

Erratum – omitted from 89th Annual Review

Le Grand Return by Alan Stockdill
November 17-21, 2015, directed by Alan Stockdill

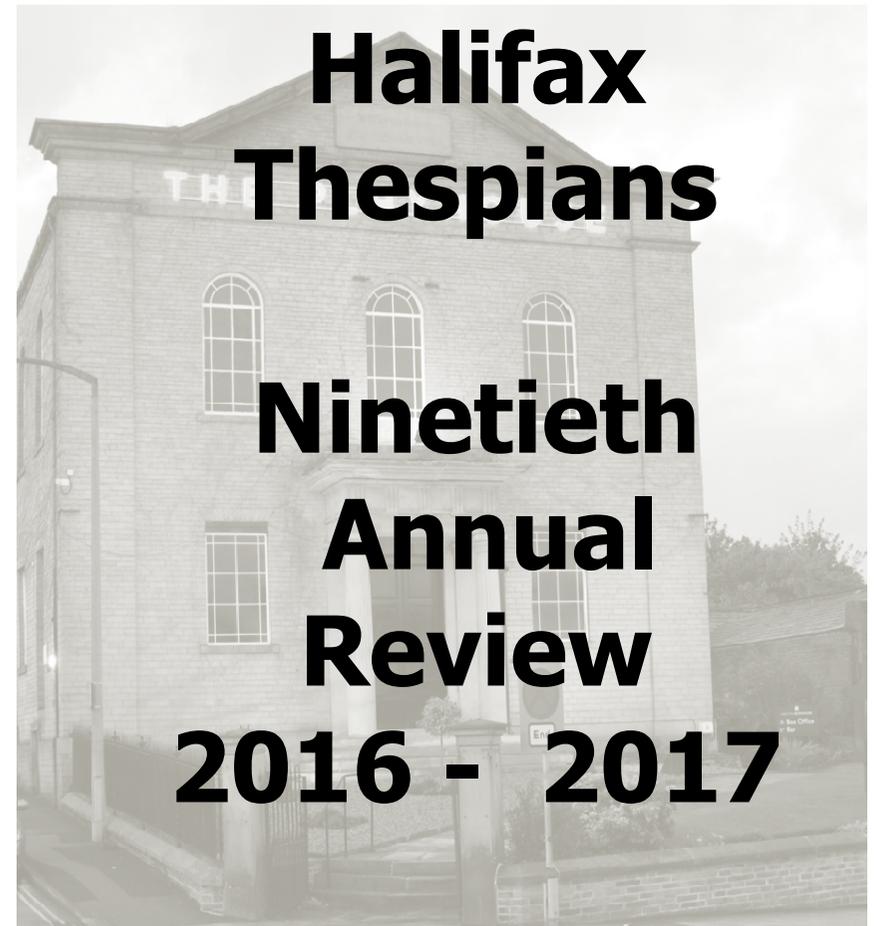
Cast

Tommy Hardaker (Private, The Green Howards)	Keith Royston
Alf Heginbottom (Bevin Boy)	Roy Byrom
Edwin Cooper (Captain, Royal Army Pay Corps)	Stuart Davison
Matron/Customs Officer/Yvette Dubois	Giselle Herbert

Crew

Stage Manager	Clifford Jones
Assistant Stage Manager	Gerard Marescaux
Set Designer	Alan Stockdill
Set Builders	Mike Bellenie
	Chris Horn
	Gerard Marescaux
	Nigel Town
Lighting and Sound	Karl Eaton
Properties	Janet Clegg
	Sue Illingworth
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Production Assistant	Catherine Pasek
Poster Photograph and Design	Nigel Town
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

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HALIFAX THESPIANS

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A Member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain

Annual Review 2016-2017

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Production Manager Philippa Smith

Company

Jon W. Henderson
Paige Fletcher
Ibby Ahmed
Jacob Green
Jake Broadhurst
Michael Doyle
James Chatburn
Devan Dallas

Roxanne Rogers
Eilidh Stout
Luke Beevers
Davy Brewster
Cheryl Callaghan
Krystian Wolny
Marcus Barlow

Crew

Stage Manager
Duty Stage Manager
Lighting
Sound
Properties

Paul Wadsworth
Marcus Barlow
Liam Goulden
Xander Bryan
Roxanne Rogers,
Davy Brewster
Michael Doyle
Cheryl Callaghan
James Chatburn

