



Whitefield Garrick

Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Nominations and Awards !!

Great success for The Garrick at this year's GMDF Awards Night, held at Guide Bridge Theatre in July. Two of our plays were nominated for Awards along with the actors' individual nominations.

Our wonderful November 2022 play *The Moderate Soprano*, directed by Chairman Geoffrey Shindler, was nominated for Best Production, Samantha Taylor for Best Supporting Female Actress, Peter Scofield for Best Male Actor and John Cunningham for Best Supporting Male Actor.

Alfie Howard was nominated for Best Supporting Male Actor in our January 2023 play *After the Dance*.

We are delighted to announce that the winners are, Samantha Taylor for her role as Audrey Mildmay, in *The Moderate Soprano*, and Alfie Howard for his role as John Reid in *After The Dance*.

Many Congratulations to all the nominees and to our very worthy winners.



Alfie Howard as John Reid
in *After The Dance*



Samantha Taylor as
Audrey Mildmay in
The Moderate Soprano



Alfie Howard, Peter Scofield, Samantha Taylor
and director Geoffrey Shindler



A few familiar faces enjoying the evening



Important Notice !

Bank Street Access

We are very much aware of the problems with the disruption to Bank Street owing to the work on the railway tunnel. There are concerns about the access to our theatre, for both pedestrians and drivers and unfortunately, we do not know the extent of the subsequent work still to be done, or how long it will last.

Access to the theatre is still not possible from Church Lane for drivers or pedestrians, due to the ongoing roadworks and we will try to keep you informed of any changes. However, access is still possible on foot via Devon Ave which is next to Northern Craft House (opposite BetFred) on Bury New Road.

For your safety, it is important that you do not try to access the theatre by car and would ask you instead, to proceed down Bank Street on foot. Bank Street is not wide enough for cars to pass each other and there are extremely limited options for cars to turn around. People with limited mobility may wish to be dropped off by Dimoda Hair Design on Bury New Road and use the pedestrian route to access the theatre.

In the meantime, we will let you know how it is all progressing as and when we are informed of it. We hope you will all continue to support us throughout this unclear and unsatisfactory situation and look forward to seeing you enjoying our future events and productions in the coming months.

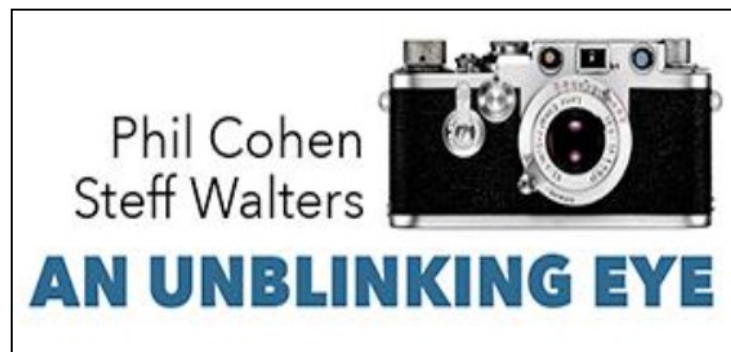
Whitefield Garrick Executive Committee

Garrick Annual General Meeting August 2023



Our 2023 AGM took place on 22nd August and was attended by the members of the Executive Committee and Theatre Club Members. Chairman Geoff Shindler gave a very interesting and inspiring report about the Garrick's progress during the past 12 months and our hopes for the future and coming season. Geoff paid tribute to the actors, the backstage staff, the front of house people and all those who had helped in any capacity to get the plays on stage. Notably, that at our first meeting of this season we had the sad task of discussing the arrangements the Society would make for the day of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. It was agreed to cancel the performance on the day of the funeral, and the tickets would be reallocated to those who had booked the performances later in the week. This was all achieved, Geoff said, thanks to the hard work and efficiency of Alfred Howard, to whom we are most grateful.

Geoff went on to say, '2022/23 was our first full season after the end of the Covid pandemic. We did not know how many people would want to come out and mix socially, with or without social distancing, but our audiences had held up significantly. It was noticeable that the high artistic standards that the Whitefield Garrick produce had not in any way been adversely affected by the problems of Covid, and each of our five productions were of the very highest possible standard.' Geoff was delighted with the Awards received for *The Moderate Soprano*, especially as he had directed the play and he enthusiastically agreed to accept a further year as Chairman.



An extremely beautiful exhibition of photographs by Phil Cohen and Steff Walters, *An Unblinking Eye* opened in the Whitefield Garrick Foyer on 16th September and will be available to view throughout October and during our November play, *Murder by Misadventure*.

Peter Haigh has written the following interpretation of the art work involved:-

‘Phil Cohen explores how photography can focus on and analyse a subject, searching through shape, colour and texture, to reveal the visually special in still-life, landscape and architecture.

Steff Walters uses the camera to capture the fragmentary moment. Steff’s black and white street photography catches that never-to-be-repeated event through chance encounters.



