



SCENE & HEARD

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



INTO OUR THIRD DECADE, INTO A STRANGE NEW WORLD, INTO NEW WAYS OF WORKING, ENGAGING, AND PLAYING: SCENE & HEARD IN 2020



What's Next? The Quizzical Plays Replay 2020

We started the year as usual with our Replay course. Ten Member Playwrights returned, to create a range of wonderful characters, some more pertinent than any of us could have known. The character of Coronavirus whose Dad was an unwashed hand and whose Mum was a sneeze was created at our Writing Weekend in February.



By the time we came to production in March, the inspiration for that character was all around us, and we were in a very different world.

The plays were all written and rehearsed, lines were learned and costumes were made, but we had to cancel the production of *What's Next? The Quizzical Plays* just three days before opening night. This was such a shame for everyone in so many ways, but in particular for our Third Woman, Charlotte Weston, who was rehearsed and ready to bring a glorious range of extraordinary characters to life including: Rosie, a Dubai Sunset; Pam, a potato waffle; Trixie Mic, a megaphone; and Jenny Orb, a weaver spider reporter.



However, we're delighted to say that we had the foresight to film a rehearsal. With no props or lighting, no sound effects and some not-quite-finished costumes, we filmed what we had and handed it over to the expert.

Ben Tuntingley, of Spare Part Films, took hours of shaky mobile phone footage from our rehearsal and put it together into a beautiful film. Our giant screening in celebration of *What's Next? The Quizzical Plays* took place on Zoom in November. We were joined by the Member Playwrights and their families, actors, directors, dramaturges and supporters to share in the successes of all.



Scene & Heard - Coming Out to Play

We can't use our community halls for classes and rehearsals or safely produce theatrical productions, so we have, for the very first time, taken our work into school. A whole new project for a whole new environment, *Coming Out to Play* is a long-term project at Edith Neville Primary School. Together with our volunteer actors, our staff team, and drama therapist Carys Williams, we have run workshops with every year group in the junior school. Playing games, sharing thoughts and feelings, processing some of what has happened and what 2020 has been like, the children have created a whole new set of Scene & Heard characters.

Pictured below is a character profile by Year 6 pupils designed by Charlotte Weston



In February, we took a group of twelve young people aged 10 to 12 to see *Matilda* at The Cambridge Theatre. This was the second time we have taken a group to *Matilda* as it is such a hit with everyone.

Member Playwright reviews:

"My favourite bit was when they sang *Revolting Children*"

"I liked when Amanda Thripp was spun round by her plaits, thrown into the audience and fell from the ceiling - it made me jump!"

A LETTER FROM CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ROSALIND PAUL

Dear Member Playwrights, Volunteers, and Supporters,

What can one say about this maddest of years, so much has happened, very little of which was what we planned!

I was so sad not to be able to produce *What's Next? The Quizzical Plays* and bring everyone's hard work to live performance, but I am delighted with the film that we made to celebrate the course.

One of the benefits of being a small, grassroots charity is that we can be flexible. With the help of our dedicated and supportive volunteers we have adapted our output to the current situation: reading stories to camera, making our *Talking Heads* short films, having Zoom meetings, sharing our work, and communicating with everyone in new and different ways. It has felt so positive to be able to keep in touch with our Member Playwrights of all ages and to offer them a range of individual bespoke support.

I spent some considerable time creating comprehensive Risk Assessments and purchasing PPE which has all been worth it to get back to doing what we love - working with the children of Somers Town, creating characters, theatre and film.

I am so keen to get back to running our full programme of courses and producing our shows, I cannot wait. In the meantime, do please keep up to date with our activities by following us on social media, checking out our website, and sharing and celebrating our work.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon and I thank you for your continued support.

Rosa



What did Scene & Heard do during lockdown?

Once we closed our doors in March, the work of Scene & Heard did not stop. We contacted as many of our children and families as we could to offer support, activities and just to say 'Hi'. Some wrote plays from home, others requested references and letters of support from us as they applied for further education or employment.

