



Playbox Theatre Members' Newsletter

April 2024



VENUS AND ADONIS

Congratulations to the Shakespeare Young Company for a wonderful performance of *Venus and Adonis*. Inspired by Shakespeare's narrative poem, this collage of cabaret style work included theatre, dance, music, and even magic devised and performed by the company, exploring Ovid's tale and the artistic interpretations it's produced over the centuries. Performed in our front of house space, The Cube, the evening was completed by specially crafted mocktails and pizza. What more could the bard want for his birthday weekend?

We were so impressed by the creativity, passion, and bravery as SYC took their own pieces to the stage. The variation of response to the material was astounding! What a feast of imagination, well done!



Photos: Lucy Barribal

WELCOME

Welcome back to another Playbox Newsletter!

This April saw a number of exciting projects pass through our doors, with more getting started! We so enjoyed seeing *Venus and Adonis* light up our front of house, and can't wait for our next cabaret style production, *Harmony* in September.

We had lots of events open for booking, so have a look at the Playbox website to grab some tickets for raves, shows, and more. We've also enjoyed having our first few Pilates sessions in the studio (if you've noticed how toned we're looking).

It's full steam ahead for rehearsals of *Lord of the Flies*, which is taking a wonderful shape. We're so excited to bring back this beloved Playbox piece!

It's been a busy month for our alumni as well, with many gracing our silver screens or making it on stage in major productions. Even more wonderfully, we've been joined by so many alumni here at the Dream Factory, bringing their little ones to preschool events, helping with future projects, or even just coming for a coffee and a chat. We love to see friendly faces pop in! I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter as much as I enjoyed writing it!



Amelie Friess
Guest editor

Next edition due May 2024
If you have news to share, please email - info@playboxtheatre.com

WHAT'S ON



WASTED RAVE - MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S RAVE

After the huge success of our first event, Wasted Rave is back! This under-18s rave blends house, dance and balearic tunes mixed by DJ Sam for a night authentic rave culture, with a focus on sustainability. Tickets are on sale now, so organise your carpool and get thrifting for an eco-friendly outfit!

Sunday 7th July

7-9:30pm

Tickets are £10, and members are permitted to purchase another ticket for a non-member friend!

PILATES WITH FRIENDS

We're so excited to host Cecile Gregory's new class, Pilates with Friends in our studio space. This beginner friendly course will take you through a Pilates programme improving your strength and flexibility in a welcoming environment. After each session, Cecile invites you to join her in Cafe Whirl for a chat.

Fridays at 10:30am- 11:20am

£10 per session (first session half price)

Please bring your own mat.



THE ODYSSEY

Returning from the Trojan War, Odysseus, on a hazardous voyage, is tested by gods and goddesses, encounters witches and monsters and enters the spirit world of the dead, all to find his way home to Ithaca, to his wife and son. But after ten years away, things in Ithaca may have moved on...

This exciting, fast-paced play is one of the greatest tales in European literature and will be brought to life by Playbox Theatre's Young Production Company.

Thursday 4th-6th July

Tickets available on the Playbox website.

IN REHEARSAL HARMONY IN REHEARSAL

Our annual music and performance soiree is already in preparation for this September. Curated by senior Playbox member Ed Buckley, the cast have been exploring different pieces of texts and staging as they start putting together the evening's programme. From poetry to classical texts, and even love letters from Star Wars fans, the huge variety of work is already promising a fantastic evening of theatre. Here's some words from Ed:

'Harmony is going to be my last project with Playbox, and after just 2 rehearsals, I can already see what a finale it's going to be. I have been blessed with a cast of some of the most talented senior members of Playbox who are bringing their ability as both performers and creatives to the table to create a piece that I hope will start the autumn season off with a bang. We dove right in to collaborating on the selection of pieces that will make up this evening cabaret, and I got to see the wealth of knowledge from my cast.'

We can't wait to see what they come up with!



MILLENNIAL WIZARD- MY TIME IN LIMBO

Millennial Wizard are deep in rehearsal for their next production, *My Time in Limbo*. This original piece by Amelie Friess has everything you'd expect from a production by Playbox born and raised creatives- puppets, weirdness, and poignancy.

