



Forthcoming read-throughs, auditions & other production stuff

'Dangerous Obsession'

A 3-hander, ages 25-40 ideally. A psycho thriller, really well written with 3 fantastic parts. And a gun! Production dates 20-28 May. Director Glenys Lloyd Williams: gglenys@hotmail.com, 07486 914456

- read-through: Tuesday 25 January, 7.30pm;
- auditions: Sunday 13 February, 2.30pm

Remember: a read-through is not an audition!

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE:
Wednesday 26 January

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Issue no. 288

January 2022

A SPECIAL EDITION

This issue of 'Apollonius' is an unusual one. As well as being shorter than usual, there are none of the usual jokes, poems, theatrical gossip and news of productions; it's issued solely to ensure that you, the membership, are up to speed on the changes that have been happening to the management of our theatre.

But don't worry—a 'normal' issue will appear at the usual time, at the end of the month, so if you have something to share with the members and the urge to put finger to keyboard, it would as always be great to hear from you.

As you will all know by now, there was an EGM of the Apollo Theatre Players on 15 November 2021 at which the decision was made to confirm the merger of the Trust and the Players and to convert the new entity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or CIO.

The decision was also made to change the way the new organisation is structured and managed, with a new Executive Committee and external charitable trustees.

Subsequently there was an AGM—on 4 December—at which the members of the

new Executive Committee were elected. Each of the then Committee members gave their final report under the old structure. If you couldn't be there and would like to read those reports, you can find them in the Members' area on the theatre website.

It's important to emphasise that the change of management structure has happened independently of the move to CIO status, since that has to be put to the Charity Commission and can't be ratified until they confirm that they're happy with what we're doing. However, in the meantime the new 'Exec' have been getting their feet firmly under the table and establishing the members of their new teams. We very much hope that this will be a major opportunity for more members to have an input to the running of our theatre.

The new structure, with the names of the postholders who have been confirmed to date, appears later in this issue, along with a piece from each of the members of the Exec to keep you up to speed with their plans. There is lots to do and I know that each of them will be looking forward to hearing from you

with your ideas.

One of the areas which we shall be addressing over coming months is that of identifying the new Charitable Trustees. We shall be looking to identify four or five individuals with an interest in theatre, experience of board membership or other senior role, and an enthusiasm to help us take the CIO forward. If you know of any individuals who might be interested in this, do please let Paul Jennings, the new Chair of the Executive Committee, know.

So—it only remains for me to wish all our members, their friends and family, an exceptionally happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, and here's to 2022. May it be an improvement on its recent predecessors!

Ginnie Orrey

Editor



**From the
new
Theatre
Director
(Chair of the
Executive
Committee)**

Welcome to the New Year at the Apollo. Many thanks to you all who elected me as Director at his important time for the Apollo. 2022 marks 50 years since we staged our first productions and my thanks go out to Amy both for her hard work as Director and for agreeing to organise our Golden Anniversary events and celebrations.

We have some exciting plays to bring to our audience this year. In my personal view we also have some interesting challenges. We need to encourage our traditional audience to return to the theatre by demonstrating we can provide a safe environment consistent with, if not better than, the current legislation. However it's easy to see that the majority of our audience is ageing and we have to increase our visibility and appeal to a younger demographic. It was interesting to note that there were a number of new faces attending 'God of Carnage' so there is demand out here and those for whom this may have been their first visit will return and spread the word. Play selection and publicity are obviously vital to maintain this momentum but we also need to seek opportunities to get new people into the theatre by making our space available to others. Such events bring another challenge: to find the necessary volunteers to staff such hirings. Casting plays is also becoming more difficult from within our membership although on a more positive note when we have struggled to find actors from outside the theatre we have had considerable success so maybe we need to consider advertising open auditions.

