



**LIVE THEATRE IS BACK!**

Details at [www.stablestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stablestheatre.co.uk) and find us on Facebook 

The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD; [info@stablestheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@stablestheatre.co.uk)

Box office: 01424 423221 (10:30 to 1:00 except Sunday)

Chair of Stables Council: Neil Sellman

## **MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2021**

Welcome to the second 'new generation' edition of a renewed newsletter, which we hope to produce every three months or so. As always, if there is anything that you would like to see included in future editions do please let me know via the e-mail address above.

My sincere thanks to the several contributors who have helped me compile this edition.

*Paul Buswell*

## **STABLES THEATRE – COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT**

Members of the Stables Council of Management have been working hard all through both periods of lockdown and are now happy to be in the position where we are ready to open the Theatre again "normally". Meetings were made by Zoom during lockdown and we are now pleased to say that we are back to meeting in the Theatre.

The Council of Management is responsible for all aspects of running, preserving and maintaining the Theatre.

The Council of Management is made up of members who are elected at the Annual General Meeting *i.e.* the Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary being elected annually and six ordinary members every two years (with an option to serve a further two years).

The Council meets once a month to deal with matters arising, new projects and general ongoing business. Council minutes are available for members to view on request to the Secretary.

Each member of the Council is responsible for a specific area of the Theatre *i.e.* backstage, legal, art gallery, box office, IT, printing, design, marketing, house and grounds, wardrobe *etc.* The licensee of the Theatre is a member of the Council.

As the Covid threat recedes we are gradually coming out of the restrictions imposed due to social distancing *etc.* First productions had very small casts and crew and have now, at last, got to the stage where we are looking forward and excited to be presenting our first Stables production since March 2019!

**WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU  
AT THE THEATRE AGAIN VERY SOON!**

*Harriet Davey, Hon Secretary*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

We hope you are all well.

The council are very aware that there is a group of members who do not have access to the internet and are sorry that we have not been able to communicate with them as effectively as with other members.

At present we cannot produce our normal 'What's On' brochure because of the constant changes in programming due to ongoing issues caused by Covid-19. Committing plans to print four to six months in advance is not currently sensible. However, the theatre is open and producing monthly fliers for confirmed productions.

For the remainder of the year we have the following planned;

**please note that these events may change, please check all details.**

Date	Event	Title	Company
Mon' 20** – Sat' 25 Sept', 7:30pm (Sat' also 2:30pm)	Play	'My Old Lady' – Israel Horovitz	Stables Theatre
Sun' 3 October, 5pm	Play	'And This is My Friend Mr Laurel'	Part of HASTINGS THEATRE FESTIVAL
Mon' 4 Oct', 7pm	2 x Plays	A Remembrance Evening	
Tues' 5 Oct', 7:30pm	Play	'Women of Pensionable Rage'	
Weds' 6 Oct' 7:30pm	Play	'The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me'	
Thurs' 7 Oct', 7:30pm	Play	'Watson: The Final Problem'	
Fri' 8 Oct', 7:30pm	Play	'A Room of One's Own'	
Sat' 9 Oct', 7:30pm	Music	'My Life In Song' (Will Allenby)	
Sun' 10 October, 3pm	Readings & Memoir	'Louise Jameson: Shakespeare's Mistress'	Printers Playhouse
Sun' 10 October, 8pm	Play	'SUS' – Barrie Keeffe	
Fri' 29 Oct' – Sat' 6 Nov' 7:30pm; but Sun' 31 Oct' is 2:30pm, Mon' 1 Nov' no perf'.	Play	'Blue Stockings' – Jessica Swale	Stables Theatre
Sun' 7 November	Music	Gigspanner Trio	Peter Knight
Mon' 8 Nov', 7:30pm	Lecture	Balkan Adventure	John Pilkington
Tues' 9 – Sat' 13 Nov'	Play	'The Incident at Marshfell' – Michael Punter	Vital Theatre
Sat' 20 November	Music	Sondheim Divas	Tim McArthur
Sat' 27 November	Play	'Christmas Gothic'	Dyad
Weds' 15 – Thurs' 23 December, for times see later page	Play	'The Snow Queen' – Michael Punter	Stables Theatre

\*\* Monday 20<sup>th</sup> socially distanced, see later in this Newsletter.

