



## **Newsletter Winter 2022/23**

### **Dear Members and Friends,**

A very belated Happy New Year to you all!

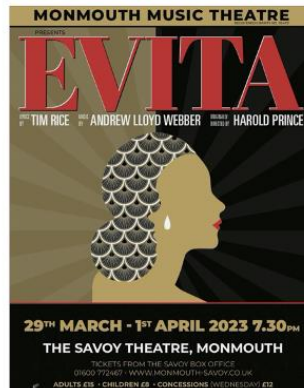
Apologies for the delay in writing this but I've been somewhat side-tracked by a trip to Australia. I know, nobody likes a show off but given that we all like to show off from time to time, I gathered I was in good company!

I hope you all had a wonderful time over the festive period and have seen off any January blues! February so far has been a cold one to say the least. Cast members currently rehearsing for Evita will attest to that, donning thermals, hats, scarfs, and gloves in the Methodist Hall! However, the frosty mornings, bright sunshine, and clear blue skies we're experiencing now highlight the sheer beauty of our part of the world.

## What's going on...

### Evita

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023  
The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth



With just 8 weeks to go, rehearsals are well under way. Principals Cait Davies, Corey Jones, Tom Rigby, Adrian Bevan and Ellie Stevens as well as all the chorus members are smashing their lyrics and vocals. Director Paul Ellis, Musical Director Ruth Friend, Accompanist and Repetiteur Helen Stidolph, Choreographer Amelia Baraskiewicz and Production Secretary Keri Russell have and are working tirelessly on this ambitious production. It's going to be great! If you haven't yet bought your tickets, please do. Support from members and friends is vital to the success of our theatre group.



### What's next?

We're pleased to confirm that our Autumn production will be Gilbert and Sullivan's **Pirates of Penzance**.

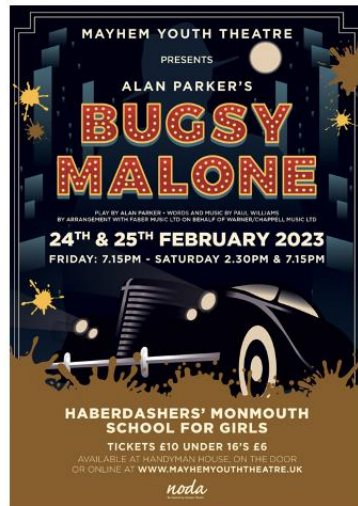


This comic opera is full of sentimental pirates, blundering policemen, absurd adventures and improbable paradoxes. Frederic, a pirate's apprentice, falls head-over-heels in love with Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley. Frederic is due to be released from his apprenticeship on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, but there's a snag. Born on 29<sup>th</sup> February, Frederic discovers that he is technically still a youngster. Although very much in love, his dedication to duty is unshakeable. Can he find a way to live happily-ever-after with Mabel?

The show will be at The Savoy from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Updates regarding auditions and rehearsals will be posted on Facebook, Instagram and our website in due course. We are especially appealing for **men** to come out of the woodwork and join us in what will be an absolute romp! New members are most welcome so if you know anyone who's interested in dipping their toe into the waters of musical theatre, do bring them along. They'll be warmly welcomed...

**What else is happening...**

## **Mayhem Youth Theatre's Bugsy Malone**

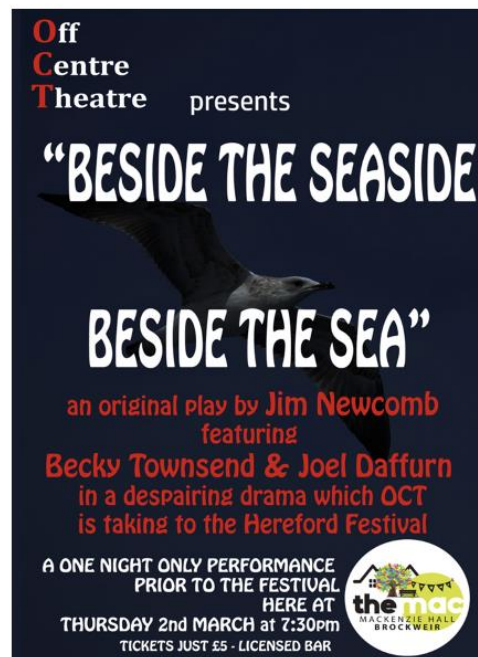


Prohibition era, New York. A city full of mobsters, showgirls and dreamers. Rival gangster bosses Fat Sam and Dandy Dan are at loggerheads. The custard pies are flying and Dandy Dan's gang has gotten the upper hand since obtaining the new-fangled "splurge" gun. Now, Fat Sam and his bumbling buffoons are in real trouble!