There are a couple of major

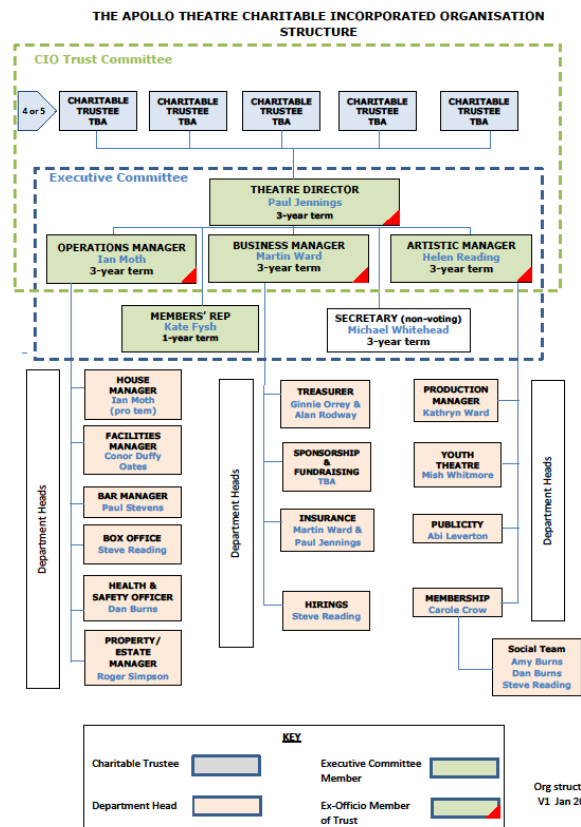
expenditures on the horizon. The plans to link the theatre and Hancock House are virtually complete and subject to committee approval we shall soon be going out for quotes. Although we are no longer subject to EU pressure we will inevitably have to replace our stage lighting system with LED devices which requires not just new lights but also a complete rewiring to provide power and control circuitry to each one. These will need to be funded by fundraising, special grants or possibly a rationalisation of our current assets.

All these (and other) challenges come at a time when we are reorganising the entire structure of the Apollo including moving to a new all-embracing Trust (the CIO) managed by a newly formed operational team.

The structure is as shown below. This structure will take some time to settle down so expect a few changes. Anyone wanting to help with any of the activities listed should contact the relevant department heads or executive committee members.

The regular Saturday coffee mornings (thank you Carole Crow and your team) are an excellent opportunity to meet up with other members including many of the committee members so please come along and bend an ear or two. My in-box is always open at paul-martinjennings@gmail.com and I will attempt to respond to all messages.

Paul Jennings
January 2022



Messages from the new Executive Committee

ARTS MANAGER

I feel honoured to have been elected as the Apollo Arts Manager and look forward to working for the theatre for the next 3 years. There are 4 areas working with me and, luckily, some very eager and experienced people have come forward to fill those roles.

Production Manager

Kathryn Ward has taken this role and her job will be to liaise with each director for the season to ensure that they have a technical team in place. (SM, ASM, lighting design & ops, sound design & ops and wardrobe). Of course, directors may choose their own team, but Kathryn will be there to coordinate and ensure availability.

Publicity Abbi Leverton came forward with a wealth of ideas and enthusiasm. Maureen Sullivan has kindly agreed to support and share her knowledge until Abbi gets the hang of it all. Joe Plumb (yes he's back!!) has agreed to put together the programmes. Ginnie Orrey continues to be Apollonius editor (thank you Ginnie x).

Membership Thank goodness for Carole!! She has agreed to continue in this role, which she does excellently, and will liaise with the new social team (Steve Reading, Dan and Amy Burns) to make sure we all have some fun events throughout the year.

Youth Theatre

Mish Whitmore is doing a fabulous job with the youngsters, as anyone who saw *The Devil's Mirror* would agree, and we are lucky to have someone so artistic, dedicated (and patient) wanting to continue.

Thank you to all those people and to anyone else who would like to get involved. I will be at the Saturday coffee mornings throughout January (birth of grandchild permitting) and happy to stay on afterwards if anyone wishes to have a chat, put their ideas forward or offer help. **I will arrange a**

more formal meeting of the working groups towards the end of January/beginning of Feb.

Glenys Williams and I have discussed the need to encourage a more diverse membership and audience. This is something that she is keen to be involved with so any thoughts and ideas will be gratefully received!