/continued

*For all further information please visit the Stables website, [www.stablestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stablestheatre.co.uk), or the Hastings Theatre Festival website, [hastingstheatrefestival.com](http://hastingstheatrefestival.com)*

We have also made a survey of local theatres and theatre groups and predominantly everyone is returning to 100% capacity with limited Covid restrictions.

The Stables Theatre has decided

- To return to 100% capacity, with the online booking facility re-opening.
- That the bar returns to normal – we request that people find a table and send one person to order at the bar.
- That we will encourage the wearing of masks when moving around the building; but we are happy for audience members to continue to wear masks throughout the performance if they wish to. We understand that this is not enforceable.
- Theatre staff will wear masks and we will keep box office screens.
- As a trial we are making Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September a socially distanced and mask wearing event. Please if you **do not** wish to wear a mask then **do not book** for the performance on this date. There will be table service in the bar for this performance. Tickets for this performance can only be purchased by telephone or in person – If this proves successful then we may repeat it for other Stables Theatre productions.

Keep well

Stables Council of Management

## **PROGRAMME ADVISORY GROUP**

**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 2:00 pm**

The Programme Advisory Group (PAG) has begun to plan for next years' season. We would like to extend an invitation to all active members, but especially prospective and past Stables Theatre directors, to come and suggest production ideas for 2022.

We would like you to enthuse us with your selection of plays and indicate your availability as a director for 2022, give us some brief thoughts on your vision as well as ideas on staging and any potentially high cost areas. Please keep your suggestions to a maximum of two, and bear in mind that The Stables is not only looking for plays that will fill the theatre but also those which will appeal to different interest groups.

There will be no formal presentations and newcomers to the Stables Theatre will be given the opportunity to ask questions and find out what it means to take on a directorial role, so you may just like to come along and listen. If you know of anyone who would like to direct but is new to the idea please encourage them to attend.

All active members are also invited to contribute to the evening with their ideas and suggestions.

The Programme Advisory Group will use your contributions to form the basis of future planning discussions.

Anyone unable to attend but keen to contribute should forward their ideas to Tim Kendrick, the Programme Advisory Group Chair, via the Stables Theatre.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, 12th September 2021 at 2pm at the Stables Theatre bar.

*Tim Kendrick*

## NEW WRITING FESTIVAL

The first Stables NEW WRITING FESTIVAL was held on the weekend of 21-22 August.

And it was a smashing success! Some fantastic readings of three wonderful brand new plays. Great attendance and some wonderful feedback for the playwrights.

We were so thrilled with the response that we have now decided to make this an annual event!

We want to thank all who helped to make this such a success, especially all the actors who took time out of their busy schedule to make the whole thing work. Well done!

If you have any suggestions on how to make next year's New Writing Festival at the Stables even better please don't hesitate to give your ideas/feedback at [info@stablestheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@stablestheatre.co.uk) via email.

*Tim Kendrick*

## NEW WRITING SUBMISSIONS

The Stables has recognised a need to further support writers and so we have created a more defined process for submitting plays to the theatre.

The Stables will now accept play submissions twice a year – in March and September.

March submissions will be part of our on-going New Play Writing Competition. Any new play which has never been produced before, and meets our rules, is eligible.

And in September we will accept any play written by you and that meets our rules, even if the play has been performed previously.

Full rules are now available on our website. We believe this new process will make it more transparent for playwrights who want to get their work in front of an audience. We look forward to reading some amazing new scripts!

*Neil Sellman*

## CONCESSIONS

Following consultation with local groups the Stables now offers a free membership for people with a disability.

This membership will allow the qualifying individual to buy their ticket, and their carer's ticket at membership prices for that event/ performance. Both tickets must be purchased at the same time.

To qualify for this Stables concession you must be in receipt of and provide evidence for one of the following benefits:-

- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Registered Blind

You will need to register at the box office for this membership before purchasing show tickets.

Documentation must be dated within the last eight months, copies or electronic copies are acceptable.

This membership will then be on going but we will contact you annually for copies of current qualifying documentation.

Only one offer, discount or concession can be applied to each ticket sold.

## BOX OFFICE – MY STORY

What a journey! 24 years ago I walked into the theatre and within 20 minutes I found myself behind the counter! I was persuaded, not that I needed much persuading, to spend a few minutes observing box office duties before deciding whether to sign up as a volunteer. Well, I'm still a volunteer, one of the many who help to keep the Stables running so successfully.

