

# Welcome to our annual newsletter for Volunteers, Supporters and Member Playwrights.



# SCENE & HEARD

## Hitting the Road - The Travelling Plays >>>

Our Replay Production in March featuring Ben Moor as 'Third Man' and a fabulous team of volunteers was an absolute triumph and was glowingly reviewed by theatre critic Michael Coveney (see 'What people said about us').



## <<< Stage One

Scene & Heard volunteers Gordon Peaston and Sophie Russell ran this popular workshop weekend which introduces our Member Playwrights to the fun of performing. Nine young people worked alongside adult mentors to create nine hilarious short performance pieces presented at Basil Jellicoe Hall in May.

## Slick Tricks - The Flawless Plays >>>

Our Summer Playmaking One production featured nine glorious plays with a crazy mix of characters including a Willopotomus who's fed up running a boring pub in the jungle and a pagoda 'made of superbricks and cement and height' who makes friends with a fly-butter.



## <<< Side by Side

Playback, our fifth course, combines all of the skills learned in previous courses and this year was an all girl extravaganza, ably taught by Oliver Senton. Eight of our older Member Playwrights took time out from their overwhelming studying and exam schedules to create theatre both as writers and performers working alongside professional actors, writers and directors.

## Best Foot Forward - The Bold Plays (The final production of 2013)

This is in rehearsal as we go to print but we have ten fantastic plays soon to be brought to life by another winning team of volunteer theatre professionals.

## 15 years old

2014 is our 15th Anniversary. We would like to hear your stories about Scene & Heard; your favourite play, or best memory, the funniest line, the magical moments. Let us know and we will collate them. Send your memories to [roz@sceneandheard.org](mailto:roz@sceneandheard.org)



Thank you to all the volunteers: actors, writers, dramaturgs, directors, composers, and prop makers and to our wonderful technicians and designers for a truly FABULOUS year.

There are always so many people to thank for their contributions to our work but special mention this year must go to volunteer Neil Edmond who has designed the wonderful images for all of our flyers in 2013.

## What people said about us in 2013:

"The kids had written duologues, and then expanded them to three-handers with the intervention of a bizarre or unlikely character played in all ten plays by the sublimely clownish and comically elongated Ben Moor, an actor who can animate an inanimate object with more feeling than a Schubert song...Costumes, made by Lizzie Bardwell and Julia Bunce, as remarkable and inventive as anything you will see on the West End stage this or any other week"

Michael Coveney What's On Stage

"The plays were remarkable. More surreal than Dali and Ionesco, far funnier than Fawlty Towers and more touching than EastEnders, the genius of childhood shone through... All the playwrights live in one of the toughest wards in London. Several are second-generation immigrants. All of them stood taller when they took their bow. That's real education."

Chris Bryant The Independent

## Dear Volunteers, Supporters and Member Playwrights,

2013 has been a busy and successful year for Scene & Heard. We have run five courses, been on two theatre trips, gone live with our new website featuring our popular resource pack for teachers, launched a range of Scene & Heard merchandise, and begun our Major Donor Campaign.

Our work has been seen by more people than ever and glowingly reviewed by Michael Coveney and Chris Bryant (see front page).

It was a real treat to take a group of our older Member Playwrights to The Almeida Theatre in March of this year to see *The Turn of the Screw*. They were delighted and frightened in equal measure, and were genuinely astonished at the power of live theatre to tell a spooky ghost story.

Mousetrap Theatre Projects sponsored our second theatre trip of the year as we took a group of boys to The Southbank Centre to see *Groove on Down the Road* by ZooNation; a vibrant hip hop musical that had us dancing all the way back to Somers Town.

For me one of the absolute highlights of the year has been to welcome back a group of our older Member Playwrights to take our bi-annual fifth course, *Playback*. I first worked with this particular cohort of girls when they were just nine years old. Now aged between 14 and 16, they are growing into confident, intelligent young women, they are funny and clever and it has been my pride and joy to see them back on stage at Scene & Heard this term.

Thank you EVERYONE for your contributions to our work, in whatever capacity: from artists, playwrights, patrons and funders to marathon runners, audience members and supporters. You make us the successful and award-winning charity that we are and we couldn't do it without you.



Artistic Director

## Vodafone World of Difference

For the fourth consecutive year we received a grant from Vodafone to employ a volunteer on a part time basis to work on a specific project for Scene & Heard. This year we were delighted to have Carys Williams as our Community Liaison Co-ordinator. Carys worked to forge better relationships with the secondary schools our Member Playwrights attend and tracked down some 24 children with whom we had lost touch.

