



Members' Newsletter December 2020

Producing quality drama for children of all ages since 1935

contact@leeds-childrens-theatre.co.uk
www.leeds-childrens-theatre.co.uk

Hello,

This is my first attempt in a very long time at creating a newsletter for us to send out in the post. Everything is very much geared up for delivering online, via our websites or social media. Of course we still have all of those places where we can post news, dates of virtual meetings and workshops and even the occasional video clip. However, we just thought it would be nice to send something out in the post to our members. After all, I think we all like receiving things in the post for a change.

Looking back to March earlier this year, when we were about to open **Fantastic Mr Fox**. We know how disappointed everyone was when the theatres had to suddenly close, and no one could have predicted that they'd still be closed at the end of the year. We had planned to stage two of Roald Dahl's stories in 2020, with Ian directing our November production. The good news is that at the moment we still have permission from the publisher to stage both plays in the future. So hopefully once we're able to have lots of people working together in rehearsals and onstage we can get back to what we're all missing in theatre. We're all very much looking forward to welcoming our audiences back too, so they can be entertained and watch live theatre again.

During the past few months some of our workshop leaders have tried hard to come up with ideas for activities that we

can still do safely. They have been holding monthly **Saturday Workshops** via Zoom for a while now and the plan is for these to carry on into the New Year. We have already announced some of the dates: Sat. 23 January, Sat. 27 February and Sat. 20 March, all starting at 10am. As before, if you'd like to attend you'll need to let me know so we can make sure you receive the Zoom invitations.

In the packs that we've just mailed out to our junior/youth members I've included a few pictures to colour in, a couple of word searches and a few other activities that I hope our younger members will enjoy. There are also a few copies of the postcard that Manda designed for us this year, which I hope you will share with friends and family (along with your own written messages). You will also find details of our **Poster Design Competition** (closing date 10 January 2021, winner will announced at the AGM on 13 January).

Online, we've posted a few videos and quizzes during the past few months, and I hope you've had a chance to 'tune in' and watch them. Our 13+Workshop members have been busy creating original scripted work and they performed "**Can You Hear Me?**" via Zoom a few weeks ago to an invited audience. *We've made a recording available for members and their families to watch via our YouTube*

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channel (Please note that the age advisory is 13+ due to the subject matter). The 13+Friday Workshop group are now working on another short play that members have written, which is due to be performed in the new year.



I know we don't usually 'do' pantomimes but I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear that we decided to break with tradition this year, and Janine has just started work on producing a Zoom hosted version of Judith's seasonal short play "Potted Pantomime. We haven't fixed a performance date yet, but it's been cast and rehearsals are due to start soon and it will be performed live via Zoom in January. It's looking like it's going to be great fun, so remember to let us know if you'd like to be in the audience (from the comfort of your own home!)

For our members, parents and friends (over 18s) we are holding our annual **Christmas Social Gathering** on Sunday 20th December, 6pm via Zoom. No bar or meal service this time, so please provide your own drinks and snacks. At least

there'll be no arguments over who buys the first round this year! Again, please contact Karen or Dan to RSVP and we'll email the Zoom login details to you.

Karen:

chair@leeds-childrens-theatre.co.uk

Dan:

vice-chair@leeds-childrens-theatre.co.uk

Finally, we postponed the AGM from September due to Covid restrictions, hoping we'd be able to meet in person in January. Sadly we won't be able to meet in theatre still but the **AGM will go ahead on Wednesday 13 January 2021** via Zoom. Letters and nomination forms for Officers and Committee positions will be sent to all Full Members (over 18s) via email soon. The mailing list will be taken from the Membermojo records so please make sure your contact details are up to date at <https://membermojo.co.uk/lct>. If you need assistance with this please email me, thanks. *As you already know, membership subscriptions for paid up members in 2020 will be extended without charge for a year so won't become due until September 2021.*

Please keep checking our website and/or social media for news. We have a closed Facebook Group for members and their parents/carers so please let me know if you'd like to join. If you have any news to share with your friends at Leeds Children's Theatre do get in touch.

Best wishes,
Karen (Chair. LCT)