

SUTTON ARTS THEATRE
PRESENTS OUR

2023-24 SEASON



**SUTTON
ARTS
THEATRE**



**AWARD WINNING
THEATRE RIGHT ON
YOUR DOORSTEP!**



"To enter a Theatre for a performance is to be inducted into a magical space, to be ushered into the sacred arena of the imagination"

- *Simon Callow*



I'm delighted to present our 2023/24 Theatre programme and really hope that you will enjoy what we have to offer.

There are many priorities to juggle when planning and creating a theatrical season; it takes months of research, reading and lots of discussion before decisions are made, licenses requested, dates and directors secured and artwork designed. We look at the season from all angles, from costings to availability, the complexity of the set design, technical requirements and so much more.

Our role as an Arts Directorate is to provide a balanced season across the various genres of Theatre, be it drama, comedy, thrillers, musicals etc. We carefully consider what we think our audiences might want to see and be entertained by as well as what we hope will please and stretch our talented pool of performers and directors; so that hopefully we retain both.

The beauty of Theatre is not only that it offers us escapism from real life but it also opens our eyes to the reality of the world and other walks of life that we may not have encountered otherwise. It has the power to evoke emotion, make us view things differently, face up to our prejudices, empathise, think, question and even change opinion; shining a light on humanity in all its forms.

Of course, Theatre means different things to different people and we don't expect everyone to love everything, all of the time; that would be unrealistic. However, we will always ensure that every effort goes into delivering the highest standards possible. So thank you for buying tickets, for coming with an open mind and for sharing your feedback, positive or otherwise.

Our hope is that you have a fantastic night out every time you come to Sutton Arts and leave the Theatre appreciating the exceptional talent we have on our stage and the huge amount of work that goes into every production; to bring you, our valued audience the very best of Theatre in Sutton Coldfield and beyond.

Emily Armstrong, Artistic Director

Arts Directorate: Hazel Evans, Ken Mackey, Patrick Richmond-Ward, Joanne Ellis and Robbie Newton

TICKET PRICES (NEW FOR 2023/24)

Members Season Ticket (inclusive of all productions) £60.00

Opening Night Offer (excluding musicals) £6.25

	Plays	Musicals
Adult Member	£10.00	£12.50
Adult Non-Member	£12.50	£15.00
Junior Member (U16)	£8.00	£8.00
Junior Non-Member (U16)	£10.00	£10.00

By purchasing a ticket, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of sale.

The ticket holder is responsible for considering whether an event is suitable based on the suggested guidelines indicated by the Theatre in our events programme and on our website.

The Theatre reserves the right to change, reschedule or cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances and to offer promotions, offers and discounts on tickets where it is in the Theatre's best interests.

BOX OFFICE 0121 355 5355

The Box Office is open on **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.00pm and Thursday mornings from 10.30am till midday**. During production week the Box Office is open 30mins prior to the performance and remains open until 9pm with the exception of Wednesdays when it will close at 7.30pm

The Box Office opens half an hour before the performance starts on production dates. Tickets can be booked online from our website: www.suttonartstheatre.co.uk

For information and help, outside Box Office opening hours, please contact the Box Office Manager on **07776 006 357**





— ARTHUR MILLER'S —
ALL MY SONS



7TH - 16TH
SEPTEMBER 2023

DIRECTED BY
FAYE HATCH

ALL MY SONS

7 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

America, 1947. Despite hard choices and even harder knocks, the Keller's are a success story. They've built a home, raised two sons and have established a thriving business.

Joe Keller, an aircraft manufacturer makes a decision that has tragic repercussions. In the aftermath of World War II, Joe is in denial, so too is his wife Kate who clings to the belief that their pilot son, Larry, reported lost in action, is still alive.

Long buried truths are forced to the surface and the price of their American dream is laid bare. All My Sons is a moving and powerful landmark drama, the first great play from one of the finest playwrights of the Twentieth Century.

Written by Arthur Miller
Directed by Faye Hatch



THE HAUNTING

19 - 28 OCTOBER 2023

A spine-chilling play by Hugh Janes, based on several original ghost stories by Charles Dickens.

