



**EVERYMAN**  
THEATRE ASSOCIATION

FRIENDS OF THE EVERYMAN THEATRE

WELCOME TO

# THE EVERYMAN THEATRE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019 NO: 274

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this early in December the Everyman is busier than ever. The pantomime has begun, and coach loads of children are enjoying the performances. Ticket sales this year have been better than ever, and on the day of the first performance tickets went on sale for next year! Mark Goucher and his team are to be congratulated on the pantomime's success as well as on the range of excellent productions which we have been able to enjoy over recent months and will be able to enjoy in 2019. Many of our members will be looking forward in particular to the visit of Sir Ian McKellen in May. Tickets for his two performances were sold out within a couple of hours of going on sale.



*BTEC students carol singing*

ETA members have, as usual, enjoyed our own Christmas events. Our Christmas Dinner was a convivial occasion. Drinks were served in the Circle Bar, after which we moved to the festively decorated Matchams where a group of lively BTEC Performing Arts students entertained us with Christmas carols.

The Everyman Catering Manager, Sally Bryan, and her staff then served a delicious, traditional turkey meal. Later on, in mid-December, tickets for our exclusive Christmas Studio event – this year, a performance of *The Old Curiosity Shop* presented by Hammerpuzzle in association with The Everyman Theatre – were again sold out. The performance was followed by festive refreshments with the cast and Director. Our thanks go to the theatre's caterers for all they so willingly do for us at our ETA events.

Regular opportunities to meet the casts of the plays at the Everyman are always popular with our members, and indeed our Meet the Cast parties are appreciated by the actors as well, who often comment on the friendly atmosphere in our theatre and the fact

that the ETA offers them hospitality on their first night. Please remember that you will always be welcome to attend the parties even if your tickets are not for that particular night.



*Mayflower Chinese Dinner*

In October we organised a Chinese meal at the Mayflower Restaurant where we enjoyed a warm welcome from the owner, Chun Kong – a member of the Everyman Theatre Board – and his staff. We were pleased that some members, who had not attended an ETA event before, joined us on this occasion and subsequently booked for our Christmas dinner.

*Continued overleaf.*

At the beginning of November our members were invited to a Cheese and Wine evening – a very pleasant occasion sponsored by Malmaison Hotel. Later that month there was a Meet the Cast party after the first performance of *The Messiah*. A cheque for £5,750 was presented to Mark Goucher on the ETA's behalf by the cast – Hugh Dennis, John Marquez and Lesley Garrett.



*The Messiah Meet the Cast Party*

We currently have over 1,300 members and during our last financial year, ending on October 31st, we handed more than £30,000 to the theatre. As you know, we also gave £1,000 from our fundraising to provide five bursaries for the Everyman Summer School.

I hope that some of you were able to see the two successful, well-attended Everyman Theatre events which marked the centenary of the end of WW1 and formed part of Cheltenham Remembers.

Overleaf you will find details of our forthcoming events which include several Meet the Cast parties. Information about all our events will be advertised on our website and on the ETA board in the theatre. I have spoken to several ETA members who hesitate to come to events on their own. Please do come! Our members are a friendly crowd and you will be in good company.

Best wishes for happy theatre-going in 2019!

**Janet Limb**  
*Chairman*

## WELCOME FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARK GOUCHER

Firstly let me wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you all for your support during the past year.

Secondly, I want to thank your ETA Committee. Janet and her team work tirelessly on your behalf to make sure you are offered an exciting and varied programme of events and we at the theatre are very grateful for their support.

2018 has been a successful year for the Everyman. Sales are up

and we attracted full houses for a record number of shows including *Hairspray*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery* and many more, ending with our most successful pantomime ever. We were the opening venue for tours of *The Full Monty* and *Dracula* and we toured our own production of *Quartet* around the UK. We were heavily involved in and contributed to the town's commemorative events to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, with a specially written play *On The Mend*, an epic Armistice Day Tribute Concert and culminating in the spectacular light display on Cheltenham's municipal buildings.

Last year the ETA gave 5 Everyman Theatre Summer School bursaries to young people who otherwise would not have been able to attend. I really believe that the ETA has a commitment to helping children and young people and I need you to continue to support this work. Janet

and the Committee have been very active in fundraising events and I would be grateful if you would help them with other fundraising ideas so that the ETA can continue to contribute to this essential work. The theatre will help whenever it can with fundraising events, so please just ask us or get in touch if you have any suggestions.

Looking ahead to 2019, I have tried to make the new season as diverse and entertaining as possible and one which you and your families will appreciate. There are many exciting shows in the pipeline and I do hope that you will enjoy looking through our new brochure and that you will continue your support of our beautiful theatre and visit as much as possible in 2019.

Very best wishes

**Mark Goucher**  
*Chief Executive*



*2018 Summer School*

## WAITING FOR GODOT

It's a real coup for the Everyman to have secured the rights to Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The Beckett Estate is very particular as to where the play can be performed. We will proudly present our production during February 2019 – not long after our pantomime, and featuring our pantomime star Tweedy (a busy time for him!). *Waiting for Godot* is widely regarded as one of the most important plays of the twentieth century. It is the most famous Absurdist play, dealing with existentialism, the concept of time being non-linear and depression. Having said that, it's very funny!