She did a fantastic job meeting with representatives from a number of schools, updating our records and making sure that we can find our Member Playwrights in order to invite them back to Scene & Heard to do more courses with us. Carys managed to do all of this just in time before her beautiful baby Lyra arrived in July. A huge thank you and enormous congratulations to Carys from all at Scene & Heard.



## Our Patrons

Scene & Heard's patrons outdid themselves this year, supporting and promoting our work. A huge thank you to them all.

Hugh Bonneville, Tom Goodman-Hill, Max Hill, Roger Lloyd Pack, Michael Sheen and Samuel West (the latter two pictured top) hosted the launch of our Major Donor Campaign at a first night Gala performance of *Slick Tricks - The Flawless Plays*. Hugh introduced the evening in his inimitable style and Samuel made the closing speech.

In July Hugh Bonneville (pictured bottom, with Roz and Simma) played *God in Spamalot*, donating his fee to Scene & Heard. He even sang and danced at the curtain call. Many thanks to him and to The Ambassador Theatre Group, who shook buckets for us after the performances.

Samuel West stretched the brains of a room full of volunteers at a quiz in support of Alan Park's Berlin Marathon in September. The questions were tricky and often witty - the chocolate tasting round was a firm favourite. Fittingly, Alan's team won the quiz.

Anna Chancellor, Damian Lewis and Helen McCrory attended performances at *Theatro Technis* this year, taking time out from their schedules to introduce friends and colleagues to our work. Reviewer Michael Coveney was impressed with the high-flying audience:

"I was squashed among Damian Lewis, Helen McCrory, Anna Chancellor and director Jonathan Kent... The resultant theatre is sheer surreal fun and nonsense, with no recourse to historical reference and no worries for the audience about matching the acting to real people we've seen and read about. This means that every performance is definitive and complete."

As with all of our volunteers, we couldn't do it without them.

# Fundraising news

## Quiz 2013

Quizmaster extraordinaire Jez Worsnip created a tricky and entertaining annual quiz. It was the year of the "threepeat", with Gyuri Sarossy's team winning for the third year in a row! Bring a team to this year's quiz and see if you can beat them.

## Alan Park runs away

Alan Park ran the Berlin Marathon in support of Scene & Heard. He ran in 4 hours and 31 minutes - leaving the office breathless. THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored - as we go to press he's reached his target and raised £2022.

Our next London Marathon place will be in April 2015 - if you'd like to run and believe you can raise significant funds, contact [simma@sceneandheard.org](mailto:simma@sceneandheard.org)

## Teachers Pack success

Our Teachers Pack **Playwriting the Scene & Heard Way** has proved hugely successful both on our own website and on the Times Educational Supplement website. It has received excellent five star reviews, thousands of hits and hundreds of downloads. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from teachers and theatre practitioners all delighted with the resource. In particular a version of our Teachers Pack has been piloted in a school in Enfield, with impoverished children in Mumbai and is soon to be trialled in Peru. Our Teachers Pack helps us share our experiences and demonstrate best practice to a wider audience across the globe.

## In Kind donations:

Huge thanks to our lovely IT support company The Final Step who look after all our IT needs and this year helped Kai upgrade his PC.

[www.thefinalstep.co.uk](http://www.thefinalstep.co.uk)

The immensely talented Joe Ewart of Society continues to donate his considerable talents and expertise designing our flyers and programmes. He designed Scene & Heard's first full colour programme for our Gala in July as well as the invitation.

## Merchandise

Do you have your Scene & Heard t-shirt? Do you drink your morning cappuccino from a Scene & Heard mug? Is your washing up greatly eased by the use of your Scene & Heard Tea Towel? Have you given such lovely gifts to your family and friends for Christmas, birthdays, etc? You can now also purchase Scene & Heard pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners generously donated by communication consultants, Quietroom ([www.quietroom.co.uk](http://www.quietroom.co.uk)).

**Merchandise is available at every performance...don't miss out!**



## More thank yous

Several volunteers and supporters assisted our fundraising this year - a round of applause to each of you!

- Althea Stewart's Quaker Meeting donated £100
- Jim Patterson donated a speaking fee
- James Albrecht and the St James Theatre donated prizes for our annual quiz
- Angus Lindsay helped with our fundraising campaign
- Louisa Gummer supported our social media efforts
- Neil Bull, Suzie Foster, Jasmine Rowe, Hannah Stokely and Susie Trayling went above and beyond the call to take tickets, stage manage and serve food and drink at our Gala evening in July
- Roger Lawrence took the pictures at the Gala

If you'd like to help next year - email [simma@sceneandheard.org](mailto:simma@sceneandheard.org)

## Our Funders

Audience donations are vital to our funding, thank you to all who put money into those buckets!

