

Playbox Theatre

Members' Newsletter

May 2023

ANNIE JUNIOR – OPENING SOON

Runs at The Dream Factory from 15th -18th June

Annie Jnr opens at The Dream Factory Thursday 15th June, and features a 50-strong cast of talented Playbox actors who dance, sing and perform acrobatics, whilst telling the story of the world's most famous red-headed orphan.

Suitable for all of the family, tickets are available via the website <https://www.playboxtheatre.com/whats-on/>



WELCOME

Welcome to May updates from Playbox Theatre!

It has been a colossally busy month, with workshops, masterclasses and rehearsals in full-swing.

As I write this, I can hear beautiful singing coming from the theatre, as *Annie* continues an intensive week of development, and is almost entirely sold out. An extra performance has been scheduled for Sunday 18th June, so head over to the Playbox website, if you'd like to grab a ticket.

For now, thank you to everyone who is a part of Playbox – let's crack on with the busiest summer programme ever 😊

Emily Quash
Artistic Director

Next edition due June 2023

If you have news to share email ~ info@playboxtheatre.com

LAMDA SUCCESS

Congratulations to Mary, and to the Voice & The Young Actor and Pucks actors, who recently received their LAMDA results. These were, without doubt, the *best* results we've ever had – just magnificent feedback, and we couldn't be more proud of everyone.



SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS ARE NOW ON SALE!



We are thrilled to launch booking for a gigantic programme of Summer Holiday Workshops, which will all be staged at The Dream Factory, Warwick, between Monday 31st July – Friday 18th August.

There are sessions to suit all ages and all interests, including pre-school daily adventures, musical theatre, stage combat, drama school week, Shakespeare, radio, clowning...and so much more.



Our holiday workshops are open to both members, and non-members, of Playbox Theatre, so do feel free to spread the word and invite family and friends to get involved.

We have an exciting team of directors and facilitators who will be joining us this summer, including Playbox alumni who are now top of their game across the industry.



We're chomping at the bit to get started, and would love you to take a look at what's on offer

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/holiday-projects/>

MASTERCLASSES FOR MEMBERS

We had the most terrific feedback following Chris McGill's SCREEN ACTING MASTERCLASSES earlier in May. Chris is a director of Film and Television, as well as Artistic Director of *Dusthouse* – his workshops brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to participants, who left the sessions feeling enlightened and more confident about facing screen work. We hope to programme more of these in the future, so watch this space.



Coming up in the following weeks, we are delighted to be offering several more specialist sessions, led by some excellent guest artists. Booking is now open, but a few places are still available and we'd love to have you there. Full information can be found on the website, but here are a few dates for the diary:



Movement Fusion – Saturday 24th June – 7-11 yrs

Movement Fusion – Saturday 8th July – 12-19 yrs

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/members-workshop/movement-fusion/>

Lego Animation – Saturday 8th July – 10-12 yrs

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/members-workshop/lego-animation-workshop/>



Dance-Fit – Monday 26th June – 8-11 yrs , 12+ yrs

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/members-workshop/dance-fit-choreography-hit-fusion/>

HIP HOP AT THE BOX!



Following lots of requests from Playbox families, we're excited to be offering a taster month of HIP HOP & STREET DANCE WORKSHOPS throughout June.

These will take place on Friday evenings and will be led by the brilliant CHERELLE COLEMAN, who has vast experience in teaching and performing dance.

No prior experience is necessary, but we promise these will be high energy, full of fantastic techniques and lots of fun.

There are a few places left, and these can be booked via the website <https://www.playboxtheatre.com/workshop/hip-hop/>

MEGA FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Any of you who have been to The Dream Factory recently (or ever) will be aware of the serious problems that we are facing with the roof. The Dream Factory will be 25 years old next May, and – whilst we have patched the roof many times – it has now reached the end of its life and urgently needs to be replaced (the area over the public spaces in front of house). The leaks are now severely impacting the infrastructure of the building, and beginning to cause damage to the studios too.

The amount we need to raise is large, but there are so many ways that people can help. We're writing lots of funding applications, and staging several big fundraising events (more on that next month!), but we are so grateful to Playbox members and families who help in a multitude of ways. Here are some:

- 500 Club: If a business donates £500, they become a member of the 500 Club, receiving a range of special benefits including marketing, tickets and named seats
- Member individual fundraising – any ideas are welcome! Matilda Vance and Matilda Quash both raised £100s earlier this year, through the sale of loom bands and key rings. We are so proud and grateful, and every penny counts!
- Make a donation via our JustGiving page (literally *any* amount helps) <https://www.playboxtheatre.com/fundraising/>

We have a big AUCTION booked for Sunday 9th July, which is going to be so much fun...and there are some really wonderful Lots up for grabs, so watch out for more news on this, but feel free to tell people about it – the more, the merrier.



ALUMNI NEWS

Charlie Hamblett performs alongside Anton Lesser, with the Orchestra Of The Swan at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre this month, with an exquisite evening of music and spoken word, celebrating the life of Gloucestershire-born author, Laurie Lee.

Charlie was a member of Warwick and Stratford Playbox for many years, and a regular on stage at The Dream Factory. Since leaving Playbox, he's appeared in a range of theatre, film and television, including *Killing Eve*, *The Queen's Gambit* and *Around The World In 80 Days*.



We're sending a huge good luck to Playbox alumna, **Sian Maxwell**, who performs in the one-woman production, *Snake Head*, at The Hope Theatre in Islington during June.

Snakehead is a passionate and abrasive gig-theatre re-examination of the story of Medusa, one of mythology's most misunderstood women and we know that super-talented Sian will be marvellous.

Sian featured in many Playbox productions, and toured with us to Edinburgh Festival and to Los Angeles with *The Fallen*. We look forward to our annual catch-up with Sian on Christmas Eve!



Lydia Harper recently shared the wonderful news that she is the new Artistic Director of Cirque du Soleil's stunning production, OVO.

Lydia was an original member of the TORUK company with Cirque, and performed with them over years, across the world.

No matter how busy and exciting her life has become, Lydia has always found time to return to Playbox, and share her skills and performances with our current members.

Prior to these adventures, Lydia was a pivotal member of Playbox Theatre's circus, acting and dance workshops.

