

THE
ROSE
THEATRE

AUTUMN/
WINTER
2023/24

Home of
THE
NONENTITIES
Society



THE ROSE THEATRE | KIDDERMINSTER

BOX OFFICE: 01562 743745 | www.rosetheatre.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NONENTITIES SOCIETY

Dear Patrons

Welcome to the Autumn-Winter season brochure for the Rose Theatre.

I must first of all begin by thanking you all for your loyalty and patronage during what was for us a very successful season and we hope, with your help, to be able to continue that success in 2023-4.

The Rose Theatre gets many requests to showcase local artists, but we have very few spaces in our season to do so. When there isn't anything on the stage, we are often building and designing the set for the next show. We endeavour to be supportive of local talent and with that in mind, we open our season with a play by local writer David Tristram – **"Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime"**. We are also delighted that David himself will return with the **Flying Ducks** to treat us to an evening of one-act plays in early October.

We also host KODS with Amanda Whittington's **Ladies Day**, Carpet Trades Musical Theatre with **My Fair Lady** and December sees us once again collaborate with Worcestershire based musical director Stephen Watkins and Wymysical Theatre for our ever-popular **Christmas Entertainment**.

We have one of my personal favourites, **Rumpus Theatre Company**, returning with "What's Your Poison?" and I am also delighted that the big band music will

once again be heard in the Rose with the **Crown Phoenix Big Band** performing for us.

Away from the stage, the Rose has completed the final stage of our recovery from the pandemic, by recruiting a venue manager to run the office. We are able to extend our ticket office opening hours to weekdays 10:30 – 15:00 with the exception of Wednesday when we are open 10:30 – 12:30 and of course tickets are available 24/7 online. Please note our new ticket price brackets – giving you cheaper weekend tickets compared to last season - and our policy regarding refunds and exchanges.

Details of the Nonentities plays are in the following pages - The dark tale of **Agnes of God** is an absolute must for those of you who love the atmosphere of the studio and with perennial favourite **The Ghost Train** in December we're sure you will enjoy your winter nights with us. When January comes, we are performing a work by Anthony Horowitz; **Mindgame** is a wonderful example of the modern psychological thriller. A great way to start 2024.

Thank you as ever for your support. We at the Rose all love what we do and we hope you will love it too.

Bob Graham

Chair of The Nonentities Society

Monday 11th – Saturday 16th September INSPECTOR DRAKE AND THE PERFEKT CRIME By David Tristram

The Nonentities Society – Main House (A)

Let's get the season started with some laughs!

When a genius commits a murder, the plan is perfect. But is it foolproof? Inspector Drake is back to face his greatest-ever challenge. Who is the mysterious Doctor Short, and why did he marry a warthog? Has he murdered his fourth wife - or did she murder him first? These are just some of the questions facing the indomitable Drake.

Penned by local writer David Tristram, creator of the much-loved Black Country character 'Doreen' who graced the stage at our theatre a few years ago, it is one of many plays in which the hapless Inspector Drake features. Tristram is one of the UK's most popular and performed comedy playwrights and The Nonentities can't wait to showcase this fabulous play. He will be performing at The Rose in person on 6th October in his touring production of UNUSUAL SHORTS – see page 5 for further details.

★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ Standard Ticket Prices



Saturday 16th September 10am – 2pm

OPEN DAY AT THE ROSE THEATRE

Have you ever wanted to see what goes on behind the scenes at the theatre? Do you fancy a peek in our wardrobes and technical box? Would you like to venture into the Aladdin's cave of our props room? Then join us for a guided tour of our lovely theatre and meet our friendly members. Perhaps you are considering joining us and would like to tread the boards as an actor, help build the sets or be a front of house volunteer. Come and have a chat and find out how to do it. We are particularly keen to recruit anyone with technical skills – any sound or lighting experts out there?

The theatre will be a hive of activity with KRYPT, our youth group, having its regular session and preparations to get our theatre ready for the closing night of Inspector Drake play! Turn up any time between 10am and 2pm and enjoy free refreshments and a warm welcome!



Throughout this booklet

(A) denotes an Amateur production (P) denotes a Professional production

Cover photographs by Colin Hill

Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd September

LADIES' DAY

by Amanda Whittington

Kidderminster Operatic and Dramatic Society –
Main House (A)



An exuberant comedy about four likely lasses from the Hull fish docks on a day trip to the races, from the author of Be My Baby. Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, the year it relocated to York.

Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. If their luck holds, they could hit the jackpot - and more besides...

