



FUN THÉÂTRE BULLETIN



19th April 2022 | Edition 03 | Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the *Fun Théâtre Bulletin* - the newsletter of Fun Théâtre Communautaire (FTC). We hope you all had a very enjoyable Easter in the glorious sunshine. There are so many interesting things happening in the life of our society at the moment so hope you enjoy reading the *Bulletin*!

In this edition are many exciting developments including:

- ✦ News of our autumn play, originally conceived as solely a French language play but now, due to the enthusiasm of our members and under Graham's talented leadership, has evolved into both French and English performances on separate nights, and possibly with multiple casts, in order to offer acting opportunities to as many of our members as possible!
- ✦ An update on the new Fun Théâtre Juniors, with a planned programme of activities commencing after Easter.
- ✦ Plus, exciting news of the support given to us by the Passais Municipality.
- ✦ Don't forget our Fun Théâtre family picnic on 29th May where you'll have the opportunity to socialise with other FTC members.
- ✦ And finally... membership fees for this year are due now. You'll find details of how to pay at the end of the Bulletin.

Remember if you have any suggestions or an article for possible inclusion in a future edition of the *Bulletin*, please send an email to Cathy at: hello@funtheatre.fr

Dates for your diary

Saturday 30th April 2022 2:30-4pm

Fun Théâtre Juniors first session at the Salle des Associations in Passais la Conception

Saturday 14th May 2022 2:30-4pm

Fun Théâtre Juniors session

Tuesday 24th May 2022 7:30pm

Pantomime workshop

Saturday 28th May 2022 2:30-4pm

Fun Théâtre Juniors session

Sunday 29th May 2022 midday

Fun Théâtre Picnic at 14 Logerie, 61220 Saires La Verrerie (near Flers)

November 2022

Les Bonnes Manières by Alan Ayckbourn translated into French by Dominique Hollier

December 2022

Participation in the Téléthon at Passais

From January 2023 Pantomime

Cendrillon et ses demi-sœurs de Passais
Rehearsals commence

We hope to add some social events to this calendar to help us all stay in touch with each other. If you have an idea or are able to host an event please contact: hello@funtheatre.fr

Les Bonnes Manières / Table Manners by Alan Ayckbourn

Those people interested in participating in the FTC autumn 2022 play attended the first FTC workshop session for adults on 29th March. In excess of 25 people came, both existing and new members of the society, French and British together, and with many varying levels of previous experience, from complete beginners to seasoned performers. All armed with the extracts of the play that Graham had shared in advance, ready to have a go at reading the various characters from this very funny Alan Ayckbourn play. All hoping to participate in the performances in the autumn.

Graham explained that it has always been his intention to direct both the French and English versions of this play. He knows it very well, and has a strong vision of how it should be performed. However, although confident in being able to offer direction to the French actors, he did not feel that he had the French language skills to be able to communicate his ideas clearly to them. He therefore announced that FTC member Ellis has agreed to be his co-director. She is very well suited to this role as she is fluent in both French and English. They will work together from casting and through the rehearsals.

The Play

This is a professionally written, well proven play. It is a comedy, but not a farce. The comedy is in the script; in the dialogue. It is well suited to a 'radio' type presentation, and in fact professional audio versions are available. Producing this play in 'radio' format has a lot of benefits for us.

Originally planned as a play in French, the workshop session proved that we have sufficient actors to produce both French and English versions. A very exciting proposition for our association.

Each version of the play requires three men and three women. All of the actors in the French version must be authentic French voices, and all those in the English version must be authentic English voices. This is because there are a lot of family relationships between the characters. It was excellent to see that more than enough FTC members came forward to achieve this.

It is now down to Graham and Ellis to decide how they are going to move forward with the casting, but it is certain that they will be creative in finding a strategy which accommodates as many members for these performances as they feasibly can. Happily, following an appeal for male, English speaking actors, we have had a good response. But we would still be pleased to recruit more people to our ranks for future projects.

Fun Théâtre Picnic

The opportunity to meet together socially is so important to the life of Fun Théâtre and many of our members will be coming to enjoy our first family picnic in May. This event is being hosted by FTC members Cathy and Peter Daniels and they warmly invite you to spend a sociable afternoon in the Normandie countryside on Sunday, 29th May from midday. So put the date in your diary if you haven't done so already – see you there!



The Facts

Les Bonnes Manières

Table Manners

Written by Alan Ayckbourn and translated into French by Dominique Hollier

FTC Directors: Graham Follett / Ellis Metselaar

Initial meeting: 29th March 2022

Second readings: ??? April 2022

Workshop dates: to follow during the spring and summer 2022

Formal rehearsals: commence in September 2022

Performance dates: to be confirmed but will be in November 2022



Fun Théâtre Juniors

At our open evening we announced our hopes in respect of activities for younger members on Saturdays. A small working party, principally comprising people who expressed an interest on the sign-up sheets available at the open evening, met on Saturday 19 March at the salles des associations.

They were able to agree the broad parameters of operation for these activities of what will now be known as Fun Théâtre Juniors. There will be a nominal membership fee for all Junior members of Fun Théâtre Communautaire of 2€ per year to include participation in Fun Théâtre Juniors sessions.

Fun Théâtre Juniors will be open to children of age 6 years upwards to school leaving age (18 years).

Sessions (theatrical games and workshops) will be offered on alternate Saturdays, between 2.30pm and 4.00pm in the salles des associations in Passais-la-Conception (our rehearsal rooms).

Workshop activities will be led by Tamzin French. She will be supported by at least two adult supervisors for each session. We have a core of helpers from the workshop team already, but we will be pleased to add to these from the rest of the membership. Adult members are also welcome to attend and participate.

