



LIVE THEATRE IS BACK!

Details at www.stablestheatre.co.uk and find us on Facebook 

The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD; info@stablestheatre.co.uk

Chair of Stables Council: Neil Sellman

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

Box Office Opening Times over Christmas and New Year period

Open Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd December 10.30am to 1:00pm, and performance evenings.

Closed 24th December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022

Box offices re-opens as normal on Tuesday 4th January 2022

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to the third '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 and to the Chairman for co-ordinating contributions.

Paul Buswell



Dear All

Today the archive group asked me if we could produce a list of productions and events that have taken place at the Stables since the beginning of Lockdown, to ensure there was a clear record of what the Stables had achieved during this period. To my surprise we have mounted or hosted 44 productions this year alone. This is an amazing effort from everyone involved, thank you all.

A number of people have asked me why our Christmas production of 'The Snow Queen' is not continuing after Christmas. As many of us are still trying to grapple with what the 'new normal' looks like, we felt that this year everyone would want to - and deserved to - celebrate the Christmas holiday with their friends and family, uninterrupted!

We also want the Stables to continue to develop all the different events and partnerships we have hosted and made throughout 2021, keeping the theatre inclusive, safe and a welcoming place to visit and to work in is our priority.

Everyone on the Council of Management thanks you for your continued support and wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Neil Sellman, Chair of Stables Council

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope you will all agree that the Stables has responded appropriately to the complexities caused by the ongoing pandemic, this has been achievable due to the commitment of our volunteers.

To keep everyone as safe as possible, the theatre is asking volunteers and performers to Lateral Flow Test three times a week during a production and where possible link these tests in with days they are attending the theatre. We understand this is not enforceable but is in line with other societies in the area. Let's hope 2022 will see a time when these safeguards are less necessary.

During 2022 we are going to bring back a 'new look' printed version of the What's On and during March we hope to introduce a weekly Sunday Afternoon Concert in the Art Gallery – might even be tea and cake included!

During 2022 we would like to grow our volunteer base we understand that modern life does not always allow people to donate regular amounts of time, so the old proverb 'many hands make light work' will be our 2022 mantra.

Neil Sellman

COVID SAFETY

Keeping us safe at the Theatre

Following the announcement made by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 8th December, it has been announced on the BBC website that mask wearing in theatres will be mandatory from Friday 10th December.

As Christmas approaches, and into the New Year, it is vital that we ensure the Stables Theatre continues to be a safe environment to visit and work in.

So in light of the latest UK Government mandate, all audience members will need to wear face coverings around the building unless exempt (or whilst actively eating and drinking), and we ask audience members to take a rapid lateral flow test (LFT) before attending a performance – many people are already doing this as part of their current work pattern. Face coverings are mandatory. LFT are a suggestion.

First nights of all Stables plays will continue to be fully masked and socially distanced performances.

The Stables has adopted testing protocols for all Front of House, Bar, Box Office, Backstage crews, as well as performers. We also have enhanced cleaning, contactless ticketing and the ability to exchange tickets if unable to attend due to Covid-19.

Everyone is working extremely hard to ensure that theatre continues to be a welcoming place for all and we thank you for your continued support of The Stables Theatre'

THE STABLES THEATRE – COUNCIL of MANAGEMENT

The Council of Management of the Theatre has been busy during the year despite the various problems caused by the pandemic. The Council has met once a month as usual, either in person at the Theatre or from home by Zoom.

A lot of work has been going on in the building i.e.

