



2024 Autumn play

Absent Friends

Written by: Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by: John Casey

Rehearsal Schedule

We are holding our Monday and Wednesday rehearsals at 7.30pm in Long Hanborough Methodist Church Hall OX29 8JX
From Monday 14th October we move back to Eynsham Village Hall OX29 4QW

Start set build – Saturday 9th November
Dress rehearsal – Monday 25th November
Performance dates – Wed 27th – Sat 30th Nov
Set strike – Sunday 1st December

Notices



Props

The 'props' team (Keith, Judy, Ann and Valerie) would be so very grateful if you would all check the 'props list' for Absent Friends to see if you have any of the myriad of 1970's props that we are currently trying to source.

Tickets

Tickets for Absent Friends are now on sale and are available to purchase from Evenlode DIY in Eynsham, by contacting Denise: 07721 744020, bart.players@gmail.com or online from: www.trybooking.com/uk/DVGG

Events and announcements

Absent Friends – publicity

Denise has tickets for sale at many of our rehearsals so please ask if you would like to reserve your tickets then.

We also have posters and leaflets available (printed and digital) – please contact Denise if you would like any of the advertising materials.

Also available are an email banner and a short video advert.



Bartholomew Players Committee

There have been some changes in our committee – sadly both Trisha Marshall and Graham Diacon have decided to step down from their roles and they will be a huge loss at our committee meetings. However we are delighted to welcome two new members – Claire Crowther has taken over the Village Hall Liaison role and John Palmer is our new Treasurer. They have big shoes to fill but we know they will do a wonderful job. This means that our committee now consists of: Chairman: Gareth Hammond, Secretary: Debi Diacon, Publicity: Denise Santilli, Health and Safety: Keith Pimm, Village Hall Liaison: Claire Crowther, Treasurer: John Palmer, Website/Social Media: Elaine Leggett.

If you have any issues you would like raised at our next meeting (24th October) please do let us know.

Bartholomew Players 50th Anniversary!

Bartholomew Players was formed in 1975 so next year we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

We are looking for ways to celebrate this milestone so if you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch.

NODA Summer School 2024



by Elaine Leggett

An introduction to 'Drama Games'

It is no secret that I have always hated drama games – every time it was suggested “Shall we play a game?” my heart sank – I could see no rhyme or reason for them. Why waste time on playing pointless games when we could be rehearsing?

However – Summer School has changed all that!

We spent the first hour of each morning at Summer School playing one game or another – and as the week wore on I eventually got the gist of how important games can be. By the end of the week members of the class were beginning to know each other's movements and positions and could even second-guess where each would be at any given moment. While playing the games we got a feel for each others personalities, our spatial awareness improved and our trust in each other grew. And there – I'd got it!

Drama games help us to feel more comfortable in our bodies, with our voices and with each other. If you're new to a community or group of people, drama games can help you to become more confident and comfortable in front of others. They also teach us how to express ourselves through our bodies and voices.

At the beginning of the week I felt a little shell-shocked! In the first morning I'd been skipping around the room and pretending to be a bee – things I hadn't done since I was a child! But, I have to say.. it was quite liberating (and exhausting). By the end of the week I was so much more aware of my positioning on the stage, I could intuitively predict where my fellow actors were heading and the choreography of a scene became much more fluid.

So, the next time someone suggests a game I'll no longer let out a heavy sigh and wonder when it'll be time for it to stop – I'll work out what the point of the game is and make the most of the experience.

There is a point to drama games – and they can be fun!

“ I would encourage everyone to apply for next years' Summer School – an amazing experience I will never forget! ”

Elaine

Examples

Theatre warm up games and exercises help actors prepare for performances in a number of ways, including:

- Relaxation: Warmups can help actors relax and get rid of anxiety.
- Physical preparation: Warmups can help actors prepare their bodies for the physical demands of a performance.
- Voice training: Warmups can help actors train their voices, especially for improv.
- Creativity: Warmups can encourage creativity and help actors stretch their imaginations.
- Experimentation: Warmups can foster experimentation without judgment.
- Loosening up: Warmups can help actors loosen up mentally, emotionally, and physically.
- Building connections: Warmups can help build connections with the group.
- Increasing energy: Warmups can help actors demonstrate the energy and enthusiasm required for performance.

Some examples of drama games include:

Zip, Zap, Zop: A game similar to hot potato, where players take turns clapping, pointing, and saying "zip, zap, zop".

Siren: A humming warm-up that helps actors explore and extend their vocal range.

Soundscapes: A game where a group creates a sound picture using their voices and bodies.

Status Pictures: A game where players create a still image in pairs, with one player having a higher status than the other.

One word story: In this game, a group of people takes turns saying one word to create a story.

Mirror: Two people stand across from each other and mirror each other's movements, trying to stay in sync.

Yes, and.. : This game is all about collaboration and building on each other's ideas.

Tongue twisters: Learning tongue twisters helps actors pay attention to the individual sounds words contain.

Look Down, Look Up: This is a fun and energising game to help your class increase their focus, concentration and awareness.

The NODA Summer School

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Be inspired by amateur theatre

Bartholomew Players Summer School Bursary

The Bartholomew Players Summer School bursary is open to any member of Bartholomew Players and is available as a result of the generous fundraising by our patrons, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran.

What is NODA Summer School?

It's a one week shared learning environment for adults who want to learn and improve their acting, singing, drama or technical skills with regard to amateur theatre.

What level of pre-course skill or experience do I need?

In most cases, no experience at all. Some courses do require some pre course preparation, but most simply need you to come prepared to work hard with a group of people in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Is it all work and no play?

Not at all. The social side is as important as the sessions themselves. The courses are designed to be educational but also fun. Then after classes, there are social events arranged on 4 nights with additional alternative taster sessions on the 2 other nights. However, you will find there are many student arranged 'not timetabled' after school events. These can often be the most fun of all but be prepared for these to happen late at night.

Professional Training

- A full week of professional training from the best in the business.
- Quality professional training with real, lasting benefits to performers, directors and technicians alike.
- Fully residential experience in a purpose-built training centre.
- An opportunity to meet and socialise with like-minded people who are 'passionate about theatre'.

What course can I choose

The committee will make a short-list of suitable courses available and you can choose from one of them.

When to book

Booking for NODA Theatre Summer School 2025 will open on 1st December 2024.

What date is Summer School 2025

Saturday 26th July – 2nd August 2025.

Where is the Summer School held?

The courses are held in Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, Yarnfield, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NL.

What is included?

The courses run from Saturday evening to Friday afternoon from 9.15am until 5pm (except for the Friday which is a 3pm finish) and there are optional (included) classes and other activities every evening. The rooms in the conference centre are comfortable and a short walk to the classes and all food is provided. The only extras you need to pay for are any scripts or materials required for your course, drinks from the bar and a small fee to enter the fun competitions.

Is there financial help available?

Yes there is. Bartholomew Players have a bursary to support one applicant each year with up to 50% towards funding for the Summer School. You can also apply separately for financial assistance through NODA – see the NODA website for more details.

How do I book

Courses are open to everyone – you will need to create a NODA account and log in on 1st December to book a place on your chosen course. If you are applying through the bursary – once you have received the go-ahead for your application from the committee, you apply in the normal way and you will be invoiced by NODA as the Summer School date approaches and Bartholomew Players will pay up to 50% of the course fee into your account.

Future Dates

2026 1st August – 8th August

2027 31st July – 7th August

“ If you've ever been intrigued by doing a NODA theatre summer school it truly is the most amazingly rewarding bubble of love, support and gorgeous soul food. Give it a go. You may surprise yourself! ”

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