Wardrobe

Snake in the Grass, by Alan Ayckbourn
17-21 January, 2017, directed by Yvonne Kniveton

Cast

Annabel Chester	Julie Johnston
Alice Moody, a nurse	Helen Kapil
Miriam Chester, Annabel's sister	Melanie Duff

Crew

Stage Manager	Jeanne O'Rourke
Assistant Stage Manager	Chris Horn
Set Designers	Leighton Hirst Yvonne Kniveton
Set Builders and Painters	Robert Beaumont Alan Cunnington Leighton Hirst Eric Ogden Jeanne O'Rourke
Lighting Designers	Stuart Tempest Karl Eaton Jeanette Kendall
Lighting Operator	Jeanette Kendall
Lighting Assistant	Ben Horsfield
Sound	Roy Byrom
Properties	Janet Clegg Giselle Herbert Sue Illingworth
Costumes	The Cast Lee Graham
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Prompters	Peter Crawshaw Janet Rhodes
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

Chairman's message

It is not unusual to start an annual review by saying "thank you", and of course thanks are due to the members who have appeared in our productions this year. Of course it is very nice when our friends and relatives treat us like A-list celebrities, but we have to remember that our thanks are due to the volunteers who give us invaluable support both backstage and front of house. It is very rare that you will hear someone say "that umbrella stand upstage right was perfect for the play" or "that was a lovely cup of coffee you served me in the interval". Of course we are all aware of the fine job these members do but, on behalf of the A-list and the two of us on the B-list, "thank you!"

There is also another group of people who need to be thanked. Almost half of our membership is made up of people who have joined as "audience only". Let's face it, without anyone to watch us, we've just been wasting our time.

But I would like to thank everyone who has paid their subscriptions and become a member of this great society.

Membership

As you are aware the membership changed this year. Instead of the varying styles of membership, everyone now pays £10 and in return receives a significant reduction in the price of their admission tickets.

It is worth noting that the number of members as at the end of February 2017 was 324 as opposed to 274 at the end of February last year.

Buildings

The major alteration/innovation made this year is that central heating has now been installed in Carlton Rooms. This was done in time for the winter rehearsals and, in spite of a few teething problems, it is now working well.

The Gardens

As you walk up the path towards the Playhouse, particularly in Summer, you will be aware of the work of a group of people who quietly and efficiently tend the garden at the front of the theatre. Thanks are due to this dedicated team.

Reports from members holding particular responsibilities with the Society follow:

Stage

Our stage been inspected by a structural engineer who has put forward certain recommendations. These will be implemented over the course of the next 12 months. Most of the work will be done "in house"; so, any extra help would be much appreciated. Measures to achieve improved safety, such as enclosed storage areas and defined walkways, are already in hand and it is hoped these will be completed during the summer.

Sense & Sensibility, by Jane Austen. Adapted for the stage by Jessica Swale. 6-10 December 2016, directed by Ian Byfield

Cast

Elinor Dashwood	Eilidh Stout
Mrs Dashwood, Charlotte Palmer, Sophia Grey	Lee Graham
Margaret Dashwood, Lucy Steele	Annabelle Greenwood
Marianne Dashwood	Roxanne Rogers
Fanny Dashwood	Rachel Peter
John Dashwood, Thomas Perks,	
Sir John Middleton, Doctor	Rob Billson
Edward Ferrars, Thomas Palmer, Robert Ferrars	Will Hayes
Mrs Jenkins	Penny Wadsworth
Colonel Brandon	Nick Turner
John Willoughby	Krystian Wolny

Crew

Stage Manager	Martin Welsh
Set Designers	Ian Byfield
	Leighton Hirst
Set Builders and Painters	Robert Beaumont
	Leighton Hirst,
	Eric Ogden
Lighting Designer and Operator	Karl Eaton
Sound	Nigel Town
Properties	Janet Clegg,
	Sue Illingworth
Costumes	Halifax Thespians
	Ian Stead Costumier
Dressers	Norma Bateman,
	Kathryn Beverley
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Prompters	Olan Birtwhistle,
	Alan Kay
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

Be My Baby, by Amanda Whittington
20-22 October 2016, directed by Jeanette Kendall

