



MADF

ISLE OF MAN

EASTER FESTIVAL OF PLAYS

17th to 22nd April
2022



Manx Amateur Drama Federation

Affiliated to NDFA, NODA and AETF

Committee

Patron	His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor
President	Michael Lees
Chairman	Sharon Walker
Vice Chairman	Vivienne Bridson
Festival Organisers	Jan & Mike Percival
PR Officer	Michael Lees
Online Admin	Emma Quirk, Ron Beswick,
Committee Members	Christine Sugden, Harvey Garton, Dorrie Garton, Mike Trout, Jan Percival, Mike Percival, Helen Clarke

Committee Representatives from:

The Manx Operatic Society	Arbory Players
The Legion Players	Friends of Manx Drama
Rushen Players	The Service Players
Hog The Limelight	

Life Members:

Mr J. Bowring	Mr M.J. Lees	Mr M. Trout
Mr M. Goodman	Mrs J. Percival	Mr S. Whittam
Mrs K. Goodman	Mr M. Percival	Mr J. Wright

MADF Stage Manager

Andy Simpson

Stage Team

Sandra Skuszka, Louise Bawden, Artie Bawden
Kate Bellingham, James Maguire, Tim Shearman
Ian Torbet

*The Trophies and Awards will be presented on the final night
after the adjudication by MADF President Mr Michael J. Lees*

**Winners of the MADF Festival will be eligible to compete in the
All England Theatre Festival Northern Area Semi-Final and may be
invited to the National Drama Festivals Association All Winners Festival**

MADF Chairman Sharon Walker



Dear 'Festivalgoer' - Welcome back!

We are so delighted to be able to host our Easter Festival after a 3 year hiatus. It's great to see that while we have been away the love and enthusiasm for live theatre has not waned. The plays being staged this week are wonderfully diverse and I am particularly pleased that so many of our regular competitors are able to return and join us.

We are delighted that Jan Palmer of GoDA has also returned to adjudicate. Everyone remembers the joy and creativity Jan brought to our last all-island production, *The Manx Passion*.

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new Patron, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer, to this the second of our festivals during his residency in the Isle of Man.


Thank you to our sponsors who are noted in this programme - without your support we would not be able to host our festival. I would also like to thank the MADF Committee for their determination during the pandemic and hard work to ensure the festival runs as smoothly as possible, and to the teams for their hours of preparation and rehearsal in order to perform for you. And finally a big thanks to you – our audience – for supporting the competition and our participants. Sit back and enjoy the show!

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This amateur production of "Dick Barton Special Agent" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk. By special arrangement with the BBC.

Adjudicator Jan Palmer-Sayer B.Ed. MA GoDA



Jan studied at Trent Park College and at Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance. Eight years ago, she retired as Headteacher of Hertswood, a Specialist Arts College, featured in a BBC's autumn education series with Professor Dylan Wiliam. In 1998, she was awarded an MA in Theatre and Performance Studies at the same time as running her own theatre company – Shattered Windscreen. Her theatrical exploits have taken her as far afield as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where her production of *The Fall of the House of Usher* was awarded 5 stars by *The Scotsman*. In 2015, at the other end of the country, her production of *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Steinbeck classic adapted by Frank Galati, was one of a sequence of regular appearances by her theatre company at the famous cliffside Minack Theatre and it gained the company another 5-star review as well as the coveted Minack Trophy for the best production of 2015. In 2014, Jan was commissioned by the Arts Council, Isle of Man to direct a community passion play at Easter as the island celebrated its year as the first Island of Culture.

In 2019, her company returned to the Minack Theatre with a 5* production of *I, Don Quixote*, by Dale Wasserman, named runner-up for the Minack Trophy and playing (when it wasn't rained off!) to full houses, and she was once again invited to play there last September with a madcap production of *The 39 Steps* – a suitable antidote against the country's lockdown. Jan's other recent directing credits include a promenade production of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, *Our Man in Havana*, *Alfie*, *Hindle Wakes* and, most recently, *Pressure* by David Haig which won the British All Winners Festival in July 2021.