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

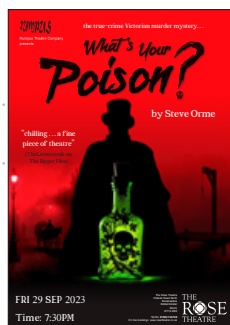
★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ All Tickets £16

Friday 29th September

WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

by Steve Orme

Rumpus Theatre Company – Main House (P)



William Palmer is a respectable member of the medical profession ... so why do so many people around him die suddenly, and without apparent explanation? This fascinating new play about real-life 19th century Doctor Palmer is seen from both the atmospheric Victorian perspective -the doctor, his family and friends, and his trial - and also the contemporary 21st century perspective - a young couple fascinated by this true-crime case ... and it delivers a delicious final twist!

Rumpus' production of THE RIPPER FILES was "chilling ... a fine piece of theatre" (TheLatest.co.uk) while THE TELL-TALE HEART was "something to make [the audience's] blood run cold ... I jumped out of my seat" (British Theatre Guide)

What's Your Poison? promises much much more!

Rumpus ... "masters of the high-audience appeal production" (Derbyshire Times)

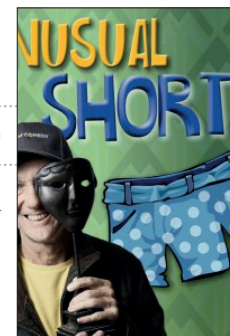
★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ All Tickets £18 (Concessions £16)

Friday 6th October

UNUSUAL SHORTS

By David Tristram

Flying Ducks Theatre Company – Main House (P)



ONCE UPON A TIME, way back in 1985, a Black Country lad called David Tristram 'had a go' at writing a play – just for fun. He formed his own theatre company, put his play to the test at a local pub venue, and the audiences absolutely loved it. Four decades later, David is now one of the UK's most successful comedy playwrights, with 31 published plays being performed all over the world in multiple languages - including, fortunately enough, English. The Nonentities opening play this season was part of the Inspector Drake series – now is your chance to see the author!

This year, to commemorate the historic milestone of 10,000 worldwide performances, he decided to go back to his roots, with a tour of local small theatres and village halls. As well as offering some hilarious insights into the mind of a comedy writer, David will also introduce live extracts of some of his best-loved plays, exquisitely performed by two members of the original Flying Ducks Theatre Company – Alan Birch and Sarah Raymond.

So, join us, for UNUSUAL SHORTS – an evening of simply-staged, joyous comedy sketches, quirky characters, audio-visual treats, and a delicate sprinkling of vintage live music.

★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ All Tickets £10

Saturday 7th October

THE CROWN PHOENIX BIG BAND'S AUTUMN CONCERT

Main House (A)



The Crown Phoenix is a long established and accomplished 15-piece big band based in Worcestershire, performing a wide variety of jazz and swing classics from the 1930s and 40s to the present day, under the superb direction of Nigel Beer. There's something for all tastes, including well-known favourites from legends Glenn Miller and Count Basie. Their vocalist, Julie Knight, brings to life the magic of the era. With special guest Peter Tomlinson acting as Master of Ceremonies, regaling you with stories of times gone by, you will have an evening to remember.

★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ All Tickets £12

Monday 16th – Saturday 21st October

MY FAIR LADY Book and Lyrics by Alan J Lerner Music by Frederick Loewe

Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company – Main House (A)

A warm welcome back to Carpet Trades. Following their fabulous award-winning Sound of Music last season, they present another favourite show for musical lovers everywhere!

Lerner and Loewe's award-winning story of a cockney flower girl transformed into an elegant lady, features one of musical theatre's greatest scores, including: 'Wouldn't It Be Lovely?',

'With a Little Bit of Luck', 'The Rain in Spain', 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'On the Street Where You Live', 'Get Me to the Church on Time'. So, sit back and enjoy classic musical theatre.

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and Gabriel Pascal's Motion Picture 'PYGMALION'.

Original Production directed and staged by Moss Hart. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk



★ Curtain up 7.30pm Evening 2.30pm Matinee £ Ticket Prices Evenings £16 Matinee £15

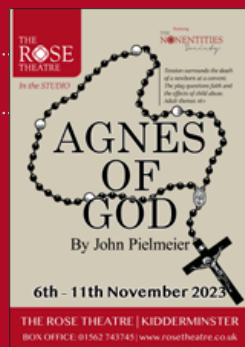
Monday 6th – Saturday 11th November

AGNES OF GOD By John Pielmeier

The Nonentities Society – Studio (A)

Summoned to a convent, Dr. Martha Livingstone, a court-appointed psychiatrist, is charged with assessing the sanity of a novice accused of murdering her newborn. Miriam Ruth, the Mother Superior, determinedly keeps young Agnes from the doctor, further arousing Livingstone's suspicions. Who killed the infant, and who fathered the tiny victim? Livingstone's questions force all three women to re-examine the meaning of faith and the power of love, leading to a dramatic, compelling climax.