Knight Flowers by Phil Cohen



Shopping and Ice Cream by Steff Walters

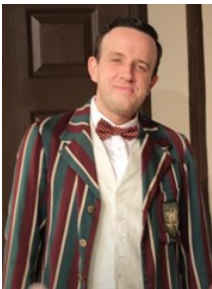
The work of Phil and Steff complement each other in this exhibition; one investigating the underlying forms, the other the transitory moment.

Both, however, bring a strong use of composition as a vital element in their visual choices.

The exhibition has already been highly received and, as a result, Phil and Steff are now working on a second joint exhibition for the Whitefield Garrick.

Scottish poet, Robert Burns wrote those famous words, *'The best-laid schemes of mice and men go oft awry'*, and so they did for our first play of the 2023/24 Season, *Neighbourhood Watch* by Alan Ayckbourn. After so many setbacks during the Covid epidemic and the Lockdown of 2 years ago, we launched into our new season of plays with gusto. New plays, new actors and new enthusiasm. Our keen backstage crews jumped at the opportunity of building sets, providing props and setting up lighting and sound. Actors dived enthusiastically into scripts and began rehearsals. Front of house teams provided support manning the bar, brewing tea and coffee and booking in audience members during the run. Everything was up and running and our hard working committee made plans. We could not have imagined it would happen again, but as several members of the cast fell ill with Covid, the Director Geoff Shindler and cast made the devastating decision to cancel the play, a week before it was due to start. Every possible means was explored in order to try and keep the production on the stage, but it was with a heavy heart that the decision was made.

Summer News



Matt Owen-Veale is a GP by day and Actor by Night. He has been a regular actor at The Garrick since joining in 2016 and has recently been approached to be involved and photographed for a feature in the British Medical Journal relating to doctors' taking part in the arts. Matt has appeared in various productions at The Garrick, including, *Damsel in Distress*, *Journey's End* and *Madame Rubinstein*.

In his next role, he is playing 'Ben' in *Things I know to Be True* in May 2024.



During the summer months we were delighted to welcome back, Rachel Creeger, with her new show:

'Ultimate Jewish Mother'.

'Tonight was just GLORIOUS!'

Thank you so much to everyone who came to see the show in Manchester, and for all of your lovely messages.

Big thank you as always to Whitefield Garrick!'

Wedding Congratulations



Many congratulations to two of our favourite acting members, Matt Rigby and Natalie Hayley, who were married earlier this year. Matt will be recognised from the many roles he has played at the Garrick, including Journey's End, Damsel in Distress, and These Shining Lives. Natalie has appeared in The Winslow Boy and is a member of Summerseat Players where she also appeared in Macbeth. We wish them both every happiness together and look forward to seeing them in our future productions.

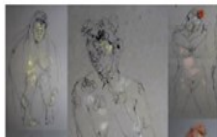


If you have seen on Facebook the digital magazine created and designed by Peter Haigh, who recently designed our new programmes and bookmarks, then you will know that it is full to the brim with creative, interesting, inviting and imaginative activities taking place in Whitefield.

The intention of the magazine is to promote, publicise and connect creative people who have a link with Whitefield. It covers the visual arts, performing arts, music in its many forms, creative writing, poetry, venues, design, dance, fashion and textiles, exhibitions, mixed and multi-media. In fact, something for everyone. The magazine is updated regularly, published digitally every six weeks and is available for download on Facebook at Whitefield Creative Arts.

For further information or if you would like to contact the magazine, you can e-mail:
whitefieldcreativearts@hotmail.com

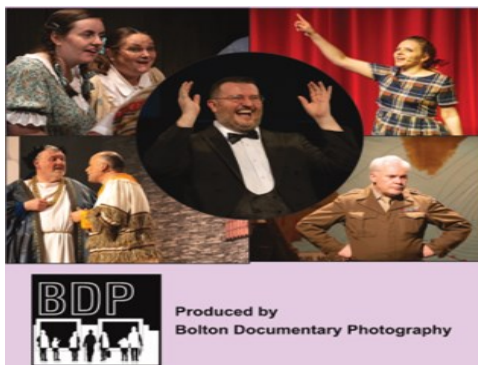
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Bolton Documentary Photographic

Some months ago we were approached by Adrian Mottram of Bolton Documentary Photographic with a view to being included in book of Photos relating to the Amateur Arts. The result was an excellent compilation called ***'The Show Must Go On'***.

'98 pages of superb images focused on the re-emergence of local amateur theatre, post pandemic, throughout the Bolton area. Photographs of many talented theatre companies strutting their stuff on stages around our community to show their commitment to the performing arts'.



The Show Must Go On

An exhibition by Bolton Documentary Photography

An exhibition focussed on the re-emergence of local amateur theatre, post pandemic. Photographs of many talented actors and backstage crew strutting their stuff on stages around our community to show their commitment to the performing arts.



'I salute Bolton Documentary Photography for supporting the arts and theatre as it comes back to life. We all need to help give breath and new life to this much needed cultural community that inspires us all in our daily lives. We've missed you.'

