20 pages
£3.00

Tote Bag £1.50
Tote Bag with Pen
and Torch Keyring
Only £3.50



Ballpoint Pen 70p
Torch Keyring £1.50

To purchase any of these items please
speak to a member of the box office



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WHAT'S ON AUGUST 19 TO NEW YEAR'S DAY

Stables Theatre

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THEATRE

2019

1959



Bookings, membership, parking and access

Box office: 01424 423221

Mon to Fri: 10.30am to 1pm; 6pm to 8pm. Sat: 10.30am to 1pm; also prior to performances. See website for full details and to book online (no booking fee): www.stablestheatre.co.uk

Payment options

Offline: cash, cheques (payable to Stables Trust Ltd), major debit/credit cards and Stables gift tokens.
Online at www.stablestheatre.co.uk: major debit/credit cards.

Ticket collection and postage

Tickets booked by telephone can be collected from the box office in advance or just before the performance. There is a postage charge of £1 if you wish us to send your tickets by post. When booking online you can also print your own tickets.

Refunds and resales

Please check the details on your tickets carefully. We cannot make refunds, but exchanges are sometimes possible. Tickets ARE accepted for resale only when all other tickets sold.

Group bookings

Group discounts are available for most shows and apply to groups of five or more booking together for the same performance. Usual price is £10.50 per person (non-members) and £8.50 (members).

Membership

Membership costs £10 for your first year when paying by direct debit, £15 in subsequent years. Members enjoy a £5 discount on most shows. Full details from the box office.

Parking

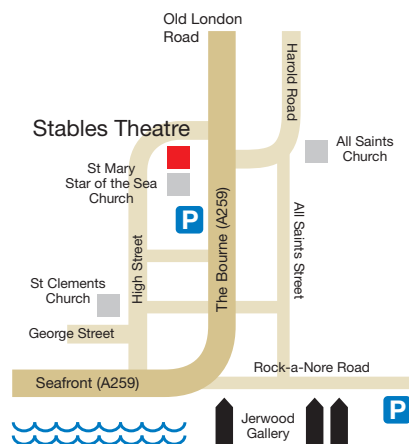
The theatre car park is free to patrons attending the theatre. To avoid a parking charge, please register your vehicle details in the parking book on arrival. There is a public car park on the Bourne and on-street parking, to which regulations apply.

Disability access (see plan)

Rows A and B are suitable for disabled people (with mobility, visual or hearing impairments) and their helpers. There are spaces for wheelchair users in row A, which can be accessed without any stairs. There are two steps up to row B. There is a wheelchair-accessible toilet on the ground floor. Platform lifts, for a wheelchair user or one seated person, enable access to the Gwen Watford Gallery and bar.

The Stables Theatre and Arts Centre, The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD. Tel 01424 423221. www.stablestheatre.co.uk

How to find us



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Stage

Aisle (stepped)

StageWrite

Chairman's column



Half way through our Diamond Jubilee year Nick Smurthwaite of *The Stage* describes us as "The little venue with big ambitions" and goes on to say "The Stables Theatre in Hastings belies its amateur status with a dedication and ambition many professional theatres would envy."

(www.thestage.co.uk) – comments of which each and every one of us should be justly proud.

Our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations have included a Gala Evening during *See How They Run*; lunch at Powdermills Hotel where Barbara Flynn, our guest of honour, gave a humorous and impassioned speech about her links with Hastings and the Stables Theatre; the Church Service at All Saints; and the Drama Group of Chicago Heights production of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. 2019 has really cemented our already strong relationship with our American friends and we look forward to visiting there in Spring 2021.

So, in our Jubilee year we continue to go from strength to strength with both our in-house and visiting productions. Hosting the first ever Hastings Theatre Festival was hugely rewarding for the theatre and at the time of writing plans are well under way for this year's Hastings Fringe Festival. Articles in the Little Theatre Guild (LTG) magazine, *Sardines* magazine (due for publication in August) and ever increasing online features in *Hastings Independent*, *Hastings in Focus* and our own Facebook pages and website, are raising our local and regional profile further still.

