



WELCOME TO

# THE EVERYMAN THEATRE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018 NO: 273

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this in late July in the middle of a heatwave, the unexpected snowfall in March, which caused the cancellation of our AGM, seems a distant memory! I'm glad to say that the cancellation did not, as I had feared, affect the number of members attending the rearranged meeting in April. We were pleased to welcome Clive Thomas, Chairman of the Board of the Everyman Theatre, and he and his wife, together with Mark Goucher, the Everyman's Chief Executive, joined over fifty members for lunch on stage after the business meeting. Lesley Whittal, who has been a loyal member of our committee – as Social Secretary for several years and latterly as Vice Chairman – did not seek re-election this year. Aidan Rose was elected as our new Vice Chairman and will also continue to look after our



website. I'd like to thank both Lesley and Aidan – as well as the other members of our committee – for their hard work and support.

The AGM lunch on stage is always a popular event, enabling members to see the beautiful auditorium as the actors see it. This year we were entertained after lunch by the BTEC Performing Arts students who had sung for us at our Christmas dinner. They welcomed the opportunity of performing again to a live (if well-fed!) audience, and we thank them for giving us their time.

Our current membership is over 1,300. In May, as you know, the ETA subscriptions were increased, and I'm pleased to say that our May income was well up on last year's

May total. As we've already said, the benefits offered by ETA membership are considerably better than those offered by some other theatres. The total subscriptions for our financial year to June were £21,535. Cheques for £5,000 have been presented to the theatre at recent Meet the Cast parties and the most recent presentation was made by Griff Rhys Jones to Mark Goucher after his show on July 2nd.



In June the Everyman took part in a Volunteering Festival. Many charities took part and the ETA, including several Ambassadors, helped Francesca Goddard man the stall. The BTEC Performing Arts students provided entertainment. If there are

*Continued overleaf.*





any other ETA members who would like to become Ambassadors, please get in touch with Francesca.

Last year, as you know, the ETA gave £1,000 from its profit from fundraising to provide five bursaries for the Everyman Summer School. This enabled young people to attend who would not otherwise have been able to take part. We were touched by letters of appreciation which were received from some of their parents, and we have decided to give £1,000 again this year from our own ETA

funds, to provide the same number of bursaries. I hope you will agree that this is a very worthwhile use of some of the money we raise.

Towards the end of July over thirty ETA members and friends enjoyed our fundraising Sibling Gin event in Matcham's. After a short talk on the history of gin, we were able to sample the various gins, with canapés provided by Sally, the Everyman Catering Manager. The evening ended with a gin-related quiz.

In **Dates for your Diary** (overleaf) you will find details of some of our future events. We look forward to another Chinese meal on October 15th at the Mayflower Restaurant, at the invitation of Chun, the owner, who is also a member of the Everyman Theatre Board. We have also planned the usual Christmas events – a dinner on November 30th in Matcham's and



our ETA Christmas Studio event on December 13th. There will also be several Meet the Cast parties which give you a chance to talk to the actors and which you are welcome to attend even if you have bought your tickets for a different night. Full details of all these events, and any others, will be advertised on our website and on the ETA board in the theatre. I very much look forward to seeing you at these events, and I hope you will enjoy the forthcoming Everyman programme.

**Janet Limb, Chairman**

## SPECIAL OFFERS AND COMPETITIONS



**WIN a pair of TICKETS** for the ground-breaking, lacerating satire on modern society, **Glengarry Glen Ross**, on Monday 4th March. Simply answer the following question:  
*Who wrote this award-winning play?*

Email your answers for both competitions by Friday 5th October to [vip@everymantheatre.org.uk](mailto:vip@everymantheatre.org.uk)

**The winners will be drawn at random.**

**WIN a pair of TICKETS** for the iconic 60s hit musical **HAIR** on 1st April. A British musical theatre star, more famous for her love of **Cats**, starred in the first London production of Hair.  
*Who is she?*



## NEW OFFER FOR ETA MEMBERS!

We are delighted to let you know that we have set up a new membership offer with The Old Courthouse (opposite the theatre).

ETA members can enjoy a FREE glass of prosecco when ordering the pre-theatre menu. Simply show your membership card and mention that you are an ETA member. Enjoy!

# WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATION – A HUNDRED YEARS ON



The Everyman will be marking the centenary of the end of the First World War this Autumn with a specially written play and an Armistice Day Tribute Concert. These two Everyman Theatre events form part of Cheltenham Remembers, a year-long series of activities throughout Cheltenham and beyond, featuring talks, exhibitions, open days, a re-enactment and a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Promenade. For more information visit [www.cheltenhamremembers.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamremembers.org.uk)

At 11am on 11th November 1918 the Armistice was signed at Compiègne in Northern France, between the Allies and Germany, to cease fighting. This agreement signalled the end of World War One, known as the Great War.



On Sunday 11th November at 4pm we are holding an Armistice Day Tribute, commemorating the end of the First World War in style. It will be an epic musical one-off event, featuring professional actors, the Songbirds music group, the

Everyman's community choirs and youth theatre, together with Cheltenham's own Silver Band. Leading the evening will be writer, broadcaster and the ETA's Patron, Pam Ayres. It will be a lavish celebration of music, poetry and dramatic scenes.

**On The Mend** is a new play, interwoven with music and song, set here in Cheltenham between 1914 and 1918. It focuses on the unfolding events of World War One, with a specific look at the nurses and patients who spent time in Cheltenham's Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) hospitals. Produced by the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, as part of the Cheltenham Remembers WWI commemorations **On The Mend** features a cast of three professional actors and nine local performers. The play will be performed at or as near to the sites of the original VAD hospitals to create a truly authentic experience.