Cast

Mary Adams, 19; 7 months' pregnant	Emma Saunders
Mrs Adams, Mary's mother	Sharon Holland
Matron, Head of St Saviour's	Olinda Oleksewycz
Queenie, 20; 4 months' pregnant	Philippa Briggs
Delores, 17; 3 months' pregnant	Kerry Lawrence
Norma, 20; 8 months' pregnant	Paige Fletcher

Crew

Set Designer	Playhouse Team
Lighting and Sound	Jeanette Kendall
Properties	Janet Clegg
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
Prompter	Helen Kapil
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Press Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Photography and Design	Richard Taylor

One proposal which has been put forward is to build more sets using 10 foot flats as opposed to the larger, and more unwieldy, 12 footers. This suggestion will be employed on more box sets in future. Last year the Chairman reported that more plays would have to be staged using black box curtain sets which has been done on a couple of shows quite successfully. Such an approach wouldn't be appropriate for every play but where it is acceptable it does ease the burden on the set building team. Finally, we can reflect on the success of plays in the Studio/Bar. These intimate performances require minimal sets and have achieved highly effective outcomes.

Leighton Hirst (joint Stage Director)

Publicity

The past year has seen the team cover a wide range of events, from our core in-house performances and events, through to promoting regular hirers and the new events coming to The Playhouse.

The regular emailed newsletters now have a mailing list of well over 1,000 subscribers and we maintain our quarterly Curtain Up paper-based newsletter.

Despite severe cut-backs at the Halifax Courier we have managed to maintain a level of free coverage in the press aided by the quality of our Press photography.

We have continued to advertise in the Hebden Diary to keep the valley towns aware of our performances and have a 12-month hire of a V-Board on King Cross Street near Tesco. We are members of Marketing Halifax and our events are often advertised in their regular e-newsletter as well as enabling us to have a voice in local decision-making and events.

We have continued to supply the Playhouse brochures, bookmarks, posters and leaflets to Libraries and Information Centres. However, with limited space and resources, priority is given to events in Kirklees venues. Consequently, word of mouth is important for Thespian shows.

We promote Playhouse shows and events on our Facebook page and social media, which has been supplemented by some Facebook advertising and even live streaming of our recent Phyllis Bentley Blue Plaque event. We encourage you to visit our 'Halifax Thespians' Facebook page where you will see a variety of filmed advertisements for our shows.

During this coming year we are looking at expanding into text messaging, giving last minute updates on shows and events and special offers here at The Playhouse. We will also be asking patrons' views through a number of quick and easy "place a token in a box" style surveys in the foyer.

The Bar Studio is being enhanced as a performance venue, in part through a generous donation from a member, and two of

Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden. Adapted for the stage by Emma Reeves. 4-8 October 2016, directed by Todd Wilson

Cast

Carrie	Melissa Wadsworth
Carrie's son/Nick	Martin Welsh
Mrs Fazackerly/Mrs Gotobed	Yvonne Kniveton
Billy/Frederick/Major Cass Harper	Luke Lortie
Albert Sandwich	Christopher Main
Mr Rhys	Liam Goulden
Mrs Davies/Mr Johnny	Davy Brewster
Hepzibah Green	Polly Christopher-Garcié
Auntie Lou	Lynn Lord
Mr Evans	Alan Kay
Mr Owen (offstage voice)	Luke Lortie

Crew

Technical Assistant	James Claxton
Stage Manager	Chris Horn
Assistant Stage Manager	Guy Liddell
Set Designers and Builders	Leighton Hirst
	Todd Wilson
Lighting	James Claxton
Sound	Keith Royston
Properties	Janet Clegg
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
Prompters	Peter Crawshaw
	Sue Illingworth
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

That Good Night, by N.J. Crisp
6-10 September 2016, directed by Jeanne O'Rourke

Cast

Anna, Ralph's wife	Penny Wadsworth
Michael, Ralph's son	Andy Rae
Debbie, Michael's girlfriend	Roxanne Rogers
Ralph, a successful screenwriter	Derek Smith
The Visitor	Judith Hardaker

Crew

Stage Manager	Jean Stopford
Assistant Stage Manager	Leighton Hirst
Set Designer	Leighton Hirst
Set Builders and Painters	Robert Beaumont
	Lay Hong Hirst
	Leighton Hirst
	Ged Marescaux
	Eric Ogden
	Stuart Tempest
Lighting	Karl Eaton
	Martyn Stead
Sound	Rob Billson
	Polly Bryan
Properties	Janet Clegg
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
Prompters	Margaret Biglands
	Jo White
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

our eight premier productions this season will be performed in the Bar Studio.

