

To all members and friends of the Halifax Thespians ... SALUTATIONS!

No this isn't a script from " Up Pompeii " and we aren't expecting to be consumed by a volcanic inferno.

We're contacting you to announce our new Membership Drive.

If you haven't heard about this, you may not have been at the AGM where the President remarked about the dwindling number of volunteers.

Volunteers (that's you BTW) are the life blood of The Playhouse – we can only survive through the commitment of our active members, to help out with the various (let's face it, often, menial) tasks that are essential to providing a safe, functional and welcoming environment within which we can put on the productions that pay the bills and allow us to continue on towards our 100th year.

Volunteer numbers historically are directly proportional to the total number of members. The current membership sits at approximately 250, but, for a variety of reasons, that does not currently provide the human resources necessary to keep the Playhouse going as a viable entity.

So, we must receive either; an increased commitment from YOU (and we do mean YOU) to give a few hours backstage, front of house or in any way you can, OR; we need more members.

However, as the legend on the cover of the Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy famously states..." DON'T PANIC ".

With the number of members we have, we should be able to cover all the roles, if only for the short term, while we all strive to push for new members, who will take up the reigns in the years to come.

The logic is unavoidable though. The more jobs we struggle to cover from within the membership then the more outside (professional) resources may have to be employed.

The cost of adopting that route takes us down a declining financial spiral.

Yes, it is true that we have significant liquid financial resources at present, but these could evaporate at an alarming rate if we start having to pay for essential services.

Our cause is a simple one; let's **try to DOUBLE the number of members, before the next AGM.** If every member can persuade just one person to join, then that's the job done.

As the new members come onboard, we will have more people to fill the gaps, or to swell the ranks in our volunteer landscape.

To help you we have a new membership deal that looks like this; anyone recruited before the 2020 AGM gets one year plus the remains of this year for current standard membership fee; £15. Very good value for money.

We hope you will all appreciate the importance of putting yourselves out just a little bit to try to help the society we all work so hard for.

Please give consideration to the possibility that you could give a few hours of your time to support a play you are not performing in; be that selling sweets and coffees, helping behind the bar, or, running the lighting desk – and yes you really could do any of these jobs and more, if you are prepared to give up a little bit of time to learn how. (BTW – most of these tasks are rewarding in their own right)

We can do this if you just pluck up the courage to say to your friends, "Come and joins us, you won't regret it!"

In anticipation of your efforts,

Thanks.

The Membership Team

THE CINDERELLA JOBS (Areas of essential work apart from Acting)

FOH, i.e. Front of House, we need people to be in attendance before, during and after shows to assist members of the audience.

Stage Management, ensuring the smooth running of each show

Administration, helping our Secretary and Treasurer to keep things up to date.

Safety Officer, looking after the infrastructure surrounding all aspects of safety.

Set Designers...if you have an urge to unleash your inner Hockney talk to us.

Wardrobe, we need two or three helpers to assist our wardrobe mistress.

Soft furnishings ... you know ... Curtains and Cushions, and all sorts of trimmings.

Lighting, we can't put on shows in the dark!!!

Sound.....effects and incidental music.

Buildings manager.....keeping our premises safe and attractive.

Publicity and marketing.....Good ideas and enthusiasm required.

Bar....Well, what do you think.

And lots, lots more.

Just ring **01484 716294** or contact the President via email...elhirst34@gmail.com