

THE GRANGE PLAYHOUSE

2024/25
SEASON



Join us for our 73rd Season
www.grangeplayers.co.uk



Join us for our 77th Season
www.fellowship-players.co.uk

WELCOME BACK!



Hello everyone,

It is my honour to present this, our 73rd season, to you our wonderful audience. A season that I am sure will continue our proud tradition of bringing award winning entertainment to our theatre.

We have a fantastic selection of shows lined up for you over the next year presenting the very best that the Grange Players have to offer. I am delighted to see new directors bringing their visions to the stage and I hope that these exciting productions also bring new talent to our stage.


I look forward to hearing what you, our audience, think of our shows as it is for you that we do all this.

Enjoying what the Grange Players are bringing? Then why not consider joining us as a member. Whether on stage or behind the scenes we have a role for everyone as we continue bringing joy and entertainment to our supportive community.

Don't Dream It...Be It

Rod Bissett

Chair - Grange Players

 noda
be inspired by
amateur theatre

 Members of the
Little Theatre Guild
of Great Britain

**ALL PERFORMANCE
TIME: 7.30pm**

**TICKET PRICES
FROM £12.00**

**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.

GRANGE PLAYHOUSE

Broadway North, Walsall WS1 2QB

Tel: 01922 625100

Box Office: 07909 036 835

(Theatre Phone only manned during runs of play)

www.grangeplayers.co.uk

2024-25 RUNNING ORDER

Educating Rita - The Grange Players

September 12th - 21st 2024

Sweeney Todd - The Fellowship Players

October 10th - 19th 2024

Class - The Grange Players

November 14th - 23rd 2024

Into The Woods Jnr - Thespian Arts

December 7th - 8th 2024

The Hound of the Baskervilles - The Grange Players

January 9th - 18th 2025

Things I Know to be True - The Fellowship Players

February 13th - 22nd 2025

The Girl on the Train - The Grange Players

March 13th - 22nd 2025

The Good Life - The Fellowship Players

April 10th - 19th 2025

Outside Edge - The Grange Players

May 22nd - 31st 2025

Absent Friends - The Fellowship Players

June 19th - 28th 2025

Don't Dress for Dinner - The Grange Players

July 17th - 26th 2025

THE GRANGE PLAYERS 2023-24 REVIEWS



ACCOMPLICE

...What we can say is that it is a delicious night of fun, a comedy thriller with three deaths - one victim even managing to die twice! That's persistence for you



THE WOMAN IN WHITE

It is a well acted and well paced piece, with director Lynne Young keeping everything moving along nicely on a lovely period set designed by Joe Young with lighting from Stan Vigurs.



LILIES ON THE LAND

They have become people. It all takes place on a bucolic set designed by director Rachel Waters and the result is a lovely evening touching on nostalgia for some, a neighbour as I was growing up had been a Land Girl and memories of the war were still fresh.



SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM

...Director Kerry Jones and her cast and crew have set a remarkably high bar for the rest of 2024 and if you want a laugh, a bit of nostalgia and an evening of wonderful theatre, then some mothers will be 'avin 'em, as long as Frank is kept away from tools or wires, or indeed the building



FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS 2023-24 REVIEWS



DIAL M FOR MURDER

Huge congratulations to all the cast and crew for giving the audience an immersive experience. Thanks too for Rebecca Holmes-Mears's hard work by creating a piece of classic theatre performed by a strong cast who brought energy and drive to the story, a murder mystery.



SHEILA'S ISLAND

"Sheila's Island" is not just a play—it's a celebration of friendship, resilience, and the human spirit. With its stellar performances and heartwarming storytelling, this production offers audiences a much-needed escape into a world of laughter, camaraderie, and hope. Just remind me to avoid any team building workshops in the near future.



LEADING LADIES

A strong cast of accomplished actors with excellent senses of timing and ability, who delivered this cross-dressing farce with perfection. This was a delightful comedic evening; superb dialogue; creative surprises and very funny lines which had at times the audience in hysterics; a wholly engaging production. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew.