### Many thanks to our funders in 2013:

Arts Council England, BBC Children in Need, British Transport Police, The Francis Crick Institute, Columbia Foundation Fund of the London Community Foundation, Deutsche Bank in partnership with the London Community Foundation, Help a Capital Child, John Lyon's Charity, The Alan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Goldsmiths' Company, The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust, The Worshipful Company of Grocers, Tom's Trust, The Tudor Trust, The Unity Theatre Trust, Wednesday's Child and Vodafone World of Difference.

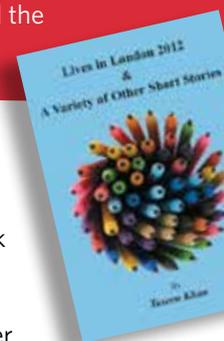
We are wholly indebted to an anonymous trust that funded the entire Replay course in 2013.

## Lives in London

Staff and volunteers were delighted to attend the launch of Taseen Khan's book *Lives in London 2012 & A Variety of Other Short Stories*. Taseen has completed four courses with us and is one of our older Member Playwrights. His mother Councillor Samata Khatoon has collected his plays written at Scene & Heard and his short stories about the life of a lad growing up in London and published them in this charming book. Taseen and his mother have very generously donated all funds from the sale of the book to Scene & Heard. You can buy a copy in the foyer at our next production.

## Congratulations

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Rachel Nicholson's son Fergus, Jamie Glassman's daughter Esmee, John Lightbody's daughter Martha, Carys Williams' daughter Lyra and Suze Robertson's daughter Skye. Supporter Jim Paterson (who ran 12 marathons for Scene & Heard in 2012) married Zoe on August 31st. A Scene & Heard wedding weekend in October featured volunteers Charlotte Weston and Bob Wolstenholme marrying each other and Natasha Byrne marrying her partner Steve. Kate Copeland also tied the knot in 2013



As a supporter of Scene & Heard, you know the power of something small to create something wonderful. Our Eyes & Ears Supporters scheme is a vital part of our funding, and this year we want to increase the income it brings us to £20,000 a year. Please join Eyes & Ears and help make sure we can continue our amazing work in Somers Town. Go to our website to download a form - and don't forget to tick the giftaid box if you're eligible, it will add 25% to your donation. For more information please email [simma@sceneandheard.org](mailto:simma@sceneandheard.org) or call 0845 0090775



# EYES & EARS



## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Rosalind Paul

## HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT:

Simma Gershenson

## OFFICE MANAGER:

Kai Simmons

## PATRONS:

Max Hill QC  
Damian Lewis  
Emily Watson  
Samuel West

## HONORARY PATRONS:

Hugh Bonneville  
Anna Chancellor  
Jennie Darnell  
Tom Goodman-Hill  
Roger Lloyd Pack  
Helen McCrory  
Bill Nighy  
Michael Sheen  
Cathy Tyson  
Zoë Wanamaker  
Richard Wilson

## FOUNDERS:

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Kate Coleman

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Newsletter design by Edie Mullen

▪ Spread the word about Scene & Heard - Actors and Directors, please include your volunteering with Scene & Heard in your biographies for programmes etc: "[name] is proud to be one of many arts professionals who volunteer their time and talents to the renowned children's mentoring theatre charity, Scene & Heard"

▪ Calling all Actors and Directors - Are you in a show that we could bring a group of our Member Playwrights to? Perhaps we could meet the actors or have a backstage tour! Please let us know if you may be able to help.

▪ **Keep in touch: Please remember to tell us if your contact details change.**

▪ Saturday nights are Member Playwrights nights, come along to any Saturday performance.

## 2014 - the year ahead

Friday 7th February  
**The Counting House**  
Anniversary Quiz

20th - 23rd March  
**Going for Gold**  
- **The Ambitious Plays**  
A Replay Production

10th - 13th July  
**Who Said That?**  
**The Unnerving Plays**  
A Playmaking One Production

30th - 31st October  
**Perfect Pairings**  
A One-on-One Production

4th - 7th December  
**Top Hat & Tails**  
- **The Well-dressed Plays**  
A Playmaking One Production



LOTTERY FUNDED