If you know of any venues or retail outlets that will accept our publicity - be it posters, leaflets, brochures or bookmarks - then please let us know - email publicity@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk .

My thanks to our small hard-working committee and wider team for ensuring our ever-increasing range of paper and digital publicity gets created and distributed widely.

Chris Baldock (Publicity Team Chairman)

Business

We have had a year of quite low attendances for our plays but it seems we may have "turned a corner" as audiences are now picking up. Hopefully this will continue as I know the Casting Committee are always mindful of audience perception as well as "ability to cast" and challenges for our acting membership when selecting the choices for the next season. These plays are the heart of our theatre; a tremendous amount of effort is put into each production so it would be really nice to see our own members support them, sadly this is very often not the case!

Our new bookings continue to grow with more Tribute Bands booking for one night; last year's highlight in relation to the Box Office was the Eagles tribute band "Motel California" from which we made almost £800 in one night, plus bar takings!

They are returning in May so we hope it will be as successful. We also have tributes to Queen, Pink Floyd and Roxy Music this year adding to the mix. Also new to the Playhouse is a touring group with "Frankenstein" (the National Theatre adaptation) and "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

I realise I increase the workload with the extra one-night hires – but they are just that, one night, so no-one is required to volunteer for a full week! I recently was Duty Technical Manager for The Creedence tribute hire and it was a really enjoyable experience to work with these ageing rockers.

Of course I can't miss out our shining moment of glory when, in December, we hosted the BBC for the preview showing of "Last Tango in Halifax" Christmas special – an exhausting day but lovely people to work with and they shone their BBC logo on the front of the theatre for the event – not to forget the £1,000 we netted for the night!

Julie Johnston (Business Manager)

Hospitality

The role of the Hospitality Manager, which had been vacant for some time, was filled in October 2016 and an Assistant Hospitality Manager was also added to the team.

This has been an extremely busy year for the Hospitality Team Leaders and their volunteers. The growing number of Lets in between our own Plays, in addition to the new demands of the fundraising team's L.I.F.T. events, has given us all a huge

The Thrill of Love, by Amanda Whittington 14-18 June, 2016, directed by Lynn Lord

Cast

Ruth Ellis, a nightclub hostess	Amber Gilmour
Jack Gale, a detective inspector	Richard Taylor
Sylvia Shaw, a nightclub manageress	Jo White
Vickie Martin, a model and actress	Melissa Wadsworth
Doris Judd, a charwoman	Francesca Foster

Crew

Stage Manager	Chris Horn
Assistant Stage Manager	Giselle Herbert
Set Designer	Lynn Lord
Set Builders and Painters	Robert Beaumont
	Leighton Hirst
	Eric Ogden
	Stuart Tempest
Lighting	Jeanette Kendall
	Karl Eaton
Sound	Rob Billson
	Xander Bryan
	Nigel Town
Properties	Janet Clegg & company
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
	Margaret Biglands & cast
Prompters	Sue Illingworth
	Kathleen Smith
	Nigel Town
Poster Design	Chris Freeman
Press Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Photography	Richard Taylor
	Richard Taylor
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

Bette & Joan, by Anton Burge
17-21 March 2016, directed by John Eastwood

Cast

Joan Crawford	Maria Peters
Bette Davis	Gilly Walker

Crew

Stage Manager	Jean Stopford
Assistant Stage Manager	Clifford Jones
Set Designer	John Eastwood
Lighting	Karl Eaton
Sound	Keith Royston
	Davy Brewster
	Liam Goulden
Properties	Janet Clegg
	Sue Illingworth
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
Prompters	John Eastwood
	Margaret Robinson
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

challenge regarding staffing cover. It has been touch and go on a regular basis, and the brunt of the cover has fallen on a few stalwart, loyal individuals. It is worrying that so many who start off with good intentions to help soon find that they are unable to cover even one duty because of other commitments encroaching on their time.