JOIN US!

We welcome new interested members from age 16 years upwards, to learn theatre skills.

Annually we hold several social events, play readings, front of house training, wardrobe, sound, lighting, stage make up, back stage work, props, speech training, acting, directing, set building and painting, in fact just about every aspect of theatre performance.

Contact via email:

arts.director@grangeplayers.co.uk, or contact the theatre on **07909 036 835** and leave a message and someone will be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you and our Arts Director Sara Pelton looks forward to meeting you!

Please help support The Grange Playhouse by shopping online.

Use Easyfundraising, and search for The Grange Playhouse, to shop with over 3,300 retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, you'll raise a free donation for The Grange Playhouse every time, it's that easy!

Thank you again!

Dawn Vigurs
Hon Secretary



EDUCATING RITA

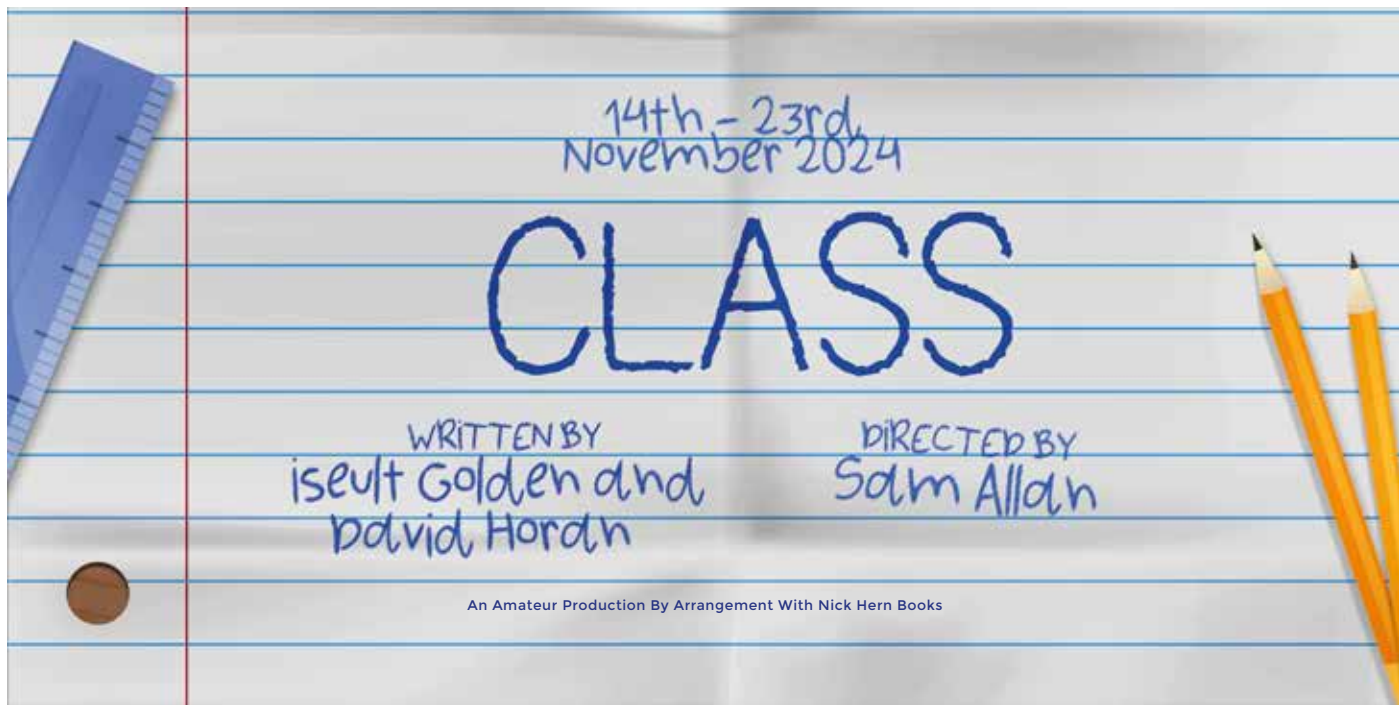
12 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

