



 The Playhouse Company Cheltenham

 @PHCompany_Chelt

theplayhousecompany.org.uk

Based at CHELTENHAM PLAYHOUSE, BATH ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GL53 7HG

NEWSLETTER

May 2016

57th Annual General Meeting



**Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM on 19 April
We had a really good turn-out, and we actually had an
election for the first time in years!**

John Morgan is our new Chair, and there is a message from him, as well as full details of the new Committee, at the end of this Newsletter

The Constitution has been amended and will go out to you shortly

COMING UP



THE FINAL TEST

By Chris Paling

Directed by Elizabeth Maisey

Production Dates: 17 & 18, and 22 – 25 June 2016

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We would be delighted to see any of you wishing to be involved in the production in any way,
at our **PRODUCTION MEETING** on

Wednesday 11 May, 7pm, in the Green Room Bar

Liz still needs:

A Prompt (ideally from 16 May)

A Props Manager/Co-ordinator

(not onerous, as Props can be set out prior to each performance)

A Modern Dining Table & 3/4 Chairs, and an old Blackberry Phone

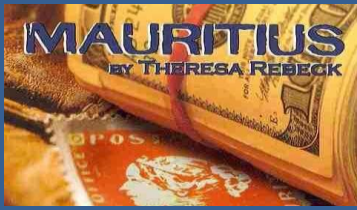
If you can help with any of the above, or want to get involved in any way, please contact

liz.maisey@gmail.com/01242 516996/07969 651729

Liz has found someone to teach her Policeman to Tango, thanks to Lloyd's Mum, Alice Spencer

COMING NEXT

We are delighted to be able to announce that we now have a Production for November:



MAURITIUS by Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Lloyd Spencer

Performance Dates: 4th, 5th & 9th to 12th November 2016

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

READING: Tuesday 17 May, 7.30pm, Pittville Room, Playhouse

From the Director:

Chances are you will not have heard of the play, so to help generate a bit of interest I thought I would write a brief of a synopsis and outline what attracted me to the play:

About the Author

Theresa Rebeck is a multi-award winning American playwright, television writer and novelist. She received a Pulitzer nomination in 2003 for her work on *Omnium Gatherum*. She is also a seasoned television writer, writing for various crime-dramas including *NYPD Blue*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, and *L.A. Law*. She was also the creator of the American musical drama *Smash*.

About Mauritius

After the death of their mother, estranged half-sisters, Jackie and Mary, inherit a prized stamp collection. Jackie aims to sell it and clear her debts. A brief hesitation from a valuer confirms her suspicions; that within the collection lies a fortune in the form of two of the world's rarest stamps.

Mary however has no intention of selling.

Whilst the two siblings argue about what to do, Jackie's stunt has attracted the attention of con men and more dangerous players besides. With the stakes so high, betrayal lurks around every corner. It soon becomes evident some will go to any lengths to secure the collection. Against the odds, unlikely alliances are formed, but ultimately only one can walk away with the prize...

In terms of genre, *Mauritius* is a little hard to define being part dark comedy, part drama, and part crime-thriller. When I say crime-thriller it's not a whodunit, but rather a multi-faceted hustle, at the heart of which lie a couple of stamps! The play gets its title after the stamps in question, the One Penny and Two Penny Mauritius "Post Office" stamps, both of which are individually worth a fortune; together their value heightens exponentially.

The story itself is filled with intrigue, and what really appealed to me as a director was that none of the characters are quite what they first appear. Each of the character's motivations for obtaining the stamps has a distinct bearing on the plot, leaving the audience wondering right until the very end, which of the characters is going to emerge the victor?

The psychological interactions between them play out like a high stakes poker game, with each of the players trying to outwit the other, looking for tells and weaknesses whilst simultaneously trying to conceal their own. The result is a compelling tale of human nature and the levels that people will stoop to when something of high value is put in front of them, even when it appears in the innocuous form of a stamp.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

MUSICAL: MARCH 2017 - update

We hope to be able to update you soon - watch this space!

Membership - update



The Combined Cheltenham Playhouse and Playhouse Company Membership Form is now in use

Processes are currently being defined with the Box Office, and we will have a 2016 Membership Card showing both logos very soon.

Your Committee

YOUR



COMMITTEE



If you have any ideas or want to raise an issue, then let one of us know.

Our next meeting is:

Tuesday 24 May 2016

Message from your new Chair:

Dear Member

As the newly elected Chair of the new amalgamated Playhouse Company, the resident society of the Cheltenham Playhouse; I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members, and give you a brief summary what we have in store for the year to come.

You may be aware that due to a number of reasons we were unable to proceed with our November production of *The Crucible*, but hopefully, this will be part of our 2017 programme. *The Birthday Party* chosen as our second choice, was equally cursed as we could not obtain performing rights; at least for this year. It is with some relief we have another production in mind, and hopefully, by the time you read this, this will be confirmed.

We are still committed to three main shows a year; however, we do wish to encourage more 'off-stage' in the form of play readings, rehearsed play readings and even performed plays. We are desperately short of people to direct or even present plays, and we will be encouraging feedback in the hope, that we may well see from these readings some main show possibilities. Your plays; your presentations!

I do feel it is a privilege to be part of The Cheltenham Playhouse as I think we are incredibly lucky to have such a great venue to practise our art. We now have better storage and workshop facilities, due to tremendous efforts by a few to achieve this. Our enlarged wardrobe is being radically changed and where necessary, culled. Again due to the efforts of our dedicated 'wardrobers' (Is that a word?). Our Props Room does need some urgent care and attention and a request for assistance will be asked in due course.

We will be developing a new FOH co-ordination and you will hear more in the coming months and this is an area where you can really assist. So thank you all for your continuing support and a reminder of our first show this season; *The Final Test* directed by Liz Maisey is on 17th & 18th June and then from 22nd to 25th June - a total of 6 performances. It promises to be excellent! Please come.

John Morgan
Chair