Starring Phoebe Roberts, Corin Alford, Ed Buckley, and Amelie Friess, the piece follows a young woman who's decided to stop leaving the house until someone comes to check on her. By the time the play starts, it's been three months, and nobody's come. Joined by three imaginary friends, they explore her past, the nature of love and loneliness, and how we hunt for connection in the modern world.

Rehearsals for this project are well underway, including a successful R&D with a number of Playbox seniors exploring the movement and stage craft that bring these characters to life.

This piece will be performing at the North Hall, Spencer's Yard, in Leamington, visiting the students of King Edward VI School Stratford, and will be part of this year's Ignite Arts festival at the pump rooms. Keep an eye on the @millennialwizard instagram page to catch key performance info, dates, and purchase tickets!

Tickets available at <https://www.designmynight.com/birmingham/whats-on/theatrearts/my-time-in-limbo>

WHAT'S ON

SHAKESPEARE YOUNG COMPANY & PUCKS

Auditions are opening again for our renowned Shakespeare companies. Exploring Shakespeare and his contemporaries, workshops will give members insight and tools to understanding and staging texts, bringing an active approach to classical texts.

Those auditioning must prepare 14 lines of Shakespeare to perform.

If offered a place, this is a high commitment course, and members will be expected to prioritise their Friday night sessions.

These auditions are open to members of Playbox acting workshops.

Tuesday 18th June

4:30-6:00pm

9-18 yrs



MISS JULIE

Miss Julie follows a brief but passionate affair between Julie, a Countess, and Jean, the valet who works for her father. At its heart, the play is about class, desire and two people struggling for power.

Directed by alumnus Alfie Jones, this project will be intensely rehearsed over two weeks by the company, and will be an excellent demonstration of their collaboration and skill.

This powerful performance takes place in the intimate setting of The Studio at The Dream Factory.

Suitable for ages 14+.

29th-30th June

Tickets are available on the Playbox website.

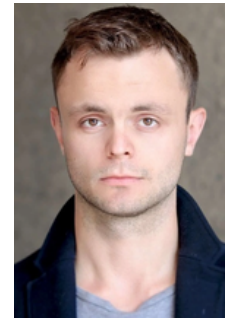


ALUMNI NEWS



Lucy Doyle and Lynton Appleton

Lucy and Lynton have just made it into the cast of the world's longest running play, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*! We're always excited when a Playbox member makes it into the West End, but two alumni in one show is really special. You may remember these two from productions like the *Mysteries*.



Holly Robinson and George Fletcher

We can't wait to take a trip to London to watch 'The Secret Garden' at the Regent's Park open air theatre, written by the talented Holly Robinson. We've all recently enjoyed another piece of Holly's work, her version of *Cinderella* written for us last Christmas! Joining her in the cast is her life partner George Fletcher, a fellow Playbox alumnus, who she met during their time at the Dream Factory. Grab some tickets to see what this wonderful pair produce!



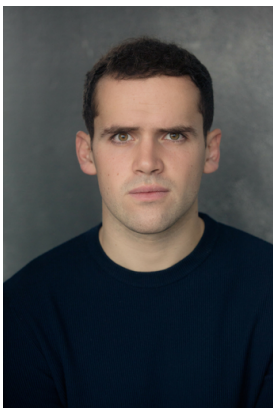
Josh McGuire

You may have recently seen Josh gracing your screen in hit movie *Saltburn*, or Netflix's new action comedy, *The Gentleman*. His list of theatre and TV credits just keeps growing, so keep on eye out for more of his incredible work!

Dan West

We were thrilled to welcome back Dan West to the Dreamfactory for a summer Play Square session with his little one. Dan was a pivotal part of the building's early days, and one of the first to perform on the Dream Factory stage.

Now a successful screenwriter, he's written for *Top Boy*, *Gunpowder*, and has a writing partnership with Kit Harrington.



Ralph Davis

Ralph has just finished a hugely successful run of *Othello* at the Globe's Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, playing Iago. The stunning candlelit performance earned a number of four and five star reviews, and we're buzzing to see what he stars in next!