In an ancient, crumbling mansion, sheltering from the howling winds that tear across the surrounding desolate moorland, two men stumble across a dark and terrifying secret that will change both of their lives. When a young book dealer, David Filde, is employed by a former associate of his uncle to catalogue a private library, he finds an incredible array of rare and antiquated books. But as a series of strange and unexplained events conspires to keep Filde from his work, he realises that if he is to convince his sceptical employer that the mysterious phenomena he is experiencing are real, they must journey together to the very edge of terror, and beyond...

Please note: Suggested Age rating: 12+

Written by Hugh Janes

Directed by Patrick Richmond-Ward





Nativity!

the Musical

9th-23rd
December 2023

including matinees

Directed by

Emily
Armstrong

Book and Lyrics by
DEBBIE ISITT

Music by
DEBBIE ISITT & NICKY AGER

Orchestrations by George Dyer

Come and see us **Sparkle & Shine** this Christmas!

Your favourite festive film is now a major new musical adapted for the stage by the creator of the much-loved films.

Every child in every school has one Christmas wish, to star in a Nativity, and at St Bernadette's School they're attempting to mount a musical version! Only trouble is teacher Mr Maddens has promised that a Hollywood producer is coming to see the show to turn it into a film. Join him, his teaching assistant the crazy Mr Poppy, hilarious children and a whole lot of sparkle and shine as they struggle to make everyone's Christmas wish come true.

Feel-good, funny and full of Yuletide joy, Nativity! The Musical features all of the favourite sing-a-long hits from the films including Sparkle and Shine, Nazareth, One Night One Moment, She's the Brightest Star and a whole host of new songs filled with the spirit of Christmas!

Please note: Suitable for age 3+
All children must have their own seat (no babes in arms)

Mon 11 th	No Performance	Mon 18 th	No Performance
Tue 12 th	No Performance	Tue 19 th	No Performance
Wed 13 rd	7.15pm	Wed 20 th	7.15pm
Thur 14 th	7.15pm	Thur 21 st	7.15pm
Fri 15 th	7.15pm	Fri 22 nd	7.15pm
Sat 9 th	2pm	Sat 16 th	2pm
Sat 9 th	7.15pm	Sat 16 th	7.15pm
Sat 23 rd	2pm	Sat 23 rd	2pm
Sat 23 rd	7.15pm	Sat 23 rd	7.15pm
Sun 10 th	12.30pm	Sun 17 th	12.30pm
Sun 10 th	5pm	Sun 17 th	5pm





Kiss Me, Stupid!

DIDIER CARON'S
CLASSIC FRENCH COMEDY

Translated by
CHARLIE GOBBETT

Directed by

Ian Cornock

25th Jan - 3rd Feb 2024

KISS ME, STUPID!

25 JANUARY – 3 FEBRUARY 2024

“When L’amour comes a cropper!”

Retired estate agent and cycling nut Bernard is convinced his wife of 30 years, Viviane, is having an affair. Ooh la la!

His solution is to hire pretty but none-too-bright actress Cindy to play his mistress and make Viviane jealous. But two can play at that game! Viviane realises what Bernard is up to and pretends to be enamoured with her much younger colleague Olivier.

Will love and reason win through or does Bernard’s obstinate refusal to realise how lucky he is condemn him to losing the woman he doesn’t deserve?

Didier Caron’s Classic French Comedy
Translated by Charlie Gobbett
Directed by Ian Cornock



TEAPOTS & SUPERGLUE

14 - 23 MARCH 2024

Seven different people, from very different backgrounds, brought together every week as part of a social experiment.

As Roy the groups' leader says... "Every life is like an old teapot, it has cracks and faults in the glaze. I have to be patient with my patients. And like superglue, you're never sure it's worked until you take your hands away". Over the course of six months we are taken on a journey of discovery as we watch them blossom as individuals and come together as a group. We see them laugh, cry, fight and learn. Learn to listen, learn to differ, and learn to care.

This play is about people, a snapshot of society and real life with all its twists and turns. It will have you laughing out loud one minute and bring a tear to your eye the next and is sure to see you leave the Theatre with a life affirming spring in your step!