For the remainder of the year we have the Youth Theatre's project *Hollow*, with a showcase performance on August 23. During the run of *The Weir* we'll be hosting the LTG Conference with another Gala Evening for patrons and delegates on September 21. As part of our commitment to new writing and LGBT life *Here At Last Is Love* will have a rehearsed reading in front of an invited audience in early October. *Deathtrap* follows later that month and we host the Rotary Club's *Young Musician of the Year* competition on October 23. Our third and final Gala Night of 2019 will be held on November 22 during the run of *Joking Apart* and we finish the season with *Treasure Island*; you would be wise to book early and look out for information about our family Christmas Party planned for December 14.

Next year's programme has been selected entirely from suggestions by you, our membership, as a result of which our Programme Advisory Group (PAG) has researched and read well over 60 suggested plays and musicals! We hope that our 2020 season has something for everyone.

Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale is set in Girton College Cambridge in 1896, the title being a derogatory term for female intellectuals. Often funny, always, thought-provoking, it won Swale a nomination for most promising playwright in 2013 and the play is now on the GCSE drama syllabus.

In *Pressure* by David Haig, one man's decision is about to change the course of history. "Funny, intense and deeply affecting." *The Telegraph*.

My Old Lady by Israel Horovitz – you think all your financial woes are over when you inherit a Parisian apartment, but then you find it has a "sitting tenant". This play, full of sharply funny twists and turns, was made into a film starring Maggie Smith, Kevin Kline and Kristin Scott Thomas.

Assassins by Stephen Sondheim is a multi award winning musical centering around the imaginary meeting of the 11 assassins, or would-be assassins, who have assassinated, or attempted to assassinate, a president of the United States of America. Topical?

Nobody's Perfect by Simon Williams offers belly laughs galore with four irresistible characters in an hilarious plot of cross-dressing and cross-purpose.

Macbeth by William Shakespeare is one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays. Consumed by ambition Macbeth, driven on by his wife, will stop at nothing to gain the Scottish crown.

In *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Ronald Dahl, Mr Fox breaks his promise after 12 years of bucolic bliss and raids the farms of his human neighbours. When the farmers force Mr Fox and company deep underground, he has to resort to his natural craftiness to rise above the opposition.

Next year's New Writing Festival has already attracted over 30 submissions. Bands have expressed their interest in the music week, local groups have booked Stables dates and we have already secured bookings with regular touring favourites adding to the wealth of performance which is available at the theatre.

Our commitment to becoming part of the local community and for the local community to become come part of the theatre is moving forward!

Neil Sellman

The Weir

Opens Friday 20 September



When I was asked if I would like to direct *The Weir* by Conor McPherson, I recalled enjoying it many years ago in the West End.

Yet I found it hard to recall the story, except that the drama was set in a traditional southern Irish pub and that

plenty of beer and spirits were consumed!

So I read the play again and remembered that it doesn't have a neat narrative for an audience to follow. Instead, it invites us to eavesdrop, and feel part of, a lively evening in the company of five characters passing the time in their local pub sharing banter and stories together; stories that become ever more haunting and mysterious as the drink flows and stimulates the conversation.

The Weir conveys a wonderful sense of location and of being part of a small community where friendships and bonds are made for life. Storytelling is an important part of that life and the pub is where people come together to share experiences and tales and to support each other.

The play is built around five stories delivered by four of the characters. Four of the stories have a supernatural element, and each is effectively self-contained. The first ingeniously creates a foundation for everything that follows, opening the floodgates – the weir of the title – for an accelerating rush of revelations that cut closer and closer to the bone.

I am very pleased to be working with such talented actors, and our skilled production team, comprising both new and familiar faces. It has been challenging and enjoyable working together to create the atmosphere and location of *The Weir*, which is set in the area of Sligo and County Leitrim to the north-west of Eire.

I knew at an early stage that I wanted to have the right music for this production and was delighted to find, locally, a number of musicians who specialise in Irish music. What better way to get everyone in the mood than to open the evening with a live, pre-show set of Irish music on our stage!

Conor McPherson was aged just 26 when he wrote *The Weir* and had already enjoyed a string of successes including *The Lime Tree Bower* and *St Nicholas*, before he wrote this play for the Royal Court Theatre in 1997.

Since then his career has bloomed, his plays appearing on Broadway, in Ireland, and all over the world. Yet, in a recent interview, the author spoke candidly of his own personal demons and the battle with alcohol that almost killed him. Indeed, when he was writing *The Weir* he was close to his lowest ebb; and it is both amazing and ironic that a play so full of life and alcohol-fuelled conversation should be the result of such personal pain and angst.

I hope you will enjoy your evening at *The Weir* pub in Sligo!