Jan was appointed as a GoDA adjudicator in 2001. She returned to GoDA's Council in 2014 to organise the 2015 National Festivals Conference, held in London. She is a past Chairman of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, and one of its busiest members. Over the last four years she has adjudicated festivals in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Gibraltar and the USA. Later this year amongst other engagements, she will adjudicate the Wales Final, the National Drama Festival in Coventry, the Festival in Florida – and she is very much looking forward to returning to the lovely Isle of Man for the Easter Festival.

MADF President, Michael J. Lees

Welcome back to our teams and to you our audience. We have certainly missed you and hope we can now all look forward to some highlights in the theatrical world of Easter plays.

The MADF committee under our very hard working chairman Sharon Walker have been planning our comeback for some time. The One Act festival in March was very successful. As you will know we had been invited to host the NDFA All Winners in the island in 2020 but alas like so many other events it was cancelled.

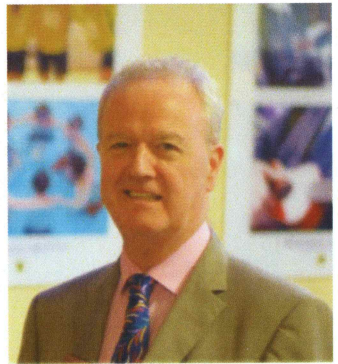
I retired from NDFA Council last year after 25 years in office including two terms as chairman. Sharon has now taken my place on Council.

I am delighted that our new Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer has accepted our invitation to be our Patron and is already showing a great interest in theatre on the island especially the Gaiety Theatre.

It is absolutely great to welcome back Jan Palmer Sayer as our distinguished adjudicator and hope she and her husband Derek enjoy our week.

Wishing all the teams and you our audience a Happy Easter Festival.

Michael J Lees President.



IN MEMORIAM

In the last few months of 2021 we recorded the deaths of four long serving life members of MADF. They all gave outstanding service to MADF and the theatre world of the island.

Jean Webb

In 1970 Jean and her family moved from Blackburn to the island. Jean's local butcher was Jack Hampson and of hearing she had been a member of Blackburn Arts Club he invited her to join the Service Players which for the rest of her long life she served in many ways. Her last role at the age of 90 was in Uncle Vanya by Chekov at the Erin Arts Centre. Jean joined MADF as secretary and went on to serve as Chairman and later President. Her sense of fun and interest in all aspects of theatre never left her.

Olga Gray MBE.

Olga was a lifelong member of the Legion Players. She was the outstanding actress of her generation playing both comedy and serious drama. In more recent times she became a very accomplished Director of plays. Her plays were selected on occasions to represent the island in the NDFA British All Winners.

Olga served for 50 years within MADF helping in many capacities including Chairman and later President.

She was always willing to help visiting teams in many ways and very often with her furniture on loan. Olga made many friends within visiting teams and will be sadly missed.

Carol Clarke

Carol's interest in theatre started as a child on family trips to Stratford on Avon, and later going to Nottingham rep while she was there at University. Carol supported the Easter festival of plays from the time she arrived on the island in 1960, working back stage at the Gaiety, and then as a member of the Raven Players in Ramsey. She performed in some plays but was best known for stage management which included their annual panto at The Talk of the Town which later moved to Ramsey Grammar school before arriving at the Gaiety theatre.

Carol was a founder member of Northern Youth Theatre and supported MADF for years, eventually served as President until she retired and was honoured by becoming a life member. All through her life she made regular theatre trips to Stratford and London and thought the live screenings were a revelation. Her goal had been to see a performance of every Shakespearean play which she managed to do, and she could still quote whole sonnets in her last few days at Nobles.

Jenny Green

Jenny served the island theatre community for so many years in so many roles. Hairdresser, prompt, backstage and dresser.

She and her husband Brian served on MADF committee for many years with Brian taking on the role of stage manager. They both worked tirelessly. The death of Brian her beloved husband five years ago left a void unable to be filled. Jenny's tenacity and willingness to help wherever she was needed will be sorely missed.

We thank them all on behalf of MADF and our audiences.

