



Playbox Theatre

Members' Newsletter

November 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE *CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT* TEAM

Earlier this November, we witnessed *Chimes at Midnight*, an epic retelling of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* which, in the words of Director Stewart McGill, took its audience "from a world of honour and chivalry to a new world of political threat and war".

Set in the 1950s, the production was a mammoth task for the actors, both in terms of weighty subject matter and staggering length, but they pulled it off with flair and maturity.



WELCOME

Hello all and welcome to the (slightly belated) November edition of the Playbox Newsletter!

This month I am so excited to be the guest editor, bringing you news from all around Playbox.

In early November, *Chimes at Midnight* had a cracking run and was a testament to the skill of our senior actors bringing Shakespeare to life.

As we head into the festive season, rehearsals for our Christmas spectacular, *Cinderella - The Ash Girl*, are picking up pace and the production is looking beautiful with all the costumes and lights now being introduced.

To accompany *Cinderella*, our Christmas Festival has started where a variety of seasonal events and activities are running which I promise to tell you all about in this Newsletter!

I hope you enjoy hearing about what has been going on this past month and all the exciting things happening in December!



Miriam Clements

Administrative
Assistant

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS - OPEN TO BOOK!

This Christmas holidays, we are so excited to be running two holiday projects for young Playbox members and non-members alike. These promise to be heaps of festive fun and are a perfect way for youngsters to be creatively engaged during the school holidays.

To book now, visit:

www.playboxtheatre.com/holiday-projects/



High Jinks

Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 10am - 1pm

On Dasher, On Dancer, On Prancer, On Vixen!

In classic High Jinks fashion, we will be bringing in the Christmas spirit with plenty of festive fun.

Expect games, acting, movement, role-play and craft as we take ourselves up to the North Pole, meet everyone's favourite red-nosed reindeer and help Father Christmas deliver his presents on time for Christmas Eve!

Age: 3-5 years old

Cost: £40 to include lunch
(10% Discount for Playbox Members)



High Jinks

Once Upon a Christmas Time

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 10am - 1pm

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Dream Factory...

The build up to Christmas will be well and truly underway and what better way to celebrate than with a Playbox High Jinks adventure? The 3-hour workshop will include imaginative role-play, Christmassy crafts, festive stories and a delicious lunch to finish off the morning!

Age: 3-5 years old

Cost: £40 to include lunch
(10% Discount for Playbox Members)

MILLENNIAL WIZARD'S FIRST SHOW A SUCCESS

The Wizards delighted audiences at the end of October with their blood-bath of a show, The Duchess of Malfi, on for two-nights only in the intimate Studio setting.

If you weren't able to make their performances (they did sell out after all!), enjoy some snaps taken by Oliver Hindley Photography which really give a flavour of the adaptation.



CINDERELLA - THE ASH GIRL IS FAST APPROACHING

We are really looking forward to this year's Christmas show, *Cinderella - The Ash Girl*, retold by alumni Holly Robinson, which opens this December.

The cast and crew have been working incredibly hard to get the show ready for audiences so here are a few backstage pictures to get you as excited as we are about its run which starts on Saturday 16th December and ends on Saturday 30th December.

Performances:

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)



➤ To book your tickets now, visit: ➤

www.ticketsource.co.uk/playboxtheatre/cinderella-the-ash-girl/e-1gd1j1

OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARE OFFICIALLY ON!

On Friday 1st December, members of the *Cinderella* company helped us all get into a festive mood with a brilliant short performance in the front of house area while the Dream Factory Christmas lights were switched on. The lights will be on each time you visit us this winter so no matter how cold and dark it is outside, Playbox will always be warm and bright!



SANTA INVITES YOU TO HIS MAGICAL GROTTO

On **Sunday 17th December** from **10am-2pm**, Father Christmas will be visiting The Dream Factory and he would love for you to visit him in his magical grotto.

There's no need to book or pay but please be advised, as Saint Nick is a very famous man, you may have to queue to meet him! Café Whirl will be open throughout so grab yourself a hot drink or a treat from our festive menu while you wait.

We hope to see you there!



CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

Celebrate this year's festive season the Playbox way by joining us on **Sunday 24th December** at **1:30pm** for carols around the Christmas tree.

Joined by members of the *Cinderella* company, this is the perfect tradition to add to your Christmas eve this year.

No need to book or pay, just come along for some festive cheer!

FEATHERS AND FORESTS MASQUERADE BALL

Playbox members aged 15 and upwards are cordially invited to the enchanting *Feathers and Forests Masquerade Ball* on **Saturday 27th January** from **7-10:30pm**.

Immerse yourself in an evening of splendid music, elegant, regency dancing and the chance to indulge in an assortment of meats, cheeses, puddings and nibbles.

Dance instruction will be given by the brilliant Hannah Hampson during the evening. In addition, there will be the opportunity to immortalise your visit with photographs taken by Barriball Photography throughout the event.

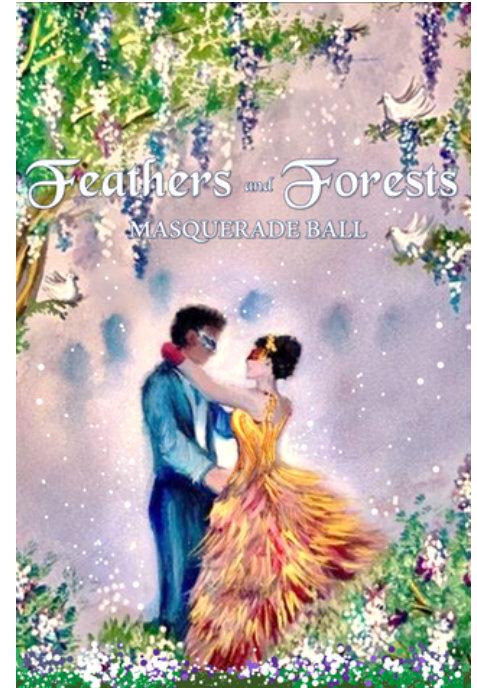
Best of all, attending the Ball will directly support the work of Playbox Theatre, providing even more opportunities for young people to thrive through the arts.

Dress code: Black tie, ballgowns, as smart and fancy as you like (or as simple!) ...and don't forget your masquerade mask! Remember, everything is 'Feathers & Forests' themed.

Ages: Playbox members aged 15+ only (Playbox members are welcome to purchase a 'plus one' ticket for a non-Playbox member)

Ticket price: £20 to include refreshments (additional drinks may be purchased throughout the evening)

Date: 27th January **Time:** 7-10:30pm



To book now, visit:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/playboxtheatre/feathers-and-forests-masquerade-ball/emma-mdxbky



UNDER 18s 'WASTED' RAVE

We are delighted to be working in partnership with WASTED to host an under 18s sustainable rave for Playbox members on **Saturday 20th January** from **6:30-9:30pm**.

Suitable for those of secondary school age, WASTED promises an amazing DJ set and a return to a true 90s rave atmosphere whilst at the same time putting the eco message at the heart of the party.

To book now, visit:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/playboxtheatre/wasted-rave/2024-01-20/18:30/t-vvpyppo

ALUMNI NEWS - *Dominik Kurzeja*

We always love hearing about what our alumni get up to after their time at Playbox. This month, Dominik Kurzeja talks about how Playbox shaped him as a person and the skills he learnt still help him to this sday.

I work as a doctor today, but I believe my time at Playbox helps me day to day in more ways than I'm probably aware of. At the time, I gained a group of cherished friends, who I still speak to every day, a community outside of school and a home-from-home in the Dream Factory. Despite being quite a shy and quiet person, Playbox brought me out of my shell and I gained confidence in my presentation, in public speaking skills and strategies to cope with large projects and collaborative working. My ability to speak with and engage with new people all day every day in my job now comes from my experience then. I have a passion for the performing arts, culture, films, television and literature that exists alongside my work life all of which was nurtured and expanded during my time there.



Dominik as Titus Andronicus in Playbox's 2010 production of *Titus Andronicus*

We hope you have a brilliant festive season and can't wait to bring you more Playbox news later on in December!

