



# SCENE & HEARD

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service  
The MBE for volunteer groups

Children's playwriting charity, professional theatre company, mentoring project, creator of innovative, magical and surreal theatre... however you chose to describe us, we are a success story. Scene & Heard is seventeen years old, and to date we have 311 Member Playwrights, have run 78 courses and produced 578 pieces of new writing. We hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and a Centre for Social Justice Award.

### Over The Top - The Audacious Plays

Our Replay production this year, *Over the Top - The Audacious Plays*, featured the incomparable Catriona Knox as third woman, popping up to change the course of action of each play in a range of guises, including a sasquatch, an atom, a top hat, the God of Destruction and a mermaid.



### Stage One

In May 2016 nine young people aged 11 – 13 joined Roz and a team of volunteers to create their own mini plays over a weekend of intense creativity at Diorama Arts Studios. By Sunday afternoon each piece was complete. The young people alongside their adult partners performed their piece as a rehearsed reading for an audience of family and friends. Stage One is an inspiring example of what can be achieved in just 48 hours.



### Risk It For A Biscuit - The Daring Plays

was our Playmaking One production in July. The glorious array of characters included: a murderous musky fish, a honeycomb with aspirations to rule all Victorians, a spikey rubber ball who aims to end world poverty and a monkey who wants to be a stand-up comedian.



### Me And My Shadow

We were delighted to perform *Me & My Shadow*, our One-on-One production, at New Diorama Theatre in Regent's Place. Eleven young people, returning to work with us for, in most cases, the fourth time, each had a play written for them by a professional writer. The course was taught with humour and charm by Gordon Peaston, supported by Suzie Foster, and the production featured some amazing performances by our young people with their adult partners.

**Thank you, New Diorama Theatre** for welcoming us into your lovely theatre and looking after us so well.

### Scream & Shout - The Noisy Plays

As we go to print our final production of the year, *Scream & Shout - The Noisy Plays*, is in rehearsal. We know it's going to be a wonderfully fitting end to another fantastic year of playwriting at Scene & Heard.



### Theatre Trips

In February, we took a group of Member Playwrights to the Phoenix Theatre to see *Bend it Like Beckham* and later in the year took another group to the Cambridge Theatre to see *Matilda*. Theatre trips have become a regular feature of our year, allowing us to keep in touch with our young people whether they are participating in a course or not. They're also a treat for all and a huge amount of fun.

**Actors and Directors** - are you involved in a show that we could bring a group of our Member Playwrights to? Perhaps we could meet the company or have a backstage tour. Please let us know if you can help.



## Dear Member Playwrights, Volunteers and Supporters,

This year Scene & Heard began implementing our long term strategic plan, establishing ourselves as a **Centre of Excellence**. We advise other charities and local organisations as well as extending our own work within the Somers Town community. I am delighted that a number of our older Member Playwrights have come back to do their **Work Experience** with us, helping out during production weeks. They have painted the set, sewn and glued costumes, shopped for a crazy array of curious yet vital items, researched, drawn and meticulously coloured in our hallmark 2D props and proved a valuable addition to our hardworking production teams.

This summer I had the chance to visit the **52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project** in New York: the playwriting and mentoring project that was the inspiration for Scene & Heard. Established thirty years ago, they're considerably older than us. They have their own building with theatre, workshops, afterschool club and rehearsal space. Needless to say I was rather envious of all their facilities and their kit! It was an absolute joy to meet some of the fantastic team over there, to see their beautiful theatre, to delight in their props and to share stories of the work that we do on opposite sides of the Atlantic. We do some things very differently and others are strikingly similar, but the ethos at the heart of what we do, to use theatre as a tool to mentor and inspire young people, is as true for them as it is for us.



In 2016, we ran five courses and two theatre trips, working with Member Playwrights aged nine to sixteen. We played to capacity audiences, introduced many more people to our work and continued to delight in the freedom of children's imaginations.

Scene & Heard is currently developing a new course as an alternative to *Playback*, to offer our older Member Playwrights a further opportunity to write with us. We plan to pilot *Writeback* in Autumn 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers - actors, writers, directors, dramaturgs, prop makers, composers, envelope stuffers and interns - as well as our wonderful staff, patrons, trustees, designers and technical teams for another fabulously successful year - well done all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosa'.

Rosalind Paul  
CEO & Artistic Director

We are absolutely delighted that **Dame Hilary Mantel** has become a patron of Scene & Heard. As a charity committed to the use of playwriting to empower and inspire young people, what more fitting person than a Booker Prize-winning author to join our wonderful team of high profile patrons who support us in our work.

*"If you are glum about the state of the world and haven't laughed in weeks, recover some hope by seeking out a performance from Scene & Heard. This Somers Town scheme gives intensive, targeted help to children. It increases confidence, helps make strong relationships, teaches team work and co-operation, and brings out hidden creative potential. It commits to its members, sticking with them through their school life and into young adulthood. It is effective and, unlike other worthy interventions, it comes with songs, dances and jokes. It is huge fun for everyone involved - I think that is the secret of its success."*

**Dame Hilary Mantel,**  
Author and Scene & Heard Patron



## Volunteers, Be Seen And Heard

Join **The Herd, Seen** group on Facebook! It's a place for all our Scene & Heard theatre professionals to share details of their NON-Scene & Heard productions. Volunteers are invited to post about their other shows, to round up a friendly and supportive audience. Thank you to volunteer **Ben Moor** for putting it all together.



## Announcements!

Congratulations to all those with new arrivals in 2016: Alan Park and his daughter Rosa; Sophie Fletcher and her son William; Carys Williams and her daughter Ibee; Dan Green and his daughter Clara; and costume designer Lizzie Bardwell and her son Isaac (pictured suitably costumed left).

Volunteers James Wooldridge and Joanna Croll were married this year.

