

Playbox Theatre

Members' Newsletter

December 2022

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



It is the first time we have staged a Shakespeare production for Christmas since 1995, when we enjoyed performances of *A Winter's Tale* at Warwick Arts Centre, in the days before The Dream Factory. How exciting to bring such an enchanting tale to families during the winter, with sumptuous costumes, lighting, music, and magic.



Mary and her team have been working on this production since August, and dress rehearsals last weekend were looking beautiful. There are a few tickets left, so we hope that you will come and see the work, performed by nearly 50 young actors from across Playbox Theatre centres in Warwick, Kenilworth, and Stratford upon Avon.



Tickets can be booked here <https://www.playboxtheatre.com/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-2022/>

We are very grateful to Liam Bessell, for capturing the spirit of the show so beautifully, with a delicious set of production photographs.



WELCOME

It's our favourite time of the year at Playbox Theatre! Welcome to Christmas with Playbox, and to a festive month filled with performances, holiday workshops and reunions.

Weekly workshops are now on Christmas break, with sessions resuming from Saturday 7th January.

We're also taking the time to reflect on a really wonderful 12 months, which has seen some extraordinary work both on, and off, stage, and we look ahead to 2023 with so much optimism and excitement.

We are so glad to have you with us, and hope that you'll read on, to enjoy a few updates.

Emily Quash

Artistic Director

Next edition due January 2023
if you have news to share email ~ info@playboxtheatre.com

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

One of our favourite traditions, that has grown and grown since The Dream Factory first opened its doors, is CAROLS UNDER THE TREE.

Following the morning matinee of ‘Dream’, everyone is invited to join us in front of house, to raise the roof with carol singing, and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine.

This is a day when many of our alumni return to join us, alongside families from Playbox days past and present. The carols are led by the cast, and absolutely everyone is welcome. There is no need to book in advance, and no charge to join in.

The carols begin at 1pm and we usually close around 2pm. Please come – it really is a magical experience.

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/events/christmas-eve-carols/>



FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Father Christmas back to our grotto for the first time since before Covid 19. It was the most perfect day!

Over 100 families from Playbox Theatre and far beyond came to visit, and it was a perfect celebration, full of heart, kindness and magic.

Watch this space for next year’s date for the diary!



A YEAR IN PICTURES



STARRY NIGHTS –
FEBRUARY 2022

Here are a few moments from performance projects that have been created by Playbox over the past 12 months – we are so proud of the work that has been staged, and we cannot wait for 2023, during which so much more is planned!



CHARLOTTE'S WEB
– SEPTEMBER 2022



MARINER – JUNE
2022



HARMONY – JULY
2022



A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM –
DECEMBER 2022



ORESTEIA –
NOVEMBER 2022



ROMEO & JULIET
RECORDING
PROJECT – MARCH
2022



THE SECRET GARDEN
– APRIL 2022



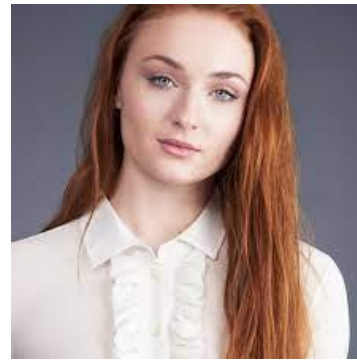
RECITAL FOR PEACE
– MARCH 2022

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Ralph Davis** who is currently appearing in *A Streetcar Named Desire* for the *Almeida Theatre*. Ralph has had a bumper year of work, most recently appearing as *Benedick* for *The Globe (Much Ado About Nothing)*, and as *Stefano* in *The Globe's* production of *The Tempest*.



We're all looking forward to alumna, **Sophie Turner**, being back in the UK for a little while, as she films the epic new series, *Joan*, for ITVX. Sophie will be playing the title role – the notorious real-life jewellery thief, who became a criminal mastermind during 1980s. We'll be waiting with baited-breath for this one!



Are any of you fans of the Nintendo *Xenoblade Chronicles*? If so, make sure you listen out for the voice of *Ethel*, in Season 3, who is played by Playbox alumna, **Lucy Doyle**. Lucy will also be appearing as *Melissa* in the upcoming BBC Film, *Three Weeks*, which reaches our screens in 2023.

THINGS IN THE PIPELINE

Coming up early in 2023, we have STARRY NIGHTS – booking opens very early in January. We will also be announcing casting for THE MYSTERIES, as well as audition details for our next MUSICAL. Lots to look forward to.

For now, please have a really wonderful Christmas, and here's to a perfect 2023.

Pictures below are some highlights from 'The Mysteries' 2015 production.