Andrew Bruce

Deathtrap

Opens Friday 18 October



The play *Deathtrap* is a thriller written by Ira Levin in 1978 with many plot twists – and a lot of laughs.

It is in two acts with one set and five characters. It holds the record for the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway and was nominated

for four Tony Awards, including "Best Play". *Deathtrap* was well-received and has been frequently revived.

Sidney Bruhl, a previously successful playwright, has had a series of box office flops and is having trouble writing. Sidney tells his wife, Myra, he has received a new play from a student of his, Clifford Anderson. Sidney asserts that the student's play is a certain hit. Interspersed with reassurances that he is only kidding, he frightens Myra with suggestions that he may kill Clifford in order to steal the script. Sidney telephones Clifford to invite him over to give him suggestions on improving the play. Clifford's play is, like the actual play itself, entitled *Deathtrap*, and is also a one-set, five-character thriller.

Will Sidney go through with it and actually kill Clifford? And if so, how will Myra react? Expect lots of surprises!

Tim Kendrick

Joking Apart

Opens Friday 15 November



"A very angry woman once said to me in a bar, 'You miserable old sod. Hundreds of us live very happily with one another. Why can't you write about us?' So I wrote *Joking Apart*. The play is about a happy couple – you know those awful people

whose fridge never goes wrong [...] but being me I surrounded them with characters who become jealous of them and try to compete."

Alan Ayckbourn 1992

Of his own writing, Alan Ayckbourn considers *Joking Apart* to be one of his favourite plays. "I wrote *Joking Apart* years ago – it was the nearest I'd got at that stage of my life to writing an autumnal play about the sadness of growing older. I was then approaching my 40s and feeling extremely old – I realise now, of course, that I was extremely young".

Joking Apart has a very delicate balance between the sad and the funny. The initial inspiration for the play was realising that his son, then 18, was able to vote and to buy him a drink. "The passage of time suddenly caught up with me!" Elsewhere he also says that he could not have written it when he was younger.

I have much the same feeling. I first directed it for the BATS at the age of 36 in 1987; we produced it "in the round" at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. Despite being in correspondence with Ayckbourn about the play I am not sure I fully understood it. It was my 22nd production as a director and now, in my 69th year, I am hoping that life's experiences will have deepened my understanding – and thus your enjoyment – of the play!

Jack Tinker wrote of it: "Comedy has become as dirty a word as refuse in the West End these days. Yet here is Alan Ayckbourn, perennial as the sweetest rose, to give it back its good name."

Sheridan Morley wrote: "Mr Ayckbourn calls this a comedy. It is a comedy in the sense that *The Cherry Orchard* is one. *Joking Apart* is a haunting and very funny account of the awfulness of perfection [...] in the final reckoning I think it will live a lot longer than most; the mechanics are less obtrusive than elsewhere, the characters more thoughtfully drawn, the jokes more integrated."

Christopher Lacey

Treasure Island

Opens Tuesday 17 December



This is no pantomime. This is the National Theatre's thrilling new version of Stevenson's classic adventure story.

I was first asked to direct this epic story for the Stables Christmas show in 2017, but I got ill and reluctantly had to drop out.

Happily, no-one has done the show in the interim so, when I felt rather better, I was delighted to be asked to do it for this year's Christmas show as the final cherry on the celebration cake for 60 years of the Stables Theatre!

It's great to have a second chance because this show is something rather special.

This is a reimagined version of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* – so it is at once the story and characters everyone remembers from childhood and something completely different. This is an epic, dark comedy adventure, moving from laughs to chills in a second, as Jim (Jemima) Hawkins gets drawn into the search for buried treasure. She finds herself fighting storms at sea, betrayal, evil swamps and, of course, deadly pirates led by the charming Long John Silver ...

There's an ensemble cast of memorable characters, from the pompous Squire Trelawney, who couldn't keep a secret if his life depended on it (and it might!), to the quick-witted and fearless Dr Livesey the local Doctor – as quick with a knife as she is with a cutting comment. Silent Sue – who doesn't speak, but we always know what she's thinking, and Lucky Mickey, a foul smelling cowherd who thinks she is wonderful. There's murder, there's mayhem, there's music, and of course (at least for some) a happy ending ...

Every character is a distinct individual, be they pirate or landlubber, and every character has their chance to shine. It's a large cast and we have been very lucky to get a very capable and impressive set of actors to bring it all to life.