John Pielmeier's provocative drama is a gripping and dynamic piece of theatre. It will be an emotional experience in the intimate setting of our studio. It premiered on Broadway in 1982 and the film adaptation starring Jane Fonda, Meg Tilly and Anne Bancroft earned three Academy Award nominations. "Riveting, powerful, electrifying drama." New York Daily News. The play contains adult themes and mental health issues. Recommended viewing age 16+



★ Curtain up 7.30 pm £ Standard Studio Ticket Prices

Monday 27th November – Saturday 2nd December

GHOST TRAIN

By Arnold Ridley (Revised)

Adapted by Jocelyn and Nicholas Ridley

The Nonentities Society – Main House (A)

Making a welcome return to The Rose since it last graced our stage in 1997, is this much-loved drama. We will be performing the revised version of this play.

Arnold Ridley's classic comedy-thriller, The Ghost Train, was first produced in 1925 and has been a firm favourite with professional and non-professional theatre companies ever since. Six passengers find themselves stranded late at night in the waiting-room of an isolated Cornish railway station. Ignoring the ghostly tales and dire warnings of the stationmaster, they decide to stay where they are until morning – with terrifying consequences. Finally, all is revealed, and the details of a fiendish plot are laid bare.

What better way to spend a winter's evening than watching this ghostly story unfold.

★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ Standard Ticket Prices



Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th December

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

The Nonentities and Guests – Main House (A)

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the traditional songs, sketches and readings. Once again, The Nonentities will collaborate with Musical Director, Stephen Watkins and members and supporters of Wymysical Theatre along with other local performers to bring you your annual dose of Christmas merriment.

You'll be expected to do your bit too and join in the communal carol items!

After the show there will be mince pies and mulled wine (all part of the ticket price!) to put you in the festive mood.

★ Curtain up 7.30pm £ Standard Ticket Prices



Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th December

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

By Rebecca Wilbrooke

KRYPT Junior and Senior groups - Main House (A)

The Christmas show from KRYPT is always a joy – both groups coming together for their end of year performance which has been preceded by weeks of hard work (and fun!) during their term time Saturday morning sessions.

Robin Hood is up to his old tricks again (Oh yes he is!) but, when two Fairytale worlds collide, will our plucky young hero be able to live up to the legend?

With a crazy cast of characters and a world full of colour and music, KRYPT's Company are sure to delight you with this classic pantomime romp.

★ Curtain up Saturday 7.30pm Sunday 2.30pm

£ Ticket Prices £10 Adult (Concessions £5)



FUTURE SHOWS...



Monday 29th January – Saturday 3rd February

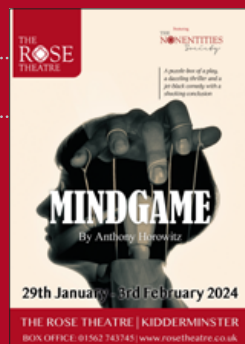
MINDGAME By Anthony Horowitz

The Nonentities Society - Main House (A)

When Mark Styler, a writer of glossy 'true crime' paperbacks, tries to get an interview with Easterman, a notorious serial killer, he has no idea what he's walking into. First, he has to get past Dr Farquhar, the quixotic head of Fairfields - the asylum where Easterman is kept. But soon he discovers that nothing is what it seems. Who is the mysterious Borson? Where did he get the meat in the fridge? And why isn't the skeleton in the closet? Mindgame is a puzzle-box of a play. A dazzling thriller and a jet-black comedy that twists its way towards a shocking conclusion. Reading the text is the only way to uncover all the clues.

Anthony Horowitz is a prolific author with many TV dramas to his credit; Foyle's War, Collision and the recent Magpie Murders were all created by him. If you're looking for well-crafted tension and thrills on a chill winter's evening, this is the play for you!

★ Curtain up 7.30 pm £ Standard Ticket Prices



FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AT THE ROSE

ROSE THEATRE STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Sharon Tandy as our venue manager. Many of the roles in the theatre will continue to be run by volunteer members; this includes all Bar, Front of House and some Box Office. If you would like to join us and be involved in any of our supporting roles, please have a look at the Get Involved section on our website. You can download an application form or fill in one at the theatre. Alternatively, e mail your details to admin@rosetheatre.co.uk and we will get back to you

COFFEE BAR

Open from 6.45pm until the end of the last interval for tea, coffees, soft drinks and a variety of sweets, ice creams and confectionery.

LICENSED BAR

Open from 6.45 pm. Enjoy a drink before the show or at the interval in our cosy bar. Interval drinks can be pre-ordered to avoid waiting.