When I started there were no computers, no online bookings. Telephone bookings and face-to-face interaction with customers was the norm. But in order to survive the box office had to move forward and one of the greatest challenges for me was to learn the intricacies of the software, not once, but twice!

Very quickly I came to realise that selling tickets was not the only skill to be mastered. The box office was often the first point of contact and information so learning who was who and what was where (including the electricity meters!) was equally as important.

One nightmare job that never changes is the organisation of the box office rota, although it does offer opportunities to get to know our fellow workers. Health and family issues can occur without warning and then the rota co-ordinator has to be resourceful, or in some instances, step into the breach.

I've met a lot of talented and interesting people in all departments of the theatre, made many friends and enjoy being part of the Stables family. It's a great place to be!

And the plays are pretty amazing too. . .

*Veronica Sceal*

## And.... **A REQUEST FROM THE BOX OFFICE**

As we are using electronic communication wherever possible please could we be kept informed of any change of email address or telephone number. Ideally, a unique email address per member is required to meet the needs of our booking software.

We will communicate by post with any member who doesn't have access to the internet. Please could we be kept informed of your home address.



**THE STABLES TRUST LIMITED**  
**Company registration 00591781**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

The Annual General Meeting of the Stables Trust was held on 25<sup>th</sup> May this year; the meeting was later than usual due to the pandemic and its restrictions (end of March).

The meeting was held at the Theatre and all members of the Trust were invited to attend and were entitled to a vote.

Members of the Council of Management - Neil Sellman (Chair), Henri Hayler (Treasurer), Harriet Davey (Secretary), Cliff Brooker (Vice-Chairman), Tim Pearce (Vice Chairman), Susan Dengate, David Harding, Gill Jenks, Yvonne Rees, Andrew White, and Mike Willard) and 13 members attended.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were elected unopposed and two members were elected to fill two vacancies.

Members of the Council for the next year are - Neil Sellman (Chair), Harriet Davey (Hon. Secretary), Tim Pearce (Vice-Chair), Cliff Brooker (Vice-Chair), Henri Hayler (Hon. Treasurer), David Harding, Colin Dormer, Frank Jenks, Yvonne Rees, Andrew White, Mike Willard.

The accounts for the year were approved.

Annual General Meeting minutes can be viewed on the Stables website.

*Harriet Davey (Hon Secretary)*

**WANTED – ASSISTANT TREASURER**

The Stables is expanding its volunteer finance team with the creation of the Assistant Treasurer role. If you have experience in finance and love theatre and are looking to expand your CV in finance then this role could be for you.

The Assistant Treasurer will report to the Treasurer monthly to help the council better understand the financial situation of the theatre and help better plan future projects. The Assistant Treasurer will have a range of responsibilities so a history of working in finance is mandatory. As Assistant Treasurer, you will be responsible for the following roles:

- Show reports – collating the data to create profit and loss accounts for each production
- Expenses – Collating, documenting and approving the theatre's expenses as per our approved expenses policy
- Day to day accounting – Bookkeeping and managing the daily finance of the Stables for the stage account.
- Supporting the completion of the accounts – Helping the treasurer with compiling all the data required for the accountant as per accounting standards.

This role will suit anyone looking to get involved in volunteering and using their experience to help the charity grow. If you would like to know more information please call me on 07757 946147 or email [accounts@stablestheatre.co.uk](mailto:accounts@stablestheatre.co.uk) Cut off date is 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

*Henri Hayler, Treasurer*





# THE SCOTTISH PLAY

It is with much excitement that we announce dates for an introductory afternoon and auditions for **MACBETH** scheduled for February 2022 at the Stables Theatre and Arts Centre.

Auditions: Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th September 2.00 - 5.30 Stables Theatre

This production will reflect our contemporary experience of power brokered by malice, all-encompassing surveillance and compliance garnered through fear. The foundation of any play is the text and narrative. What's the story and what meaning does it hold? Shakespeare's language will require work which will be immensely rewarding. You will be fully supported to extend your skills, contribute creatively, and experience the satisfaction of bringing this critically relevant play fully alive.

Please read the play before you audition (copies available from theatre £10 deposit).