I hope this action-packed journey will thrill the whole family and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

Mike Poole

Monday 19 to Friday 23 August, 10am to 5pm
Showcase Friday 23 August at 7.30pm
Tickets £5



Hollow

1066 Youth Theatre Summer Workshop Project

The acclaimed 1066 Youth Theatre Creative returns with a powerful performance showcasing outstanding drama, physical theatre and expert storytelling.

Hollow will be developed through a week of dynamic workshops aided by professional practitioners.

1066 Youth Theatre promises a production which will thrill and enthral audiences, deliver high-quality theatre and celebrate the talent and achievements of the young people of Hastings.

A truly exceptional showcase, not to be missed.

A 1066 Youth Theatre production
directed by Niall Whitehead and Barbara Ward

Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 Aug 10am-4pm
Performance Friday 30 August at 7.30pm
£120 members · £140 non-members

Performance Summer School

with Dominique Gerrard

We are very excited to offer a Performance Summer School for adults. This will involve a week of focused work, acting exercises and direction on your choice of material. This can include monologues/duologues/songs (either published or original) which will be explored and directed and will then be performed in a showcase at the end of the week.

The showcase will also involve opportunities to perform as part of an ensemble, creating an original and unique final show. Places will be offered after an informal interview process.



Friday 20 to Saturday 28 September at 7.30pm
Sunday 22 September at 2.30pm · No performance Monday
Members £8.50 · Adults £13.50 · Under-18s and groups £10.50 · £2 off first night tickets

FIRST NIGHT
£2 OFF
ALL TICKETS

The Weir

By Conor McPherson

"A spellbinder that transfixes you ... No praise is too high" *The Guardian*

In Brendan's pub, isolated above the town, in the rural west of Ireland, the men are gathering for their daily drink and banter. The arrival of a stranger among them – a woman – spurs them to impress her with stories. They are stories of spirits past and of spirits present. But one story is more devastating than anyone could have foreseen, and has a surprising impact on this group of colourful characters.

On its première in 1997, *The Weir* won the Evening Standard, Critics' Circle and Olivier award for Best New Play, and established Conor McPherson as one of our finest playwrights.

Full of humour and wonderful language, *The Weir* is a classic piece of Irish drama. Come and immerse yourself in the wonderful atmosphere of the pub and the live Irish music set that precedes the play!

A Stables production directed by Andrew Bruce



Saturday 21 Sep from 6.30pm
GALA NIGHT
with canapés & wine
£5 supplement

LTG Conference

The Stables Theatre is delighted to be hosting this year's Little Theatre Guild South East Region Conference from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September.

Delegates will be welcomed with a supper at the White Rock Hotel, opposite Hastings Pier, on Friday night; workshops by Jane Brooman, Jane Richardson and Dominique Gerrard will accompany the Conference; and delegates are invited to join our audience for a Gala Evening of Conor McPherson's play *The Weir* on Saturday evening (see previous page).

At the request of the Stables, the Little Theatre Guild will be hosting a workshop/discussion about the employment of key staff members within a voluntary organisation.

The conference closes with the life story of Sussex's own Rudyard Kipling, presented by Mike Hutchinson.



Sunday 6 October at 4pm

Here At Last Is Love

David Charles Manners

During the London Blitz, the lower bar at the Ritz became the preferred bomb shelter for gay army officers on leave and M.I.5 agents. Nicknamed "The Pink Sink", regular patrons included such notable figures as Terence Rattigan, Desmond Carrington, Paul Dehn, Duncan Thompson, Michael Pitt-Rivers and Patrick Waddington of "That Certain Trio" (*pictured*) with Peggy Cochrane and William Walker, all of whom gathered around a remarkable socially-ostracised woman affectionately known as Sodomy Johnson, "The Buggers' Vera Lynn".

Here at Last is Love by David Charles Manners is based entirely on personal interviews and unpublished letters written by members of the Pink Sink set. The original material, presented in the style of a nightclub revue of the period, is remarkably candid, starkly exposing both the social pressure gay men were under to keep their sexuality hidden, and the full and joyful lives and loves they pursued in private that supported them through the horrors of active service.

Here at Last is Love will be developed through a workshop period this summer, in preparation for a full production in the Stables Theatre's 2020 season.



