



# SCENE & HEARD

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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

Since its inception in 1999, Scene & Heard has worked with 331 Member Playwrights, run 83 courses and produced over 600 pieces of new writing. We hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and a Centre for Social Justice Award. Children's playwriting charity, professional theatre company, mentoring project, creator of innovative, magical and surreal theatre... however you choose to describe us, we are a success story!



### <<< Don't Look Down: The Perilous Plays

Our first course of 2017 was a *Replay* production, which is open to children who have completed *Playmaking One*. It requires each of the ten children to write a two-character play into which a third character must come, change the action and leave. For the purposes of sheer theatrical delight the third character in each play is performed by the same actor. In 2017 it was the turn of long-time volunteer Gordon Peaston to demonstrate his amazing versatility as (amongst others) a hand dryer, a gangster rat, a money tree businessman and an Albert Einstein robot.



### Sunshine & Laughter: The Joyful Plays



Four performances in July 2017 were the result of our *Playmaking One* course. Ten young playwrights aged nine and ten created a joyful collection of plays and characters that included a psychotic Father Christmas hat, a whoopee cushion in a crime caper with a daddy long legs and a delicate romance between a stretch party limousine and a small splinter.



### Stage One

is the third course we offer and is designed to combine the children's writing skills with a gentle introduction to acting. It took place over an intensive weekend in May 2017. Ten Member Playwrights aged eleven to thirteen took the course working alongside adult mentors. It culminated in a sharing of work to an invited audience of family and friends at the Old Diorama Arts Centre, followed by tea and some delicious cake.



### Writeback

This year we have created a new course for our older Member Playwrights. Nine young people aged 13 - 16 spent three days with us at The Foundling Museum. Working alongside an adult dramaturg they each created one character and inherited another, both inspired by the museum. The resulting two-character scenes were played one after the other to make up a single relay play. We were delighted with the resulting production involving a light bulb that lights a painting, an empty frame, a plate, an ancient oak table top, Thomas Coram's gold cup, the little hand of a grandfather clock, a nature lion, a plug socket and a stuffy atmosphere.

### Theatre Trips

In February we took a group of ten Member Playwrights to the Noël Coward Theatre to see *Half a Sixpence*. For many this was their first experience of professional theatre (outside of Scene & Heard) and certainly their first musical. The whole outing was an adventure. We followed this with a trip in May to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane to see *42nd Street*. This all-singing, all-tapping show was a blast and a great treat for eight Member Playwrights during the half term break.

### Soft Shoe Shuffle: The Stylish Plays

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

## Dear Member Playwrights, Volunteers and Supporters,

2017 has seen the creation of a whole new course and I am so proud of our achievement. With the help of numerous volunteers we brainstormed, created and developed **Writeback**, which we then piloted with a fantastic group of Member Playwrights. I would like to thank everyone involved, who took a leap of faith with me in creating and realising **Writeback**; it presented more than a conundrum or two that together we embraced.

Thanks also to our audiences and in particular our Eyes & Ears Members whose feedback will assist in evaluating the project and honing the course for the next time.

Scene & Heard continues to grow with each new year. One of our priorities for the future is to raise our profile even further across all sectors: in Camden, in London, in the charity sector, amongst theatre professionals and with the theatre-going public. I am asking you to **shout about Scene & Heard**, whether you are a Member Playwright adding us to your CV as you move on to further education and into the world of work, a volunteer mentioning us in your professional biography and chatting about us in the green room, or a supporter telling your friends about us and bringing new audiences along to our shows. Tell everyone about the magic and wonder that is Scene & Heard. **Shouting about Scene & Heard** and raising our profile not only builds our reputation as a **Centre of Excellence**, that helps others to develop their own projects, but will also help with our funding and our longer-term strategic plan to serve our community even more.

With love and huge thanks for all your support, I look forward to seeing you at a show soon,



Rosalind Paul  
CEO & Artistic Director



## Writeback – the new course - explained

*Writeback* is designed to offer a more sophisticated playwriting opportunity to our older Member Playwrights; in particular, those who do not wish to perform. The writing element of the course takes place during the summer holidays with the production in late September. This gives our young people a creative opportunity over the long holiday break and outside the pressures of school work. The writing days take place at an institution within **The Knowledge Quarter**, an umbrella organisation that brings together cultural, research, scientific, business and academic institutions located in and around Kings Cross. Each young person creates a character and inherits a character from someone else. They then write a two-character scene armed with no knowledge of what the character has already done or may go on to do. There are a handful of rules that go to make the piece run smoothly; for example, you cannot kill off your own character as they are needed in the next scene! This year we worked with **The Foundling Museum** as our partner organisation, where our young people explored the collection and wrote their scenes. Throughout the process we worked closely with filmmakers Gaby Szabo and Ben Tunningley from **Spare Part Films**. They recorded the course and created two wonderful films. The first is an alternative to our usual front of house displays, a short film of each participating Member Playwright introducing their character and the inspiration for their play. The second is a short film that documents the whole course. This featured as an installation at The Foundling Museum and will be on our website in 2018.