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to those who have covered their Front of House duties so enthusiastically and who continue to provide such a warm and hospitable welcome to our patrons.

As well as dealing with rotas and training, the team has been involved in developing a clearer understanding of hospitality roles and has created a draft brochure outlining the specifics of each job for both new and more experienced members. The team has also been busy looking at ways to help the flow of our patrons at busy times; considering improvements to the internal décor and comfort for patrons in our public areas; and making sure that duty personnel are more easily identifiable and distinguishable. This work is ongoing and will be adopted as schemes are approved.

I am particularly grateful to the FOH Team Leaders who have managed against all the odds to offer us their wit, charm, understanding and patience, while maintaining their great sense of perspective and humour. Between them they ensure, whenever possible, that our patrons and volunteers enjoy their time at the Halifax Playhouse, and leave planning to return.

Giselle Herbert (Hospitality Manager)

Play Selection and Casting

The Season 2016/17 has again been haunted by the by the recurring theme of availability versus casting, and sadly also, the reverse. Another consequence of this "availability" has led to the commitment from some cast members being less than adequate.

We would like to take this A.G.M. opportunity to remind members that when directors are in place for the chosen plays, the plays are then cast in chronological order.

Should you have placed your name in the green-room box or, expressed an interest in a certain play or plays on offer, to a member of the Play Selection and Casting Committee, there will be a time lapse of a few months from the first play cast to the last in any Half-Season. It does not mean you have been overlooked or forgotten.

Again, we should like to request that you check, carefully, your own personal commitments, before putting yourself forward. On a much more positive note, the privacy our green room box now affords to our acting members, has proved a great success and we thank all who have put their names forward using this method, it has been of great help. Casting will continue its quest to address the above problems.

The Company has now stopped the "voucher" system in favour of a "choose what you want to see idea" backed by a membership fee of just £10.00 per annum.

The History Boys, by Alan Bennett 12-16 April, 2016, directed by Giselle Herbert

Cast

Staff :	Headmaster	Steve Tetlow
	Hector	Patrick Hibbin
	Irwin	James Claxton
	Mrs Lintott	Hannah Head
	Staff 1 (Fiona)	Paige Fletcher
	Staff 2	Kerry Fennelly
	Staff 3	Helen Kapil
Students:	Akhtar	Ibraaheem Ahmed
	Crowther	Luke Lortie
	Dakin	Todd Wilson
	Lockwood	Joe Sutcliffe
	Posner	Krystian Wolny
	Rudge	Martin Welsh
	Scripps	Christopher Main
	Timms	Alex Watkins

Crew

Stage Manager	Paul Wadsworth
Assistant Stage Manager	Paige Fletcher
Set Designer	Giselle Herbert
Set Builders	Robert Beaumont, Leighton Hirst Chris Jefford, Stuart Tempest
Set Painters	Leighton Hirst, Paul Wadsworth
Lighting	Karl Eaton, Jeanette Kendall
Sound	Keith Royston
Properties	Janet Clegg, Sue Illingworth
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton, Giselle Herbert
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photography	Chris Freeman
Programme Design	Richard Taylor

Run for Your Wife by Ray Cooney
15-19 March 2016, directed by Polly Bryan

Cast

Mary Smith	Ros O'Connor
Barbara Smith	Lynn Lord
John Smith	Colin Harris
Detective Sergeant Troughton	Nigel Town
Stanley Gardner	Roy Byrom
Newspaper Reporter	Judith Hardaker
Detective Sergeant Porterhouse	Jon Timmis
Bobby Franklin	Paul Dargan

Crew

Stage Manager	Jeanne O'Rourke
Assistant Stage Manager	Chris Horn
	John O'Rourke
Set Designer	Leighton Hirst
Set Builders	Robert Beaumont, Leighton Hirst, Jeanette Kendall, Eric Ogden, Jeanne O'Rourke, Nigel Town Stuart Tempest,
Lighting	Martyn Stead
Sound	Jake Broadhurst, Xander Bryan
Properties	Janet Clegg
Furniture	Paul Wadsworth
Soft Furnishings	Yvonne Kniveton
Wardrobe	Norma Bateman & cast
Prompters	Janet Rhodes, Margaret Robinson
Poster Design	Nigel Town
Photographs	Chris Freeman
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The P.S.&C.C. must still strive under their remit to choose plays that suit our audience's varied tastes. This is a difficult task and does not get easier as years pass. We hope that you will continue to maintain your sense of loyalty to The Halifax Thespians, YOUR Society, and resolve to support, by attending all the multifarious plays on offer in our forthcoming Season, thus helping "keep the slates on the roof" and enabling us to move forwards to a brighter future.