PARKING

Do allow sufficient time for parking in the Free Car Park on Broadwaters Drive – latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable break in the performance. Please respect our neighbours and park considerately, allowing access to driveways. Do not park in the spaces directly outside the theatre. These are reserved for staff and cast members.

DISABLED PARKING

There are four parking spaces reserved for Disabled Badge holders. These **MUST** be reserved in advance. Disabled Badge details will be asked for together with a name and car registration number. The space will then be allocated and marked with these details. Please **DO NOT** park in a bay unless it has been reserved for you. There are an additional two disabled bays in the Broadwaters Car Park.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

The theatre has wheelchair access to the Main Auditorium only and limited seats are reserved for wheelchairs and their carers. These must be booked directly with the theatre.

YOUNG CHILDREN

Children under the age of three are not permitted to any evening performances. All children must have a valid ticket. Please check with our programme details that the show you are booking is suitable for young people. Our Box Office staff are happy to assist.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Standard Ticket Prices – Concession prices in brackets

	Monday	Tuesday – Saturday
Main House	£13	£14 (£13)
Studio	£12	£13 (£12)

BOOKINGS

- PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR CURRENT BOX OFFICE OPENING TIMES FOR BOOKINGS IN PERSON OR BY PHONE ARE: Monday – Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Call on 01562 743745. If the times are inconvenient for you to call, please leave a message and one of our volunteers will get back to you.
- Book online at www.rosetheatre.co.uk (processing fee of 80p per ticket).
- If you require tickets to be posted, a charge of £1 is made.
- With the exception of group bookings, we do not accept reservations.

CONCESSIONS

These are available as listed for Senior Citizens, Students and Children under 16.

GROUP BOOKINGS

For every ten tickets purchased for the same Nonentities show, one free ticket given. Please contact the Box Office to arrange these bookings.

GIFT VOUCHERS

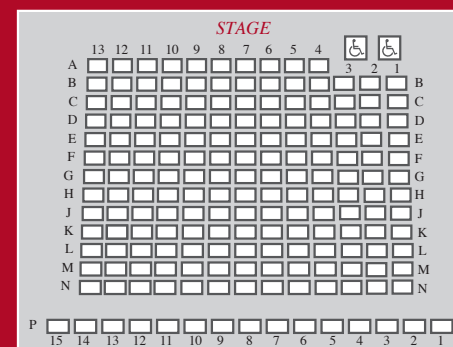
Why not treat someone with a Rose Theatre gift voucher? Available from the Box Office – They can be redeemed against any of our forthcoming shows.

STUDIO TICKETS

Please note that you will not be given an allocated seat for Studio performances and so arrival before 7.15pm is advisable. There is no wheelchair access to the Studio which is on the First Floor.

REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

It is general practice that no refunds or exchanges will be made. We will endeavour to exchange tickets for another night of the same NONENTITIES production. Please contact the Box Office with queries. We reserve the right to make a transaction charge.



AUDITORIUM

MAIN HOUSE

Seats 183
inc disabled seats

STUDIO

Seats 60

Both areas now fully air-conditioned for your comfort

Hire The Rose for Plays, Concerts, Meetings and Lectures – please ask at the Box Office for details.

YOUR 2023/24 FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE ROSE

SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday 11th – Saturday 16th September

**INSPECTOR DRAKE AND THE
PERFEKT CRIME (A)**

The Nonentities Society

Saturday 16th September 10am – 2pm

OPEN DAY AT THE ROSE THEATRE

Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd September

LADIES' DAY (A)

Kidderminster Operatic and Dramatic
Society

Friday 29th September

WHAT'S YOUR POISON? (P)

Rumpus Theatre Company

OCTOBER 2023

Friday 6th October

UNUSUAL SHORTS (P)

Flying Ducks Theatre

Saturday 7th October

**THE CROWN PHOENIX BIG BAND'S
AUTUMN CONCERT (A)**

Monday 16th – Saturday 21st October

MY FAIR LADY (A)

Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company

NOVEMBER 2023

Monday 6th – Saturday 11th November

AGNES OF GOD (A)

The Nonentities Society

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Monday 27th November –

Saturday 2nd December

GHOST TRAIN (A)

The Nonentities Society

DECEMBER 2023

Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th December

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT (A)

The Nonentities Society and Guests

Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th December

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES

IN THE WOOD (A)

KRYPT Junior and Senior groups

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Monday 29th January –

Saturday 3rd February

MINDGAME (A)

The Nonentities Society

*Please keep an eye on our website for
more up to date information about
forthcoming shows*

**BOOKING NOW OPEN –
CONTACT THE BOX OFFICE
FOR YOUR TICKETS**

01562 743745
www.rosetheatre.co.uk

admin@rosetheatre.co.uk

Registered Charity no 202008



LOCATION

The Rose Theatre, Chester Road North
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