



**DIARY**  
Green Room  
Centenary Season



**Centenary  
Dinner Dance**

at The Alderley Edge Hotel  
Saturday 2 November 2024

Little Theatre Guild  
Northern Conference  
18 - 20 October

Green Room AGM  
Date tbc

**THE MESSIAH**  
Patrick Barlow  
2 - 7 December

**BOMBSHELLS**  
Joanna Murray-Smith  
20 - 25 January 2025

**THE MURDER ROOM**  
Jack Sharkey  
17 - 22 March 2025

**THE TITFIELD  
THUNDERBOLT**  
Philip Goulding  
12 - 17 May 2025

## PRESENT LAUGHTER

A Brilliant Comedy by Noël Coward  
Monday 14 - Saturday 19 October  
with matinee on 19 October

**Present Laughter** by Noël Coward is a sparkling comedy that has delighted audiences since it first premiered in 1942. The play, which is considered one of Coward's finest works, offers a delightful glimpse into the life of Garry Essendine, a successful and self-absorbed actor who is grappling with the highs and lows of his personal and professional life. With its witty dialogue, complex characters, and sharp insights into the world of theatre, **Present Laughter** continues to captivate audiences more than 80 years after its debut.

In this production, Garry Essendine is portrayed with the perfect blend of charm, arrogance, and vulnerability, bringing Coward's larger-than-life character to vivid life. The supporting cast, each with their own quirks and eccentricities, provide the perfect foil to Garry's flamboyant personality, creating a richly textured and highly entertaining ensemble piece.

**Present Laughter** is a testament to Noël Coward's brilliance as a playwright. Its sharp wit, memorable characters, and enduring appeal make it a must-see for theatre lovers of all ages. Whether you're a fan of classic comedy or simply looking for an evening of sophisticated entertainment, **Present Laughter** is sure to leave you smiling long after the final curtain falls. Don't miss the chance to experience this iconic play in all its glory.

*Matthew Smith, director*

*Publicity images show Tim Cooper as Garry Essendine*

## BOX OFFICE

Booking for **Present Laughter** is available online, at any time, via The Green Room website, or direct through Ticketsource.

The Saturday morning Box Office will open for personal callers between 11 am and 12 noon from **21 September**.

You can also send in postal bookings to The Green Room – 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5JH, with an SAE if you need tickets posting to you, and cheques made out to 'Wilmslow Green Room Society'.

The answerphone will open on Monday 16 September (01625 540933). Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance of **Present Laughter** on Saturday 19 October.

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

No sooner does one season close, than preparation and activity begins for the new season ahead. Not just any new season, either, but our Centenary is upon us! 100 years of Green Room Productions.

The last play of the 23/24 season saw a wonderful production of **Ladies Unleashed**, by Amanda Whittington, which took us on a trip of fun, surprises and riotous exploits. Friends getting back together after some years apart is always going to lead to some antics and unexpected events and this production did not disappoint. In a very unusual occurrence all four of the starring ladies were nominated for Best Actress by Greater Manchester Drama Federation, along with Victor Hassan for his directing; there was also a technical nomination for the back stage crew. I really enjoyed the production and it lifted spirits for all that came along to watch.

Our directors, backstage crews and actors in our other full length plays in 2023/24 were also recognised by both the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and the Greater Manchester Drama Federation (GMDF) with various nominations and awards. This is a great credit to the Theatre, as the Green Room continues to provide quality productions. For further details, see previous emails sent in June.

Our season ahead starts with the fabulous **Present Laughter** by Noël Coward. Rehearsals are under way and it promises to be a great spectacle for our audiences, so make sure you book early. This is followed by a wonderful comedy in which you will see a magical Nativity. **The Messiah**, by Patrick Barlow, has a cast of many played by a few. We then have **Bombshells** by Joanna Murray, which takes a look at modern female life through six different characters. Next up, Jack Sharkey's **The Murder Room** will test the audiences' powers of deduction, as well as making them laugh along the way. To close this special season, we will present **The Titfield Thunderbolt**, by Philip Goulding, a classic Ealing comedy, featuring a train - a real challenge for the director and our brilliant backstage team!

Our Centenary season celebrations have already begun, with what I hope those people who attended believe was a fabulous, old-fashioned charabanc trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, to see **The Merry Wives of Windsor** at the RSC. With a group of 52 members and friends, it was a delight to be involved with the organising and to be there on the day. The play was brilliantly presented, the weather was just right for travelling, and the post-show three course meal in the RSC Rooftop Restaurant was very well executed by the staff. We left at 9am and returned at 9pm, all of us pleasantly exhausted after a great day. Thanks to all who supported this adventure, and do keep a look out for another theatre visit in the future!

The celebrations continue with a Gala performance - before an invited audience - of **Present Laughter**, on Saturday 12 October .