- a new internet system has been installed providing wi-fi access throughout the building
- signage on the outside of the building has been updated and installed
- volunteers have been working hard outside tidying and improving the gardens
- the fire alarm system has been updated

Council members have been working “behind the scenes”

- bringing our various Policies up to date
- applying for and dealing with grants etc.
- members of the Box Office have been busy with bookings and also with ticket cancellations and refunds etc. caused by the periods of lock-down and performances which have had to be cancelled due to team members testing positive for Covid. Changes in the programme caused by the pandemic have made a lot of extra work.
- the membership system has been updated and improved. We have changed direct debit providers and are now more in touch with our members
- marketing is being updated
- the Theatre has been taking part in a project “the use of theatre” run by the Royal Holloway, University of London.
- the New Writing competition was very successful and will be run annually. Plays chosen will be staged at the Theatre
- the Bar is doing well despite the various problems caused by Covid

We look forward to seeing all our members at the Theatre again very soon.

Please keep in touch with us through “what’s on”, the website, various e-mails, notices etc.

Harriet Davey (Hon. Secretary)
December 2021



Boot Sale – Anne Edwards is standing down from organising the Stables Boots Sales a huge vote of thanks for all the years she has done this for us. We would like someone to take over could this be you? Anne will support you through your first SaleFor more information info@stablestheatre.co.uk

FIRE & ICE

ART EXHIBITION

NOW SHOWING UNTIL 23rd DECEMBER 2021

A fabulous collection of heart-stopping colours and textures from local textile artists Christine Mbaye and Tricia Neve; and designer/weaver Caroline Richards.

EXHIBITION TIMES 10:30 to 1pm Monday to Saturday (7pm-8pm during shows)





HERE AT LAST IS LOVE

by David Charles Manners

A fascinating piece of gay history. The fact this is based entirely on direct personal experience, a necessarily secret history, makes it all the more poignant and delicious. – Sir Matthew Bourne

The Stables Hastings, BallyBest Productions and Beckman Unicorn announce *Here at Last is Love*, a new play by David Charles Manners based on the astonishing, unseen archives of The Pink Sink. This secret, WWII drinking club met in the basement of the Ritz Hotel, presided over by its remarkable doyenne and procuress ‘Sodomy Johnson’.

The Pink Sink provided refuge, hospitality and more for some of the most significant and glittering figures of London wartime gay life. With such members as Terence Rattigan and Michael Pitt-Rivers, this assembly of writers, poets, actors, army officers and MI5 agents bear unabashed, amused, passionate witness to their hidden existences through letters, diaries, and verbatim reminiscence, with a dash of song and dance.

Written as a revue of the period, *Here at Last is Love* tells their story – the frightening, sometimes comical, pressures they were under to hide their illegal sexuality, and the rich, joyful lives and loves they pursued in private that sustained them through the dehumanising horrors of active service.

Here at Last is Love will be directed by Jason Morell, whose work includes *Love is Only Love* (Minerva Theatre/The Other Place), *Love, Loss and Chianti* (Riverside Studios/Minerva Theatre), *The Song of Lunch* (Pleasance, Edinburgh), *Against Prejudice!* (Belgrade Theatre Coventry/Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), *Laments* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse) and *The Cutting of the Cloth* (RNT Studio).

Here at Last is Love will be staged at The Stables in May 2022, with audition notices to be posted in the New Year.

Here at Last is Love is a story so ripe for the telling. It needs to be told. – Dame Harriet Walter

THE STABLES & CHICAGO EXCHANGE - AUDITION

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2022 at 2 pm

Playing: Hastings 6 – 14 May and Chicago 10 - 19 June 2022

'Run For Your Wife' by Ray Cooney

Directed by Lyndsey Meer

Dear Actors,

I feel we're so lucky to have this connection with the Chicago Heights theatre.

It's such a fun thing to do – go out to the States with a load of thespians and put on a daft play. And this play is DAFT.

I initially had some concerns about it as it's dated and somewhat sexist but Chicago have requested it and it is very, very funny – so we will present it as the period piece it is. And, as we in theatre all know, there is nothing like making people laugh.

This will be a big commitment for Cast and Crew.

You will need to be available for a UK production in May, between 6th and 14th, while stage show dates in Chicago are between June 10th and 19th. There will be time either side for exploring and we will be hosted, free of charge, by our colleagues in Chicago.

