



2024 Autumn play

Absent Friends

Written by: Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by: John Casey

Rehearsal Schedule

Monday and Wednesday rehearsals will begin on Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm in Long Hanborough Methodist Church Hall OX29 8JX

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 props that we are currently trying to source.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals begin on Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm in Long Hanborough Methodist Church Hall OX29 8JX

Events and announcements

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 do let us know.

Some suggestions we have had so far are:

- Free workshops given by expert tutors
- Entries to drama festivals
- Trips to other local theatre group productions
- Regular play reading evenings
- Social events: meals, drinks etc

We are also thinking of some great plays to perform. Some thoughts we've had are:

- Present Laughter by Noël Coward
 - The Government Inspector by Nikolai Gogol
 - Accidental Death of an Anarchist by Dario Fo
- if you have any ideas of suitable plays please do let us know.

Absent Friends – tickets

Tickets for Absent Friends will go on sale on Monday 2nd September and will be 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

Denise will also have 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.



The NODA Summer School

noda

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! ”

CE 2024

NODA Summer School 2024



by Elaine Leggett

Bartholomew Players Summer School Bursary

I was lucky enough to receive the 2024 Bartholomew Players Summer School bursary and it was an amazing experience! It is a full-on week – action packed with classes, evening classes, events, socialising, networking and generally being tired out but full of energising ideas.

My course: Acting in Contemporary Theatre

This practical acting course explored a breadth of plays in a vast range of styles and sensibilities. Inspired by a range of contemporary play texts from some of the best playwrights of the 21st Century.

During the week we:

- Developed a deeper understanding of how to meet the demands of performing in contemporary work
- Explored a wide range of genres including comedy, political drama, naturalism and more abstract texts
- Worked collaboratively to develop our sense of rigour when exploring text, to perform with truth and to foster our imaginations
- Developed a toolbox of ideas and skills for bringing text to life on stage

The course was described as: ‘Perfect for actors who want a hands-on exploration of this fascinating period and for directors who would like an opportunity to develop their knowledge of how to stage contemporary writing.’



My classmates with our tutor, Eva Sampson

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

Elaine

The Class

My class consisted of 14 (really friendly) students of all ages, backgrounds and experience, and our tutor was Eva Sampson – Eva trained on the National Theatre Studio Directors’ Course and at the University of Birmingham. She is the Co-Artistic Director of How It Ended theatre company and is an Associate of National Youth Theatre.

The Course

Over the next few newsletters I will feature a different aspect of the course to give an idea of how much we covered over the six exhausting yet brilliant days!

Our week began with a discussion about ‘What is contemporary theatre’ and the subject is wide-ranging.

We concluded that contemporary theatre is:

- A hybrid art form that combines dance, music, art, and other elements to create a unique experience for the audience.
- It often incorporates modern techniques and technology, and aims to push boundaries, explore new subjects, and tackle current societal concerns.
- Contemporary theatre can include a variety of aspects, such as: objects, costumes, images, sound, vocal expression, text, and lighting.
- The subjects can be challenging and often thought-provoking so can often leave the audience asking questions about the subject matter.
- The language is very modern (and sometimes quite crude) so reflects the language of today.
- The acting is much more realistic – keeping things ‘real’ is essential.
- The roots of contemporary theatre can be traced back to the early 1800s, and it evolved through the Avant Garde movement into the postmodern era. Alfred Jarry is credited with introducing contemporary theatre in the 1880s as a way to incorporate new technology into his performances.
- Plays are the most traditional form of contemporary theatre, they feature set texts written by playwrights and performed by actors under the direction of an artistic vision.