



D I A R Y

Little Theatre Guild National Conference

13 - 15 May

at **Southport Little Theatre**

(More info on p4)

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Chapel Lane celebrations for Queen's Jubilee



Including ice creams
on sale and Green Room
open for visits

Friday 3 June 12 noon - 5pm

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IMPROBABLE FICTION

On stage: 11 - 18 June

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WILMSLOW SHOW

Look out for the Green Room
stand

Sunday 3 July

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

G MDF Theatre in the Meadow

Woodford Community Centre

A summer date for your diary

Friday - Sunday 15 - 17 July

IMPROBABLE FICTION

by Alan Ayckbourn

directed by Victor Hassan

11 - 18 June 2022

*'If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as
an improbable fiction'*

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

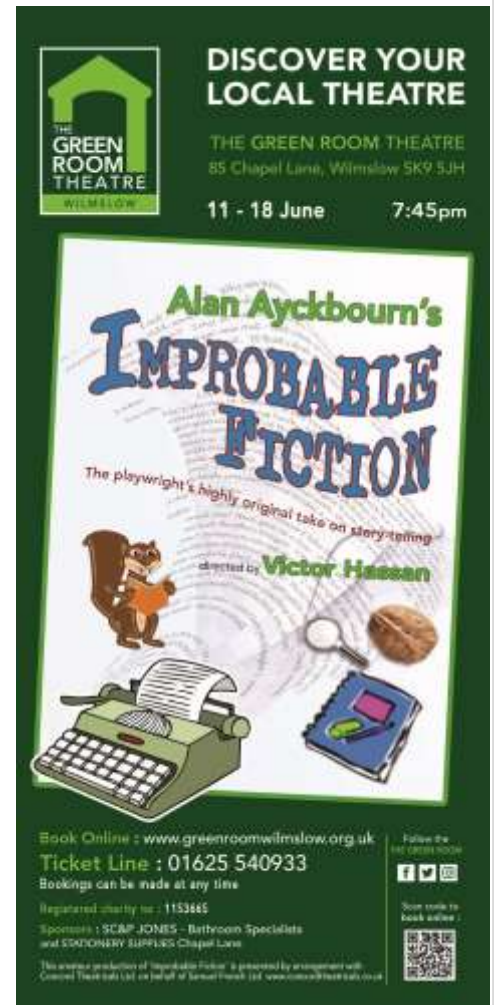
For the final play this season
we present Alan Ayckbourn's
hilarious take on storytelling!

Join us at a meeting of the
local writers' circle, where
members are suffering from
a collective writer's block -
when suddenly all their
imaginings are unleashed
and all manner of comic and
unexpected ideas emerge.

The play is performed by a
talented cast of Green Room
regulars, along with some new
actors:

Victoria Johnson
Josie Harrison
Carys Jones
Jess Trimble
Charlie Cook
Alex Newman
Ian Fensome

Victor Hassan



BOX OFFICE

Bookings for **Improbable Fiction** can be made on-line via
The Green Room website, or direct through Ticketsource, or by post,
or by leaving messages on the Ticket-Line answerphone -
01625 540933.

- The Box Office at the theatre will be open for personal callers,
on four Saturdays, between 11 am and 12 noon, from
Saturday 21 May.
- You can send in postal bookings to the theatre at any time -
85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

On-line booking allows you to buy seats of your own choosing.

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

BUILDING PROJECT, THE COVID CURSE, AND ANTICS TO COME

In March 2020 our next scheduled production, of **Single Spies**, was in late stage rehearsals. Then of course Covid struck and everything stopped. So it was with great pride and pleasure that we were able to welcome audiences to that production, two years later, in April 2022. There were some enforced changes of personnel but most of the cast and crew were able to pick up where they left off. So congratulations are due to all concerned. A particular mention must go to Victoria Johnson who stepped up from being Stage Manager to take on the role of Coral Browne for the first night in place of Jane Newman, who was fortunately able to resume the role from the Monday performance.

Members who have contributed to the Theatre Building Fund have been notified of the decision reached by the trustees to stop the proposed building project intended to provide a permanent extension at the rear of the theatre. Unfortunately the substantial increase in material prices over the last three years, amongst many other factors, meant that even on the most optimistic scenario we did not have sufficient funds to allow us to proceed with the project. Although we are a long way short of being able to build the extension for which planning permission was obtained, we do now have substantial reserves and the trustees will be giving very careful consideration to other possibilities for improvements to our facilities.

We now move on to **Improbable Fiction**. Suffice to say that this extraordinary play will challenge all departments from actors to props and I think we can guarantee a show unlike anything that you have seen before!

Al Fowkes

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who offered to help recently with coffee and tea duties on play nights.

And also for everyone who replied to Chris McClory to volunteer for the Queen's Jubilee afternoon on Friday 3 June. They will help with meeting and greeting visitors to the theatre which will be open as part of the Chapel Lane events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Steve Williamson (who organises the rota of House Managers for shows) is keen to hear from any of you who could help during **Improbable Fiction**, even if you have not indicated this as a chosen activity. Duties include greeting our audiences and taking responsibility for **front of house**. Steve can tell you more.



See also Play & Stage report on p3.

