

1934 - 2024

Clubrooms: 6 - 8 Castle Hill Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4QP
www.richmond-ads.org.uk



Spring 2024 21 - 23 March

SHORT STORIES 2

an Evening of Three 1-Act Comedies by
 Charles Lambert, Jilly McNeil
 & Robert Scott

Directed by **Charles Lambert,
 Scott Fenney & Lee Bowles**

Summer 2024 25 - 27 July
 and 31 July - 3 August

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swale

Directed by **Max Walker**

Autumn 2024 6 - 9 November

Blue Stockings

by Jessica Swale

Directed by **Gary Winn**

Clare Allen - Leaving Present

We wanted to say goodbye and good luck to Clare Allen, the CEO of The Georgian Theatre Royal, who is leaving after eight and a half years to take up a new job running the Arts Centre at Edgehill University in Ormskirk. Her successor, from 2nd January, will be Jo Mawhinney who is well known to RADS members, having herself worked at the GTR for almost 14 years, and we look forward to continuing our strong and happy relationship with the theatre under her stewardship.

Commenting on her new appointment, Jo Mawhinney said: "It is an absolute privilege to be taking on this role. This is a very special venue that not only makes a massive contribution to the region's heritage and tourism but punches well above its weight – in the heart of rural North Yorkshire – as a much-loved and well-respected performance venue."

"I am totally committed to building on the foundations that Clare Allen and previous managers have put in place to ensure that the Theatre goes from strength to strength for the benefit of the local community it serves and the much wider audiences who appreciate its unique historical significance – now and in the future."

As a gesture of our appreciation, we presented Clare on her last day with a replica Sutton United shirt (her team) - judging by their position in League Two, they could do with a new striker! See photo above right.

90th Anniversary Dinner Save the Date!

A further reminder that as part of RADS 90th Anniversary year in 2024, we have arranged a ball to be held at The King's Head in Richmond on Saturday 15th June 2024. There will be a three-course dinner and welcoming drinks. The price and arrangements will be confirmed nearer the date but will be around the £35 per head mark.

So please save the date in your diaries as we wouldn't want anyone to miss out!



Chair's Corner

Happy New Year to one and all! Hope you've survived the festivities and are thoroughly stuffed full of all those Xmas treats. I think I'll put the New Year's Diet off until 2025 at least...

2024 Brings us into RADS 90th anniversary year. For one can't wait! I hope to see as many of you as possible involved in this year, whether it's in plays, at clubnights, or celebrating with us at the anniversary ball in June. Even if you can't commit to a production, the easiest way to support the society is coming along to the theatre to watch our productions, we wouldn't be anywhere without an audience!

Tickets go on sale soon for our Spring production *Short Stories 2*, and I understand rehearsals are well underway for all 3 productions. Keep an eye out on our social media for confirmation that tickets are available to purchase via the Georgian Theatre. But before that we have our first get together of the year at our January Clubnight. We will be watching the National Theatre Production of *The Beaux Stratagem*, come along, because what else will you be doing on a cold January evening?!

As we head into a new year I just want to take the opportunity to remind you all that this is your society and we move in the direction that you want it to. Ideas and suggestions for plays, clubnights or trips are always welcome. Bigger ideas about the way the society runs or functions don't have to wait until the AGM, if you have something to suggest grab a committee member and talk to them about it! In the same vein if you have any concerns or worries please reach out and tell us.

Finally I'm going to round off this month's chair's corner with a poem that I read recently and I hope brings a smile to your face:

A Silly Poem by Spike Milligan
 Said Hamlet to Ophelia,
 I'll draw a sketch of thee,
 What kind of pencil shall I use?
 2B or not 2B?

Have a fantastic start to 2024,

Beki Stevenson
 e-mail: chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk



RADS Social Events

Clubnights

Monday 8th January - National Theatre Play

We will be showing *The Beaux Stratagem* from the local inn, posing as master and servant, they encounter a teeming variety of human obstacles: a crooked landlord, a fearsome highwayman, a fervent French Count, a maid on the make, a drunken husband, a furious butler, a natural healer and a strange, turbulent priest.

Their 'Stratagem': to marry for money. Lodged at the local inn, posing as master and servant, they encounter a teeming variety of human obstacles: a crooked landlord, a fearsome highwayman, a fervent French Count, a maid on the make, a drunken husband, a furious butler, a natural healer and a strange, turbulent priest.

But their greatest obstacle is love. When the Beau meet their match in Dorinda and Mrs Sullen, they are most at risk, for in love they might be truly discovered.

Prompt start at 1930h, bring your own nachos! There is no charge for this event.

Robin Hood for MayFest

Can you help with a RADS performance for MayFest? I'm planning a short panto-style version of a fifteenth century tale of Robin Hood - '*Robin & the Poor Knight*' - it's one of the oldest of the tales, and nicely comedic. It's one I originally adapted as a two-hander, but it would work really well as a five-hander, with the parts allotted thus:

Robin Hood	male or female, any age
Poor Knight	male, older
Abbot	male, any age
Little John / Maid Marian	female, any age
Prior/Merry Man	male, any age

All parts may also be narrators at one point or another.

The piece would be around 20 minutes long, the style knockabout (imagine a troupe of fairly rough-and-ready wandering players), and ideally it would be off-book. However, the narration would be read from a book, which would be on stage and could also serve as a prompt.

All to happen on Monday 6th May, at Richmond Castle. Open air, with a wet weather alternative as required, a couple of performances during the day as part of a fairly packed programme!

Auditions to take place in late March, be ready for a couple of rehearsals a week through April...

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