

# Playbox Theatre

## Newsletter

March 2023

### MYSTERIES RETURNS FOR 2023

*The Mysteries* is one of our favourite projects, and always threatening to return to our stage! This year, it's actually happening. Inspired by the spirit of the Medieval Mystery Plays, and developed from original sources, Mary and Emily first tackled this epic in 2010. Taking the audience on a journey, from the creation of the world, to the final judgement on humankind, this production is staged in three parts, and is performed by a cast of over 50 young actors between ages 8-19 yrs.

It's terrifically exciting, as when approaching stories and themes of such great magnitude, nothing is off the table! The production, like the tales themselves, twists and turns across time periods, with a range of performance styles at play. Accompanying the action, audiences will be treated to a terrific soundtrack – some recorded, some live music, as well as song, dance, text and puppetry.

Previous stagings of our 'Mysteries' production have performed at Gloucester Cathedral, St Mary Collegiate, RSC's Swan Theatre, as well as at home – The Dream Factory.

We are enormously proud of this year's superb cast, and also pay tribute to the 100s past Playbox members who have all been a part of the project's evolution.



### WELCOME

Welcome to the March edition of the Playbox newsletter. It's an incredibly busy month, as we prepare for THE MYSTERIES and for the Easter break, which is packed with rehearsals, performances and holiday projects.

There's lots to get stuck into, and we are delighted to have you with us!

Emily Quash  
Artistic Director

## LET NOT THY LOVE BE CALLED IDOLATRY



This month, Playbox's renowned *Shakespeare Young Company* performed a unique event in the crypt of St Mary's Collegiate Church in Warwick.

This project was inspired by the theme of holding memory through language and image, and was brought to life in a special 'walk-through' event featuring Shakespeare's words and movement.

We are delighted that the project will be staged once more, as part of a special event in Stratford-upon-Avon on, *Shakespeare's Coming Home Again* and can be seen at Stratford Town Hall on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** with performances at 7.30pm and 8.15pm.

Tickets can be booked via:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shakespeares-coming-home-2023-tickets-599299540057>

Congratulations to Stewart and to the SYC Cast.

## MUSICAL THEATRE TRIUMPH

After an exhilarating season of work across all ages of musical theatre, the Spring Season concluded with 3 days of wonderful presentations for family and friends to enjoy.

Musical Theatre Junior created a magnificent musical medley, featuring numbers from *The Sound of Music*, *Cats* and *Matilda*.

MT1 explored the ever-popular *Matilda The Musical*, whilst senior members were tackling works that delved into history, with songs and staging from *SIX*, *LES MISERABLES* & *HAMILTON*.

This department really is going from strength to strength, with expanded programmes of work planned for later in the year...watch this space!



# PLAYBOX WILDFLOWER GARDEN

We are delighted to be partnering *Clean Planet Foundation* who are funding the creation of a beautiful wildflower garden at the back of The Dream Factory.

This little, unloved, patch of land will be transformed into a natural space, soon to be teeming with colour and life! Planting is taking place at the moment, with wildflower seed to be sewn within the next few weeks.

Part of our commitment to young people is to be environmentally responsible, and to constantly seek-out better practices for Playbox Theatre. We'll do everything we can to future-proof the company, and the environment, for generations to come. Fairways Contractors, who have looked after the landscape at The Dream Factory for many years, are installing this special space, and we hope you will enjoy watching it evolve.



Huge thanks to the team at *Clean Planet Energy* and *Clean Planet Foundation* for their imagination and their belief in Playbox.



## ALUMNI NEWS

We love Playbox alumni, who achieve so highly in a range of post-Playbox careers. Here are a few highlights from this month:

### HOLLY ROBINSON

We are delighted that playwright, and Playbox veteran, **Holly Robinson**, has created a brand new adaptation of *Cinderella* for us this Christmas. Holly's beautiful script is packed with everything she loves and remembers about a 'Playbox Christmas', so you can expect lots of physical elements, bravery, plenty of surprises and a heavy dose of magic.

Holly is currently one of the 'Soho Six' based at Soho Theatre in London, where her work regularly appears.



### LEO BILL

Playbox alumnus, **Leo Bill**, has recently starred in *Women, Beware The Devil*, directed by Rupert Goold and staged at the magnificent Almeida Theatre in London. Leo was a member of Playbox in Warwick in the years before The Dream Factory was built, and took major roles in *The Brave Magicians Of Mangalore*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Three Musketeers*.



### GEORGE FLETCHER & MADDY STRAUSS

Double news! We love it when past Playbox members cross paths in creative ways. George and Maddy were both members of Stratford Playbox and Shakespeare Young Company some time ago, and were both central to the work of Playbox.

This month, they have appeared alongside one another in a brave and bold piece of theatre at *The Vaults Festival*. 'SPUR' played to packed houses during March, and we are so proud.