Our evening and daytime play readings, for fun, continue to be well received and have become quite a "social" gathering. Refreshments are usually served before and during the event and a general good time is had by all who attend.

Sadly, the weekend course which we had rescheduled with the RSC voice coach Michael Corbidge had once more to be cancelled due to his having to pull out for family concerns. A lot of work had gone into setting this up and it was a great disappointment to many who had signed up for the two-day event. We have two more one day events coming up in June and July.

We also, in March 2017, for the first time, put a "script in hand" performance (rehearsed reading) of Ladies in Lavender adapted by Shaun McKenna from a screenplay by Charles Dance, onto the Main Stage by way of an experiment. This exercise was well received by those who attended and our audience exceeded by a few the numbers we could have legally admitted (50) had we held the event in the bar.

We look forward to presenting a few more events such as this in the future to further build our audience base for these popular events.

As ever we continue reading all sorts of scripts in order to find a well-balanced programme to suit all of our members.

John Eastwood (p.p. Play selection and Casting Committee. (PS&CC))

Playhouse Stage Training

This year Playhouse Stage Training has been through a lot of changes from appointing a new mentor to devising and performing our own theatre showcase, but continues to perform, learn and enjoy the theatre.

Firstly this year we said goodbye to two of our mentors and creators of Playhouse ST, Phillip Waldron and Michael Bellenie. For the past three years, both Phillip and Mike have been an inspiration to the members of ST with their vast experience and dedication, and so we sincerely thank them.

Philippa Smith has taken on the lead support role, bringing new strength and ideas of her own and creating a firmer vision of how ST will proceed in the future and become more member-driven.

Beside Philippa, ST has also had particular help and support the theatre, from the main society, by way of Giselle Herbert, Yvonne Kniveton, Sharon Holland, Helen Kapil with ongoing support from John Eastwood.

Outreach

We continue to invite people with mobility difficulties to our dress rehearsal nights. Thanks must go to the dedicated team who turn up to each dress rehearsal to help, make coffee etc. We invariably receive compliments on both the productions and the care and attention given to our visitors.

Hirers

Hiring our facilities to societies who do not have a permanent performance space brings in welcome income as well as allowing people who might not visit a theatre too often experience what it is like to visit The Playhouse and perhaps be tempted back to see some of our productions. We have several regular companies who make annual visits. The number of short-term hires of one or two nights is on the increase. All this helps to increase our income and ensure that the theatre has a place in the life of the town.

Finally

My thanks go to the Board of Directors and the Management team, who oversee the running of the theatre and the Society as a whole. Please support them in their work and should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please get in touch.

Keith Royston (Chairman, Halifax Thespians)

and music performed by the children and the enthusiasm of the staff. The opportunity for a project between ST and the school is under discussion.

The team's commitment and help with preparations for each fundraising event has been invaluable in showcasing the flexibility of the Bar Studio as a theatre and events space and the team has taken responsibility for decorating the bar studio thematically to match each event.

The team is liaising closely with the Buildings Project Development and Hospitality teams regarding the upgrading of internal décor and facilities within the public areas. A sub-committee from the L.I.F.T. team has kept the Board informed of funding opportunities. The team has been involved in ongoing discussions re the enhancement of current provision in the theatre in line with our remit to provide: (1) INCLUSIVITY; (2) ACCESS ALL AREAS; (3) ENHANCEMENT TO PROVISION.

Giselle Herbert (L.I.F.T. Team Leader)

Box office services

Kate Billson continues to run the box office with her usual efficiency and patience, not only dealing with our own members but patrons of the hirers. She certainly makes sure that all patrons are greeted in a cheerful and friendly manner.

Staff

Our thanks are also due to Tim Pickles and Sue Link, who continue to do an excellent job looking after the cleanliness of They are conscientious in their work and ever willing to do that little bit extra should the need arise.