In our production, both of the two leading actors have a history of playing comedy (Tweedy, obviously, and Jeremy Stockwell, who comes from a vaudeville family). As director, I am taking as a starting point the following quotation from Beckett himself: *"It's a game. It's all a game!"* I'm hoping that we will take a light, physical approach to the play – using comedy as a contrast to those great sombre moments (*"We are born astride a grave"*). I'm delighted that the show will be designed by Dawn Allsopp, who made such a great job of designing *Mrs Warren's Profession* for us a couple of years ago. The

play will also see a return to the Everyman stage of Mark Roper, who was Sarah the Cook in last year's *Dick Whittington*. So... it looks like a nice team to be working with. I'm looking forward to rehearsals a lot; and hope to see ETA members along the way.

**Paul Milton**  
Director



## SPECIAL OFFERS AND COMPETITIONS

**WIN a pair of TICKETS** for Samuel Beckett's undeniable 20th century masterpiece, *Waiting for Godot* starring Tweedy in the iconic role of Estragon, for the opening night on **Thursday 7th February**. Simply answer the following question: In which country was *Waiting for Godot* originally premiered? Email your answer by **Friday 1st February** to [francesca.goddard@everymantheatre.org.uk](mailto:francesca.goddard@everymantheatre.org.uk). The winners will be drawn at random.

## THE EVERYMAN THEATRE'S MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL

During two weeks last August, 55 young people attended the Everyman Theatre Senior Summer School. They explored the work of **Stomp**, the production company renowned for their rhythmical style of performance and ability to use familiar objects in an unfamiliar way. The young people worked with a series of theatre professionals to develop, rehearse and perform extracts of song, dance and drama and inspired by the concept of musical theatre, they explored the acoustic properties of junk! They worked alongside a live band from Peter Gill's Rock School and performed on the Everyman main stage to an audience of over 250 people on their last day.

*"Thanks to the Everyman Theatre Association for my place on Summer School. It has allowed me to make new friends, have fun and develop my performance skills. I feel more confident now and when I go back to school I will be able to tell them I have achieved so much and have a Bronze Arts Award too – not bad for two weeks!"*

The ETA generously funded 5 full bursaries which were awarded to young people who would not otherwise have been able to attend the course because of financial difficulties. This was much appreciated by Summer School staff and of course the young people and their families. As well as advertising the bursaries



across the county, this year the Everyman approached schools to see if they would like to nominate a young person in receipt of pupil premium plus for a bursary, and Bishops Cleeve in Cheltenham and Gloucester Academy were both successful. One young lady, who had been previously educated through the hospital system,

managed to overcome her extreme anxiety to perform alongside her peers and is now looking forward to taking up a part time place at a secondary school in September. Another young lady who lived in the Forest of Dean was able to attend because the bursary enabled her to overcome the expense of travelling into Cheltenham from a rural area

*"Thanks to everyone for our children's places on the Summer School. My two had a blast and are desperate to come back again next year already!"*

each day. One brother and sister who have been coping with their father's Crohns disease (as a result of his liver cancer) were both able to attend because of the bursaries, which they

would not otherwise have been able to as their father can no longer work. All of these young people benefitted from the ETA kindness and all of them wanted to thank each and every member for enabling them to take part in this exciting and fun course.

**Louise Partridge**

*Education & Community Manager*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Wednesday 30th January, 2.30pm**

**Open Rehearsal for *Waiting for Godot*. St Andrew's Church Hall, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham**

A wonderful opportunity to see behind the scenes and watch the Director and cast at work. It is not often that we are allowed the chance to watch a rehearsal and this will be a very special insight into the creative process. Numbers will be limited, so please email francesca.goddard@everymantheatre.org.uk asap to secure your place.

**Thursday 7th February**

**Post-show Meet the Cast 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.**

**Tuesday 12th February**

**Post show Q & A with the cast and Director of *Waiting for Godot*.**

**Monday 18th &**

**Tuesday 19th February**

**7.45pm – Irving Studio Theatre**

Two performances of a new show

***You're Not As Funny As Your***

***Father***, starring Andy Secombe,

son of Harry, in a witty and charming evening of songs and anecdotes.

Tickets will not be on sale to the general public and will be exclusively available for ETA members and friends, costing just £5. Book tickets via the Box Office as normal.

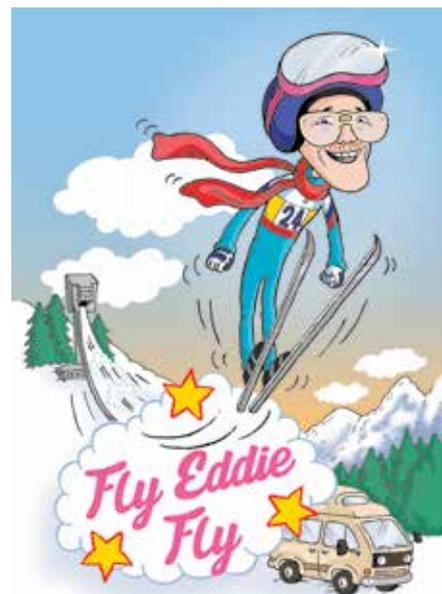
**Monday 11th March**

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

**ETA AGM**

Full details with information about lunch on stage to follow.

**All Meet The Cast Parties take place in Matcham's on the second floor of the theatre.**



**Thursday 23rd May**

Post-show Meet the Cast of our brand new community musical play ***Fly Eddie Fly***, written by our very own Writer's Lab and ETA Committee member Miranda Walker and starring Eddie Edwards as himself! Miranda premiered this play about Eddie in the Studio a few years ago and has rewritten and expanded it for this new main house production with music by Michael Childs.

**Limoncello Evening**

A heads up about a forthcoming tasting evening. Full details, date and how to book to follow.

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