Please note: This production contains occasional strong language and herbal cigarettes. Suggested Age rating: 12+

Written by Jonathan Owen

Directed by Barrie Atchison & Stuart Goodwin





THE LATE *Marilyn Monroe*



Written by
DARREN HAYWOOD

Directed by
DEXTER WHITEHEAD

25th APRIL
– 4th MAY
2024

THE LATE MARILYN MONROE

25 APRIL – 4 MAY 2024

On August 5th 1962 the world awoke to the news that Marilyn Monroe, the biggest movie star of that time, had died at the age of just 36. But what really happened? And what was she like behind closed doors? Questions we'll probably never really know the answer to. But what if we could get close?

Drug addiction, depression, psychological issues, sexual exploitation... Issues as prominent today as they were over 50 years ago.

This is not a biographical piece. It's merely one day of a person's life. Their final day. Marilyn as you've never seen her before.

Please note: This production contains occasional strong language and some adult themes. Suggested Age rating: 12+

Written by Darren Haywood
Directed by Dexter Whitehead



BONNIE & CLYDE

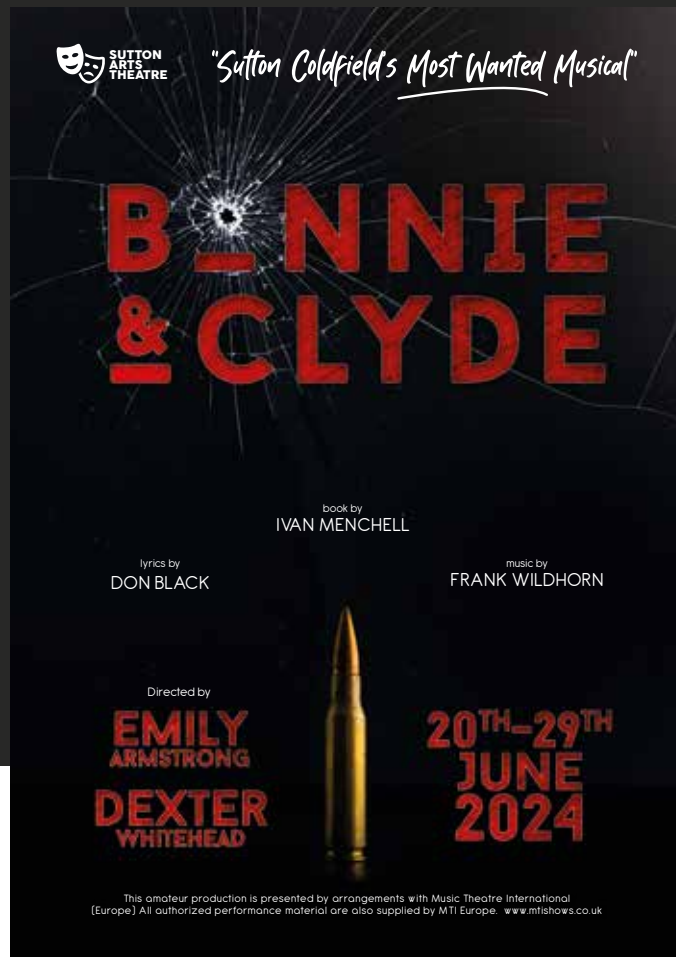
20 - 29 JUNE 2024

When Bonnie and Clyde meet, their mutual cravings for excitement and fame immediately set them on a mission to chase their dreams. Their bold and reckless behaviour turns the young lovers' exciting adventure into a downward spiral, putting themselves and their loved ones in trouble with the law. Forced to stay on the run, the lovers resort to robbery and murder to survive. As the infamous duo's fame grows bigger, their inevitable end draws nearer.

Bonnie & Clyde is a thrilling and sexy musical combining blues, gospel and rockabilly music. Get the hottest ticket in town to Sutton Coldfield's "Most wanted" musical!

Please note: This production contains mild themes of a sexual nature and mild violence. Suggested Age rating: 12+

Directed by Emily Armstrong & Dexter Whitehead



2022-23 REVIEW SNIPPETS



Company



"Sutton Arts' musicals set a standard with West Side Story back in 2015 and Company does nothing to damage that reputation. It is slick, funny, with some lovely lines, gives pause for thought here and there, and shows just why Sondheim was so revered as a songwriter. It is not the best known of musicals, has songs you probably have never heard but hey, it's a good show, good music, well-acted and it works – and you can't ask for more than that."



