



Playbox Theatre

MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

January 2024



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CINDERELLA TEAM!

Congratulations to our Cinderella team, who, with many hugs and tears, completed a fantastic run on the 30th of December. The company produced a magical piece full of laughter, hope, and love, and kept our hearts warm all winter long. We've been amazed by the cast's ability to uplift and support each other through a complex production and step up to every challenge, whether it's a leaky roof, a light-speed quick change, or a ballroom dance. We can't wait to see what everyone gets up to next!



Hello and welcome back to the first Playbox newsletter of the year! We hope you've gotten off to a cracking start, and we can't wait to share another brilliant year with you.

This month, we had to say a sad goodbye to a Playbox jack of all trades, our actor, assistant, friendly-front-desk-face and newsletter editor, Miriam. Although we're missing her dearly, I'm excited to take over in her place and deliver you all things Playbox as the new administrative assistant!

Feeling the January blues? We can fix that- after our hugely successful run of Cinderella, we have another month full of exciting events to get involved with, including a rave, a ball, and plenty of auditions. Read on for more info and other news from our wonderful Playbox Community.



Amelie Friess
Administrative
Assistant

Next edition due end of February 2024

If you have news to share, please email - info@playboxtheatre.com

WASTED RAVE

An extremely exciting Playbox first will be taking place in our main theatre this January- our first ever rave! When we found out playbox member Sam Hughes-Webb was a talented DJ, we jumped at the chance to host an under 18s rave. His vision blends 90s rave culture with a message of sustainability, giving us a night to remember not only for his amazing set, but for his vision of a cleaner tomorrow. For those of us not in the know, here's a crash course on all things rave!



Rave might seem relatively new, but we can trace its roots back to 1950s London, before the invention of electronic music. The term 'rave' was used to describe the 'wild bohemian parties' of the Soho Beatniks to the soundtrack of Jazz and rock and roll.

Electronic music started making its way onto the scene in the 1980s, but one of

The first electronic music shows was actually performed in 1967, a lost recording of the electronic album 'Carnival of Light' by none other than Paul McCartney!

In the 1980s, the boom of psychedelic electronic music in Chicago spread to England. Electronic dance music (EDM) and similar genres made their way from warehouse parties into the mainstream, and with it came a rich subculture of partygoers.

For example, ravers often provide their own performances (called lightshows) using fibre optic light whips, hoops, and gloves, developing a new style of captivating dance to manipulate the lights.

Rave culture also includes a great dress sense, with attendees spending a lot of time and money on elaborate costumes using fur, nylon, and neon. Plastic bead bracelets (called kandi) are also made, collected and traded by ravers. We love their energy of being bold and having fun, but also the strong sense of community between ravers.

We can't wait to get a taste of this amazing scene on Saturday, and hear what tracks Sam has to offer. Come join us and get in on the fun!

For more information and to purchase tickets, see our website.



COME ENJOY OUR BABY SENSORY SPACE AND PLAYSQUARE!

Do you have an under 4 in need of fun? Little ones with big imaginations?

Are you desperate for a Café Whirl cake?

Luckily, our Play Square and Baby Sensory space is back up and running for the new year. For our tiniest visitors, we offer a Baby Sensory space every Thursday and Friday morning with lights, music, projections, books, textures, and even a magic tree. For our toddler guests, we offer Playsquare every Wednesday for imaginative roleplay. Our mini sets and costumes, inspired by the surrounding area, can take them to bustling Elizabethan Streets, enchanted forests, magic castles and on stage at a mini theatre!

Both sessions are completely free of charge, with the Café open for a range of coffee, treats and snacks. Come join us for a magical playtime!



Sensory Baby Space:

Thursday 10:00-13:00

Friday 10:45-13:00

Play Square:

Wednesday 10:00-14:30



THE FEATHERS AND FORESTS BALL

This January an exciting Celebration is taking place at Playbox! The Feathers and Forests ball promises a night of magic for our senior members in the most special of venues, our dream factory. I had a chat with organisers, Playbox members Celine Delahaye and Jennie Beattie to find out more.



Our first question- why a ball?

We've always thought that masquerade balls have a certain allure to them. They offer a chance to step into a world of elegance, mystery, and fantasy. The masks add an element of intrigue and allow people to express themselves in a unique way. Plus, it's a great opportunity to dress up in stunning outfits and have a night full of enchantment and dancing!

We've heard they'll be historical dancing, what should we expect?

Yes! Dance instruction will be led by our fabulous Hannah Hampson and will involve a good mix of group and partner dances. These will be dances from the regency era as we are fascinated by their elegance and grandeur. The Netflix series 'Bridgerton' and the 'Cinderella' live action film have been a key source of inspiration for us!

That sounds like a lot of fun! What are you most looking forward to about the night?

There are so many things to look forward to! I'm personally most excited for the regency dancing as it will be a whole new experience for me, and will allow us all to immerse ourselves in the joy and elegance of the era. I can't wait to see everyone all dressed up and the professional photos by Lucy Barriball will capture the magic of the night, creating precious memories that will be cherished forever. It's going to be an evening straight out of a fairytale!

For more details about this event and to purchase tickets, visit our website.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS



THE LORD OF THE FLIES

The 'Lord of the Flies' will be returning this Summer, directed in an intimate in the round setting by Emily Quash.

After a Plane crash kills all the adults on board, a group of school boys are left stranded on an island. As they attempt to create their own society, they are plagued by their hunger, fear and desire for power. What monsters lurk beyond the trees? What monsters will they become?

This opportunity will test a full range of performance skills across a variety of characters and ages.

This audition is open to male-presenting members of acting Workshops, aged 8-18 years.

Saturday 3rd February
3:30-4:30 for 8-12 yrs
4:30-5:30 for 13-18 yrs

THE ODYSSEY

In this legendary tale, Odysseus battles his way through strange lands, facing mythical creatures and the wrath of devious Gods as he tries to return home to the land of Ithaca. Meanwhile, his wife and child must fight to keep his throne, and hope that one day, he will return to them.

Directed by Mary King, this project offers opportunities for younger actors to step into lead roles, and explore a variety of performance skills to create the magical world of *The Odyssey*.

Tuesday 23rd April

5 - 7 years 4.30pm - 5.15pm

8 - 10 years 5.15pm - 6pm

11 - 13 years 6pm - 7pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR AUDITIONS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE