

## **Summerseat Players Launch Night Handout**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Season Launch, and also to those that couldn't make it but have expressed an interest. We encourage everyone to attend the audition details below. You can also get in touch if you need to enquire about possible alternative arrangements if you are unable to attend the selected audition date.

During our launch evening, we heard from all the directors about their shows. Please note the casting requirements printed here are to be used as a guide only. Casting ages and gender can vary depending on the director's vision. Please see our forthcoming socials for videos of the interviews for more information.

All auditions will be held at the **Theatre Royal Smithy Street, Ramsbottom BL0 9AT**

[www.summerseatplayers.co.uk](http://www.summerseatplayers.co.uk)

email: [info@summerseatplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@summerseatplayers.co.uk)

### **Play One (Main Stage): Stags and Hens (The Remix)** **By Willy Russell**

Director - Pippa Knightley

Audition Date: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm

Show Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (Matinee on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>)

Casting Requirements - 6M 5F

*Stags and Hens: The Remix* by Willy Russell is a raucous and sharp-witted comedy set in a run-down nightclub's toilets, where a soon-to-be-married couple, Linda and Dave, unknowingly celebrate their respective hen and stag nights in the same venue. As tensions rise, secrets unravel, and old flames resurface, Linda is forced to question whether she is making the biggest mistake of her life. Packed with hilarious banter, relatable characters, and biting social commentary, the play explores the chaos of pre-wedding jitters, gender dynamics, and the pressures of conforming to expectations — all with Russell's signature mix of humour and heart.

### **Play Two (Studio): Gymnopédies** **By Martin Paul Roche**

Director - Martin Paul Roche

Audition Date: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1pm

Show Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Casting Requirements - 3F

Los Angeles and an empty stage in a 'dark 'theatre. An unexpected invitation to attend a read through for a play reunites three actresses for the first time in thirty years; thirty years since they rehearsed together, what was then a 'new 'play, *Gymnopédies*. Thirty years of three very different lives which now converge for one brief day. One day to reacquaint, to rehearse, to reconcile, to remember. But what else might happen when you are forced to remember, not just the make-believe of theatre, but also the reality of the past?

The past is a big place when you need somewhere to hide. But not when you're trying to hide from yourself.

This play is a rare treat where the writer and director are one and the same.

**Play Three (Main Stage): The Pillowman**  
**By Martin McDonagh**

Director - Stephen Davies

Audition Date: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1pm

Show Dates: 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 (Matinee on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>)

Casting Requirements - 2F 3M

A viciously funny, seriously disturbing tale about a writer in a totalitarian state who is interrogated about the gruesome content of their short stories and their similarities to a number of child-murders that are happening in his town. This dark, twisted thriller that blurs the lines between storytelling and reality, mixing McDonagh's trademark jet-black humor with chilling psychological depth.

**Play Four (Main Stage): Black Comedy / Last Tango in Little Grimley (DOUBLE BILL)**  
**By Peter Shaffer (Black Comedy) / David Tristram (Last Tango in Little Grimley)**

Director - Michael Wray (Black Comedy) / Paul Bracewell (Last Tango in Little Grimley)

Audition Date: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1pm (BC) / Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm (LTiLG)

Show Dates : 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 (Matinee on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>)

Casting Requirements - 3F 5M (BC) 2F 2M (LTiLG)

In Peter Shaffer's hilarious, crowd-pleasing slapstick '**Black Comedy**' (BC), several colourful, duplicitous characters stumble around what is (to them) a pitch-black room – all in full view of the audience, who watch the events unfold in full light. This a fast-paced farce, full of slapstick, mistaken identities, and perfectly timed physical comedy, that turns theatrical convention on its head - a masterclass in theatrical hilarity. This is a one-act play.

Following an interval, we will see the second one-act play of this double-bill, which is sure to bring plenty of laughs. In **Last Tango in Little Grimley** (LTiLG), membership of the local amateur drama society has dwindled to four. Time for dramatic action and the group's pompous director, Gordon, hatches a bold plan to stage a risqué, attention-grabbing production with a bit of "sex appeal." However, with their usual mix of incompetence, clashing egos, and last-minute disasters, chaos ensues both on and off the stage. Packed with sharp wit and endearing characters, the play is a light-hearted celebration of amateur theatre's triumphs and tribulations.

**Play Five (Studio): Tuesdays With Morrie**  
**By Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom**

Director - James Haslam

Audition Date: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm

Show Dates: 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Casting Requirements - 2M

The autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie's appearance on a television news program and learns that his old professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a last class in the meaning of life, as Morrie's aphorisms and reflections on life are enlightening, touching and thought-provoking in equal measures.

This beautiful play, based on a true story, will have audiences pondering the importance of embracing our emotions and being fully present in each moment.

**Play Six (Main Stage): Antigone**  
**By Sophocles Adapted by Hollie McNish**

Director - Ella Dufton

Audition Date: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

Show Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Matinee on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Casting Requirements - 9 Main cast plus a chorus of varying size.

As the daughter of Oedipus, Antigone was dealt a cruel hand at birth - even within the bounds of Grecian tragedy. When her brothers are slain fighting for the throne of Thebes, Antigone finds herself pitted against her uncle, the newly crowned King Creon. In defiance of the king, Antigone buries her brother's body, a choice she may pay for dearly.

Here poet Hollie McNish reimagines the classic Greek tragedy to resonate with contemporary audiences, infusing the original tale with modern language and themes, and highlighting enduring issues such as power, justice, and individual versus state conflicts.

**Play Seven (Studio): Blackbird**  
**By David Harrower**

Director - Rebecca Carney

Audition Date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

Show Dates: 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Casting Requirements - 1F 1M

Fifteen years ago, Una and Ray had a relationship which resulted in a jail sentence and new identity on his release for Ray, and psychotherapy for Una. They haven't set eyes on each other since. Now she's found him again, forcing them both to relive the past and face the emotional wreckage left behind. Taut, gripping, and deeply provocative, *Blackbird* challenges audiences with its raw emotional depth and moral ambiguity.

**Play Eight (Main Stage): Calendar Girls**  
**By Tim Firth**

Directors - Louise and Paul Ward

Audition Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm

Show Dates: 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (Matinee on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>)

Casting Requirements - 10F 4M

Based on the true story of eleven WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. This heartwarming and humorous play is packed with laughter, touching moments, and a celebration of resilience. As the women navigate personal doubts, community gossip, and unexpected fame, they discover newfound confidence and the power of friendship. *Calendar Girls* is a feel-good tale about embracing life, no matter your age.