Katie, our Arts Officer, created a delightful short film documenting our Playmaking One course from last Autumn which we shared with schools, families, and friends.

Our volunteers were kept busy too.

Some of our actors recorded themselves reading stories to go on the Edith Neville Primary School website.

To date, 64 volunteers have participated in our *Talking Heads* films - mini films of our actors performing lines from our book of quotes *Only Cheese Can Leave*. We are up to eleven films with over 64,000 views on Twitter and thousands more on Facebook and YouTube. If you haven't seen them, or even if you have, take a look at our website:

www.sceneandheard.org/talking-heads/

Huge thank you to Simon Grover for helping to create these films.

We hosted regular weekly Zoom meetings with our wonderful arts professional volunteers. The shutdown of theatres and arts projects across the country has had a devastating impact on our amazing teams, but they are a resourceful and resilient bunch, and we are so proud to be able to support them in any way we can.

Pictured below, Kate Phillips and Oliver Chris, Mitesh Soni, and Don Gilet and Siobhan Finneran in some of our Talking Heads films

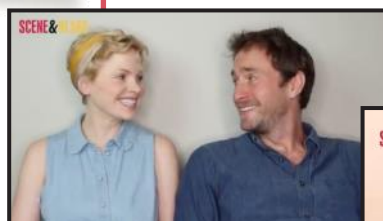
WELCOME CATH!



We are so pleased to welcome Cath Hylton to the staff at Scene & Heard. Cath is our new Office & Finance



Manager, joining us with a wealth of experience and expertise from the worlds of theatre, business, and the music industry. Look out for her front of house at our next shows.



We were very sad to learn our volunteer, Chris Stanton, died earlier this year. Chris was a director and an actor with us, delighting audiences with his performances. He is greatly missed.

Chris as Perry the pelican

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS THIS YEAR:

- BBC Children in Need
- Carlile Foundation Charitable Trust
- Dydimus
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Goldsmiths' Company Charity
- John Lyon's Charity
- Mackintosh Foundation
- The Shadworth Hodgson Bequest
- The Thompson Family Charitable Trust
- The Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust
- Waitrose Community Matters
- Wellington Management UK Foundation



WE ALSO RECEIVED EMERGENCY FUNDING, HELPING US THROUGH LOCKDOWN AND BEYOND:

- Argent Kings Cross
- Arts Council England
- The National Lottery Community Fund and City Bridge Trust
- The Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust
- Wellington Management UK Foundation
- Nickelodeon, Inc.



Chocolatier Jane Swayne donates a portion of her proceeds to Scene & Heard. You can order your own chocolates and support us at www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk

We are enormously grateful to our benefactors who donate significant funds over several years:

The Carlile Family, Nick Gray, Ralph & Patricia Kanter and Juliet Wrightson.

OUR PATRONS ALWAYS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

A special shout out to Hugh Bonneville, who auctioned some *Paddington* goodies with the proceeds going to Scene & Heard. Also thanks to Xanthe Darnell, daughter of our patron Jennie Darnell, who took up the 2.6 Challenge in April by playing Swingball whilst hopping on the spot and raising money for Scene & Heard.

FUNDER FOCUS

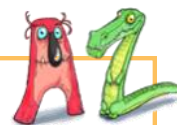


The Joseph Mindel Charitable Trust is the family trust of Scene & Heard stalwart Esther Caplin. Esther is a powerhouse of community service and can often be found at our first night receptions convincing others to be as generous as she. In addition to funding, Esther helps ensure that Scene & Heard and our Member Playwrights' voices are heard in Somers Town, Camden, and beyond.

A special thanks to everyone who supports us at Ted Baker – especially Ciaran Byrne and Simon Brealy for their tech advice. They also introduced us to John Hailstone who made our website a better place.