Although not all of these members are able to help regularly, as we enter a new year, we would sincerely like to thank them for their help and support – especially to those who have recently led workshops during our performance break, exploring a variety of acting styles and aspects of theatre and for that, a huge thank you.

We have had a change in our own leadership as Krystian Wolny has decided to step on as chairman, as he will be going to university from September, and Melissa Wadsworth as secretary, has chosen to take some time out to pursue other interests. We wish them both well, and thank them for their service.

Devan Dallas has already stepped in to the role of Secretary and over the coming weeks, we hope to appoint another Chair.

Playhouse ST has had two major performances this year; 'Shakespeare in the Garden' showcase and 'Table Top Theatre'.

'Shakespeare in the Garden' in the summer, was an amalgamation of scenes from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Macbeth' and 'The Tempest' and was performed in the beautiful setting of Land Farm Gardens, above Heptonstall.

It was very well received and this year we are planning to perform at the same venue, again, in July. The final piece has yet to be confirmed but we will be performing an extended run.

'Table Top Theatre' in February was a much more challenging proposition as it the intention was that it would be entirely devised, directed, tech'd and of course performed by ST members.

We encountered many trials and tribulations along the way, but although it was a bit of a disappointment at the box office, we have learned an awful lot from the experience, and with the help of our supporters, were able to complete a much longer run of a very different piece while both performing and managing most of the technical elements ourselves, and received positive feedback from those who were able to attend.

We would like to thank the main society for their support in allowing us to undertake such a challenging venture and while we realise we are not yet experienced enough to take on such a huge task, we hope to perform something a little more straight-forward on the main stage next year. Again, special thanks to all those who supported us with this performance.

The ST members have sadly lost members, as has always been the case with members moving on to education particularly; however we continue to attract new members regularly and so our numbers are steady. If anyone is interested in joining us as a member, or as a supporter, you will be warmly welcomed at our weekly workshops in the Carlton Rooms, Halifax on Wednesdays from 7p.m until 9p.m.

Krystian Wolny (Chair, Playhouse Stage Training)

where members worked together to build, hone and improve this stunning listed building, safeguarding and preserving it as a prestigious arts venue fit for purpose and the future.

Together we can make it happen.

In November we were gifted a performance of “Godfrey’s Last Stand” by Alan Stockdill. In February 2017 we hosted “The Captain of the Lost Waves and his Cabin Crew” and March 2017 saw us running a Silent Auction. Future events include a “Quiz & Cuisine Night”; a “Jazz in the Bar” event; an adults only “Burlesque Evening”; a “Pre-loved Gift Fair” and a “Murder Mystery Evening”.

The L.I.F.T. team is most appreciative of the donations that continue to come in to support the major aims of the L.I.F.T. mission and which will ultimately help to safeguard the theatre for future generations. To be eligible for grants and funding we must show that we are pro-active in fundraising initiatives ourselves.

In Calderdale we face strong and professional competition. We must be able to rise to the challenge and prove a worthy and capable partner as The Piece Hall and Square Chapel developments help to bring new audiences to the area. We rely on the generosity of our patrons to ensure we can continue to develop our own venue.

Members of the team have been looking at ways to involve members of the neighbourhood and attended Parkinson Lane Community Primary School to discuss the work of the Thespians and the use of the theatre. The team was inspired by the drama

L.I.F.T. LAUNCH INTO FUTURE THEATRE

L.I.F.T. is the new name for the fundraising arm of the Halifax Playhouse.

*In September 2016 the L.I.F.T. fundraising appeal was launched with a picnic and symbolic balloon release. It rained heavily and so the event was moved from People's Park to the Theatre Bar. It was an enjoyable event with lively entertainment from members of ST. A Grand Raffle was held. Leighton Hirst designed our **LIFT OFF** Balloon Logo and created a miniature hot air balloon for the occasion.*

Also in September Kate Adamson was selected from a bidding process to design and produce the posters and flyers for the L.I.F.T. Team's fundraising events; and so the logo and the strapline were born.



In October more events were planned and our mission statement was created to explain to people what L.I.F.T. is about:

L.I.F.T. is about launching our beautiful theatre forwards to face a better and brighter future. It's about giving it a much-needed facelift, whether that's better access or more desirable décor. But it's chiefly about bringing people together. Just like in the early days of the Halifax Playhouse

Little Theatre Guild

Jeanne O'Rourke and I attended the Northern Conference in Dumfries in October but will be unable to attend the National Conference at the The Archway Theatre due to prior commitments.