Our casting brief is inclusive and diverse. Characters are listed as they appear in the original but our task is to bring them into 'modern' milieu driven by acquisition and the violence that underlies it. There are no barriers to your interest and enthusiasm. We look forward to meeting you.

DUNCAN, King of Scotland

MALCOLM and DONALBAIN, his sons

MACBETH, general of the King's army, afterwards King of Scotland

LADY MACBETH

BANQUO, general of the King's army

FLEANCE, son of Banquo, an adolescent

MACDUFF, LENNOX, ROSS, MENTEITH, ANGUS and CAITHNESS, noblemen of Scotland.

LADY MACDUFF.

SIWARD, Earl of Northumberland, general of the English forces.

SEYTON, officer attending Macbeth.

SON of Macduff, a child.

An English DOCTOR.

A Scottish DOCTOR.

A CAPTAIN.

A PORTER.

An OLD MAN.

GENTLEWOMAN attending on Lady Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH.

SECOND WITCH.

THIRD WITCH

MURDERERS, MESSENGERS & SERVANTS

Production team so far:

Assistant director - Andrew Bruce

Music - Keith Rodway

Director - Frances Viner

Costume - Maureen Nelson

Video - Sam Sharples

Mon 6 Sept to Sat 6 Nov 2021 · Meet the artists Sat 11 Sept

# TIME AND TIDE

LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBIT EVOCATIVE ARTWORKS  
INSPIRED BY THE SEASONS IN AND AROUND HASTINGS



MICHELLE BENNETT

Stables Theatre Art Gallery  
The Bourne  
Hastings TN34 3BD  
Tel 01424 423221 ·  
[www.stablestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stablestheatre.co.uk)  
Mon to Sat 10.30am to 1pm  
Also prior to performances.



Local artists include Michelle Bennett's sweeping seascapes; historic scenes of Hastings and its surrounding countryside by Roger Hill; and images by local photographer Paul Praeger. Plus an exciting selection of cabinet pieces by local ceramicists.

Open Monday to Saturday 10.30 to -1pm, and prior to theatre performances. Admission free. You are welcome to **Meet the Artists** and view their work on Saturday September 11, 11am- 1pm.



Dad left me a Paris apartment!  
What could possibly go wrong!?

# MY OLD LADY

BY ISRAEL HOROVITZ



DIRECTED BY LYNDSEY MEER  
Mon 20\* to Fri 24 September at 7.30pm  
Sat 25 September at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

*\*A performance with socially distanced seating  
and wearing of masks required.*

*Booking by telephone or at Box Office only.*

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)  
See booking information and seating plan  
at [www.stablestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stablestheatre.co.uk)

Stables Theatre, The Bourne  
Hastings TN34 3BD  
Box Office 01424 423221



Failed writer (and husband!) Mathias is downcast, disillusioned and broke. When his estranged father leaves him a flat in Paris he thinks all his troubles are over. However the apartment comes with surprises, shocks, humour and challenges and Mathias finds he must face his past before he can enjoy a new future.  
A funny, intelligent, interesting play with a wonderful cast.

*Socially-Distanced performance on Monday 20th September – booking by telephone and at box office only. There will be full table service in the bar, and audience members and theatre staff will be wearing masks throughout the building and during the performance.*

*All other performances (Tuesday 21st September – Saturday 25th September) are Not Socially-Distanced – booking online, by telephone and at box office. There will be no restrictions at these performances. We will be happy for audience members to wear masks as and when they wish.*





**STABLES**  
THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE

Sponsored by



True friendship melts the coldest ice ...

**HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S**

# THE SNOW QUEEN

Adapted by MICHAEL PUNTER  
Directed by JANE RICHARDSON

Wed 15 Dec 7.30pm  
Thu 16 Dec 7.30pm  
Fri 17 Dec 7.30pm  
Sat 18 Dec 2.30 & 7.30pm

Sun 19 Dec 2.30pm only  
Mon 20 Dec 7.30pm  
Tue 21 Dec 7.30pm  
Wed 22 Dec 7.30pm  
Thu 23 Dec 7.30pm

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)  
Stables Theatre, The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD  
Box Office 01424 423221

For booking information and seating plan visit  
[www.stablestheatre.co.uk](http://www.stablestheatre.co.uk)

**1066**  
Country