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***We are back!!! – not to normal –  
but to a “Corvid-compliant” normal,  
which is different, but has a semblance of  
similarity...***

***After all, as Dickens indicated in ‘Hard  
Times’...***

***“People must be amuthed”.***



## COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Patrons,

This is the first formal Newsletter since the UK was hit by the Corona virus and lock-down, and we couldn't have imagined their impact on all of our lives and, for some, on their health. It has been quite a distressing time for many and we would hope all of our members and playgoers are managing to get along OK.

From a BLTC perspective, two plays were postponed and several venue hires were either cancelled or postponed. We are very grateful to all of you who had bought tickets for these events, who either donated the value of their tickets to BLTC or reallocated the amounts against future productions and also to those who have kindly made charitable donations to BLTC - these have all helped us continue to pay our rent, insurance and utility bills during closure. Thankyou.

Like most, we had expected a three week lockdown would "do the trick" and see off Covid-19. Now we all know this virus is with us for the longer term., so we feel we have to get on with our lives in as safe a way as possible—being aware that, at any time, our area may be put into another lockdown.

We announced in our last mailshot that we have decided to ensure the Theatre is Covid-compliant, which allows us to open in a limited way.

These measures, which will affect everyone working in or visiting BLT, are detailed opposite. The main impact is the amount of seats available per performance...a maximum of 28 (normally 96!). So, once a production is announced, don't hang around - get those tickets booked! -and don't worry. if the event is cancelled due to Covid-19 measures, your ticket (plus TicketSource booking fee if applicable) will be fully refunded.

Our first foray into a post lockdown production is a Studio production of "BULL" by Mike Bartlett. The production is planned for 26th-28th November. (See page 3 for details) Before that, we have a play reading—6th November (see page 4 for details). Attendee numbers for both of these events are limited and social distancing will be maintained. They will 'test the waters' and help inform us on how better to manage safely theatre events during these difficult times.

Bournemouth Little Theatre is YOUR theatre, so we ask for feedback on the measures we have had to introduce before we launch a larger, more costly, production - please email 'bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com' if you have comments.

In normal circumstances, we would have held our AGM by now, reporting on the year ended 30 June 2020. Because of lockdown, however, the accounts were delayed—we have now received them and arranged the AGM to be held on Sunday 6th December 2020 at 7:30pm. The AGM gives you a chance to have your say on how the committee are managing the Theatre's business. To vote at the AGM and to claim member's reduced ticket prices for our productions, you need to be a fully paid up member.

Membership years start 1 July. If you haven't renewed yet, please.....

BLTC Committee

## NEXT PRODUCTION: **BULL** by Mike Bartlett - Performances 26th-28th November 2020: 7:45pm

Set in an office in the present day:

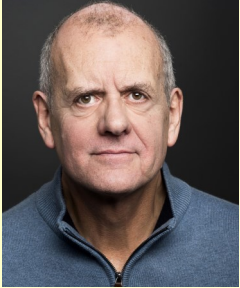
Carter has decided to slim down his team by "letting go" one member. He has called the team - Tony, Isobel and Thomas - in for a meeting where he will decide their fate. While they wait for Carter to arrive, Tony and Isobel bait Thomas.

Let the battle commence....

An acid-tongued play, razor sharp and blackly comic. Bull is a savage and insightful play about office politics or playground bullying, depending which side you are on. Genuinely thrilling, daring and inventive, acclaimed playwright, Bartlett probes the darker side of the modern workplace.

**Cast:** Isobel: Alice Drewett, Thomas: Aiden Nicholas, Tony: Sebastian Mersey, Carter: Chaz Davenport.

**Crew:** Stage Manager: Mica Sharples, Lighting Designer: John Willmott, Sound Designer: Gary Hayton



*Tim: 'I'm so excited to be able to bring the BLT Studio back to life with this powerful, challenging and thought provoking play. I'm equally delighted to have assembled a cast of three young, extremely talented actors to work alongside Chaz Davenport to deliver what I believe will be an unforgettable evening's theatre. As this is a BLT Studio production, we will be inviting the audience to stay behind after the show (your drinks can be pre-ordered and delivered to your seat!) to discuss the play and the production. I do hope you will join us.'*