The purpose of the hospitals was to receive sick and wounded soldiers from the front who had travelled to the UK along the Army Medical Services evacuation chain. Cheltenham was perfectly placed with its mainline train station. During the course of the war ten VAD hospitals were established in Cheltenham, but due to the unsuitability of some buildings and amalgamations of others, eight main locations were in use for much of the war: Leckhampton Court, Naunton Park, New Court, The Priory, The Racecourse, St John Hospital, St Martins Hospital and Suffolk Hall Hospital.



Cheltenham Ladies' College Archive

Our story begins in the hot summer of 1914 with the celebrations of The Great Unionist August Bank Holiday Fete, but soon the temperature changes as Europe slides into confrontation. With the declaration of War, we soon see the blossoming relationship of William and Grace severed by the call for men to fight. Meanwhile Grace completes her training to become a VAD nurse, where she cares for British and Belgian soldiers alike. **On The Mend** is informed by the historical truth of the time presented through the lens of mainly fictional characters.

Full Casting is yet to be announced but the role of Grace Atwood will be played by local actress Hannah Louise Howell, recently seen in the UK tour of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The play will be directed by **Bryn Holding** whose recent work at the Everyman Theatre includes our co-productions with Hammerpuzzle Theatre Co; *The Woodlanders* (2016) and *Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* (2017). Bryn will then return this winter to direct both of our Studio Christmas shows; *The Velveteen Rabbit* and an adaptation of *The Old Curiosity Shop*.

**On The Mend** will perform at the following venues:

Tues 23rd Oct Cheltenham Racecourse

Thurs 25th Oct University of Gloucestershire  
(Park Campus)

Fri 26th Oct Leckhampton Village Hall

Sat 27th Oct Parabola Arts Centre

**Tickets are free but must be booked via the Everyman Theatre Box Office on 01242 572573**



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 15th October, 7pm**

**Two course dinner (main course & dessert) at The Mayflower Chinese Restaurant in Cheltenham.**

£16 per person including gratuity (open to members and friends). Please send cheques (made out to ETA) to Janet Limb, Springfield, Talbot Road, Cheltenham GL51 6QA by 1st October (Tel. 01242 237484). Please include an e-mail address or telephone number. Full details, including the menu choices (which can be made on the night) are on our website.

**Thursday 1st November, 5-7pm**

**Cheese and Wine evening, sponsored by Malmaison Hotel, Cheltenham**

FREE to ETA members but numbers are limited and on a first come, first served basis, so email vip@everymantheatre.org.uk by Friday 5th October. Maximum 2 tickets per member.



**Tuesday 13th November**

**Post-show Q & A with Ian Hislop & Nick Newman, the writers of new comedy *Trial by Laughter*.**

Find out more about this intriguing story when the two writers join us for a post-show discussion. FREE for Tuesday night's ticketholders. Still a few tickets left.

**Monday 19th November**

**Post-show Meet the Cast of hit comedy *The Messiah* starring Hugh Dennis and Lesley Garrett.**

**Friday 30th November**

**ETA Christmas Dinner in Matcham's.**

Full details will be available on the ETA website or contact Janet Limb on 01242 237484.

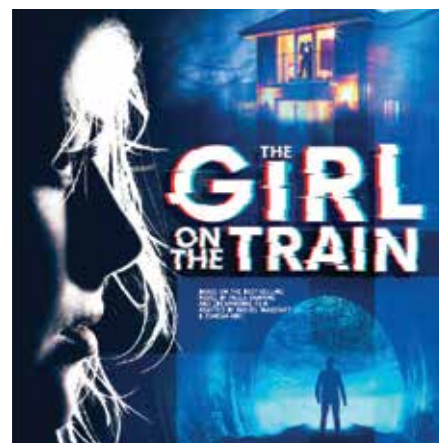


*A Hammerpuzzle previous production.*

**Thursday 13th December**

**ETA Christmas Studio Event.**

An exclusive ETA performance of Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop* performed by Hammerpuzzle Theatre Company who produced last year's popular *A Gloucestershire Midwinter*. Tickets to the show, followed by festive refreshments with the cast and Director, just £19. Maximum 2 tickets per member. Tickets still available on 01242 572573. Book now as this event is always popular.



**Monday 28th January**

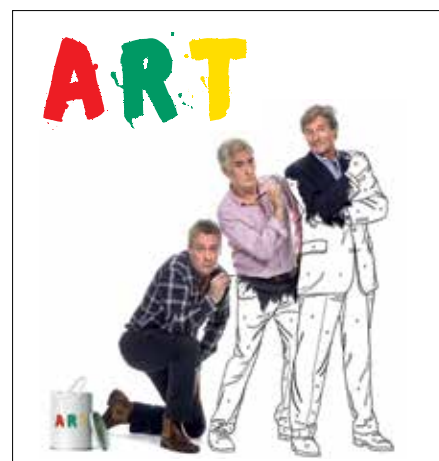
**Post-show Meet the Cast of the new adaptation of Paula Hawkins' best-selling novel *The Girl on the Train*, starring Samantha Womack.**

**Tuesday 12th February**

**Post show Q&A with the cast and Director of the Everyman Theatre's next in-house production, Samuel Beckett's masterpiece, *Waiting for Godot*, starring our very own Tweedy and directed by the Everyman's Creative Director, Paul Milton.**

**Monday 11th March**

**Post-show Meet the Cast of the acclaimed drama *Art*, starring Nigel Havers, Denis Lawson and Stephen Tompkinson.**



**everymantheatreassociation.org.uk**

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The Everyman Theatre Association is a registered charity number 240273



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THEATRE ASSOCIATION