Girl on the Train



"The story is told through the fractured mind of Rachel, in a brilliant performance from Emily Armstrong. The excellent acting is matched by an inventive set. It is a cleverly written and executed treat for mystery fans keeping you guessing until the final moments."

**NODA AWARD WINNER
FOR "BEST DRAMA"**



Walk in the Woods



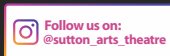
"Excellent! An interesting take on American-Russian relations. The timing of this production has a sort of theatrical irony about it. The set, designed by Tom Cooper is magical, a clearing in a forest, a stage full of tree trunks up to the skies, with fallen branches and undergrowth, all well-lit by David Ashton. A really good production."



Robin Hood



"When it comes to pantos, as we have said before Sutton Arts is up in the amateur equivalent of the Birmingham Hippodrome and London Palladium end of the spectrum. Year on year they punch way above their weight."



More information and regular updates can be found on our website, Instagram and Facebook pages. To read the reviews in full visit www.behindtheearrars.com

2022-23 REVIEW SNIPPETS



Flat Out



"What a welcome breath of fresh air, a new comedy which is actually laugh out loud funny. Farmer has instilled a cracking pace with all the comings and goings, in and out of doors and windows and the universally excellent cast have milked every drop of humour from Jennifer Selway's clever script."



A Taste of Honey



"Sutton Arts production, ably directed by Claire Armstrong-Mills hasn't got the same shock value, times have changed after all, but it has the spirit of the original with fine acting, particularly from mother and daughter. The pair bounced off each other and kept consistent and reet good accents. It's a classic, landmark play in a classy production."



Dumb Waiter & This Wide Night



"Credit must go to Sutton Arts Theatre for such ambitious and bold programming: 'The Dumb Waiter' by Harold Pinter and 'This Wide Night' by Chloe Moss are exactly the kind of plays which should be gracing amateur Theatre company stages up and down the land. The result is two plays carried along by fine writing, superb acting and both sensitively directed by Faye Hatch. An evening of professionally performed one-act plays"

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

As we welcome our 2023/24 season it seems only right that I introduce myself as the new Chairman of Sutton Arts Theatre. For those of you who don't know me, I have been an active member of Sutton Arts both on and off stage since 2010; prior to that I was Chairman for The Grange Players, Walsall and a Senior Youth Leader at Aldridge Youth Theatre. I am excited to continue the fabulous work that my predecessor, Colin Edge, has done over the last fifteen years and hope that I can continue to drive the Theatre into the future with the same goals; bringing top quality Theatre to the community. That being said, it wouldn't be possible without our steadfast volunteers, not only the Management Committee who work tirelessly in the background all year round but our core group of volunteer members that help to keep the cogs turning across all aspects of the Theatre. Without them, the magic of Theatre wouldn't be possible, so I'd like to thank them for their hard work, dedication and support. We are always looking for new members to come and be part of our amazing team, so if you can spare a few hours a week or even just during the production dates we would love you to join us. If you would like more information please feel free to contact me directly by sending an email for my attention to info@suttonartstheatre.co.uk. This season is once again full of challenging and exciting productions that we hope will keep you entertained. Thank you to our loyal audience members for your continual support, without you we wouldn't be able to do what we love.

Dexter Whitehead

Auditions

Readings and auditions are held by the director for each production, and are open to members and non-members.

Non-members may attend auditions but if successful in securing a role must become a member to perform in the production.

The Theatre reserves the right to cast by invitation.

