



PEOPLE'S THEATRE

New Member Information

Welcome

On behalf of the Management Committee, welcome to the People's Theatre. Our company has been delighting audiences for over a century, and its success is built upon the effort, commitment and voluntary professionalism of generations of theatre lovers.

We're a very busy company, putting on over a dozen productions over the course of the year, in addition to ensuring our spaces are available for others to hire. For every actor seen on stage, there are a host of people working backstage and in the front of house departments who ensure that the plays go on smoothly and everyone has a good time.

Getting involved straight away will help you meet new people and feel part of the People's Theatre family. We recommend getting involved in any way you can at first, helping behind the Green Room bar or helping our front of house by stewarding and seeing the shows for yourself. This is the best way to get to meet other members, and it's how the vast majority of us started whether that was weeks, months, or in many cases decades ago!

We plan and cast productions several months in advance, so you may not get on stage straight away, but helping backstage or possibly in building sets or doing sound or lighting; you'll get a good feel for how the theatre works and which aspects you'd most like to be involved in. You don't have to be an expert to take part, as a willing pair of hands is a very welcome start and we'll help you learn as you go.

Some important things to note:

- Health and Safety is very important to this organisation. The theatre policy must be signed by new members.
- If you are working with children on productions, you may be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- You are expected to pay your membership subscription in full as soon as your membership is approved by the management committee.

Directing

The general at the head of the army, the director, manages every aspect of a production according to their artistic vision. From casting the actors, leading rehearsals, coordinating with the heads of the technical aspects, and often hosting an after show party - there are few busier people than the director.

To become a director at the People's Theatre, we normally expect you to have performed the role of assistant director at least twice, as it's the best way to learn how the various elements of a People's Theatre production come together. But, if you have the proven experience, drive and vision to lead a production, let the Head of Productions Committee (Prod Comm) know.

Acting

Prod Comm encourage members who wish to act to audition for the plays they are interested in. Auditions are publicised on our Facebook page (Peoples PTAG), by email through 'Members News' and on the notice boards in the theatre itself. Don't be discouraged if you're not taking a leading role right away, there are lots of ways to make yourself known to our directors. Remember: even the smallest parts mean you're heavily involved and right there on stage in the thick of it.

Set Building, Scenic Design and Painting

The first thing an audience sees as they come into the auditorium is our set, and we pride ourselves on the spectacles we so consistently provide. A great set involves a lot of creativity, skill and hard work that everyone is encouraged to get involved in. You will be invited to attend initial meetings and rehearsals to help get a feel for the style and tone of the production before getting to work and setting the scene for the entire production.

Stage Management

This is a hugely important role in any play which the paying public don't get to appreciate, but without which no theatre could function. At the end of rehearsals, the director hands over the smooth running of the show to the stage manager for the duration of the run. Stage managers are responsible for everything from the technical cues, to the props, and making sure the actors are where they need to be - and the great ones are highly respected for what they do. As with directing, you'll need to familiarise yourself with the role via some productions as an Assistant Stage Manager first, unless you have plenty of previous experience.

Properties

This is a challenging but rewarding job in any production, and especially good for new members as a way of familiarising yourself with our members and set up. Actors have enough trouble remembering their lines and not bumping into the furniture. If you can make sure they are carrying the right thing on stage, you will be their best friend for life.

Lighting

Lighting can make or break a Production, and is a fundamental part of that theatrical magic. Join the production at the early planning stages to get a feel for the mood of the play and the acting areas, then put your design into practice and illuminate the stage. Lighting is not just a case of pointing a spotlight at a pantomime cow, much fun as that is; there's design, setting and operating to think about.

Sound

If music be the food of love, play on. The right music can lift the mood of the audience, highlight a poignant moment, or just entertain through the interval. But also, the right sound cues are vital. How important is that ringing phone or doorbell sound? (Here's a clue: very).

Wardrobe

We have a fantastic collection of costumes at the Theatre. Not only do we dress our own productions, but people come from far and wide to hire our costumes. Monday nights are Hires nights and help is always appreciated, and there's always a show requiring dressing too. Able to sew or not, if you love hats, coats, shoes and frocks then we're the department for you.

Archive

The People's Theatre Started in 1911 as the Clarion Drama Club. Since then we've collected a vast amount of literature, photographs, programmes and archive material. We're always busy sorting, cataloguing and digitising or archive and we'd like your help.

Front of House

We need members to volunteer their services as Duty Manager and Stewards for every play. Training is provided in this vital role of supporting the Public as they visit our theatre. You'll be the main point of contact, representing our theatre and contributing to the experience our audiences enjoy so much. You will be expected to know the emergency evacuation procedures and be familiar with all relevant health and safety requirements. As Steward, you also get a chance to see the play, too.

Marketing and Publicity

Poster designs, photoshoots, social media, print, advertising, videos/animations, copywriting, PR... the list goes on. We are keen to engage anyone who has a passion for or expertise in any of the marketing disciplines.

Box Office

The Box Office team are the first contact our customers have with the theatre and we sell tickets for the shows in person, over the phone and online. You'll be trained on our web-based booking system if you'd like to join the team.

Greenroom Bar

We're a social group as well as a company of dedicated arts fanatics. The Greenroom Bar is our equivalent of the 'kitchen at a party'. Working behind the bar is a great way to quickly get to meet many of our members. We give full training so, if you have never pulled a pint before, don't worry.

Peoples ART

In addition to performing arts, we also host gallery exhibitions for visiting artists. If you'd like to help with the organisation and hosting of the exhibitions, we'd love to have you get involved.

Young People's Theatre

Our vibrant and active Young Peoples Theatre (YPT) is an open and friendly group for 11-17 year-olds helping to develop confidence and theatrical skills in young people across the region. Whether you're interested in joining the YPT or helping to run it, you can register your interest through the email address shown on the Points of Contact sheet.

Management

A theatre of this size needs a lot of coordination and management and, as a registered charity, we have to ensure that we keep true to our mission and operate within the necessary governance required by the law. Our Management Committee set our strategy and make the big decisions for the future and the daily running of the theatre. So, once you have been a full member for at least a year, if you feel you have the necessary skills or experience to sit on the Management Committee you can put your name forward for election at our Annual General Meeting.

Keep in Touch

See what's happening on our website www.peoplestheatre.co.uk, social media or via our 'Members News' emails (we'll add you to the 'Members News' email list when you sign up – you can of course opt out of receiving these).



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