I have some plays in mind for the next season, probably too many, but I welcome any suggestions. Along with a couple of crowd pleasers I would like to see plays that give a voice to minority groups and aim to raise awareness of social issues. A mixed and exciting season is the aim!

Helen Reading

Arts Manager elect

OPERATIONS MANAGER

The Operations Department (Manager Ian Moth) looks after the vital facets of keeping the theatre going as a smooth operation. There are six main departments under the Operations flag:

House (Manager's position vacant at the moment). This department is concerned with manning the theatre during productions and ensuring it is clean and tidy. It involves liaising with cleaning contractors, volunteers and so on.

Box Office (Steve Reading). This department looks after all aspects of the box office—tickets, online booking, sales, etc.

Bar (Paul Stevens). A sort of in-house pub!

Estates & Buildings (Roger Simpson). Concerned with maintaining the building and domestic services, overseeing new building projects etc. Roger's department also looks after issuing and recording of keys.

Technical & Equipment (Conor Duffy-Oates). This department looks after all the technical stuff that is associated with our being a theatre: includes the lighting and sound systems, CCTV etc.

Health & Safety (Dan Burns). This department seeks to ensure that all of us remain alive and accident-free while we are here.

Of course, none of the above can work on their own. All departments co-operate closely to achieve the result. Think of the 'A Team'!

Ian Moth

Operations Manager elect

BUSINESS MANAGER

The role of Business Manager has been in excellent hands and I would like to thank my predecessor for her hard work. As we move forward, the theatre faces new challenges that will be met by the very able team that is being assembled under the Business Manager umbrella.

Treasurer Ginnie Orrey, Alan Rodway and I will oversee the process of ensuring that the theatre's day to day financial obligations are met and that the theatre maintains its financial stability. Long term aims will be merging the finances of the Players and Trust and ensuring that the theatre is always financially viable.

Sponsorship and fundraising This will be a key component of the theatre's ability to secure and maintain its financial viability. As yet this position remains vacant, so if anyone has a burning desire to put themselves forward to fill this role please let me know.

Insurance The theatre's insurance premium is negotiated annually. Paul Jennings and I have been responsible for holding those negotiations in recent years and will continue to liaise with our insurers to secure the best possible premium.

Hirings An important part of ensuring the financial stability of the theatre is the hiring out of the theatre's premises to external groups and individuals who want to present their own entertainment. Steve Reading, who has looked after this area of the theatre's business previ-

ously, is happy to continue in this role. Thank you, Steve!

If you have an idea that you think the theatre might benefit from in terms of fundraising, or if you want to be involved in any of the areas mentioned please let me or any of the Executive Committee know. Taking the theatre forward will be an exciting journey, and one that everyone can share in.

Martin Ward

Business Manager elect

MEMBERS' REP

I stood as Members' Representative in this new structure because of the opportunity it gives us to do things in a different and more focussed way—an exciting time I felt I could play a part in. The fact that this post is part of the new, smaller executive reflects the central importance of members to the Apollo. Without an active, informed and involved membership the theatre cannot function and thrive. Having someone on the exec who wears no other hat is a marker of this.

I will do my best to ensure that the Executive Committee is both transparent and accountable, and act as a conduit between it and the wider membership. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, issues or suggestions you have, by whichever method you prefer.

Kate Fysh

Members' Rep elect

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To book tickets or find
out more about our
productions, go to:

www.apollo-theatre.org.uk

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of the Editor,
Ginnie Orrey, and
expresses her
opinions.
Contributed copy
must be signed.**

Bringing good theatre to the Isle of Wight for more than 40 years



The Apollo Players' next production



'BREAKING THE CODE'

4-12 February
2022

Hugh Whitmore's exceptional biographical drama about a man who broke too many codes – Alan Turing, eccentric genius and outcast.

Turing played a major role in winning WWII by inventing a machine to crack the code the German Enigma coding machine produced, thus enabling allied forces to intercept German communications and foresee their manoeuvres. Since his work was classified top secret for years after the war, no one knew how much was owed to him when he was put on trial for breaking another code—the taboo against homosexuality.