Our work is supported not only by donations of money, but also of services. We couldn't do our work without:

- White Light Ltd — www.whitelight.ltd.uk
- The QuizTeam and our very own quizmaster Jez Worsnip — thequizteam.com
- Ian Bass – illustrator of our programmes and Christmas Cards www.ianbassillustration.co.uk



A Fond Farewell

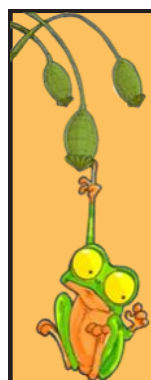
Sir Ian Johnston is stepping down from his role as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Camden. Sir Ian first came to see us when we were being considered for The Queens Award for Voluntary Service which we were granted in 2011. In fact, he presented us with our award and he and his wife Lady Carol have been regular members of our audience ever since. We take this opportunity to thank Sir Ian for all the support and positivity over many years. Wishing him well, we very much hope to see him in our audience again soon.



Clerkenwell-based film and TV production company Sister has adopted Scene & Heard as their corporate charity. We are proud to work with them.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

- Volunteers make the Scene & Heard world go round — this year, some folks went the extra mile:
- Allie Croker participated in the AustenReadAThon during lockdown
 - David Ahmad and Jonny Freeman donated their hard-earned COVID quiz prize money
 - Ross Mullan and Richard Ashton played the *Monster Mash Game* on 'The Legend of the Travelling Tardis' podcast in aid of Scene & Heard
 - Volunteer Liv Spencer and the cast, crew and staff of *Magic Goes Wrong* in the West End raised money for us during spring half term—magically, they raised over £3,400.
 - Susie and Laurie Trayling made a donation in memory of Phyllis Wheeler, an extraordinary lady and a huge champion of young people





FOUNDERS

Sophie Boyack
Kate Coleman

PATRONS

Hugh Bonneville
Anna Chancellor
Jennie Darnell
Tom Goodman-Hill
Max Hill QC
Damian Lewis
Dame Hilary Mantel
Helen McCrory
Bill Nighy
Michael Sheen
Zoë Wanamaker
Emily Watson
Samuel West

TRUSTEES

Keith Ackerman (Chair)
Emma Bell
Nick Gray
Brónagh McCann
Jo Millard
John Nevin
Emily Plosker
Andrew Porter
John Rolph
Tracey Shevlin
David Stewart
Will Wharfe

STAY IN TOUCH

All Member Playwrights and Volunteers!

Please remember to tell us if your contact details change.

Into 2021...

We hope to be running courses and full productions back in our theatrical home of Theatro Technis as soon as possible.



PUB QUIZ

Jez Worsnip returned to his quizmaster duties in February, stumping some of Scene & Heard's best minds. He'll be back with his fiendish questions online on Friday, 5th February, for our annual birthday quiz. Join our mailing list for details and tickets.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to those welcoming new members into their families: Amy Bailey and her son Archer; Neil Edmond and Emma Fryer and their son Fred; Julia McShane and her daughter Evie; Kate Phillips and Oliver Chris and their daughter Robin; Sally Scott and Bertie Carvel and their son Ernie.

VOLUNTEER FOR SCENE & HEARD



Join our highly respected team of 400 theatre professionals who dedicate their skills and talents to create fabulous theatre and make a difference in young people's lives at the same time.

We are actively seeking actors and directors from all the different heritages and backgrounds that London has to offer. Email mail@sceneandheard.org for an application pack.

CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rosalind Paul

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT

Simma Gershenson

OFFICE & FINANCE MANAGER

Cath Hylton

ARTS OFFICER

Katie Wee

STRATEGY ADVISER

Fiona Mallin-Robinson

BOOKKEEPER

Paul Evans
Margam Evans, Ltd.

Tel: 020 7388 9008 / 9009

mail@sceneandheard.org
www.sceneandheard.org

Registered Charity No. 1077836

EYES & EARS

A donation of £5 a month will support the imaginations of our Member Playwrights on and off the stage.

You can join Eyes & Ears via our website or by contacting the office to make a real difference.

www.sceneandheard.org/individual-giving

Eyes & Ears members can book for our oversubscribed performances before the general public.

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