The Play

John Smith is a London cabbie with his own taxi, a wife in Streatham, a wife in Wimbledon and a knife-edge schedule. He has been a successful, if tired, bigamist for three years but, one day, gallantly intervening in a mugging, he is taken to hospital with mild concussion. In the ensuing complications John tries to cope with a succession of well-meaning but prying policemen, the press, two increasingly irate wives and a gay neighbour, until he manfully confesses the truth – but no-one believes him!

The action takes place in two London flats, both represented on stage.

The cast is made up of six men and two women – all funny, quirky parts with masses of opportunity for imaginative, idiosyncratic performances.

The Cast:-

Mary Smith

Barbara Smith

John Smith

Detective Sergeant Troughton

Stanley Gardener

Newspaper Reporter

Detective Sergeant Porterhouse

Bobby Franklyn

Please contact me if you have queries or can't make the Audition date:-

Lyndsey Meer

07788 713564 lyndseymeer@hotmail.com 01580 880219

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE STABLES



FRONT OF HOUSE (FOH) we are looking for people who are keen to welcome our audience into the Theatre. During the current period FOH duties have changed to meet the requirements of Track and Trace and the challenges presented by COVID-19. Once confident with this role you will be welcome on the FOH rota at any time..... For more information Info@stablestheatre.co.uk

