



## NODA SE – Newsletter – June 2020

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Theatres are ALL closed, every one, all over the country! Be they large venues or small village halls. But the time will come when there is light at the end of the tunnel so preparations need to be considered and the show will go on!

Whilst the professional theatre has many hurdles to overcome whether it is social distancing, reduced box office, inability to pay staff & crew or whatever the hire of the venues will be a major factor

Perhaps this is where we in the **amateur** sector can benefit and be able to open BEFORE the professionals however plans must be made. Ticketsource have already been developing an appropriate programme taking into consideration social distancing. The fact that our societies have truly amateur cast, crew and supporters a great saving has already been made. Societies in charge of their own premises could, at the appropriate time, open their doors again. Box office takings would be greatly reduced but the show would go on. Any open air venues might find it easier to be observant of the social distancing rules.

Smaller societies who regularly put on productions in local village venues – halls, school & churches will I am sure consider in advance negotiating some favourable terms with their hirers once the green light is given or even before. A suitable discount hire scheme will need to be considered for musical societies who use larger venues. The big budget shows may have to be tempered to begin with but venues should be mindful of needing people to book their spaces. Theatres cannot stay closed for ever and whilst they are being supported at present by the government that cannot go on for ever so some common ground needs to be investigated beforehand.

The musical groups who usually hire in a professional show director, a choreographer, an MD and/or even an entire orchestra/band will have to r. Well let's just remember that whether a performer is an amateur or a professional, this 'new normal' is going to change our whole approach to fees and how much societies can afford will affect how much people can expect to earn. This is a wonderful opportunity to foster and nurture talent from within our memberships. You can be sure there is plenty there just waiting for the opportunity. What about those students who have attended NODA Summer School – can their talents be put to good use?



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Hopefully there will be some deals to be had with the set-hire and costume-hire companies who would no doubt rather turnover any amount of business in comparison to currently being closed, so please don't be afraid to approach them with a sensible, financial proposal structured in such a way as to ensure the curtains are raised on opening night. We are all very aware that producing a show, at either an amateur or professional level (as opposed to just watching one), is currently filled with multiple challenges not least the progress of this pandemic.

Everyone is wondering if there will be a pantomime season it may be that the amateur productions can lead the way whilst the professional theatres are still trying to find a way.

At the beginning of this period of “rest” we spoke of sorting out your society’s policies, paperwork, investigating new shows, thinking of new ways of attracting both members and audience. Hopefully that has been completed and you are itching to get going again.

Until then, let's look forward to the day when we can ALL shout: "It's behind you!"

(Please credit some of the more elegant phrases to Paul Johnson Editor of *Sardines*.)

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### **A Message to all Societies in NODA South East**

Many of you are having a great time in your virtual bubbles – Zoom, Facetime, Google Meet and all the other media are bringing people together albeit in a ‘virtual’ way. I have seen several examples on Facebook and would love to be able to see and share many more. There are play readings, committee meetings, quizzes even cookery lessons in some quarters. NODA and the amdram scene are always resourceful. Take care of yourselves and look forward to that great big hug!

Please contact your Regional Rep or myself if there is anything amdram related we can help you with.

Kay Rowan Regional Councillor [kay.rowan@noda.org.uk](mailto:kay.rowan@noda.org.uk)



## NODA Theatre Summer School



*"I regard theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another what it is to be human." Oscar Wilde*

Affectionately known as 'The Bubble', NODA Theatre Summer School usually provides residential training to NODA members aged 18 and over using professional theatre practitioners. With competitive course fees and purpose built residential facilities you are guaranteed a fun packed week of top quality training, optional evening activities and plenty of time for socialising.

After much deliberation and taking into account all the government's social distancing guidelines we have decided that we cannot run a physical Summer School this year 2020. We know from the success of the online tutorials that we can facilitate virtual classrooms so we are going to be running an E-School where you can access quality tuition from the comfort of your own home.

Our E- School will have 4 pathways to choose from:-

The Musical Theatre Pathway will be a celebration of the wonderful world of song and dance including workshops, technique and training in singing, dance and acting – it will allow you to develop your skills in the core elements of the discipline and indulge in the delights of the music and characters of this rich and wonderful genre of theatre.

The Drama Pathway will delve into the delights of pure drama and plays and will include workshops, technique and training in voice, characterisation, physicality and acting – all the tools that will make your performances get rave reviews - we'll cover a range of genres and texts from Shakespeare to Contemporary work.

The Backstage Pathway will give vital insight into what happens behind the scenes in theatre and will include workshops and training in Stage management, costume and sound – there'll be a chance to think about collaboration and communication as well as exploration of specific technical disciplines.

The Multi-disciplinary Pathway is a smorgasbord of delights for those students who don't like to commit to one thing – this varied programme will include workshops,



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technique and training in directing, writing, dramaturge, stage combat and directing amongst other theatre related treats.

Each pathway will run Monday – Friday with slots 10am – 12pm and 1 – 3pm There will also be none-pathway evening options from 4 – 6pm each day.

Each session will be stand alone – you can only access sessions in the pathway you have chosen but you will be able to miss a session if you can't make it and then pick up the next one without feeling like you've missed out on something essential to the rest of the week.

We hope this has enticed you into signing up – the full timetable for all pathways will be available from the 15th of June. As you can imagine there is a lot to finalise, but a full timetable, plus tutors, will be available, on the website, on 15th June and we will be taking bookings from currently booked students from the 15th June until 29th June. After this time any unfilled places will be available to other NODA members. The cost of a week's tuition will be £100 per student.

To fund your participation in this exciting initiative you may wish to use your deposit for this year. If you do not wish to be part of the E-School you can have your deposit and all your monies refunded or you may wish to defer any money due to you against Summer School 2021 - (if for any reason you cannot make the 2021 School any monies held would be refunded) - the choice is yours.

We would aim to make refunds immediately following 29th June. Thank you so much for your patience – it has been a difficult decision to make, but we feel it is the right decision for everyone in these unprecedented circumstances. NODA Theatre Summer School Committee 2020

## Courses



*“We must all do theatre - to find out who we are and to discover who we could become.” Augustus Boal*

Do you have a passion for theatre?

Do you want to learn more about an area you love, or step out of your comfort zone and try something new?



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If so, there's a suitable course for you.

From the comfort of your home, with the focus on developing new and exciting ways of working to improve your skills and technique, these courses will give you plenty of new ideas and inspiration to add to your toolbox or take home to your Society.

Students with places on the original school will be emailed with details on the priority booking process.

### THE PATHWAYS



#### Backstage Pathway

Tutor: Ian Good / Mark Shayle / Stewart Charlesworth / Paul Stear



#### Drama Pathway

Tutor: Cat Robey / Catriona Cumming / Ian Bustard / Kerry Frampton / Tom Jordan / Sarah Osborne / Elianne and Graeme Hawley



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- ### Multidisciplinary Pathway

Tutor: Cat Robey / Ian Bustard / Jonny Dixon / Kerry Frampton / Tom Jordan / Sarah Osborne / Alex Berriman / Laurann Brown



- ### Musical Theatre Pathway

Tutor: Lynne Bustard / Marjory Watson / Pamela Rudge

FIND OUT MORE ON THE NODA WEBSITE