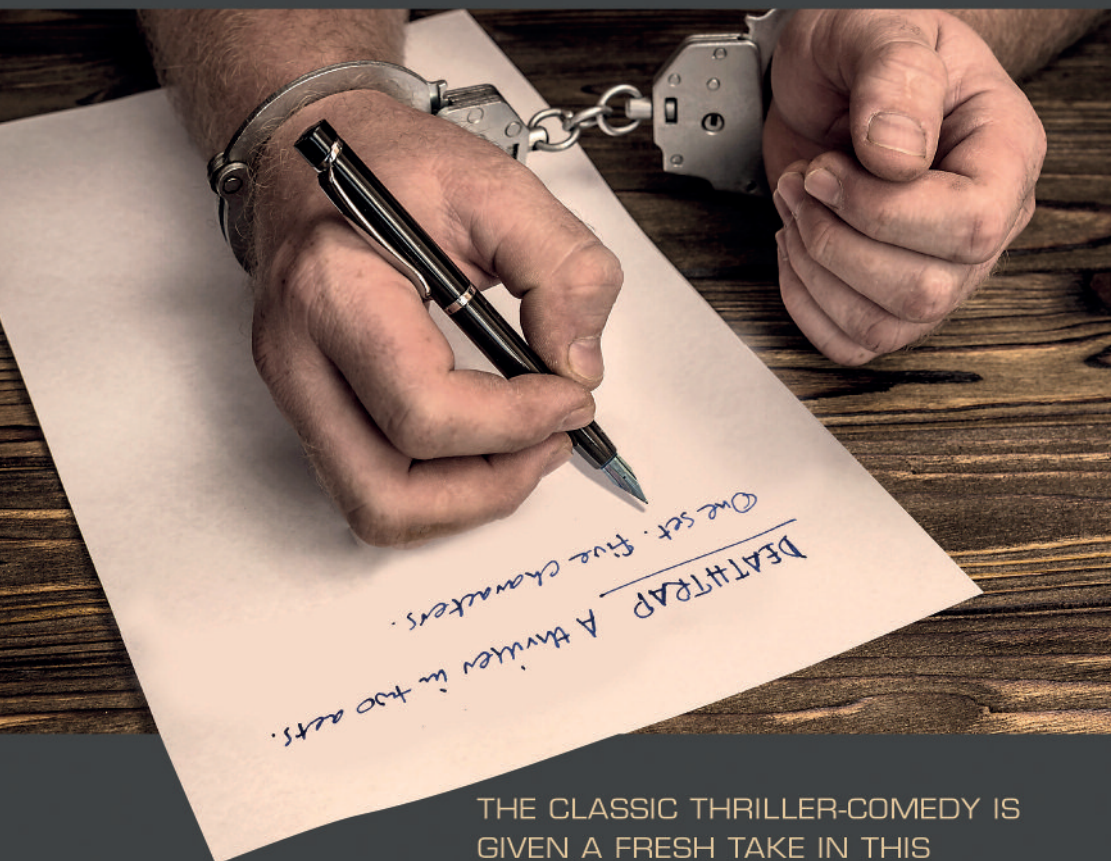
Friday 18 to Saturday 26 October at 7.30pm
 Sunday 20 October at 2.30pm · No performance Monday
 Members £8.50 · Adults £13.50 · Under-18s and groups £10.50 · £2 off first night tickets

FIRST NIGHT
£2 OFF
 ALL TICKETS

AT LEAST ONE OF THEM WON'T MAKE IT OUT ALIVE

IRA LEVIN'S DEATHTRAP

A STABLES PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY TIM KENDRICK



THE CLASSIC THRILLER-COMEDY IS
 GIVEN A FRESH TAKE IN THIS
 LIVELY AND SUSPENSEFUL NEW
 PRODUCTION

Monday 28 October at 7.30pm
 Members £8 · Non-members £10
 Members with accompanying children (under 16) £10
 Non-members with accompanying children (under 16) £12

Rotary Young Musician of the Year

In association with Rotary Great Britain & Ireland
 and Hastings Musical Festival



Rotary
 Great Britain & Ireland



HASTINGS
 MUSICAL
 FESTIVAL

In a collaboration between Hastings Rotary Club and Hastings Musical Festival we present an evening of Euterpean Delight in a competition to find the Hastings representatives for instrumental and vocalists for this wonderful competition.

Our esteemed judges will be Peter Georgiadis, International Bassist and Teacher of Music and Kenneth Roberts, well known musical director and International Festival Adjudicator.