WRITTEN BY WILLY RUSSELL // DIRECTED BY SARA BISSETT



Educating Rita is one of Willy Russell's best known plays, drawing on every emotion to produce a profoundly moving, yet also hilarious two-hander. It is a witty yet poignant look at a working class woman's attempts to change her social circumstances through pursuit of an Open University qualification, a play about education and choice. Set in the chaotic splendour of a university lecturer's study/tutorial room, the play's two characters share a language but each speak a very different tongue. The play follows Liverpool hairdresser, Rita, and her experience in returning to education. Tutor, and failed poet, Frank, is initially reluctant to take on the enormity of trying to teach this needy but unconventional and unfocused would-be student, preferring instead to continue easing his way through his teaching duties with the blunting help of the booze he keeps stashed behind the books on his shelves. For Rita, though, Frank is the perfect teacher and faced with her determination, with her insistence that she wants to '...know. Everything,' he is reluctantly persuaded to commit to overseeing Rita's studies and the series of regular tutorials through which the play unfolds.

Tickets on sale from 31st May 2025



CLASS

14 - 23 NOVEMBER 2024

WRITTEN BY ISEULT GOLDEN AND DAVID HORAN // DIRECTED BY SAM ALLEN



Brian and Donna's son, Jayden, is nine years old and he's struggling at school. He comes from a disadvantaged area. His parents are supportive, although they're going through a rough patch. And his new teacher thinks early intervention could really make a difference. What could possibly go wrong?

Class by Iseult Golden and David Horan is an award winning play about learning difficulties in school, in life, wherever! A heart-breaking but humorous exploration of failing education systems, prejudice and parent-teacher relationships, an explosive triple confrontation that is funny, heartbreaking and beautifully observed

Tickets on sale from 5th October 2024



THE HOUND OF BASKERVILLES (STAGE VERSION)

9 - 18 JANUARY 2025

WRITTEN BY STEVEN CANNY AND JOHN NICHOLSON, // DIRECTED BY ROD BISSETT



An ancient family curse, a desolate moor, a spectral hound and a deranged killer on the loose. The Hound of the Baskervilles is the most celebrated Holmes story of all, a masterpiece of mystery and suspense. And Lord it's scary - really, really, scary. The story of Sherlock Holmes's investigation into the monstrous beast terrorizing the dark and dangerous moors has gripped people's imaginations since it first appeared in print in 1901. Peepolykus have taken all the familiar elements of the tale, and - through an exhilarating collision of anarchic verbal slapstick, absurd scenarios and wonderfully ridiculous comic performances - have managed to create an hilarious, clever, and chaotic adaptation that injects a burst of thrilling energy into a classic resulting in one of the most sublimely funny adaptations that you are ever likely to see. Once you've managed to stop laughing this is a Hound that you will never forget. It's absolutely barking!

Tickets on sale from 23rd November 2024



GIRL ON THE TRAIN

13 - 22 MARCH 2025

WRITTEN BY RACHEL WAGSTAFF, PAULA HAWKINS, DUNCAN ABEL // DIRECTED BY DAWN VIGURS



Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel's stage adaptation based on Paula Hawkins' international bestseller and the blockbuster DreamWorks film. The Girl On The Train is the thrilling story of Rachel Watson, who goes from curious train passenger to being caught up in a mystery of a disappearing woman.

Rachel is unhappy with her life and longs for something different and more exciting. Her only escape from her mundane life is secretly watching a perfect couple through her train window every day, witnessing them happy and in love with each other. Or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as both a witness and a suspect in a thrilling mystery in which she will face bigger revelations than she could ever have anticipated or imagined.