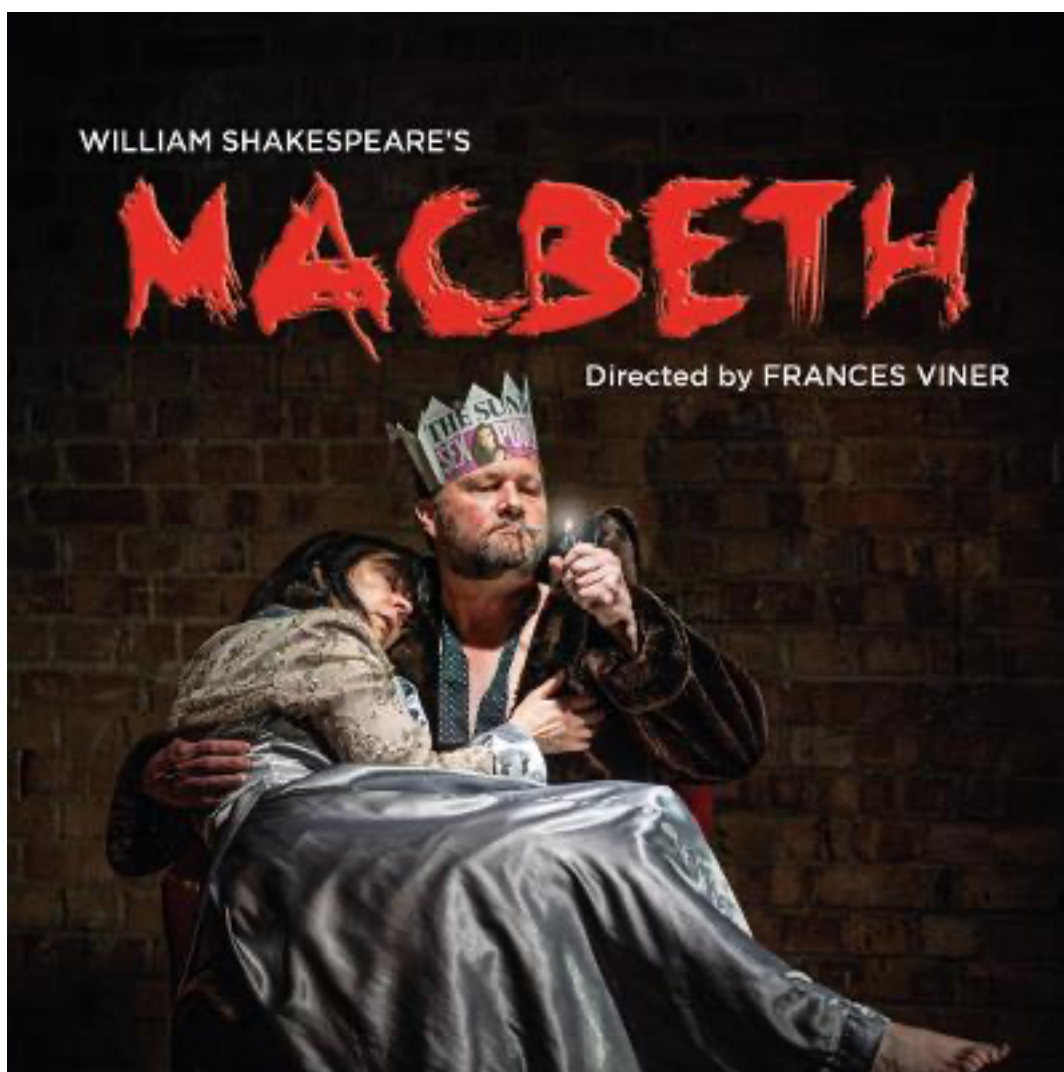


OPERATING TECHNICIANS – have you ever wondered what goes on in the lighting box? We are planning training sessions and are looking for people who are keen to learn how to operate lighting or sound for a show or event at the Stablesthese will be short training sessions held by our in-house team early in 2022let us know if you are interested info@stablestheatre.co.uk



NEWSLETTER we have a group of volunteers dedicated to producing a regular newsletter for members. We are looking for someone to join this team as content manager, this person will need a good knowledge of the theatre and the understanding of what makes an interesting letter, be able to liaise with contributors, compiler and sender. For more information Info@stablestheatre.co.uk

**Book early for Macbeth at the Stables; directed by Francis Viner,
this will be a production like no other**



Macbeth

Stables Theatre presents Macbeth...

A company combining the talents and imaginations of actors, film maker,
musician, designers, technicians, back and front stage crew
present Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' ... a play which resonates with the damage
at the heart of systems which dispense power to the callous few and cages
to the compliant many.

Directed by Frances Viner

SHOW TIMES: Friday 4 & Saturday 5 February 7:30; Sunday 6

February 2:30; Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 February 7:30

First Night - Socially Distanced and Mask Wearing

HONK!

Christmas 2022 15th December to 23rd December

The musical by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (also responsible for stage versions of 'Mary Poppins' and 'The Wind in the Willows'). Based on 'The Ugly Duckling' by Hans Christian Andersen. 4 m 4 f or a few more if needed. I think its delightful and very funny. Simple music and lyrics even for non-singers. First performed at the Watermill Newbury and then transferred to the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough and the National Theatre - before going around the world in over 300 productions picking up Olivier and Tony awards.

The authors and all the productions I know of never envisaged feathery body suits, masks or beaks. Where possible they thought of the human counterpart of each character and used that as a basis for both the costume design and the way in which the part is played. In the script they refer to judiciously placed baseball caps giving the impression of ducks' beaks or a set of red hair-rollers bearing an uncanny resemblance to a chicken's comb. The tag line for the publicity could be 'A celebration of being different' - it would be a wonderfully fun show to be part of and to see.