Following on after the Gala performance is the **Centenary Dinner Dance, at The Alderley Edge Hotel**, on Saturday 2 November. The date has been chosen to be as close as possible to the date of the very first Green Room performance in 1924. I would like to ask everyone for their support in this celebration event, as we want to make it a night to remember. We have secured the services of a top local covers band, who raise funds for the Christie, so in addition to having an enjoyable evening together, we will also be supporting a cause which is important to so many of us. Please come along, whether you feel you may just do a hand jive at the table or full rock and roll on the dance floor. Having everyone together is the most important aspect of any good celebration.

PLEASE register your interest in attending, asap, so I have a good idea of numbers, to negotiate the best price possible for the best night possible.

You can email me - [chairman@wilmslowgreenroom.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wilmslowgreenroom.org.uk)

So here we go, on another fantastic journey with the Green Room in this very special season: fun, drama, mystery and murder: sounds like another committee meeting ...

See you at the Green Room soon

*Paul Lewis*



*Didn't we have a luvverly time the day we went to Stratford?*

Green Room outing - Thursday 22 August 2024

Posing on the steps of The Swan Theatre on arrival,  
Paul outside the main theatre, and everyone, seated as far as the  
eye can see, preparing to enjoy their dinner . . .

## PLAY AND STAGE REPORT

The season 2024 - 2025 is, after a few hiccups, virtually cast - just one young man to go. As is so often the case, what we could do with is a few more people helping with the vital backstage roles that are essential to the smooth running of every production. We are delighted that some of our new members are getting involved in these activities and are we hope enjoying them, but we can always do with more.

So - prompting, stage management, 'Front of House'; if you'd like to know more about what these jobs entail just get in touch with the PSCC and we can point you to the right person.

Now on to the 2025 - 2026 season - yes, really. We asked for suggestions for plays and were delighted to receive so many varied ideas - far more than we need for one season. The PSCC has drawn up a short list and are working our way through the scripts. There are many things to consider; we can't do a whole season of plays with large casts, we simply don't have enough people to fill the roles. Also, because our audiences have a wide range of interests, we try to have a mix of humorous and more serious offerings, and sometimes we like to suggest a production that may be a real change for the audience - think of some of Martin McDonagh's plays, for example.

Back to this season. One challenge was to choose a suitable play to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Wilmslow Green Room's very first production. A repeat of the first play - we decided against that. A Shakespeare? We have only just staged **The Two Gentlemen of Verona**, so that was a no-no. The plays of Noël Coward are brilliantly clever, full of sparkling wit and memorable characters. Present Laughter has at its heart an actor (though probably not much like anyone we know at the Green Room), and we hope audiences will enjoy meeting him and his friends, whether at the Gala Evening or through the week.

*Celia Bonner*

## SUE MOONEY

With great sadness, we have learned of the recent death of Sue Mooney, who was the go-to person in GMDF for over 28 years, and a Green Member for many. You might remember her from **The Steamie** from 2015. Our thoughts are with Alan and all the family.



## LITTLE THEATRE GUILD - NORTHERN CONFERENCE

The LTG Northern Conference will take place on **18 to 20 October**, at the **Caxton Players Theatre Grimsby**.

This is a chance to meet and mingle with fellow actors from Little Theatres from all over the north of England, to take part in workshops and to enjoy a performance from the host theatre.

On this occasion the play will be *The Dresser* and workshops include Getting the most out of social media advertising, Unarmed combat, Writing for the stage, and Cuts and bruises.

There will be Friday night entertainment, theatre tours and a keynote speaker on the Sunday morning. The package cost, which includes all meals and tickets, is very reasonable. And I have details of hotels close to the theatre.

From personal experience, I know that these weekends are both enjoyable and informative (and great for gossip and tips!)

If you are interested I have all the details plus application forms. Just contact me.



*Mike Rogerson*

## Membership News - including Renewal of Subscriptions

We are very pleased to welcome new members Sara Campbell, David Cheetham and Milly Waddington.

The good news is that subscription rates remain unchanged: ie £38 for full members, with a reduction to £33 if paid before 31 October, and £18 for social members.

For members under 35 years of age and who first joined the society last season before 1 January 2024, the subscription is £20.

Everyone will find their individual membership renewal forms included in this mailshot. If there are any problems, please email me below at the specified address and I will contact you again.

If none of your details have changed on the renewal form, all you need to do is fill in the appropriate membership subscription, 100 Club subscriptions, the total paid, sign and date the form and then return it, together with your cheque, in the **pre-addressed envelope** provided. So easy to fill in and saves a lot of time!! But please make sure you tick **all** the activities you are interested in being involved in.

If you wish to pay by bank transfer rather than cheque, please remember to tick the appropriate box at the bottom of the form before posting. It is needed to maintain complete records.

And why not sign up for one or more 100 Club subscriptions, or for more if you have one or more already? Any 100 Club subscriptions received before the AGM will be entered in the draw to take place on that evening. You never know - you could win £50 or even £100 – and remember, you have to be in it to win it! The second draw of the season will be held around Easter time.

Any enquires about membership should be sent to [membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk)

*Ian McBride*

## Minutes from Green Room Executive meetings

Please note that Minutes from all our meetings are available for members to view on request.

Please contact the Secretary: [secretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk)

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](mailto: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 in December 2024