



# FUN THÉÂTRE BULLETIN



9th July 2024 | Edition 07 | Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to edition 07 of the *Fun Théâtre Bulletin* - the newsletter of Fun Théâtre Communautaire (FTC).

I had not planned for there to be such a long gap between edition 06 and edition 07 of the Bulletin but unfortunately the unexpected death of my mother-in-law in the UK led to us being 'missing in action' on the other side of the Channel until a couple of weeks ago. And gosh – it's good to be home!

I have used this edition as an opportunity to look back on the events that the members of Fun Théâtre have been involved in and what a wonderful trip down Memory Lane that has been!

We are also looking forward to the future with our AGM and Portes Ouvertes on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July at 19h00. Come for a piece of cake, a glass of poiré, and the opportunity to meet up with the lovely people who form Fun Théâtre as we begin counting down to our next wonderful pantomime in March 2025.

You will find an advert asking for a volunteer to join the bureau as Association Secretary as we expand to better serve the members. Would you like to join us? The meetings are not too frequent and are friendly. Please speak to Graham if you're interested.

And finally...I would like to say a big congratulations to Tamzin, our lovely Cinderella, who heard today that she has passed her Baccalaureate with flying colours! Well done, Tamzin!

And remember if you have any suggestions or an article for possible inclusion in a future edition of the *Bulletin*, please send an email to: [hello@funtheatre.fr](mailto:hello@funtheatre.fr)

Cathy Daniels

## Dates for your diary

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 7pm – 9pm**  
FTC AGM & Open Evening

### Fun Théâtre Académie

New dates for the autumn coming soon

### October/November 2024

Rehearsals for the Téléthon commence.

### End of November 2024

Participation in the Téléthon at Passais

### From January 2025 Pantomime

Rehearsals commence for the dual language pantomime written especially for Fun Théâtre by Graham Follett

### 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 t.b.c.

Pantomime 2025 provisional dates

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 can host an event, please contact: [hello@funtheatre.fr](mailto:hello@funtheatre.fr)

## Fun Théâtre AGM & Open Evening

Come along to the salles des associations in Passais La Conception on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 19h00 and meet up with your Fun Théâtre friends to celebrate our achievements and look forward to future activities whilst eating cake – what could be better? See you there!



## Have you paid your Fun Théâtre Membership fee?

After our first AGM in 2019 we introduced membership fees for the first time. These are set at 20€ a year, with Junior membership for 2€ a year.

In practice, we have not called for subscriptions every year. Membership is an important part of FTC. As well as helping to finance our activities, it acts as a form of administrative tool, helping us to keep track of our members. Payment of subscriptions also gives members an opportunity to confirm their commitment to the association.

Although finance is an essential part of maintaining our association, as it is for all associations, we have tried to not allow it to be a defining part of FTC. Hence, we have been quite lenient in our approach, and have not made the collection of fees from late payers a priority. However, in the interests of maintaining a well-run and properly administered association we intend to implement a somewhat stricter regime in future.

If you have not yet remembered to pay your subscription, please can you organize payment quickly, or contact our Treasurer, John Barnes, as soon as possible? Many thanks

## Bonjour Tout le Monde – a Letter from Graham

I am so pleased to be writing this. I have always said that, although I contribute very little to its production, I am extremely proud of our Fun Théâtre Bulletin. It was Cathy's inspired idea that brought it into being, and it is she who creates and publishes every edition. Circumstances have conspired to prevent her from producing one for some months, but as I write this, I know that edition 07 will be dropping into all of our in boxes very soon, and I am so looking forward to reading it.

That's one of the huge rewards of being the President of an association like Fun Théâtre. Other people achieve great things, and I get to be proud of the result. For example, over 70 people came together to put Cinderella on stage in March last year: building sets; creating soundscapes and lighting-scapes; making costumes; making music; acting; dancing; choreographing and directing; making videos - and so much more. Around 20 people performed in three sketches for the Téléthon that year, and over 40 people made up the team that brought 1001 Nights to the stage in March this year. Okay, I contributed to each one of those too, but as President of this wonderful association I get to be proud of all of that - of all of you. Thank you.

I don't want to give away the whole programme for our open evening on 11<sup>th</sup> July, but we will be taking a brief look back at some of these past achievements, and what we have achieved together since Fun Théâtre was created. But, perhaps more importantly, we will be looking to the future too. We would like to contribute to the Passais Villages Téléthon event again this year, and we will be sharing our ideas for that with you. I am sure everybody is keenly awaiting news of our plans for the promised pantomime in 2025, and I don't think you will be disappointed. At the end of the evening, you will be able to sign up to participate in one or both events. And we may look briefly beyond that - who knows?