Familiarisation 5th June 2022. Auditions 26th June

Directed by Chris Lacey

Music Director	Oscar Smith
Choreographer	Jackie Hutt
Designer	Dee Harvey

Sponsored by Kiley's Karpets

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 come 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

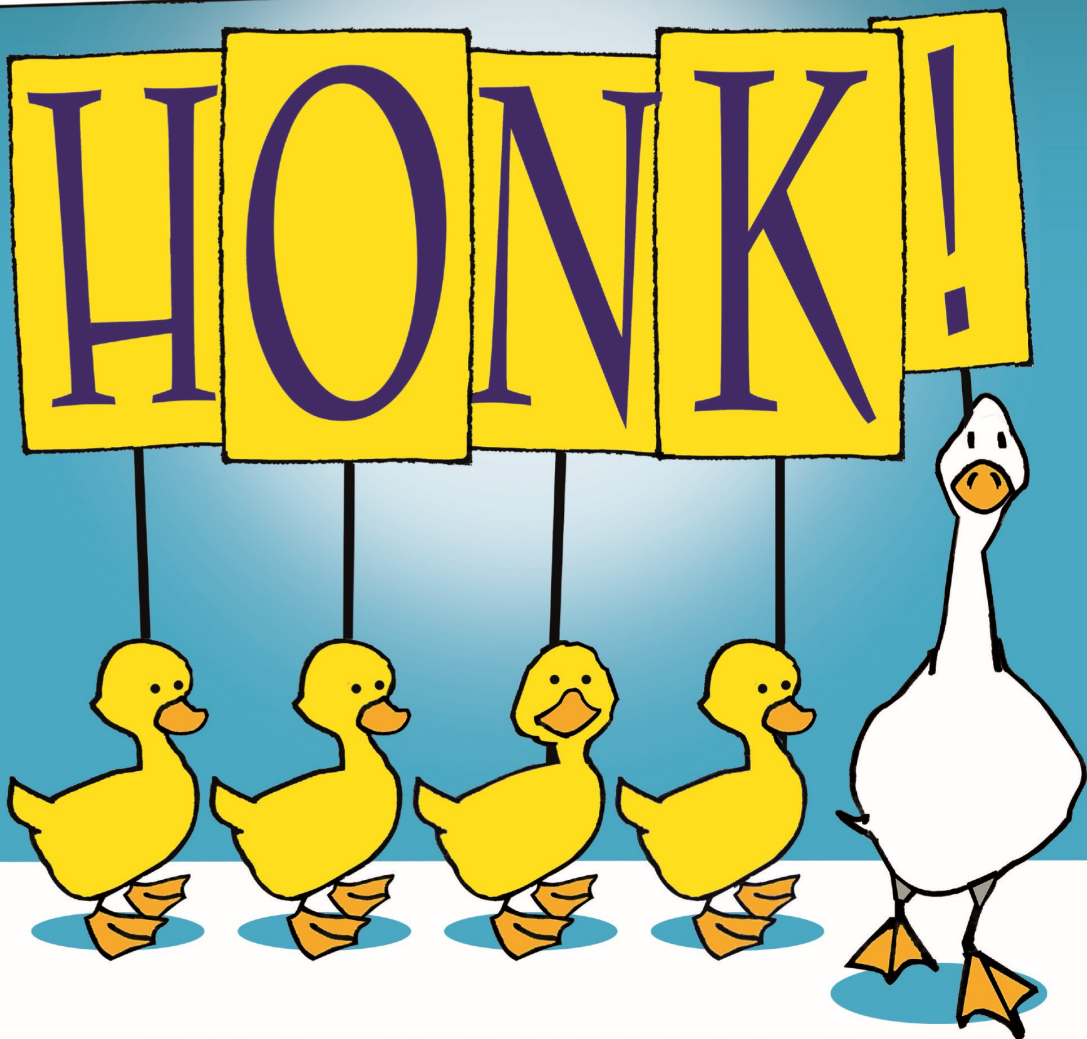


Sponsored by



The utterly delicious musical version of
Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*

YOU'D BE QUACKERS TO MISS IT!



1066
Country

Music by George Stiles · Book & Lyrics by Anthony Drewe

Directed by Christopher Lacey

Music Director Oscar Smith · Choreographer Jackie Hutt

Thursday 15 to Friday 23 December 2022 at 7.30pm

Matinées Sat 17 & Sun 18 at 2.30pm. No performance Sunday evening.

