



# Playbox Theatre

## Members' Newsletter

September 2024



### PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

With the start of a new season, we re-open our daytime Pre-school activities! We have been delighted with the sense of community surrounding Play-Square on Wednesdays (our creative roleplay area) as well as our Baby Sensory space on Thursdays and Fridays (these activities are free of charge, we would love to see you there). As well as these, we have reopened our 'Magic Carpet' storytelling sessions on Thursdays and Fridays at 12.30, it has been wonderful to see our pre-school members thrive in a creative environment. For more information visit:

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/members-workshop/magic-carpet/>



### PLAYBOX FANCLUB

Join Cherisse and the Playbox Fanclub! The 'Fan Club' is a chance for families and friends to become involved in the vibrant Playbox community and get closer to what goes on behind the scenes! Our fans get special perks, such as backstage tours, a chance to meet the cast, priority booking and so much more! If you're interested in being a fan, follow the link below.

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/join-the-playbox-fan-club/>

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

We are delighted to share the return of our Playbox Acting Parties! A Playbox party promises to be a birthday to remember, where children are led in a themed workshop, given a feast and then have the chance to perform! Ranging all the way from Harry Potter to Sleeping Beauty we have parties for everyone! If you're interested in a birthday bash, follow the link below.

<https://www.playboxtheatre.com/acting-parties/>



### WELCOME

*Welcome to our September edition of the Playbox Newsletter!*

*This month has been full of creativity and imagination due to the return of our regular sessions, as well as the beginning of new projects and revival of old traditions!*

*This Month, we take a look at our Pre-School sessions, upcoming holiday projects, launching our brand new 'Playbox FanClub' as well as the return of our Acting Parties!*

*Our Senior Members have been working hard this Season already with both the Blue Riders rehearsing 'Machinal' and the cast of Bernarda Alba exploring Lorca's tragedy.*

*On top of all this, we find out the inside scoop on our production of 'The Addams Family' from cast member Celine Delahaye.*

*Outside of The Dream Factory, we are delighted to hear from member Ed Twyman and his fashion feats in London.*

*We also speak to Alumna Jesamine Dempsey about her exciting debut on the West-End!*

*With so much to catch up on it's time to get this edition started!*



Guest Editor

*Next edition due October 2024*

*If you have news to share, please email - [info@playboxtheatre.com](mailto:info@playboxtheatre.com)*

## BLUE RIDER ENSEMBLE STAGE MACHINAL



September marks the beginning of the exciting Studio Projects we have coming up this year. Director Stewart McGill has formed the 'Blue Rider Group' - an ensemble of Playbox Members on a gap year who will be exploring and performing a range of texts in the intimate setting of our Studio space throughout the year. The first being the gritty and intense 'Machinal' by Sophie Treadwell.

The production crosses various different forms inspired by the group of artists who gave the ensemble its name. The 'Riders' were a collection of creatives who made connections between art forms moving towards an abstract/expressionist style.

This production of 'Machinal' was performed on the 14th-15th of October, leaving audiences unsettled and moved. A brilliant start to 'The Blue Rider' studio season- congratulations 'Riders'!

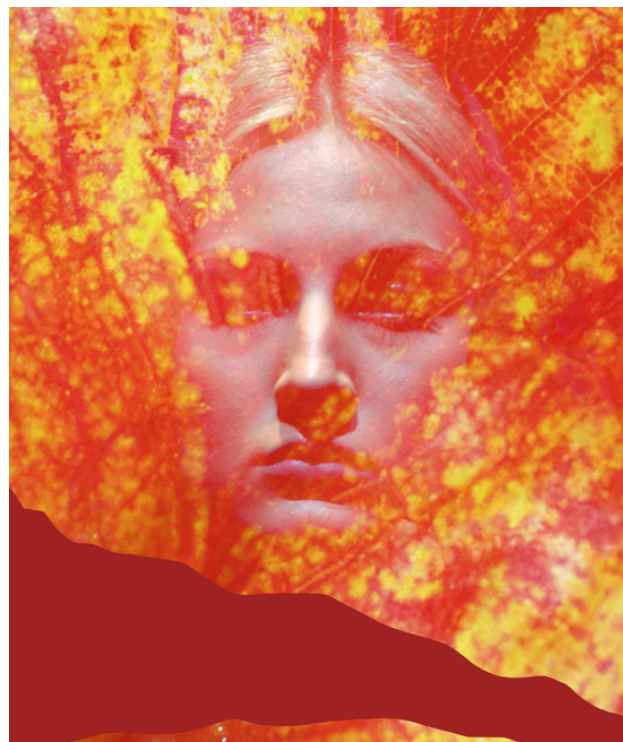
## THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

Director Mary King is deep in rehearsals for the harrowing 'House of Bernarda Alba'. An all female cast have been exploring Lorca's tragedy of Bernarda's tyrannical reign over her five daughters.