Directed by Tim Fearon

### COVID-19 MEASURES IN PLACE AT BLT.....*keeping you safe and live Theatre alive!*

- ◆ All productions are "advance ticket sales" only. Please note, walk-ins on the night are not allowed. Should the show be cancelled because of either further lockdown or a member of the cast testing positive, full refunds will be available.
- ◆ Social distancing - where possible please stay 2 metres apart from others when in the theatre. Seats have been blocked out to allow the 1 metre rule to be followed in the auditorium.
- ◆ Masks are to be worn throughout the Theatre with the exception of the cast when they are acting on stage. If you are medically exempt from wearing a face mask, please wear your lanyard or badge confirming this.
- ◆ Hand sanitisers are available for use on entry and exit from the theatre.
- ◆ Your temperature will be taken (non contact) - if above the normal range, you and your party will be asked to leave the premises. Ticket refunds will be arranged.
- ◆ We have implemented 'Track and Trace' and will ask you to register your visit via the NHS app on arrival. If you do not have access to the app, we will record your name and phone number so that we can easily contact you if necessary.
- ◆ If you have tested positive for Covid-19, or have symptoms, please do not come to the theatre. Stay at home and isolate yourself according to the UK rules.
- ◆ Once at the theatre, you are requested to stay in your seat and not move around the auditorium or to the bar/coffee bar. Pre and post show drinks can be ordered / pre-ordered on arrival and will be brought to your seat.
- ◆ When you leave the Theatre please exit by row, only when requested by the front of house manager.
- ◆ The Theatre will be cleaned and disinfected after each performance.

**The above measures are in line with the Government rules so we can open to the public.**

***Thankyou for your co-operation.***

## Play-reading - Friday 6th November 2020, 7:30pm

BLT auditorium - hosted by Gillian Linford

### GHOSTWRITER by David Tristram—a Comedy

Ruby Pinfold, a talented but tempestuous actress, is celebrating the final performance of a new production of Hamlet. Tragically, that very night, Ruby, a renowned reveller with a reputation for burning the candle at all three ends, is found dead in her bed by her husband, the playwright Edward Pinfold, due to an overdose of naughty pills and booze.

One year later, however, Edward remains deeply affected. Unable to face the emotional torment of living in the house he once shared with his wife, he has moved into the attic room of one of his oldest actor friends, Alex. A deep depression has overtaken him and he is unable to write.

So there you have it. I trust you have managed to follow me so far, because what happens next could be a bit hard to swallow.

We join the story on the first anniversary of the death of Ruby Pinfold. May she rest in peace...



If you would like to come to the play reading, please let Gwen know - 01202 083503 or email [Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com).

Due to the Covid-19 rules, there is a limit of 20 for the reading, spaces pre-booked - first 20 to contact Gwen or send an email get the spot! *If you haven't booked a place, please don't just turn up—you won't be able to join the fun!*

## ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is:  
BLT Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG  
Tickets £10.00, Seniors and students £8, Members £5.00

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at [www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) (booking fees apply) You can only book tickets in pairs. No more than six tickets can be booked by one person (Covid rules!)
- ◆ **WRITE** enclosing cheque (payable to BLTC) and SAE to BLTC Box Office (address above) Up to six tickets only, *including a small amount of single tickets.*
- ◆ **PHONE** to book by calling Sue on her home number **01202 417484** \*\*

**\*\* ONLY between 8.00pm and 9.00pm during the week  
Monday 23rd—Friday 27th November 2020 \*\***

Tickets will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form, cheque and SAE. Where an SAE is not enclosed, tickets will be retained to be collected at the theatre on the night of the performance.

PLEASE NOTE—NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABALE ON THE NIGHT AT THE DOOR, UNDER THE STRICT COVID-19 RULES

It is really easy to book online and, of course, so convenient. Whenever you decide you want to book tickets for a show—whatever the day and whatever the time—you can go ahead.

But—and there's always a but, isn't there? - it is also, sadly, easy to make mistakes.

By making your booking too quickly, it is easy to book on the wrong day—or even to book for the wrong show! So.....a word to the wise...

**CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN** at every stage of your booking that it exactly fits your requirements, and save all the hassle of making changes.

Of course, if you are not entirely happy with the on-line process you can always use the postal option detailed above in the second bullet point.

**A FINAL PLEA: If you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend, please let the Box Office know as soon as possible.**

**Thank you**

*Re “Things I Know to be True” March 2020 production postponed...now cancelled.*

We are very sad to let you know that, due to the non-availability of the some of the original cast of “Things I Know To be True”, Hayley - the Director - has asked for the production to be pulled from our scheduling.

Both Hayley and the cast put a tremendous amount of effort into the production that we all were looking forward to seeing, only for the UK being locked-down less than two weeks before first night!

I am sure all members and playgoers will join in thanking them for the amount of effort put into the production. It must have been heart-breaking for them not to have their play seen by our audiences. Maybe one day.....