Enter Bugsy Malone, a penniless one-time boxer and all-round nice guy. All Bugsy really wants to do is spend time with his new love, Blousey, but will he be able to resist seductive songstress Tallulah and stay out of trouble long enough to help Fat Sam to defend his business?

Directed by Andrew Griffiths, 40 plus local children aged 6-12 will be taking part in this iconic musical. Do support them. Maybe you'll get to see a future star of stage and screen!

## Off Centre Theatre's Beside the Seaside

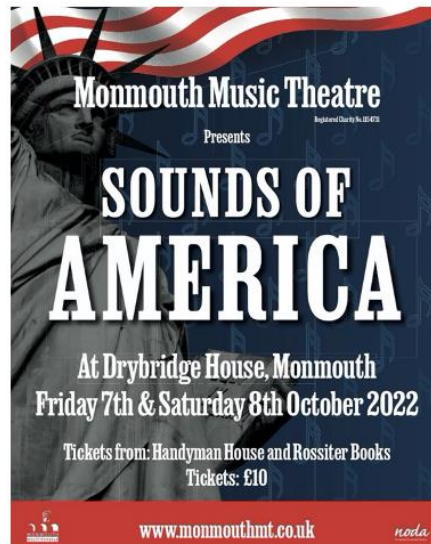


MMT member Becky Townsend is taking to the stage in an original play! Following on from the success of The Hollow with Off Centre Theatre, Becky and fellow cast member Joel are acting opposite one another once again in Beside the Seaside Beside the Sea, a despairing drama that takes you on an emotional rollercoaster journeying through the relationship between Helen and David. The 50 minute performance explores important and tragic subjects rarely seen on stage and is a must see! The play will be performed in the 2pm performance slot on Saturday March 11th at The Market Theatre in Ledbury as part of the Hereford Drama Festival. Tickets are £10 and can be bought through the theatre website. Break a leg Becky!



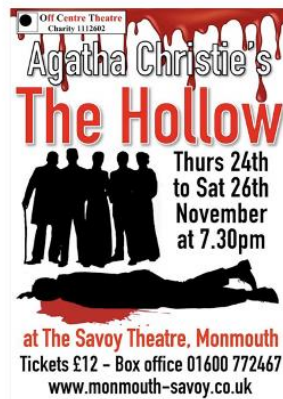
**What's been going on...**

## **Sounds of America**



Directed by Jane Bryant our fundraiser Sounds of America was huge fun and raised almost £1000 for the MMT coffers! A big thank you to all our performers, helpers and audiences for their support.

## **Off Centre Theatre's The Hollow**



Congratulations to Director Jane Bryant and the cast of Off Centre Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's The Hollow. Amongst the stellar cast were MMT members Becky Townsend and

Tom Rigby, Tony Wells and Lynne Tanner. Backstage assistance was provided by Jenny Weston, Gay Rogers, Judith Rossiter and Richard Ellis. The Hollow was a huge hit. So much so it was Off Centre Theatre's best-selling play in 30 years!

## Kilpeck's Red Riding Hood



Congratulations to MMT member Nick Thompson for an energetic and playful performance as the Dame in Kilpeck's Pantomime Red Riding Hood.

## Christmas Hamper & Social Evening

Well done Helen Stidolph who won the much-coveted Christmas hamper. Raffle ticket sales raised over £200, even more to add to the coffers! I hear the social evening was a blast with many attendees sporting Christmas regalia.



## **Pointless!**

Jane Bryant has been a very busy retiree of late. Not only did she direct the aforementioned, she was also a recent contestant on BBC One's quiz show *Pointless!* In each episode four teams of two contestants attempt to find correct but obscure answers to four rounds of general knowledge questions with the winning team eligible to compete for the show's cash jackpot. To find out how Jane and her fellow contestant did, catch-up on iPlayer.



## **Songs of Praise!**

Our very own Glad Llewellyn attended the Christmas Day and New Year's Day broadcasts of Songs of Praise at Llandaff Cathedral. Predictably, she caught the camera both times!





## **New Baby**

Congratulations to Johnny and Katie Goddart on the birth of baby Isabelle. Sending very best wishes on behalf of MMT.

## **Fundraising**

### **Coffee Morning**

We'll be hosting a coffee morning at Monmouth Priory on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 from 10-12am. Do come along and show your support and if you have a talent for cake-making, bring one along.

### **Easyfundraising**



As mentioned in my last newsletter, **Easyfundraising** is the UK's biggest charity shopping site. It partners with over 7,000 brands who donate part of what you spend online to a cause of your choice. To date, we have raised £1170.00 via 30 supporters. You can sign up on their website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). This is an easy, cost-free way for us to raise money. If you get a minute do take a look.

## **The End**

That concludes my second newsletter. I hope this brings you up to speed with what's happening, happened with our all-action theatre community. Do let me know if you've anything going on that's newsworthy.

To the next round-up in the Spring!

**Emma**