Congratulations to them and to Kathrine Smith, who married Ali Ghanimi.

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Olympian Efforts For Scene & Heard

While the world was watching Rio, here at home Scene & Heard volunteers were overachieving to raise funds for the children of Somers Town. Volunteer **Suzanne Cave**, having portrayed a cherry blossom, a tiger with no fur and a mango on the Scene & Heard stage, turned her talents to the London Marathon in April. She completed the race in 4 hours 18 minutes and raised over £7,000! Her fundraising was supported by matching funds from the **Joseph Mindel Charitable Trust**.



**Julia McShane**, Scene & Heard director and dramaturg extraordinaire, participated in the London Triathlon in August. She swam 1 km (in the Thames!), cycled 20km and ran 5km to raise over £1,000.



We are in awe of their efforts.

If you'd like to run, ride, swim or jump for Scene & Heard, get in touch. We'll do everything we can to support you. Email [simma@sceneandheard.org](mailto:simma@sceneandheard.org)

**In 2017, Nathalie Thomas, director of ThreeCliffs Productions, Scene & Heard supporter and PA to our patron Michael Sheen, will run the London Marathon for Scene & Heard. You can sponsor her at [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/nat.thomas6](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/nat.thomas6)**

Our heartfelt thanks to our funders this year:

- Arts Council England
- BBC Children in Need
- The Beaverbrook Foundation
- The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- The Goldsmiths' Company
- GS Sanders Charitable Settlement
- The Joseph Mindel Charitable Trust
- London Community Foundation
- John Lyon's Charity
- Regent's Place Community Fund
- The Santander Foundation
- The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust
- The Thompson Family Charitable Trust
- The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- The Unity Theatre Trust

We are enormously grateful to our benefactors: The Carlile Family Foundation, Lucy & Pete Eggleston, Ralph & Patricia Kanter and Jessica Pulay.

Volunteer Kathrine Smith married Ali Ghanimi this year and they very generously requested that their wedding guests donate to Scene & Heard. What a lovely thing to do. Thank you!

Supporter Sue Odell and volunteer Howard Lee celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary and very kindly asked their guests to donate to Scene & Heard. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Audience Donations this year were an amazing £6,450. Thank you to everyone who put money in the red buckets!**

Enjoy and share artisanal luxury chocolates, whilst also donating to your favourite charity!

Order Master Chocolatier Jane Swayne's works of culinary art from [www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk](http://www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk) and 10% of sales will go to Scene & Heard.

As one of our volunteers, who was lucky enough to sample them, put it: *"The most perfectly creative pairing of expert imaginations! Extraordinarily excellent, just like Scene & Heard."*



## A Huge Scene & Heard Thank You

**The Final Step** offers their considerable IT talent to maintain our office computers. [www.thefinalstep.co.uk](http://www.thefinalstep.co.uk)

**New Diorama Theatre** hosted us at their gorgeous theatre for *Me and My Shadow* in October, giving our Member Playwrights the perfect space to perform for the first time. [www.newdiorama.com](http://www.newdiorama.com)

Illustrator **Ian Bass** has joined the Scene & Heard team, designing this year's Playmaking One and One-on-One flyers (left). [www.ianbassillustration.co.uk](http://www.ianbassillustration.co.uk)

**White Light Ltd** donated lighting equipment for our Teatro Technis productions in 2016. They shine a spotlight on the children's work. [www.whitelight.ltd.uk](http://www.whitelight.ltd.uk)

**Origin Housing** has been working with Scene & Heard since our first show in 1999 and donates the use of the Basil Jellicoe Hall, where we hold our playwriting classes.

Our February birthday quiz was created and hosted by our resident quizmaster **Jez Worsnip**. Join us in February 2017 for more devilishly difficult questions. Jez runs pub quizzes across London. [www.thequizteam.com](http://www.thequizteam.com).



# EYES & EARS

Help bring the voices of Somers Town's children to the stage!

Please join our Eyes & Ears individual giving scheme to ensure the future of our work. Help us reach our 2017 goal of 200 members.

Eyes & Ears members are given advance booking for all our shows.

To become a member, go to our website and download a form, or email [mail@sceneandheard.org](mailto:mail@sceneandheard.org)



# SCENE & HEARD

## 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  
Lucy Eggleston  
Nick Gray (Chair)  
Becca Manley  
Jo Millard  
Michelle Nelson  
John Nevin  
Paul Perkins  
Andrew Porter  
Will Wharfe

## CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rosalind Paul

## HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT

Simma Gershenson

## OFFICE MANAGER

Kai Simmons

## STRATEGY ADVISER

Fiona Mallin-Robinson

## BOOKKEEPER

Paul Evans

Tel: **020 7388 9008 / 9009**

[mail@sceneandheard.org](mailto:mail@sceneandheard.org)  
[www.sceneandheard.org](http://www.sceneandheard.org)

Registered Charity No. 1077836



- **Spread the word about Scene & Heard:**

Actors and Directors, please include your volunteering with Scene & Heard in your biographies for programmes.

- **Saturdays are Member Playwright Nights:**

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.

- Follow us on **Social Media:** please like and share our posts.



SceneandHeardUK



@SceneandHeardUK



scene\_and\_heard\_uk

## 2017 - The Year Ahead

Friday 3rd February  
**Anniversary Quiz**

23rd - 26th March

**Don't Look Down**  
**- The Perilous Plays**  
A Replay Production

13th - 16th July

**Sunshine and Laughter**  
**- The Joyful Plays**  
A Playmaking One Production

12th - 13th October

**Writeback**  
The Pilot

30th November - 3rd December

**Soft Shoe Shuffle**  
**- The Stylish Plays**  
A Playmaking One Production

THE CSJ AWARDS 2015  
WINNER