Review of the first BLT Studio production — 11-14th March 2020

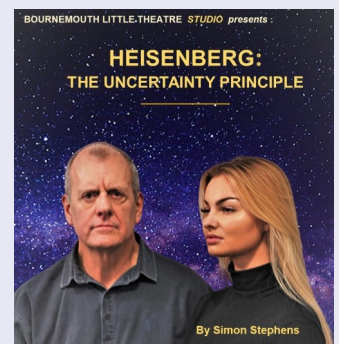
**‘HEISENBERG: THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE.’**

Directed and acted by Alice Drewett and Tim Fearon

REVIEW

Excerpt from John Newth, Scene One review:

*“it is a joy to see two experienced, talented actors working together to deliver the dialogue crisply but also to convey the connection on a deeper level. The contrast in their body language is striking, they know the power of silence and they both maintain their accents – American and Irish – impeccably. They are also credited as the directors, and the extent to which they have invested themselves in the Production is evident. ”*



**Coming soon—BLTC Production**



**We are delighted to confirm that PLAYHOUSE CREATURES - the planned final production of BLT’s Centenary Year, another casualty of Covid-19, is being rescheduled into the current season. Not sure when as yet, watch this space! The cast and director can’t wait!!!**

**Set in the 17th Century, this vivacious comedy takes us backstage in a Restoration playhouse to celebrate a bold moment in the history of theatre, when women were first allowed on stage.**

**Telling the story with bawdy comedy, theatrical flair and emotional poignancy, April De Angelis’ *Playhouse Creatures* will make you laugh and cry in equal measure.**

**Directed by Lindsay Jones**

## REMEMBERING ... Tony Orman.

We were saddened to hear of the passing, during the summer, of this old friend who was prolific at BLTC, joining in 1986 when he settled in Bournemouth,. At BLT he was an actor, director, sound effects editor, he took editing the newsletter to new heights resulting in it being nicknamed "The Orman Gazette" by club members. He included a cookery corner, persuading his wife, Deb, to part with her recipes. Receiving the Newsletter in those days was an event in itself! In 2007 he and Deb moved to Florida, but he would keep in contact with BLTC often sending "letters from America" for inclusion in the Newsletter. He will always be thought of with great fondness by his friends at the Club. Our love and best wishes go to Deb at this sad time.



## **SUMMER JOBS.**



**NEW WEBSITE** –Tim has spent the summer months designing our new website and uploading data and photos from the past four years - earlier years still to be added. The site went live a couple of weeks ago and we think you will agree it looks fabulous. If you haven't seen it, check it out - [www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk). Thanks Tim

The team of painters met—some weekly, some occasionally, all welcomed, cajoled and encouraged by Mo. They have scrubbed floors and washed walls and curtains and painted just about everything in sight at the Theatre, from toilets to stairwells to changing rooms, kitchen bar area and parts of the auditorium. Production photos have been hung or re-hung and the entry stairwell and front door are about to get "the treatment". Huge thanks to all involved (you know who you are!).

Alastair, Glan and Peter have spent their time upgrading the audio equipment and repairing and rewiring the electric cables. Absolutely vital, but unseen, work. Thankyou, gentlemen.



BULL audition and rehearsal photos



**AN APPEAL – IF ANYONE HAS SOME LARGE, PICTURE FRAMES (WITH GLASS) THAT THEY NO LONGER WANT, BLTC WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE THEM AND USE THEM TO DISPLAY PAST PRODUCTION PHOTOS AT THE THEATRE. JUST CALL LINDSAY (01202 083504) TO DISCUSS WHAT YOU HAVE AND HE WILL ARRANGE COLLECTION. MANY THANKS**

A way to help Bournemouth Little Theatre Club at no cost to you....

Those of you who regularly buy goods from AMAZON online are able to direct which Charities Amazon's parent company supports.

AmazonSmile is a programme that **donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice**. All you need to do is visit [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select your favourite charity...Bournemouth Little Theatre Club obviously!!! Then start your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk). If you have signed up to AmazonPrime you still get the usual benefits.

You must remember to go to **smile.amazon.com** each time you shop for all of this to work. So, consider bookmarking the site.

You'll be able to tell you're shopping from the correct page if you see the AmazonSmile logo in the corner of the page and "Supporting [charity of your choice]"



below the search bar. When you hover over the name of the charity you, can see additional information about it and track the donation amount you've generated through your purchases.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Your Committee Members:**

**(Email: [Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:Bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com))**

- Gwen Jones (*Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/ Venue Hire*) .....01202 083504  
.....07825 064731
- Lindsay Jones (*DSP/Play Selection Committee/Photographer*)  
.....01202 083504
- Mo Hamill (*Properties Co-Ordinator, Costumes*).....07585 504500
- Adam Stoddart (*'Studio' Play Selection Committee / advertising*).....  
.....07749 409634
- Tim Fearon (*Marketing & website*) .....07973 198811
- Issy Coombs .....

**Not on the Council:**

- Alastair Griffith (*Lighting Design*).....07400 014135
- Andrew Whyatt (*Play Selection Committee*).....01202 624221
- Don Gent (*Centenary Co-ordinator/Programmes/ Play selection Committee*) .....01202 389725
- Chris Huggill (*Bar Stocks Manager & Bar rota organizer*)07443 626484
- Sue Hyder (*Box Office/Programmes*).....07968 845744

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