

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2025



DIARY
Green Room
Centenary Season



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Subscriptions

Current renewals
of membership due
by 31 December

**Backstage Volunteer
Night**

You are invited to come along
to find out more about the
'behind the scenes' work of
the Theatre

7.30 pm Tuesday 7 January
at the Green Room
[see p 3 for more details]

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THE MURDER ROOM

Jack Sharkey
17 - 22 March 2025

**THE TITFIELD
THUNDERBOLT**

Philip Goulding
12 - 17 May 2025

BOMBSHELLS

Joanna Murray-Smith
20 - 25 January 2025

Six women on the edge,
presenting very varied and
entertaining 'takes' on the
challenges of female life.

'They struggle sometimes
hilariously, sometimes
tragically.....and humour in
the end is their saviour'.

Described in a recent review
as 'six dynamic conversations
- some between actor and
audience, others between
actor and half-imagined other
characters'.

The production is performed
by a talented cast of Green
Room regulars – Caroline
Lucas, Eilidh Pollard, Jane
Hyde, Lorna Kong, and
Madeleine Healey. Plus a
welcome newcomer, Neerja
Sethi.

Victor Hassan

Bombshells

by Joanna Murray-Smith

directed by Victor Hassan
with Linda Batson



**Our Centenary Year production
presents a wonderfully funny and touching
celebration of the passionate,
miserable, hilarious wildness of women**

20 - 25 January 2025

evenings at 7.45 / Saturday matinee 2.30

this amateur production is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

BOX OFFICE

Booking for **Bombshells** 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 **4 January**.

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 30 December (01625 540933).
Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance
of **Bombshells** on Saturday 25 January.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Messiah arrived early in Wilmslow this year, with a super fun production which entertained our audience, and sold 90% of our seats. It included audience participation to support the excellent performances and wonderful singing. Massive congratulations to the director, John Chidgey, along with the cast and crew for what was a thoroughly enjoyable production. When leaving the theatre on the first night, I was stopped by a lady who had seen the show and wanted to pass on her thanks to everyone involved, as she and her friends were totally entertained and uplifted after watching the production.

The Centenary Celebration Dinner and Dance was enjoyed, I hope, by all who attended the Alderley Edge Hotel on 2 November. The evening allowed us to celebrate with fantastic music by The Disciples, (a name I anointed them with on the night!), a three-piece group of musicians who came together almost at the eleventh hour, after the original group had to pull out. I can confidently say they produced fantastic music for us to gently boogie to! On the evening we also raised the superb amount of £855 for The Christie Manchester, which has been forwarded on to them. The total raised was helped by the band donating part of their fee, a local business donation, and a few additional contributions from Green Room members. My thanks to everyone who helped organise the event, and to all those who came along to have some fun in celebrating our Centenary year.

Our annual Brass Band evening on 17 December has again been well received, and during my conversations with the Vernon Building Society (Poynton) Brass Band, I have discovered that they are celebrating their 200th year! What an achievement!

The rear extension we are building to the theatre has moved forward recently with the organisational help of Ian Kennedy. Ian has recently supervised the removal of excess soil and waste, some additional brick work, and the filling of the base with hard core etc. The next step is to get the concrete base on top of the work already completed, which we hope to achieve soon. We will then get together over a cup of tea to discuss how best to move forward with the next phase.

Christmas and 2025 are now approaching fast, and we still have ten months of saying 'this is our centenary year', so I would welcome any ideas that you may have about further celebrations in 2025.

A very Merry Christmas and an exciting, happy and healthy new year to everyone, from myself and all the Executive. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we can enjoy even more quality theatre at the Green Room for many years to come.

Have a great time

Paul Lewis

PRESENT LAUGHTER

Adjudications

On a set dressed with period effects and



furniture, with good 1950s music and costumes, this production provided 'a great evening's entertainment and a fitting centenary celebration'. The GMDF Adjudicator praised Tim Cooper for his performance in the main role, including impressive timing and movement and dancing. He was ably supported by a perfect cast for the show, and good direction from Matt Smith that made 'great use of the acting area'. The whole cast 'did a splendid job, with great timing'.

The reviewer from NODA felt that Tim 'captured the character's flamboyance and charm with a delightful authenticity' and was 'nothing short of mesmeric'. Emma Crosbie as the wife was a 'robust counterpoint ... providing stability', and Jane Hyde brought a 'wonderfully sardonic edge' to her role as his secretary; Eilidh Pollard as Daphne 'was a delight' as Gary's casual visitor. The director achieved a good balance between Coward's 'sharp wit with a light-heartedness that felt fitting for the era'.



THE MESSIAH

Starring Richard Sails as Maurice, and Steve Berrington as Ronald, their two-man team attempt to stage the well-known events of the Christmas story, complete with costumes, muddled words, arguments and much banter. A bike-riding midwife (from Call the Midwife)

appears to assist, three wise men turn up on camels, and an operatic visitor (Katya Ebrigens) bestows angelic grace on the whole antic proceedings.