To enquire about auditions and a copy of the play please contact the Arts Director, Emily Armstrong via email: ejastar@icloud.com

Production	Cast	Reading	Audition
All My Sons	4 Female/5 Male (20-65) 1 Male Junior (8-10)	Wed 7 Jun 2023 7.30pm	Wed 14 Jun 2023 7.30pm
The Haunting	1 Female (25-70) 2 Male (25-70)	Mon 3 Jul 2023 7.30pm	Tue 11 Jul 2023 7.30pm
Nativity the Musical	Adult Principals 2 Female/6 Male (25-70) Adult Ensemble (16+) 25 Juniors Female/Male (Age 8+ max 5ft)	Junior Auditions Sun 9 Jul 2023 9am Juniors (Age 8+ max 5ft)	Junior Call Backs Senior Ensemble & Adult Principal Auditions Mon 10 Jul 2023 7.00pm
Kiss Me, Stupid!	2 Female (25-60) 2 Male (25-60)	Mon 25 Sep 2023 7.30pm	Mon 2 Oct 2023 7.30pm
Teapots & Superglue	4 Female (16-80) 4 Male (16-80)	Mon 6 Nov 2023 7.30pm	Mon 13 Nov 2023 7.30pm
The Late Marilyn Monroe	3 Female (30-60) 1 Male (45-60)	Tue 9 Jan 2024 7.30pm	Tue 16 Jan 2024 7.30pm
Bonnie & Clyde the Musical	Adult Principals 4 Female/8 Male (18-70) Adult Ensemble (16+) Junior Principals 1 Female/1 Male (8-12)		Sun 14 Jan 2024 10am

Membership

Sutton Arts Theatre is a members' Theatre sustained by the voluntary efforts of the membership. All members are welcome to participate in acting, backstage, administration and all activities of the Theatre.

Membership offers the benefit of reduced ticket prices for the major productions and use of the Theatre bar. All members receive a regular mail shot containing information on upcoming productions and social events, including how to book.

Production Guidelines

We recommend a suggested age rating for certain productions. Please note these are a guideline only, as we trust that you as the parent/guardian are best placed to decide what is appropriate and suitable for you and your family. In most cases, all ages will be admitted, but for patrons under the recommended age, parents are strongly cautioned regarding the content.

Our productions are noted with guidelines under 3 main areas: language, adult content, and violence.

Membership per season

£20.00 Adult £15.00 All Concessions

Please note that Sutton Arts Theatre is a members' Theatre. Non-members are welcome and on purchase of a ticket for an event will become temporary members for that event by registering their name and address.

Facilities for people with disabilities

Sutton Arts Theatre offers space in the auditorium for wheelchair users. These places are limited and can only be reserved by telephoning our Box Office during opening hours on 0121 355 5355. A member of our team will be happy to check availability and take your booking.

We have an induction loop hearing system in the Box Office and Auditorium. Please contact the Theatre if you have any enquiries regarding facilities or access.

The auditorium and function room are available for hire during the day or evening with the option of a licensed bar. Please contact us via info@suttonartstheatre.co.uk to submit an enquiry to the Lettings Manager.



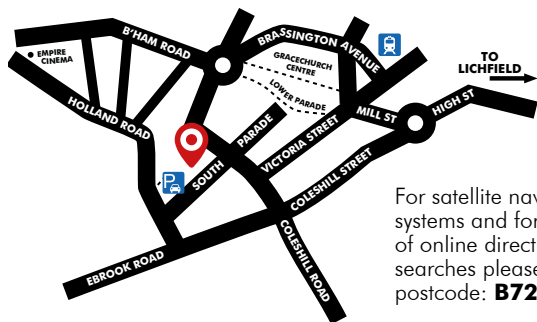
www.suttonartstheatre.co.uk

Sutton Arts Theatre, South Parade,
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1QU

Members and patrons are advised that parking outside the Theatre is strictly prohibited. We also kindly request that you refrain from parking on the Methodist church car park across the road. There is a large 24 hour pay and display car park at the corner of South Parade and Upper Holland Road, which is only two minutes from the Theatre.

Badge holders may park on the opposite side of the road to the Theatre. Please do not obstruct driveways.

Sutton Coldfield is served by a railway station giving access to Birmingham, Lichfield, Redditch and beyond. Regular bus services run from Sutton Coldfield to Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull, and Tamworth.



For satellite navigation systems and for the purpose of online direction and map searches please enter the postcode: **B72 1QY.**

Your seat is waiting for you...

STAGE

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WHEELCHAIR
ACCESS
SPACES

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