



BEHIND THE SCENES

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The show must go on...to a point...

The phrase 'break a leg' took on a whole new meaning in our January play, **The Game's Afoot**. Just over two weeks before the production opened to audiences, cast member Emma Morris (pictured below in an image from the play with fellow actor Daniel Clynes), broke her foot and ankle. However, in time-honoured tradition, Emma and Director Geoff Sword agreed that "the show must go on". Emma's part, as Inspector Goring, was adapted so that she could go on stage in a wheelchair and a few lines were given a minor tweak to accommodate the change. However, due to the ceiling collapse, which happened on the morning of the final night of the production (29 January), the show, sadly, could go on no longer.



Read on below for what happened next.

News from our Society

It's no secret that we've had a very frustrating time in the last couple of years, firstly being closed as a result of the pandemic, and then, earlier this year, the ceiling in our main auditorium collapsing. One of the panels holding insulation in place fell loose from its fixings and came through the false ceiling. Thankfully no one was in the auditorium at the time.



Despite a huge effort to clear and make safe the area, sadly but sensibly, it was deemed by our insurers that the auditorium had to be out of bounds whilst investigations could take place.

The decision, which called for a full report from Structural Engineers, meant that the productions of both **1984** and **Corpse** have had to be indefinitely postponed.

We are now thrilled to announce, however, that work has begun in earnest to repair and replace the impacted area of the ceiling, as well as to check the rest of upper ceiling to ensure the continued safety of our members, volunteers and audiences. This involves some fairly major structural work, which is taking place over the coming weeks and requires a full scaffolding of the auditorium.



Once the work is complete, it will be 'all hands on deck' to get the Theatre ready for re-opening and a full and exciting season!

Watch out for more details coming soon...

Former Youth Group Member on 'WDYTYA?'

Ralf Little, who you will recall was a member of our Youth Group some years ago, is to be the subject of BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' on **Thursday June 30th**. You may not be aware that Ralf's father, Michael, was an acting member of Society and also our Theatre Auditor for many years until he moved abroad. Ralf's grandmother, Marjorie Little, has been Secretary, Chairman and President of our Society, as well as acting at Summerseat Players on numerous occasions. His grandad, Bert Little, was Chairman of the Council and former Mayor of Bury. As Ralf (pictured speaking below at our 50th Anniversary celebration dinner) often talks fondly about his days at Summerseat Players, we will listen out for a mention!



Announcements

After suffering a major health scare in January, former Membership Secretary **Alan Rogers** is now on the long and slow road to recovery.

Alan was sadly hospitalised for some 14 weeks following a stroke whilst riding his beloved horse. Thankfully however, he has now returned home and is making progress and recuperating, whilst continuing with his ongoing treatments and rehabilitation programme.

Alan would like us to pass on his sincere thanks for the messages he has received, which are much appreciated, even if he has been unable to respond individually.

On behalf of the Society, we wish Alan all the very best for a full and imminent return to good health.



Did you know...?

It takes **MANY** volunteers to help stage a production. This is why we often need your help - please do get involved and "play your part", especially as we aim to get back on our feet following the works taking place.

Acclaim for Studio Production

Whilst we couldn't go ahead with plays on our Main Stage, we were so pleased to be able to continue with our Studio production, **DNA** by **Dennis Kelly**. The play, the cast of which was made up of both fresh-faced adult members and several of our talented Youth Group members, was completely **SOLD OUT** for all of the 6 nights of its run. We received multiple excellent reviews and feedback comments for the cast and crew.

One reviewer commented:

"We went to see DNA last night ... from the friendly, professional welcome on arrival, to departing after the performance, we felt looked after & appreciated. Regarding the actual play ...when you are still thinking about a performance the morning after...when you can still 'see' all the actors faces & how they made you feel...you then know you've been in the presence of some serious talent!! These young actors are all 'ones to watch'! We were in awe of their acting ability, and the evening exceeded all our expectations!! **Bravo to all involved. 5 Stars.**"