Tickets on sale from 25th January 2025



OUTSIDE EDGE

22 - 31 MAY 2024

WRITTEN BY RICHARD HARRIS // DIRECTED BY CHRIS WATERS



Outside Edge is a play written by Richard Harris about a village cricket team trying to win a game of cricket whilst sorting out their various marital problems. Roger is having trouble getting a team together for the afternoons fixture against the British Railways Maintenance Division Yeading East but this proves to be the least of anyone's worries. Bob is having marriage trouble as he is still doing odd jobs for his ex-wife behind his current wife Ginnie's back. Dennis is also having marital trouble as his wife seems intent on moving house despite the fact they only moved recently. When he finally puts his foot down she sets fire to his new car. Kevin is trying to fight off his over affectionate wife Maggie while at the same time nurse his injured spinning finger and Alex's new girlfriend ends up shutting herself in the toilets having hysterics. Even Roger's seemingly perfect marriage to Miriam hits the skids when she discovers he was playing away from home in more ways than one on a trip to Dorking last year. Just when it seems things can't get any worse for them, it starts to rain.

Tickets on sale from 5th April 2025



DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

17 - 26 JULY 2025

WRITTEN BY MARC CAMOLETTI & ROBIN HAWDON // DIRECTED BY SARA BISSETT



Bernard is planning a romantic weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in his charming converted French farmhouse whilst his wife, Jacqueline, is away. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights and has invited his best friend, Robert, along too to provide the alibi. It's foolproof; what could possibly go wrong?

Well.... suppose Robert turns up not realizing quite why he has been invited. Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers and consequently determined that Jacqueline will NOT leave for the weekend. Suppose the cook has to pretend to be the mistress and the mistress is unable to cook. Suppose everyone's alibi gets confused with everyone else's. An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed.

Tickets on sale from 25th January 2025

FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE

We are lucky to share our playhouse with **The Fellowship Players**
and, more recently, **Thespian Arts**.



www.thespian-arts.co.uk



www.fellowship-players.co.uk

THEATRE AVAILABILITY

With The Grange Players and The Fellowship Players jointly performing 10 productions of 9 nights each year between them there is limited availability to let the theatre out to other groups. However, we are always happy to receive enquiries and, when possible, we will hire the theatre for suitable uses. For example, recently we have been playing host to a number of groups researching supernatural activity and a retirement group has made use of our foyer from time to time.

Thespian Arts, a youth theatre, have performed here for 3 years now and we are always happy to welcome them back.

If you are interested in hiring the theatre or foyer please contact:

Dawn Vigurs 07469 947186
or company.secretary@grangeplayers.co.uk

with the dates and the activity and we will see if
we are able to accommodate you

A poster for the musical "Into the Woods Jr." featuring a dark green background with silhouettes of trees and a path. The title "INTO THE WOODS JR." is written in a large, ornate, golden font. Below the title, the dates "7TH & 8TH DECEMBER 2024" are also in a golden font. At the bottom, there is information about the venue, ticket prices, and social media links.

INTO THE WOODS JR.

7TH & 8TH DECEMBER 2024

The Grange Playhouse Theatre,
Broadway North, WS1 2QB

£12 adults, £10 under 18s, £8 under 6s

 www.thespian-arts.co.uk/auditions

  @thespianartstheatre   @thespianarts

Thespian Arts

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk

INTO THE WOODS JR.

**WRITTEN BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
& JAMES LAPINE**

7 - 8 DECEMBER 2024

Be careful what you wish for, as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their ground-breaking, Tony Award-winning musical. Into the Woods JR. features all of your favourite characters – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch – in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables.

The musical centres on a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse, and wind up changed forever.



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS

The Fellowship Players amateur drama group was created in 1947, following the merger of St. Matthew's Players and St. Luke's Players, two independent theatre groups based in Walsall. At that time all performances were staged at Blue Coat School.