The sessions will run every fortnight, beginning after the Easter holidays, with the first one on Saturday 30th April 2:30-4pm at the salle des associations in Passais with future sessions on 14th May and 28th May 2022.

A separate email address has been established for enquiries: juniors@funtheatre.fr

If you know any young people who like to participate in these workshops, with the ultimate goal of participating in our next pantomime in spring 2023, please encourage them to come along to the first session.

We look forward to hearing more news of our junior members in future editions of the Bulletin.

EXCELLENT NEWS

Graham recently received a letter from Madame le maire of Passais, informing us that the Conseil Municipal has awarded a grant to Fun Théâtre Communautaire of 300€. This will be paid to the association in May 2022.

This money will be a welcome addition to our bank account, and will help fund the expenses that we will incur during the year. Although the money has been awarded to the association without any constraint on how it is utilised, the officers of the association will consider this carefully and we will try to identify specific purchases for planned future projects.

Most importantly however, we feel that the award of this grant means more to Fun Théâtre than just the financial contribution. It is most gratifying that the municipality recognises Fun Théâtre as part of this community. We feel that the award of this grant demonstrates this interest and the support that we are given by the municipality. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them as our rehearsals, Junior's activities and shows take place in Passais.

TOUS LES AGES
à partir de 6 ans
jusqu'à 18 ans

ALL AGES
from 6
to 18 years

ALTERNATE SATURDAYS
2.30 - 4.00pm
Dates may vary
please check

TOUS LES DEUX
SAMEDIS 14h30 - 16h00
Les dates peuvent changer
merci de vérifier

TUTEUR DE COURS BILINGUE
toutes les séances en
français et en anglais

BILINGUAL COURSE LEADER
all sessions in
French and
English

ON STAGE
Participants
will have the
opportunity to
appear in
future
Fun Théâtre
shows

SUR SCÈNE
Les jeunes auront la
possibilité de participer aux
futurs spectacles de
Fun Théâtre

Les séances commençant le samedi 30 avril aux salles des associations
61350 Passais la Conception

L'adhésion à Fun Théâtre Juniors est de 2€ par an / Membership 2€ per year
Pour de plus amples renseignements, merci de contacter juniors@funtheatre.fr
For more information please contact juniors@funtheatre.fr

Bonjour Tout le Monde – a Letter from Graham



Well, having had a very disrupted two years thanks to Covid, our little association certainly seems to be going into 2022 at top speed.

I am so pleased that we managed to perform *The Sunshine Boys* last December. It gave morale a bit of a boost, and brought some of the members together again - on stage and in the audience. It also reminded us of the appetite that there is for theatre in our community.

I was incredibly happy to see so many people turn up to our open evening in February, with everyone sharing such enthusiasm for what is ahead. To have Madame le Maire attend on behalf of the commune was especially encouraging; we are very pleased to have the opportunity of producing some entertainment for the Téléthon this year, and I also understand that our Maire would like to appear in the 2023 pantomime herself.

It looks as if our planned play for this autumn will be offering so much more for our members and our audiences than we at first expected. The size of the response to come and read at the introductory evening last month was unexpected but so welcome. I think that this opportunity played a big part in bringing around 20 new people to the open evening, many of them subsequently coming to read for *Les Bonnes Manières / Table Manners*. Our recent call for additional English-speaking men has increased that number again.

It will be a very busy year ahead. We will be trying to gather members together for workshops and other activities one evening each month, running Juniors sessions twice a month, rehearsing for the two plays in the autumn, and working towards a dual language sketch for the December Téléthon. Perhaps most exciting of all, we will start preparations for our 2023 pantomime.

Whilst we are all so happy to welcome our new members into the fold, we dearly hope that at as many as possible of our original members will renew their membership this year, and that they will be with us for these new opportunities. Of course, things change, new commitments arise, and I know of a few will not be able to take part this year. But I am so grateful to each and every person who enabled this wonderful journey to begin in the first place.

Membership Fees 2022/2023 due now

The good news is that Fun Théâtre is fully operational after the hiatus imposed by Covid-19 and you will have seen the proposed activities for this year.

In order for the Association to start working towards the new productions, we are asking members to pay an annual fee of 20€ per person, covering the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, to include participation in the next pantomime in March 2023.

The membership fee this year for our Fun Théâtre Junior members will be 2€ for the same period.

You may be aware that the Association suffered financially from the cancellation of the Murder Mystery Play, but I wish to make clear that membership fees are solely for the future operations of the Association. As agreed at the last AGM, settlement of outstanding financial commitments will be reviewed after the 2023 pantomime.

Payment may be made by cheque made payable to Fun Theatre Communautaire and given to any of the Officers of the Association or sent to Richard Biddlecombe, FTC Treasurer at: La Buissonniere, 5 Route de La Cochardiere, 50640 Le Teilleul. If you wish to pay directly into the Association's bank account, please contact Richard at: finance@funtheatre.fr and he will send you the details.

Your Officers are:

President: Graham Follett

Treasurer: Richard Biddlecombe

Secretary: Véronique Reinaudo-Sorin

Vice-president: Martyn Crowe

Membership secretary: Joan Peagam

Publicity officer: Cathy Daniels

For staying in touch:

Emails: Public: contact@funtheatre.fr

Members: hello@funtheatre.fr

Juniors: juniors@funtheatre.fr

Membership: finance@funtheatre.fr

Web: www.funtheatre.fr

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/625359038289149/>

This newsletter was compiled by Cathy. If there is something you would like to know more about, if you have an article you would like to submit for possible inclusion in the *Bulletin* or you have ideas that you would like to be passed on to the executive officers please email: hello@funtheatre.fr (in English or in French).