The winners of this Hastings heat will progress to the District Finals and, if successful, the Regional and National Finals.

Do come and join us to listen and appreciate these talented young performers.

Friday 15 to Saturday 23 November at 7.30pm

Sunday 17 November at 2.30pm · No performance Monday

Members £8.50 · Adults £13.50 · Under-18s and groups £10.50 · £2 off first night tickets

FIRST NIGHT
£2 OFF
ALL TICKETS

Joking Apart

By Alan Ayckbourn

"YOU'LL LAUGH ... UNTIL IT HURTS"

Joking Apart is set in Richard and Anthea's garden over 12 years on bonfire night, a summer tennis party, Boxing Day and their daughter Debbie's 18th birthday.

Richard and Anthea are a perfect couple to whom everything comes very easily and whose genuine generosity, success and sensitivity seems to reflect badly on those around them. The only problem is their friends become jealous of them and try to compete.

It involves some hilarious physical comedy from a tennis game played in the winter to a firework display going wrong. Ayckbourn describes it as one of his "specials" for which he has a particular affection. It is play to make you laugh and reflect.

Tara Buchanan, Michael Wilson, "Fred" Lacey, Gavin Nevett, Mike Benthall, Jackie Eichler, Neil Mitchell and Aisling Tigwell bring the play to life.

A Stables production directed by Christopher Lacey

Friday 22 November from 6.30pm
GALA NIGHT
with canapés & wine
£5 supplement

Tuesday 17 to Monday 23 December at 7.30pm Sunday 22 December at 2.30pm

Tuesday 31 December & Wednesday 1 January (New Year's Eve & New Year's Day) at 7.30pm

Members £8.50 · Adults £13.50 · Under-18s and groups £10.50 · £2 off first night tickets

FIRST NIGHT
£2 OFF
ALL TICKETS

Treasure Island

"An epic, dark comedy adventure"

Adapted by Bryony Lavery from the Novel by Robert Louis Stevenson · Directed by Mike Poole

Deadly pirates, betrayal, storms at sea, murder, treacherous quicksand and an evil parrot.

When you're chasing treasure and fighting pirates how much danger is TOO MUCH?

This is no pantomime. This is the National Theatre's thrilling new version of Stevenson's classic adventure story.



Stables Art Gallery

Monday 29 July
to Saturday 28 September

Paul Cary: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gallery

Paul's extensive body of work, which pays homage to the Impressionists, is inspired by the architecture, people and places around his home in Hove.



The Stables Theatre Art Gallery is open
Monday to Friday 10.30am to 1pm
and 6pm to 8pm
Saturday 10.30am to 1pm
Also prior to performances

What's On at a glance



August

Mon	19	10am	<i>Hollow: Youth Theatre Project</i>
Tue	20	10am	<i>Hollow: Youth Theatre Project</i>
Wed	21	10am	<i>Hollow: Youth Theatre Project</i>
Thu	22	10am	<i>Hollow: Youth Theatre Project</i>
Fri	23	7.30	<i>Hollow: Showcase Performance</i>
Tue	27	10am	<i>Performance Summer School</i>
Wed	28	10am	<i>Performance Summer School</i>
Thu	29	10am	<i>Performance Summer School</i>
Fri	30	7.30	<i>Summer School: Performance</i>

September

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 <i>Little Theatre Guild Conference</i>			
Fri	20	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Sat	21	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Sun	22	2.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Tue	24	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Wed	25	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Thu	26	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Fri	27	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>
Sat	28	7.30	<i>The Weir</i>

October

Sun	6	4.00	<i>Here At Last Is Love (play reading)</i>
Fri	18	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Sat	19	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Sun	20	2.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Tue	22	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Wed	23	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Thu	24	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Fri	25	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Sat	26	7.30	<i>Deathtrap</i>
Mon	28	7.30	<i>Young Musician of the Year</i>

November

Fri	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Sat	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Sun	15	2.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Tue	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Wed	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Thu	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Fri	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>
Sat	15	7.30	<i>Joking Apart</i>

December

Tue	17	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Wed	18	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Thu	19	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Fri	20	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Sat	21	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Sun	22	2.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Mon	23	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Tue	31	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Wed	1	7.30	<i>Treasure Island</i>

Information contained in this publication believed to be correct
at time of going to press but may be subject to change.
Design: Cliff Brooker