In 1965 we moved to The Grange Playhouse, putting on two plays per year. The Playhouse has been at the heart of the company's activities ever since. We added a third production to our regular season in 1984 and added a fourth in 2003. Today the company goes from strength to strength and this Autumn we begin our 77th season of plays.

The Fellowship Players is a not-for-profit organisation run by committee. We believe in creating quality theatre in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. We also believe in giving back to the community that supports us and we make regular donations to local charities and organisations when funds allow.

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about the Fellowship Players can:

By phone:

Anne Chamberlain
on **01922 630495**

By email:

fellowshipplayerswalsall@gmail.com

By Messenger:

via "The Fellowship
Players" public
Facebook page

Box Office Number 07721 334203

(Not manned full-time. Please be prepared to leave a message)



www.fellowship-players.co.uk

FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS
EST. 1947

10-19th October 2024

See the play that inspired a musical

SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

By
C.G. Bond



07721 334203

www.fellowship-players.co.uk

This amateur production of "Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

SWEENEY TODD

WRITTEN BY C.G. BOND

10 - 19 OCTOBER 2024

In this legendary Victorian tale, a barber returns to London from exile after his wrongful conviction some years earlier, bent on revenge for the rape and death of his wife. He resumes his trade while forming a sinister partnership with his fellow tenant, Mrs. Lovett. See the play that inspired a musical this Halloween season.

Trigger warning:

Please note this production contains scenes of violence and gore along with mentions of rape and suicide.

13-22nd of
February 2025



THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE.

WRITTEN BY

Andrew
Bovell

This amateur production of *'Things I Know To Be True'*
is produced in agreement with Nick Hern Publications

The logo for NODA (National Organisation of Drama and Theatre), featuring the word 'noda' in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font with the tagline 'No National Organisation of Drama and Theatre' in smaller text below it.

THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE

WRITTEN BY ANDREW BOVELL

13 - 22 FEBRUARY 2025

Rosie, Ben, Pip and Mark are trying to stand on their own two feet, but do they still need their parents Fran and Bob? Once you become parents, do you ever stop? This play takes a look at growing up, relationships, identity and family. It is a play about love... in its many forms. It examines the challenges faced in life and helps people understand that the journey of life is never a linear one.

Trigger warning:

This play contains some swearing and depictions of mental health struggles, gender identity, physical confrontation, grief and substance abuse.



www.fellowship-players.co.uk

FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS
EST. 1947

noda
By Nick Hern Productions

THE GOOD LIFE

Adapted by
JEREMY SAMS

Based upon the
tv series by
JOHN ESMONDE
&
BOB LARBEY

**10th - 19th
April 2025**

This amateur production is performed in
agreement with Nick Hern Publications

THE GOOD LIFE

ADAPTED BY JEREMY SAMS

BASED UPON THE TV SERIES BY
JOHN ESMONDE & BOB LARBEY

10 - 19 APRIL 2025

When Tom and Barbara Good decide to exchange the pressures of the rat race for an alternative, more sustainable way of living, they set about turning their suburban home in Surbiton into a model of self-sufficiency, growing their own fruit and veg, keeping livestock in the garden, making their own clothes, and even generating their own electricity from... manure. It's the good life for them - but not for Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, who live next door, and are desperately trying to maintain the Surbiton status quo.

ABSENT FRIENDS

WRITTEN BY ALAN AYCKBOURN

19 - 28 JUNE 2025

In an effort to comfort Colin after the death of his fiancée, his friends arrange a consolatory tea party for him. Understandably they are on edge wondering what they are going to say to him, but by the time Colin arrives, the tense atmosphere contrasts dramatically with his air of cheerful relaxation. It appears that he is the only happy one among them!

Trigger warning:

This play contains themes of loss and grief.





Grange Playhouse

Broadway North
Walsall WS1 2QB

Tel: 01922 625100

Box Office: 07909 036 835

www.grangeplayers.co.uk