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support the MADF
Easter Festival of Plays
and hope you enjoy
your evening.**

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PROUDLY LOCALLY OWNED

Sunday 17th April

Peterborough Mask Theatre (Peterborough)

“Constellations”

by Nick Payne

Published by Faber and Faber

Imagine having access to the infinite options offered by the multiverse, to be able to see the consequences of your decisions, no matter how small. Imagine being able to glimpse the myriad futures that exist for every decision you make ... or don't make.

Constellations follows the relationship between Marianne (an Astrophysicist) and Roland (a Beekeeper) through a series of linked events happening in different variations of reality.

Funny, thought-provoking, sweet, life affirming and heart-breaking: this is a play which has it all.

Cast:

Marianne - Becky Owen-Fisher

Roland - Carl Perkins

Director - Tim Bold

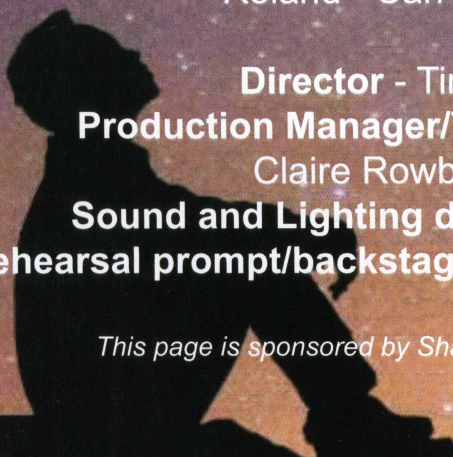
Production Manager/Tech Operator -

Claire Rowbottom

Sound and Lighting design - Tim Bold

Rehearsal prompt/backstage crew - Danuta Prince

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inspire participate create

The Isle of Man Arts Council are proud to fund The Easter Festival of Plays at the magnificent
Gaiety Theatre.



Isle of Man Arts Council,
Department of Education, Sport and Culture,
Unit 8, Villa Marina Arcade, Harris Promenade, Douglas, IM1 2HN

www.iomarts.com
01624694598

Monday 18th April

White Cobra Productions Limited (Northampton)

Bette and Joan by Anton Burge

published by Samuel French

In 1962 arch-rivals Bette Davis and Joan Crawford were in danger of becoming "has-beens". Then an opportunity came along to appear together in a new movie called "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?"

But, how will the arch-rivals get along? Let battle commence.

Cast

Joan Crawford - Kate Billingham

Bette Davis - Victoria Miles

Director - Martin Borley-Cox

Hair, costume & Make-Up - Vicky Kelly

Lighting Design - Dave Jones

Lighting Technicians - Dave Jones, Flic Jones

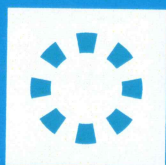
Set Design & Construction: Steve Miles

Sound Designer: Martin Borley-Cox

Sound Technicians - Peter Borley-Cox & Bernadette Wood

Stage Management - Denise Swann & Bernadette Wood

This page is sponsored in memory of Olga Gray MBE by her loving family



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Tuesday 19th April

White Cobra Productions Limited (Northampton)

Love Letters by **A.R. Gurney**

published by Dramatists Play Services Inc.

Two lives, one love, a lifetime of letters.

Andrew and Melissa have known each other all their lives. Born to privilege, wealth and position they are sometimes together, frequently apart. From schooldays to late middle age they write to each other a tender, feisty, passionate correspondence that charts their progress through the America of the 20th Century.

Funny, touching, poignant and moving, "Love Letters" is an acclaimed American classic by one of Broadway's most revered and popular playwrights.

Cast

Andrew Makepeace Ladd III - Fraser Haines

Melissa Gardner - Bernadette Wood

Director - Richard Jordan

Stage Manager - Denise Swann

Lighting & Sound - Richard Jordan

This page is sponsored in memory of Jenny and Brian Green

Wednesday 20th April

Winners of the 2022 One Act Play Festival

Hog The Limelight (Isle of Man)

“The Lover”

by Harold Pinter

Published by Samuel French

To all outward appearances Richard and Sarah are a respectable married couple. Behind closed doors however the couple enjoy a surprising and intriguing arrangement.

We find out how this couple have found an unconventional way to cope with extra-marital temptation.

