

Welcome to the
15th BIRTHDAY EDITION
of our annual newsletter for Member
Playwrights, Volunteers and Supporters



SCENE & HEARD



<< Going for Gold - The Ambitious Plays

Ten Member Playwrights returned to write a second play with us in the Spring. *Going for Gold - The Ambitious Plays*, our Replay production, featured the incomparable style of Morag Cross as 'third woman'. The Member Playwrights created a glorious range of characters for her to play, including: an Emu Police Officer, a Pink Wig, a T. Rex, a Sun Parasol and an Indian Humming Bird.

Stage One >>

We held our weekend workshop course, *Stage One*, in June of this year. The course was taught by volunteer Tricia Gannon as nine Member Playwrights aged 10-12 worked alongside nine adults to create their own short plays. The pieces were performed at The Diorama Arts Studios, Regent's Place.



Who Said That? - The Unnerving Plays >>

Our Summer Playmaking One course culminated in *Who Said That? - The Unnerving Plays*. Ten superb plays featured characters as diverse as The Shard, Earwax, Eton Mess, a Black Widow Spider who doesn't want to eat her husband, a Cockapoo Prison Guard, a Bag for Life and a Bottle of Bleach that Irish dances to the *Ghostbusters* theme tune.



<< Perfect Pairings

Perfect Pairings, a One-on-One production, saw our older Member Playwrights acting in plays written specifically for them by an amazing team of professional writers. The course, led by volunteers Gordon Peaston and Carys Williams, culminated in ten young people alongside ten somewhat older actors taking to the stage together in October.

Top Hat & Tails - The Well-Dressed Plays

As we go to press, our Autumn Playmaking One course is in rehearsal, promising to be another triumph, as we bring to life the imaginations of our youngest Member Playwrights.

Thank You to all the dramaturgs, actors, directors, composers, technicians, prop-makers, designers, illustrators, envelope stuffers and front of house teams for making us the award-winning charity that we are.



A Royal Visit

We welcomed HRH The Countess of Wessex back to Scene & Heard in July 2014. She met Member Playwrights before the show and delighted in *The Bunny Game*, a favourite Scene & Heard warm up. The Countess enjoyed a fantastic show, met funders, patrons and supporters at pre-show and interval receptions as well as congratulating our wonderful volunteers after the performance. She was particularly impressed by the high level of commitment and involvement of the actors and asked us to pass on her congratulations to everyone involved and, in particular the children, who gave the actors such rich material.



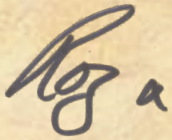
Dear Member Playwrights, Volunteers and Supporters,

2014 has been a special year for us as we celebrate our 15th birthday. In amongst the celebrating, we have run five courses and taken two groups of our older Member Playwrights on West End theatre trips to see *Billy Elliot* and *The Thirty Nine Steps*. We recorded and produced a CD of songs from shows past and welcomed HRH Sophie, Countess of Wessex back to see our work and to share in our success.

As always, I am overwhelmed by the commitment and the genuine kindness of our volunteers and our supporters, but this year more than ever, as I have been looking back over our fifteen year history. Since 1999 Scene & Heard has run 68 courses, produced 502 plays and has a current total of 272 Member Playwrights.

Happy Birthday Scene & Heard. Fifteen years of creating theatre with and for the Somers Town community is an absolute triumph to be celebrated and shouted from the rooftops!

Thank you to everyone and jolly well done us,



Rosalind Paul
Artistic Director



Happy Birthday Scene & Heard

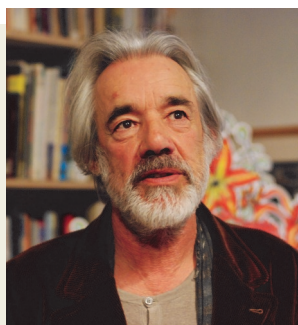
To mark the occasion of our fifteenth birthday, we held a fun-filled party in May at The Forge in Camden. Over a hundred volunteers past and present, as well as founders, patrons and trustees, came to celebrate Scene & Heard. There were speeches, a slide show and the launch of our fabulous CD.

The evening was topped off with a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake by our founders Kate Coleman and Sophie Boyack. It was their vision back in 1999 and their hard work in the years that followed that is the foundation of all the charity has gone on to do.

Thank you to all who attended, to The Forge for giving us their beautiful venue for our celebrations and to Janette Earney for the delicious cake.

Amazing Architects

We were delighted to have been chosen by Abigail Ashton and Andrew Porter as the project for their Year 4 students of Unit 21 at The Bartlett School of Architecture UCL to design a dream home for us. They presented their work, a collection of creative, imaginative and inspirational spaces, at a reception held at the offices of Argent, King's Cross in September of this year. A huge thank you to Abigail and Andrew and their students: Jamie Lilley, William Molho, Jens Olesen, Frankie Pringle, Charlotte Reynolds & James Simcock.



Our *Replay* production in March was dedicated to the memory of our patron Roger Lloyd Pack, with love and thanks for his commitment to Scene & Heard and the children of Somers Town.

Roger was a great supporter of our work. His laughter was part of our audience for many years and we miss him.

Kathryn Findlay Future Fund

We are indebted to eminent architect Kathryn Findlay who saw and fell in love with our work. She was delighted by the freedom of imagination and the whacky creativity of our child playwrights. She felt a clear affinity between the glorious expression that she brought to her own work and the magical worlds created at Scene & Heard. We are honoured to be part of Kathryn's legacy.

Enquiries about the KF Future Fund to simma@sceneandheard.org

Fundraising News

Get Scene & Heard into peak condition

Scene & Heard is participating in the Peak District Challenge (www.peak-district-challenge.com) the weekend of 18th – 20th September 2015. The Challenge offers four different distances from Copper (25km, about 9 hours) to Gold (90km, 24 hours).