The rehearsals have proven a challenge for our lovely members who have had to adopt cold and uncaring attitudes. Member Elysia Sully, portraying the role of Bernarda, is truly menacing in her approach to the character. Combining this with the strict expectations of 1930s Spain leaves a tense atmosphere in the Theatre. This production highlights the claustrophobic inescapability of 'The House of Bernarda Alba'.

To get hold of tickets for this production follow the link below (suitable for ages 12+).

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/playboxtheatre/e-eqrvo>





## OCTOBER HOLIDAY PROJECTS

Here at The Dream Factory, we are in preparation for our haunting Holiday Projects this October. We have a range of projects to choose from including:

**Hocus Pocus-** Bring the spooky and humorous characters from Hocus Pocus to life through dynamic theatre games, improvisation, and character exploration.

**Winnie the Witch & Friends-** We invite young witches and wizards to join Winnie and her black cat, Wilbur, in a world filled with magical mischief and fun!

**Halloween Werewolf-** Tactics, bluffing, and underhand gameplay will all be on the table, as well as some seasonal snacks to keep us on top form throughout the evening!

**Halloween Mash-up-** Join our Musical Theatre department in bringing to life songs from your favourite spooky musicals this Halloween!

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

**Playbox Member discount code: HOLIDAY24**



## ADDAMS FAMILY INTERVIEW

Though the ghouls get ready to return to their crypts as our run of 'The Addams Family' draws to a close, we managed to get a behind the scenes peek at what it was like to perform in the production. Below, we spoke to senior Playbox Member and top-notch Café Whirl baker, Celine Delahaye on her exploration of Morticia Addams!

*Most of the characters you've played have been bubbly and optimistic, how has it been playing someone more gloomy?*

"I found it so difficult to get the seriousness of the character at first, I kept smiling and making her way too nice. But Juliet (our Director) helped me and now I've finally got to grips with her gloominess. I love how Morticia can be so dramatic yet so deadpan at the same time."

*What has been the most challenging part of the rehearsal process?*

It was either learning to tango in high heels or trying not to laugh at my friend Dylan who plays Lurch. He's brilliant in his scenes and gets me every time. I was caught corpsing many times in rehearsals by Juliet and have had to learn to keep a straight face.

*Our ensemble is full of famous frighters, if you could be any spooky Halloween character (living or dead) who would you be and why?*

Honestly, I would have to say Morticia Addams. I have had so much fun playing her and love her relationship with Gomez. I also think life can't get boring with a spooky family like hers!

Thankyou Celine and huge congratulations on an outstanding performance!



Celine Delahaye as Morticia

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBOURS - *Warwickshire Youth Choir*



Many of our younger musical members have been singing their socks off with the Warwickshire Youth Choirs! The Choirs aim to “build solid foundations in music alongside firm friendships and confidence”. As well as this, the more senior choirs are given the opportunity to perform at fantastic events, such as ‘The Warwick Castle Light Trail’!

Follow the link below to find out more:

<https://warwickshireyouthchoirs.org/>

## MEMBER NEWS - *Ed Twyman, London Fashion Week*



This month, hugely talented member Ed Twyman made a selection of dresses with the designers Vin and Omi for their London Fashion Week show! The show was titled ‘Moxie’ which gave a ‘nod to their pioneering work with textiles with developing eco textiles’. Ed was hard at work with needle and thread bringing these stunning designs to life.

Ed is passionate about fashion and his designs have previously featured on the Playbox stage! For example, for our 2023 Christmas production ‘Cinderella’, Ed designed the fabulous shirt he wore as ‘Monsieur Beauchamp’ (pictured below)!

*Ed Twyman in Vin and Omi’s designs*

We cannot wait to see what brilliant creations Ed comes up with next!



*Ed Twyman as Monsieur Beauchamp*

## ALUMNI NEWS -Jesamine Dempsey's upcoming West-End Debut!



We are so excited to share that one of our immensely talented and kind alumna, Jesamine Dempsey, is making her West-End Debut! Jesamine tells us all about her exciting journey below!

"We originally staged 'All Fur Coat' (the title of our show) at the start of 2024 in The Lion & Unicorn Theatre in Kentish Town. The space sat around 60 people which created the electric atmosphere and held a mirror up to audiences, confronting them with their own unconscious biases about the working class. Our director and author managed to keep the West-End transfer a secret for 9 months, but I was thrilled to accept the offer to reprise my role as Martha.

This Autumn we are performing an extended version of the show at Wonderville, Haymarket! As the Wondervilles stage is more similar to a Cabaret setup, we are once again able to be right up close to the audience.

I really never thought I'd get a West End debut and I'm not sure it's sunken in yet, but I am glad that I'm about to do it in the name of working class voices and stories being brought to such a prominent place in the theatre world. It is vital that this community, such a huge part of British culture, is not left behind. Theatre is for and by everyone."

Instagram & Tiktok: @lowborntheatre

Thankyou so much for sharing with us Jesamine! We wish you huge amounts of luck with your upcoming shows!



**Thanks so much for reading our September edition.  
See you next time!**



**PLAYBOX  
THEATRE**