Cast:

Richard - John Walker
Sarah - Rachel Joughin
John - Howard Caine

Directed by Sharon Walker

Set Design - Andy Simpson

Stage Crew - Andy Simpson and Sandy Skuska

This page is sponsored by Michael J. Lees

Winners of the Best Play award in the Youth Festival March 2022.

Stage One Drama School (Isle of Man)
“The Musicians”
by **Patrick Marber**

This amateur production of “The Musicians” is presented by
arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of
Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

The Orchestra of Riley Road, a state school, is to give a
concert in Moscow at the European Festival of Youth. Their
instruments are impounded by customs, but luckily Alex,
the Russian caretaker, comes up with a plan
to save the day.

Cast:

Alex - William Shooter
Roland - Michael Britton
Second Flute - Anya Jagus
Cello - Harriet Shooter
Second Trumpet - Charlotte Wilkinson
First Violin - Bella Kirkland
Viola - Danielle Wilkinson
Double Bass - Elizabeth Shooter
Second Horn - Tom Knop
First Horn - Morgan Braidwood
Timpani - Kirsty Martin
Oboe - Lula Thomas
Clarinet - Ava Harvey
First Trumpet - Abigail Campbell
Bassoon - Phoebe Cringle
First Flute Florrie Thomas
Musician - Daniel Lawrie

DIRECTOR Jacqui Hawkes
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & MUSIC ADVISER Sophie Rudge
STAGE MANAGER Tony Hawkes

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PRODUCTIONS

Thursday 21st April

Sponsored by Taylorian Productions

Mutley & Minques (London)

(Theatricus Dramaticus)

“The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde

It was 25 years ago that Tony Newton encouraged the Garden Suburb Theatre to enter the Easter Festival of Plays for the first time. We were accepted and so began Tony’s long and fruitful relationship with the Isle of Man – he supported all the GST productions, came for the Festival even when we weren’t performing and formed many friendships with people both on the Island and in other drama groups.

Following an illness Tony died on 9th November 2019. We miss you Tony. This one’s for you.

Director: Mary Musker

Cast in order of appearance

Algie: Tilak Patel

Lane: Fred Griessen

Jack: Edwin Coutts

Lady Bracknell: Richard Kinder

Gwendolyn: Jemima Lane

Cecily: Saria Babiker

Ms Prism: Debbie Lane

Dr Chasuble: David Lane

Merriman: Fred Griessen

Stage Manager: Dave Barron

Sound Operator: Jesse Musker

Lighting Operator: Emily Moore

Props, costumes & set: Members of the company

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Represent (or simply just enjoy)
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at the National Drama Festival 2022

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Friday 22nd April

Wellington Theatre Company (Telford)

“Inspector Drake and the Black Widow”

by David Tristram

This amateur production of “Inspector Drake and the Black Widow” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Inspector Drake and his sidekick Sergeant Plod return in their most perplexing case yet.

Confronting everything from missing tortoises, to triplets, to deadly tropical spiders.

Another thrilling ride in the company of the world’s greatest detective, as he attempts to solve on murder at the same time as avoiding his own.

Cast

PC Plod - Sean Gilham

Inspector Drake - Joseph Maclean

The Ladies - Laura Delves

Directed by Brian Hughes

Lighting and Sound - Matty Richardson

This page is sponsored by Harvey and Dorrie Garton



Spencer Wright Bursary

The fund is available to assist with the purchase of equipment or materials needed by students enrolled on an Undergraduate/Musical Theatre training course
www.madf.im

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MADF - Manx Amateur Drama Federation



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Sign up for the email newsletter via our website to get all the latest

MADF wish to express their gratitude to the Staff and Management of the Gaiety Theatre, the Friends of the Gaiety and to the Empress Hotel who host our Green Room each evening and the Festival Lunch

We are grateful to G4S for storing the F.M.Cubbon trophy for the past year.

"The video and/or audio recording of any performance is not permitted without the prior approval from the licensor".

The YAOM Final will be held at Ballakermeen Studio Theatre on Sunday 8th May at 1pm.

Judged by Sue Doherty (GoDA), Tony Eccles and Ben Heath (IoM Arts Council).