PLAY AND STAGE REPORT

We are pleased to confirm that the rest of this season is cast and we are now busy planning what we believe will be a balanced and entertaining year of plays for 2025 - 6. Plans are not yet finalised so you will have to wait for the next Newsletter for full details, when we will hope to have organised an evening to showcase the plays for the season. This has proved very successful for the last couple of years, introducing some new actors to us and bringing back some former members. It also gives people more information about the plays and the roles in them so they can decide if they would like to be involved.

In the meantime, see below for details of our Backstage Evening on Tuesday 7 January. This is a new venture, so do come along.

Thanks to Helen Bingle for her ingenious idea of tidying our stock of old or unused play scripts by offering them for sale at the AGM at a bargain price, and wrapping some for an unusual Lucky Dip available during **The Messiah** and at the Brass Band Concert!

My thanks to Jess Trimble, who is retiring from the PSCC. As well as appearing on stage Jess has filled various backstage roles herself and chased around finding backstage volunteers for plays. We were delighted when she was deservedly awarded the Sheila Hine trophy at the AGM.

Best wishes to you all for 2025

Celia Bonner

Backstage Volunteers Night

Tuesday 7 January 2025 from 7.30pm

at The Green Room Theatre

Find out more about backstage roles; enjoy volunteering at your local theatre!

We welcome new volunteers in a variety of different roles. No experience necessary.

Try working backstage with us and discover what might suit you! Our rehearsal period for each production is around 6-7 weeks, but backstage roles do not require you to commit to every rehearsal, and working in teams allows some flexibility.

- ◆ **THE STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM** This includes Props/Assistant Stage Manager. Run the show backstage, cue cast, co-ordinate with Lighting and Sound, and take overall responsibility during the run of a production. Manage and place props.
- ◆ **PROPS** Source and store props. There is often overlap with the SM/ASM roles.
- ◆ **THE WARDROBE TEAM** Curate our stock of costumes, altering, repairing and often creating from scratch. Assist with speedy costume changes during the production.
- ◆ **PROMPT** An essential support role, particularly during later rehearsals as the cast familiarise themselves with their lines and cues. The role can be shared. Be a reassuring safety net during performance, the ambition is not to have to speak!
- ◆ **SET-BUILDING & DECORATING** Carpentry skills are an asset, but not essential. We also welcome those who can wield a paintbrush and have the creative skills to turn plywood into convincing props and backdrops. The team generally meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- ◆ **LIGHTING** Can involve designing, installing and programming lighting to realise the Director's vision for a play, or simply being available to run the show once the design has been created.
- ◆ **SOUND** The operator has the freedom to design and construct the Sound scene according to the Director's wishes. During production Sound is usually run by one person from an intuitive computer program. Training will, of course, be offered!

Play & Stage committee

Membership report

Welcome to new full members: John and Elizabeth Bowden, and Eric Laot.

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions for our Centenary season. For those members who have not yet renewed your subscriptions (full members £38, social members £18), it would be appreciated if you would do so before 31 December. For all members who haven't yet paid, your individual membership forms will be, or already have been, re-sent by email or by post, in case they have been mislaid.

Please consider including any 100 Club subscriptions, so you can be entered into the next two 100 Club draws.

Your details will be reluctantly removed from the society's membership list in January if your subscription has not been received by then. You will then not receive the discount on tickets nor receive any mailings which the Society may send out.

Cheques and completed forms should be returned to the Membership Secretary, whose address is on the form. Anyone wishing to pay subscriptions by bank transfer will find the bank details on the membership form.

Please contact me if you have any queries about whether your subscription has been paid, or if you are not wishing to continue your Green Room membership.

Ian McBride

membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

Val Watkinson - Tribute

Val was an active member of the Green Room for many years, both on stage in several roles (as illustrated), and as a director - for instance of **Someone to Watch Over Me**, staged in the Green Room in 1997. Val also played at Gawsworth, notably as Titania in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in 1994. As Oberon in that show, David Reynolds called her 'magnificent'. He adds that, from knowing her over a period of 40 years, 'she was a force to be reckoned with, both on and off stage'.



1996 - *My Mother Said I Never Should*



1991 - *Arms and the Man*

Val was involved with lighting at Gawsworth, and in many productions elsewhere, notably the Altrincham Garrick. She had a wealth of invaluable theatre knowledge, and, thanks to her teaching experience, generously encouraged and provided support for younger and less experienced actors.

1990 - *Charley's Aunt*



1994 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



AGM

The AGM this year, slightly delayed due to problems finalising the accounts, was held on 19 November. Chairman Paul requested again that anyone willing and able to offer help with book-keeping for the Society should contact him. A very successful season was summarised, attracting average audience numbers of over 94%. Paul confirmed that building work on the rear extension is proceeding step by step as funds and time permit, but it may be slow progress as plans are also being considered to revamp front of house facilities and appearance. The Treasurer presented annual accounts confirming available funds and income from productions; please request a copy of these accounts if you would care to read them.

The Sheila Hine Award was awarded to Jess Trimble, and nine 100 Club winners were drawn.

Denise Soussi

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 in February - March 2025