Talking of the future, it's important that we take care of that if we want Fun Théâtre to continue. When the association was created in 2018 the bureau consisted of just two officers: president and treasurer. We have gradually increased this to the current five, and now we are making plans to increase that to the six that our statutes allow. Our membership has grown since we first formed the association. People come and go of course, but mostly they stay, and the net result has been a continuous growth in membership, and we have been very lucky in attracting new talent into the team. I am particularly pleased to have seen more young people join us, and our FTC Académie programme is helping us make the most of them. (Spoiler alert! They will be providing most of the entertainment for us on the 11th). But we need to keep building and refreshing our bureau too. Please consider standing for election yourself. I am sure that some of us will be very happy to step aside and let new blood take over some of the reins.

Graham Follett





## Téléthon 2023

Held every December throughout France, the Téléthon encourages Associations from all over the country to raise money for a children's charity specialising rare diseases.

For their part Passais Village organised a dinner which was a sell out. FTC eagerly agreed to provide entertainment and Graham began to research something suitable. He invited members to come to a presentation of a film of three comedy sketches he had found and then volunteer to be in one or two of them.

Incredibly, the sketches did not involve any speaking, purely actions. Everyone realised that although there were no lines to memorise, the exact timing of their movements were vital and one false move could result in the failure or the whole routine!

A program of rehearsals began and both Graham and Jae started directing in earnest. At the same time Martin Minshall began creating the necessary scenery and props. The first sketch was very technical and each person demonstrated a given job role, coming on stage one after the other and interconnecting their actions.

The cinema routine came next which was simpler and involved participants miming messages along a row of seats.

The synchronised swimming routine was the third, and ultimately the funniest, as the set was made to look like a swimming pool. The team were diving around behind a half curtain on large soft mats and suitably attired in swimming outfits.

On the night, everyone waited anxiously to start, but the diners took ages to take their seats and start their dinner. Eventually, the first sketch was completed and undoubtedly the audience were amazed at watching such entertainment.

The cinema sketch did not command the same attention, despite being funny but the synchronised swimming was given great applause.

The effort FTC had put into their involvement was really appreciated by all concerned and yet again we made our mark in the life of the commune.

Also, all involved with this FTC production need praising for providing their time and energy which ultimately helped an excellent cause.

Martyn Crowe

## Fun Théâtre Communautaire Association Secretary

We are hoping to expand and improve the bureau that steers Fun Théâtre to better reflect our growing membership. So, we are looking for a new person to join the existing members of the bureau and take on the role of association secretary.

The responsibilities will include:

- Welcoming new members and visitors to Fun Théâtre
- Supporting meetings by taking minutes and circulating agendas
- Dealing with correspondence and keeping other bureau members updated about FTC activity
- Helping to plan future Fun Théâtre activities

To be an effective association secretary you will be someone who can organize meetings and activities. If you are a person who has a great eye for detail and can work in a methodical way to support Fun Théâtre activity, then this might be a good role for you. You will need good communication skills and enjoy meeting new people. An association secretary needs to be IT literate and have good administrative and record keeping skills.



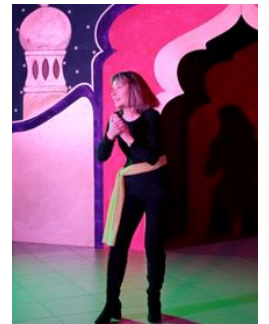
# Amazing memories from Cenrillon / Cinderella

Well, March 2023 might feel like lightyears away now but...what an amazing show we put on! As Graham has mentioned elsewhere more than 70 people came together to entertain and delight our audiences. The wonderful programme is a testament to everyone who participated. I, for one, had a ball taking on the two roles of Boss Bob and Mary Berry for my very first experience of being in a pantomime. There were other first timers on stage, as well as seasoned performers, and also our Fun Théâtre Juniors taking on the role of mice in Baron Fauché's household. Then the very productive collaborations with two local dancing schools: Gorron Danse and Danse Moderne Domfront added so much to the overall look of the performances. And, of course, our live band under Chris's guidance was fantastic. For me, personally, the stand out performance was that of Tamzin French in the role of Cendrillon/Cinderella. She was serenely beautiful in her portrayal of the eponymous lead character, and impressively professional at all rehearsals (on top of getting up before 06h00 everyday to travel to Lycee!). But there were many, many, many other excellent renditions of Graham's brilliant characters – who can forget the ugly sisters? Shakespeare? The Bobs? The Witches (my granddaughter's favourite by far)? Etc etc etc...so many great performances!!!! Graham and Jae take great credit for bringing all the personalities to life and the thanks of all the cast go to them for their vision.