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

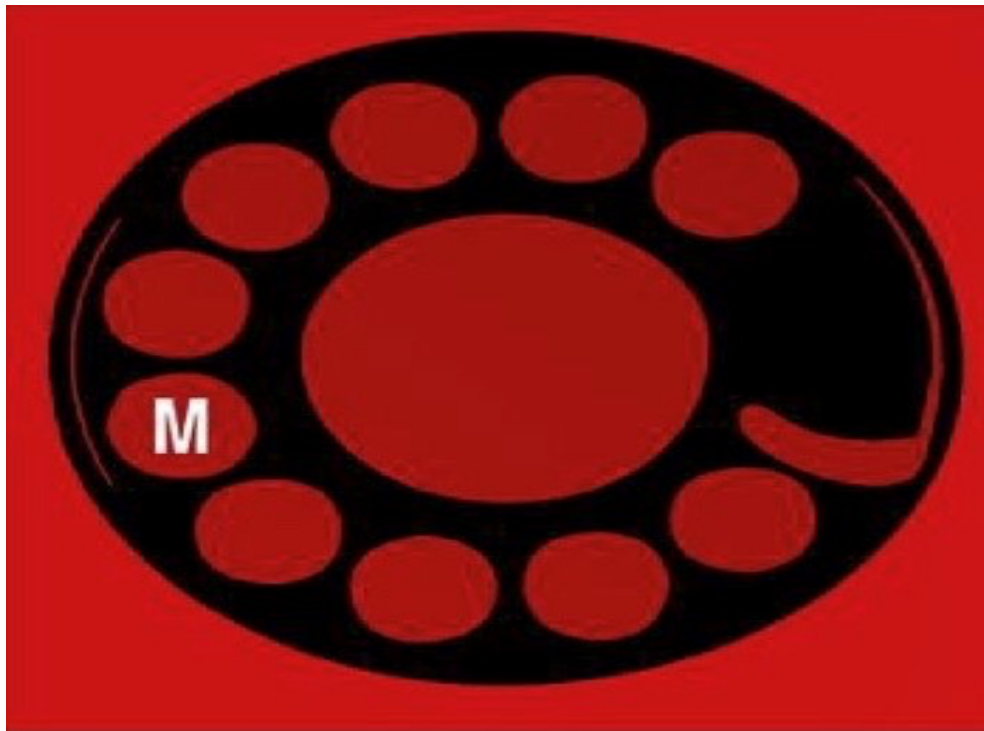
Dial “M” for Murder by Frederick Knott

Directed by Adrian Bowd

Production Dates -: Friday 1st April – Saturday 9th April 2022

1950s London: wealthy Sheila Wendice had a brief affair with a writer, Max, while her husband Tony, a professional tennis player, was away on tour. Tony discovers her indiscretion, and enlists the help of an old acquaintance to have her killed so he can inherit her money. Things don't go according to plan however, but Tony manages to frame her for murder, leaving her to face the death penalty, and leaving him to still inherit her wealth.

The 1954 American film “Dial M for Murder” directed by Alfred Hitchcock starring Grace Kelly and Ray Milland owes its success to the original stage play of the same name, written by Frederick Knott, which opened in London's West End in June 1952, and then on to New York's Broadway in October. The film earned an estimated \$2.7 million in North American box office sales in 1954, and the play has remained a big favourite with theatre audiences.



BALKAN ADVENTURE

Award-winning adventurer John Pilkington spent five months in 2013 exploring the Balkan mountains. “I’d visited Yugoslavia briefly in the 1970s,” he says. “Since then they’ve abandoned communism, suffered brutal conflicts, and taken small steps towards coming together with the rest of Europe. In Bosnia and Kosovo I found people still traumatised, but many were working hard to create a peaceful future.” John

also met people in the remotest villages of Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria. His stunning photos and inspiring commentary will make this a talk not to be missed.

Monday 11 April 2022 at 7:30