Tickets £5 on the door.

FRIENDS OF MANX DRAMA NEED YOUR HELP

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Selling programmes on the night

Helping advertise the festivals by distributing posters and fliers

Helping to source furniture and props for the visiting drama teams

Providing food and refreshments for rehearsals during the day

***This is just an indication of some of the varied ways
you can become involved.***

**If you feel you'd like to help,
Please contact:**

Harvey 432532 hadgar@manx.net

Viv 457070 vivbridson64@gmail.com

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1990 – Martello Productions, Wicklow “Agnes of God”
1991 – Sedgefield Players, Co. Durham “Stepping Out”
1992 – Sedgefield Players, Co. Durham “Woman in Mind”
1993 – Group Theatre Company, London “September in the Rain”
1994 – St James’ Players, Burnley “Last Tango in Whitby”
1995 – Sedgefield Players, Co. Durham “Dancing at Lughnasa”
1996 – Tryst Theatre, Falkirk “Under Milk Wood”
1997 – Brigstow Theatre Company “Driving Miss Daisy”
1998 – Tudor Players, Manchester “Hindle Wakes”
1999 – Tryst Theatre, Falkirk “Cemetary Club”
2000 – Tudor Players, Manchester “The Curious Savage”
2001 – Bovingdon Players, Herts “Abigail’s Party”
2002 – Everyman Productions, Sligo “The Mai”
2003 – In Yer Space, Blackpool “A Night in November”
2004 – Tudor Players, Manchester “The Prisoner of Second Avenue”
2005 – Tudor Players, Manchester “Humble Boy”
2006 – Cytringan Players, Kettering “‘night, Mother”
2007 – Cytringan Players, Kettering “Peggy for You”
2008 – Everyman Productions, Sligo “Juno and the Paycock”
2009 – Bejou Productions, Essex “Someone who’ll watch over me”
2010 – Bejou Productions, Essex “Burn This”
2011 – Bejou Productions, Essex “The Birthday Party”
2012 – Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport “The Thirty Nine Steps”
2013 – Martello Productions, Wicklow “By the Bog of Cats...”
2014 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton “The Days of Wine and Roses”
2015 – Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport “Frozen”
2016 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton “Scaramouche Jones”
2017 – University Players Hamburg, “Lift Not the Painted Veil & Frankenstein”
2018 – White Cobra Productions, Northampton “Glorious!”
2019 - Martello Productions, Wicklow “Portia Coughlan”

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If you are asked to evacuate the building, please do so as quickly as possible and leave by the nearest exit. You will be directed to this by the staff.

In the event of an emergency which by necessity requires that the Theatre be evacuated, you as a member of the audience are requested to co-operate by paying strict attention to any instructions, either by announcement from the stage, or given verbally by a member of the Theatre Staff.

AWARDS

WINNER

The John Bryan Award Audience Appreciation	
The David Sugden Memorial Trophy Set Conception, Design and Construction	
The J & B Green Award Costume and Makeup	
The Frances Isaac Award Best Performance over the age of 60	
The June Edge Trophy Most Promising Performance under 21	
The Group Theatre Company Ensemble Award Ensemble Aspects of Production	
The David Kennaugh Award Best Male Supporting Role	
The Mollie Corkill Award Best Female Supporting Role	
The Vanda Lambert Award Best Female Performance	
The S. E. Benn Trophy Best Male Performance	
The Raven Players Award Best Producer/Director	
The Jackie Banner Award Comedy	
The Michael J. Lees Award Drama	
The Olga Gray MBE Adjudicator's Award Outstanding Contribution	
The Jack Lynch Cup Second Runner Up	
The Dick Craine Cup 1st Runner Up	
The F.M. Cubbon Trophy Best Play	

*Certificates and frames kindly donated by Meg Cooper.
The commemorative plaques given to each team participating in the festival
have been donated by Karen and Michael Goodman.*

We hope you enjoy the Easter Festival of Plays 2022



**The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company
proudly supports our Island community.**

We are proud to celebrate the Isle of Man's wonderful diversity in art, culture, sport and thriving community spirit through our wide-ranging support of individuals, groups, events, charities and good causes each year.

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