Editor



WHAT THE REVIEWERS THOUGHT

The adjudicator from NODA visited for her review on **God of Carnage** on 12 February, commenting on the audience's intimate closeness to the action as the 'unwieldy locomotive of polite discussion and diplomatic, passive aggressive' talk turns into a 'full-on runaway train of gloves off arguments'.

The play is a four-hander, played in one act, with an 'admirable performance' from Abby Cross as the supercilious Veronique, balanced by her 'unrefined' husband Michael (well-played by Ian Fensome) - courteous on the outside but impatient with the whole affair.

Their visitors are Alain (played by Ewan Henderson) - who has to cope with his own hostility and his several phone call interruptions - and Annette (Joan Taylor-Jones) who coped splendidly with her inner turmoil and anger.

'Hats off to director Ian Cole' who chose the setting. On occasion, playing in the round led to some blocking, but the show was 'marvellously acted and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience'.

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A reviewer from Number 9 blogposts attended **Single Spies** on the first night, for the two one-act plays: **An Englishman Abroad**, and **A Question of Attribution**. There was praise for the quality of the acting, and the realistic sets for both plays. He felt that both plays are overly wordy, and suggested that the elements of humour and the overall pacing might have been given more attention.

But the main characters were all accomplished - Paul Lewis as the drunken and slovenly Guy Burgess, John Westbrook as an urbane Sir Anthony Blunt, and Gemma Duncan as Her Majesty the Queen.

A NODA review for Single Spies is still to come. [On the first night, the part of Coral Browne was read in by Victoria Johnson, as Jane Newman was unwell.]

What our audiences say:

Our Ticket Secretary reported that one audience member told him he had enjoyed **God of Carnage** so much that he came back to see it again on the final Saturday and brought his daughter with him!

A recent visitor, for **Single Spies** commented: 'Great local theatre with fantastic actors and super plays!!!!'

PLAY & STAGE

The Play and Stage Committee have been busy reading and choosing plays for next season, so keep an eye out for details of the productions and auditions on the website and in emails.



Do note that when we get to auditions all are welcome to come along and read - you never know what talents you might find in yourselves!

Backstage

I know we always ask for help backstage but this is a real plea for assistance - both from people who have worked backstage before and from those who have never been involved in this way. It gets harder and harder to get a team together to do all the vital stuff that goes on the



scenes. Come to think of it, not just behind the scenes, as, with the layout of our theatre, it so often makes sense for scene-shifting and movement of props, for instance, to become part of the show.

We are always happy to see and train new people. You become a real part of the production, just as important as those who act on the stage. And for those who act, it can be a way to give something back to those who have worked so hard to put previous productions on the stage.

We need: Prompts; Props people; Stage Managers and Assistant Stage Managers; people for costume and wardrobe. Not forgetting the team who support productions Front of House with the audience: House Managers and Bar and Coffee bar volunteers, as well as Bruce's set-building team.

So even if you have never tried out these jobs why not think about giving them a go? You might find something you really enjoy.

Celia Bonner

LITTLE THEATRE GUILD

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Just to remind you that there is still time to book for the 2022 **National Conference**.

This runs from Friday - Sunday, **13 - 15 May** at **Southport Little Theatre**.

You can attend for the weekend or for the day. Day trippers are more than welcome.

If you fancy a fun weekend at the seaside (at what happens to be one of my (many) previous theatres), do sign up: it will be lovely to meet old and new friends from all over the UK. LTG Conferences are lively and entertaining gatherings of representatives from across the country.

Mike Rogerson

MARKETING NEWS



To make our marketing a bit different and more memorable we are featuring 'days of the year' branded adverts on our Facebook page.

If you have any ideas for a relevant 'Day of the Year' then please send them to mail@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

Above are some of our recent examples.

Mark Jephcott

GMDF SUMMER SHAKESPEARE MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Theatre on the Meadow

at Woodford Community Centre

*Directed by Cameron Chandler,
from MADS Theatre in Macclesfield*

Three matinee performances are planned, from 2 pm on Friday to Sunday 15 -17 July 2022

Tickets via Ticketsource

More information:

<https://new.gmdf.org/theatre-on-the-meadow-2022/>



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to the following:

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Mrs Josie Harrison

Ms Carys Jones

Mr Alex Newman

SOCIAL MEMBERS

Mr Norman Sellers

Mrs Mildred Sellers

RETURNING FULL MEMBERS

Mr Toby Harris

Mr Paul Reid

Ian McBride

SOCIAL EVENTS

Do take time to support the Chapel Lane Queen's Jubilee celebrations during the afternoon of Friday 3 June. The Green Room will be selling ice creams and will welcome visitors.

We are so sorry that we had to cancel the planned sell-out evening for The Mill Ballads. This was due to one of the band members contracting Covid. I'm sure that you will be pleased to hear that we are hoping to rebook this immensely popular event for October.

Chris McClory

Do you have any items for the newsletter, or comments to make about it? If so, please send any feedback or articles for publication to:

newsletter@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk,
or post to the theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

The newsletter is edited by Chris Hills for the Wilmslow Green Room - registered Charity Number **1153665**.

The next edition will be published late summer 2022