We'd love to take a team of intrepid Scene & Hearders. If you are feeling fit and believe you can raise at least £600 in sponsorship, contact Simma (simma@sceneandheard.org).

A massive thank you to everyone who helped us raise money this year:

- Jez Worsnip, Scene & Heard's official quizmaster, taxed our brains at our annual quiz. >>
- Supporter Robin Baillie ran a half-marathon for us and raised over £2,000.... WOW, thanks Robin!
- Justin Brett organised an evening of comedy at the Charlotte Despard pub, raising over £1,200. Volunteer Richard Herring headlined the gig, which also featured Rich Wilson, Sy Thomas and more of our lovely volunteers in *The Showstoppers*. (www.theshowstoppers.org)
- Kate Dunbar, Angus Lindsay & Jim Paterson all donated speaking fees.



Many thanks to our funders in 2014:

BBC Children in Need, British Transport Police, Co-operative Bank Customer Fund, Crescendo, Goldman Sachs Gives: Simon R. Watson Annual Giving Fund, Help a Capital Child, John Lyon's Charity, Lloyds Bank Community Fund, Margaret Guido's Charitable Trust, The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation, The Joseph Mindel Trust, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Marple Charitable Trust, The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust, The Thompson Family Charitable Trust, Tom's Trust and The Woodward Charitable Trust.

We are indebted to an anonymous trust who funded both *Stage One* and *One-on-One* this year.

Audience Donations are vital to our funding. Our total raised so far this year is £4,400. Thank you to everyone who put money in the buckets!

In kind donations

The **Final Step** keep our computers and IT ticking over nicely. We couldn't do what we do without them. www.thefinalstep.co.uk

White Light donated lighting equipment for our *Replay*, *Summer Playmaking One* and *One-on-One* productions. Their help brightened our work! www.whitelight.ltd.uk

Joe Ewart of *Society* redesigned our flyers and programmes in the Spring of 2012 and designed our publicity for the following ten productions. Having taught us how to do it, he has now moved on to other projects; we are grateful to him for our lovely designs.

Roger Lawrence donated his talents as photographer to the Royal Gala. As usual, his photos captured the evening with style and panache. macmay@onetel.com >>

This year's Royal Gala was also made possible by the hard work of many volunteers: Gaby Szabo managed the kitchen and servers, Kellie Batchelor was in charge of the bar and wine pourers. Jordan Whitwell, Erin Davis, Jessica Radcliffe, Sophie Russell and Samantha Sutherland all served and greeted.

Sing the songs of Scene & Heard

To mark our fifteenth birthday we have recorded a CD of 16 glorious songs from recent years in celebration of the wonder that is Scene & Heard. Thank you to the children who wrote, the adults who sang and especially to our composers: Ben O'Sullivan, Ronnie Paris, Rebecca Thorn and Jane Watkins. *Come on Down to Somers Town, The Songs of Scene & Heard* is hilarious and beautiful and glorious and fun. Make sure you buy your copy at our next show.



As well as the CD, you can purchase Scene & Heard merchandise - mugs, t-shirts, tea towels, pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners - at every production. So don't forget to bring a little extra cash to the next show, so you can take a piece of Scene & Heard home with you.

Congratulations !

Welcome to the world in 2014 to Alice Barclay's daughter Ellen, Bea Rose's son Rafe, Andrew Dennis' son Zack, Pandora Colin's daughter Hope, Jenni Maitland's daughter Nina, John Hoggarth and Ria Parry's daughter Rosabella, patron Samuel West's daughter Hildy and trustee Paul Perkins' daughter Rosa.

Wedding bells were ringing this year for volunteers Jez Worsnip, who married Charlene in May, Abigail Anderson, who married Simon in June and Pilar Orti, who married Kevin in November.



YOU DID IT – our Eyes & Ears Individual Giving Scheme now brings in over £20,000 per year. HURRAY!

Our 145 Eyes & Ears Members make a real difference to the children of Somers Town. Join them and help us reach £25,000 by this time next year.....!!

To become a member and help create amazing theatre in Somers Town, go to our website to download a form, or email mail@sceneandheard.org. Don't forget to tick the Gift Aid box to add 25% to your donation.

BENEFACTORS PROGRAMME

Could you or someone you know make a substantial, long-term commitment to the work of Scene & Heard? 2014 saw the beginning of our Benefactors Programme, a group of people willing to contribute significant funds over at least three years. For more information, contact simma@sceneandheard.org.



EYES & EARS



SCENE & HEARD

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Rosalind Paul

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT:

Simma Gershenson

OFFICE MANAGER:

Kai Simmons

PATRONS:

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

FOUNDERS:

Sophie Boyack
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Registered Charity No. 1077836



www.facebook.com/SceneandHeardUK



[@SceneandHeardUK](https://twitter.com/SceneandHeardUK)

2015 – the year ahead

Friday 6th February

Anniversary Quiz

The Counting House

19th – 22nd March

Oh My Days! - The Rhyming Plays

A Replay Production

9th – 12th July

Walking On Eggshells

- The Sensitive Plays

A Playmaking One Production

18th – 20th September

The Peak District Challenge

29th – 30th October

Double Take

A Playback Production

3rd – 6th December

Sugar and Spice - The Tasty Plays

A Playmaking One Production

- **Spread the word about Scene & Heard:** Actors and Directors, please include your volunteering with Scene & Heard in your biographies for programmes.
- **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.
- **Saturdays are Member Playwrights Night:** Come along, meet your friends and see your actors - we always love to see you and hear your news.
- **Keep in touch:** Please remember to tell us if your contact details change.



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