Rankin, professional photographer

We are delighted that three of our acting members appear on the front cover. Daisy Leather and Emma Ferguson, in *Blue Remembered Hills* and Chris Elkes in *Pressure* for Farnworth Little Theatre. Other members including our Secretary Pat Hill also appear within the publication.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this lovely book, please contact Adrian by email at:

adrian.mottram@outlook.com

PETER CHEETHAM

It is with the utmost sadness that we report the loss of our friend and fellow actor Peter Cheetham. Peter was a stalwart member of Whitefield Garrick for many years, and also performed with Glorybutts Theatre, Pados and Summerseat Players. His friendly and jocular personality together with his superb acting ability, made him a popular choice for the brilliant roles he played and it was indeed a joy to be in a play with him. Peter's acting prowess was impeccable and he approached each role in exactly the same way, his script in his inside pocket and his attempt at learning lines, left to the last minute. However his performance was flawless and the cast and audiences loved him. Many of the Garrick members have happy memories of *Absent Friends*, *Relative Values*, *The Real Thing*, *Kindertransport*, *Rebecca* and especially *An Inspector Calls*, in which he played *Inspector Goole* and for which he won the Best Actor Award. He and his partner Sue Simons moved to Spain a few years ago and Bob Howell, his close friend, visited them at their home many times over the years. Our sincere condolences to Sue and family.

In our acting community he will always be 'An Absent Friend', and dearly missed.



OBITUARY

BOB HOPKINSON

We were deeply sorry to hear of the loss of Bob Hopkins after a short spell in hospital. He was a lovely, cheerful man who always had a twinkle in his eye. As a loved member of our society, Bob took immense pleasure from his time in amateur theatre and was a member of many local societies. We were extremely lucky to have him on our stage in a number of productions. He will be remembered fondly for his lovable character and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

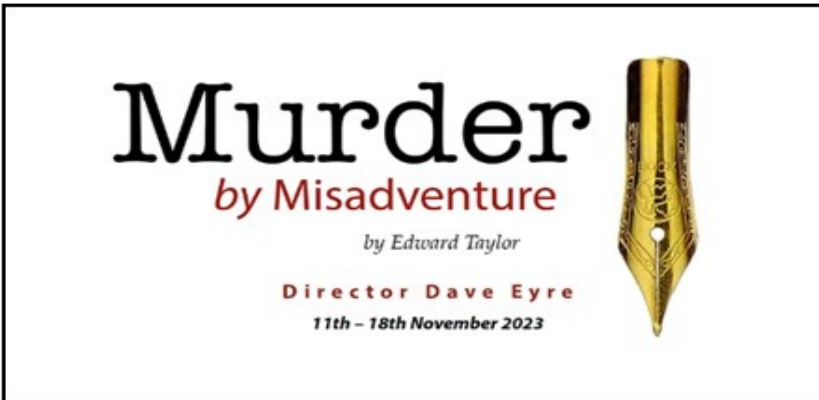
Many of you will remember his performances in *Shadowlands*, *Dandy Dick* and *Tons of Money*.

Our sincere condolences to all his family and friends.



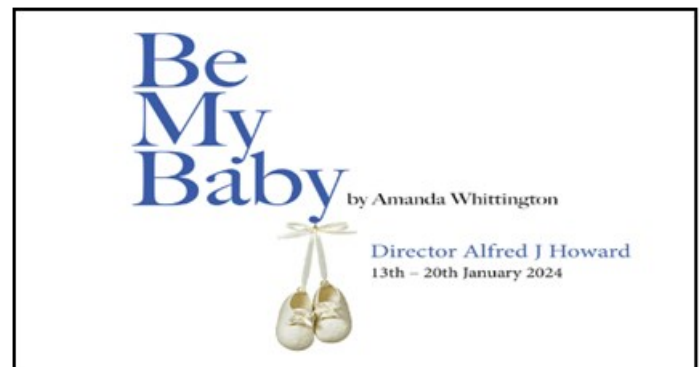


The Silhouette Band are back with their special brand of 1960's favourites!
Saturday
2nd December 2023
4pm



Murder by Misadventure
by Edward Taylor
Directed by Dave Eyre
11th & 13th to 18th November
7:30pm
Matinees: 12th & 18th November
2:30pm

Be My Baby
by Amanda Whittington
Directed by Alfred J Howard
Evenings: 13th & 15th to 20th January 2024
7:30pm
Matinees: 14th & 20th January 2024 2:30pm



The Hound of the Baskervilles (Spoof)
by S Canny and J Nicholson
Directed by Andrew Close
Evenings: 9th & 11th to 16th March 2024
7:30pm
Matinees: 10th & 16th March 2024 2:30pm

Things I Know to be True
by Andrew Bovell
Directed by Peter Scofield
Evenings: 11th & 13th to 18th May 2024 7:30pm
Matinees: 12th & 18th May 2024 2:30pm