As I keep saying, if anyone would like to go, the conferences are an excellent way to network with other theatres and discuss mutual issues and problems. There is also quite a lot of eating and a fair amount of drinking!

Even though we sometimes have to miss a conference the LTG is still working away on our behalf, working on sensitive issues such as the Safeguarding of Children in the Theatre, the use of weapons, health and safety issues and licensing issues, and any time we have a problem there is nearly always a Grey Paper prepared by the Guild for our guidance and, if not, there is someone we can approach for help.

Julie Johnston (LTG Representative)

HALIFAX THESPIANS

President:

Leighton Hirst

Life Vice-Presidents:

Mrs O. Bedford

Mr Eric Pratt

Mrs Anne Brook

Mrs Marion Reynolds

Mr John Brook

Mrs Janet Rhodes

Mr David Gilchrist

Mrs Pauline Robinson

Mrs Patricia Knight

Mrs Jean Stopford

Mrs Margot Lawson

Mr Phillip Waldron

Mrs Jeanne O'Rourke

Officers:

Chairman: Keith Royston

Treasurer: Martin Straw

Secretary: Jean Stopford

Directors (attendance/out of eligible meetings):

Chris Baldock 5/6

Olinda Olekesewycz 3/6

Mike Bellenie 6/6

Marion Reynolds 4/6

Margaret Biglands 3/6

Keith Royston 6/6

Karl Eaton 6/6

Derek Smith 4/6

John Eastwood 3/5

Jean Stopford 6/6

Clifford Jones 1/6

Martin Straw 2/6

Christine Marsh 5/6

Paul Wadsworth 6/6

Officials 2016-2017:

Business Manager:

Julie Johnston

Buildings Manager: -

Stage Directors:

Gerard Marescaux,
Leighton Hirst

Play Selection and

Casting Committee Chair:

John Eastwood

Publicity Manager:

Chris Baldock

Hospitality Manager:

Giselle Herbert

Little Theatre Guild Rep:

Julie Johnston

Playhouse ST Chair:

Krystian Wolny

Presidents

Clifford Ramsden (1927-28)

Frank Lee (1929-34)

James W. Sutcliffe (1935-44)

Phylis Bentley (1945-49)

and again (1955-5)

Philip Starke-Jones (1950-54)

Geoffrey Hyman (1966-75)

John Brook (1975-83)

Marion Reynolds (1983-2001)

Janet Rhodes (2001-06)

Jeanne O'Rourke (2007- 2016)

Leighton Hirst (2016-

Chairmen

L.J.Hines (1927)

James W Sutcliffe (1928-34)

Philip Starke-Jones (1935-38)
and again (1943-49)

Phylis Bentley (1939-42)

F.C.C. Clark (1950-63)

Percy Marks (1964-74)

John Brook and

John Robinson (1974)

John Robinson (1975-79)

Douglas Turner (1980-02)

Peter Thurman (2002-10)

Phillip Waldron (2010-13)

Peter Thurman (2013- 16)

Keith Royston (2016-

Secretaries

Arthur Coe (1927-30)

Frank Holloway (1931-32)

Douglass Robinson (1932-36)

Barbara Starke-Jones (1937-38)

Louis Emerson (1939-46)

Tom Green (1947-48)

Leslie F.T. Hull (1949-50)

Victor Doodson (1951)

Flo Moseley (1952-65)

Stanley Williams (1965-83)

Mary Armitage (1983-92)

Judith Priestley (1992-05)

Andrew Stopford (2006-11)

Ian Byfield (2011-15)

Jean Stopford (2015-

Treasurers

E.S. Latchmore (1927-35)

B.L. Sutcliffe (1936)

H.T. Lea (1937-38)

John Clay (1940-54)

Frank S. Bentley (1955-56)

T.V. Laycock (1956-63)

F. M. Wilson (1964-68)

C. Haigh (1968-71)

L.J. O'Keefe (1972)

Margaret Wakefield (1973-79)

David Gilchrist (1980-95)

Jean Stopford (1995-10)

Martin Straw (2010-