



Playbox Theatre Members' Newsletter

August 2023



SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS



2023 has been a block-busting summer of holiday activities, ranging from ½ day theatre parties, through to weeklong performance courses.



It's been a treat to see so many young people creatively engaged across theatre, film and television and preparations are already underway for next year.



Thank you to the team of directors and guest practitioners who have headed these up.

We will shortly be announcing October holiday workshops, including a late night event for the brave!



WELCOME

Hello Playbox Theatre Friends and Families,

We've had the most wonderful summer, with The Dream Factory bursting at the seams with holiday workshops, rehearsals for three new productions and lots of preparations for the busy Autumn Season.

Most wonderfully, during August, the building work began on repairing the ROOF of the theatre. We are delighted to see the scaffolding up, and to know that, day by day, this enormous problem is being tackled. It would not have been possible without the support Playbox has received from members, families, friends and local businesses. Thank you to all of you!

Here are a few updates from August, and I'll bring you September news very soon.

Have a great season,

Emily Quash
Artistic Director

FROM THE REHEARSAL ROOM

During August, we've been in rehearsal for three upcoming productions, which open at The Dream Factory this August. Booking is open for all productions, with Christmas Eve for Cinderella already sold out! Do come and join us.

The Scarecrow and His Servant



<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/events/the-scarecrow-and-his-servant/>

Thursday 5th October (7pm)
 Friday 6th October (7pm)
 Saturday 7th October (3pm and 7pm)
 Sunday 8th October (3pm)

Chimes at Midnight

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/events/chimes-at-midnight/>

Thursday 9th November (7pm)
 Friday 10th November (7pm)
 Saturday 11th November (3pm and 7pm)



Cinderella



<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/events/cinderella-the-ash-girl/>

Saturday 16th December (3pm and 7pm)
 Sunday 17th December (3pm)
 Thursday 21st December (7pm)
 Friday 22nd December (7pm)
 Saturday 23rd December (3pm and 7pm)
 Sunday 24th December (11am)
 Thursday 28th December (3pm)
 Friday 29th December (3pm)
 Saturday 30th December (3pm and 7pm)

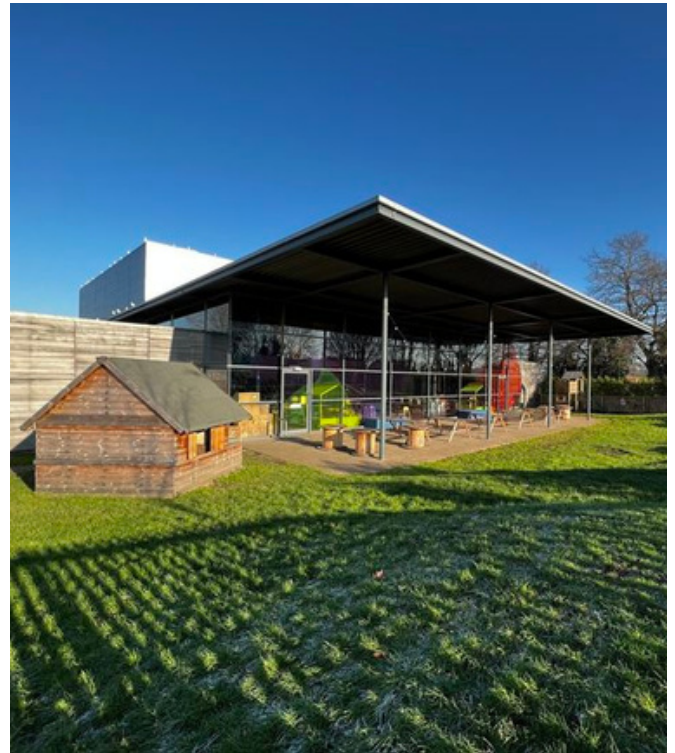
THE ROOF

We are thrilled that work has now begun to repair the roof of The Dream Factory. The building wouldn't have been able to survive another winter, so this is really marvellous.

We are lucky that the work can take place without us having to close the building, however there will still be an impact on everyone, while the work is taking place. The rear car park is for builders' traffic and Playbox staff only. Please keep access to the staff road clear, as this is also for emergency vehicles.

The front car park will get full very quickly, so we strongly advise you to park away from The Dream Factory, then use the pedestrian gate to walk in. There is roadside parking on Shelley Avenue and Tapping Way. Please be considerate of neighbours and drive very carefully when entering and leaving the site.

It might also be very noisy in The Dream Factory while the work is happening! We know you will be understanding during this essential period of repairs.



MILLENNIAL WIZARD

Welcome to the new resident company at The Dream Factory! Millennial Wizard is a brand new creative collective, comprising senior Playbox members, who will be exploring a range of exciting artistic material over the coming months, for performance in The Studio, and at venues beyond Playbox.

We are so proud of these talented young people and we are delighted to have them here.

Ed, Miriam, Li and Corin – have the time of your lives!

ALUMNI NEWS

We are always proud of past Playbox members, and we love following their future adventures, and sharing their success. Here are three current highlights!

Kate Lee

Kate was a member of Playbox in Warwick for 15 yrs, and regularly appeared on stage at The Dream Factory, as well as touring with Playbox to Los Angeles. Kate is now a Producer for Times Radio, and currently works on the afternoon show for Jane Garvey and Fi Glover, and their podcast, 'Off Air'.



Phin Harper

A founding member of Banbury Playbox, then regular performer at The Dream Factory, Phin was part of Playbox for over a decade. They are now an architecture critic and designer, with a passion for sustainability and transforming public spaces. Phin is the Chief Executive of the charity Open City and was the chief curator of 2019 Oslo Architecture Triennale.



Ed Hancox

Ed was a member of Stratford Playbox long before The Dream Factory opened, then was part of the pioneer generation who were first to train here, when the theatre opened in 1999. Another member who appeared across a range of Playbox productions in UK and USA. Ed is now a BAFTA award-winning Producer and Director for BBC, whose recent work includes Dispatches, Five Dates A Week and Dateline.



LOOKING AHEAD...

September is already shaping up to be a very busy month, with the reopening of all workshops in Stratford-upon-Avon, Kenilworth and Warwick, as well as the relaunch of PLAY-SQUARE and SENSORY BABY SPACE free events for local families. Thank you for being with us!