But it really does need stating that there are so many people behind the scenes, and the panto would have been nothing without them. These roles can be relatively unsung and go unnoticed but are absolutely crucial to the success of the project. We at Fun Théâtre appreciate all of them. Rosa did an incredible job with the costumes. Sian made a calm and kind presence in the green room. Polly and her team were amazing running the box office and managing front of house. The scenery was fabulous, but would have been nothing without the team working with Martin to change the sets with such speed and efficiency. Peter and Ian set up and ran the lighting and sound, from scratch, to a standard that many an amateur theatre company would envy. And so many of Fun Théâtre's members were there after the final performance helping to clear and clean the salle ready to return it to the commune in the pristine condition that we received it. And that is the best thing for me...nobody way too important to muck in and help. That is the spirit of Fun Théâtre and I am really, really looking forward to finding out all about Panto 2025 as I can't wait to do it all again (even the clearing up at then end!!!!).

Cathy Daniels (with thanks to Andy Rokita for the great photos)





### Les Mille et Une Nuits / 1001 Nights

*On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Fun Théâtre produced yet another amazing show, once again in a collaboration with Gorrion Danse. The story of 1001 Nights and Aladdin were told through dance, theatre and poetry. This spectacular production showcased the oriental dancing skills of Jae and the dancers from Gorrion Danse, in the setting of the tales of Sheherazade, which were brought to life by Graham and the members of Fun Théâtre.*

*Once again, our association swung into action, with incredible set, lighting and sound. Beautiful costumes complimented and enhanced every scene. Jae’s wonderful choreography and Graham’s skill at creating a dual language script combined to make something beautiful...and for one Sunday afternoon we were magically transported to the orient. Congratulations to everyone involved – and of course thank you once again to Andy Rokita for recording the event in photographs and film.*

Cathy

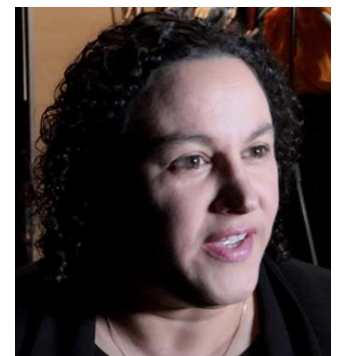


“What I really like about the show is the diversity of the show where we will find theatre.”

Dominique

“Participating in the show with Fun Theatre means being able to meet lots of very different people, playing very varied roles, and what’s interesting is the team spirit.”

Véro



## OTHER NEWS...



### *Fun Théâtre Académie*

Fun Théâtre Académie: a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the magical world of theatre!

Noémie often accompanies her mum Véronique to Fun Théâtre activities. For the past year or so, she's also been able to take part thanks to Fun Théâtre Académie.

She's delighted to be able to experience the world of theatre for herself. It's always a great time for her to meet up with her friend Martha.

The meetings are fortnightly. They take place in Passais. In fact, it's the only structure that offers theatrical activities adapted to children and teenagers.

It's fun and stimulating. Through the various workshops, young people discover ;

- ✓ The codes of stage direction
- ✓ Deciphering texts
- ✓ Developing characters
- ✓ Exploiting stage space
- ✓ Improvising
- ✓ Using your imagination

As well as honing your acting skills, you'll also benefit your life skills;

- ✓ Making friends
- ✓ Team spirit
- ✓ Develop self-confidence
- ✓ Help you to speak well
- ✓ Have a good repartee

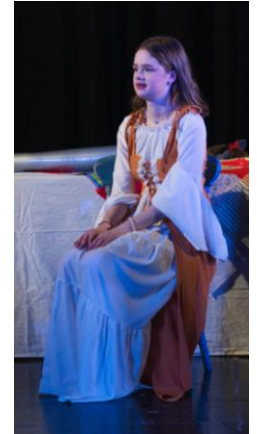
Fun Théâtre Académie is both a place to learn the art of theatre and a place to meet people and make friends.

In the course of classes and performances, you'll experience unforgettable moments of laughter and collaboration. Young people will forge unique bonds with your fellow students, united by a shared passion for theatre.

Véro Reinaudo-Sorin



### *The children of Fun Théâtre*



#### *Your Officers are:*

President: Graham Follett

Vice-president: Martyn Crowe

Treasurer: John Barnes

Secretary: Véronique Reinaudo-Sorin

Membership secretary: Joan Peagam

Communications officer: Cathy Daniels

#### *For staying in touch:*

Emails: Public: [contact@funtheatre.fr](mailto:contact@funtheatre.fr)

Members: [hello@funtheatre.fr](mailto:hello@funtheatre.fr)

Académie: [juniors@funtheatre.fr](mailto:juniors@funtheatre.fr)

Membership: [finance@funtheatre.fr](mailto:finance@funtheatre.fr)

Website: [www.funtheatre.fr](http://www.funtheatre.fr) lots of information and details of how to buy tickets to be found here

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](mailto:hello@funtheatre.fr) (in English or in French)