## Announcements!

Congratulations to those welcoming new members into their families this year, including: Sophie Trott and her daughter Lettice; John Hoggarth and Ria Parry and their daughter Maia; Abi Anderson and her son Alexander; Martin Ritchie and Kali Peacock's daughter Rae; Angus Lindsay and his son Nico; Martin Parr and his son Riley; Daisy Douglas and Stuart Crossman and their daughter Edith; and Jessica Radcliffe and Billy Oliver and their two little girls.

And to those tying the knot in 2017: Sarah-Jayne Butler married Jonathan in April; Nick Rowe married Sophie in June; and Sinead Beary married Jonathon in September. Hooray!



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER ?

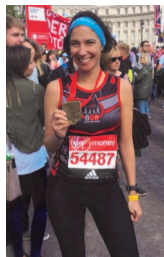
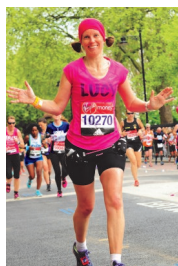
*We are always delighted to hear from arts professionals who would like to volunteer for Scene & Heard. We are actively seeking actors to work with the young people from Somers Town and want to find actors and directors from all the different heritages and backgrounds that London has to offer. Join our highly respected team of 400 theatre professionals who dedicate their skills and talents to create some fabulous theatre and make a difference in young people's lives at the same time!*

Email [mail@sceneandheard.org](mailto:mail@sceneandheard.org) for an application pack.

## Marathon-o-tastic!

In April two fantastic runners raced in the Virgin Money London Marathon for Scene & Heard.

Trustee Lucy Eggleston and supporter Nathalie Thomas both did themselves and Scene & Heard proud! Between them they raised a whopping £7,500. We simply cannot thank them enough!



We are enormously grateful to our benefactors who donate significant funds over several years: The Carlile Family Foundation, Lucy & Pete Eggleston, Ralph & Patricia Kanter and Jessica Pulay.

In May volunteer Lucy Phelps ran the Shakespeare Half-Marathon, raising over £1,500! Thank you Lucy, you are a true star!

If you'd like to run, ride, swim or jump for Scene & Heard, get in touch.

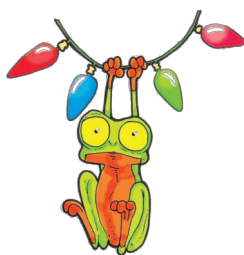
We'll do everything we can to support you.

Email [simma@sceneandheard.org](mailto:simma@sceneandheard.org)

## Seasonal Sensations

Illustrator Ian Bass has been producing images for our flyers and programmes since 2016 and this year we asked him to design our Christmas cards. Ian produced four beautiful drawings, all based on Scene & Heard show titles or individual characters. It is a real privilege to be able to spread a little extra seasonal joy (and raise money for Scene & Heard) with these lovely cards.

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



## A Club Worth Joining

Gilbert & Swayne, makers of sublime artisanal chocolates, donate 10% from your purchases to Scene & Heard. This autumn they've started a Chocolate Club and as a Scene & Heard supporter you can be one of the first members. Treat yourself, and Scene & Heard, at [www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk](http://www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk)

## Business Class

Scene & Heard has been shortlisted for the Camden Business Awards. The ceremony is in late November, so we don't know the results as we go to press. We are very proud to be nominated for our partnerships with our Member Playwrights' schools.



## A Night to Remem-bear

Our patron Hugh Bonneville arranged a pre-release screening of *Paddington 2* at the May Fair Hotel in November for Scene & Heard and The Primary Shakespeare Company, where he is also patron. 200 people had a lovely evening watching this fabulous film and the event raised £4,500 for the two charities. Thank you Hugh and thank you to those who donated the raffle prizes: The Dorchester Hotel, Stephen Einhorn, Gilbert & Swayne and StudioCanal.



## Our heartfelt thanks to our funders this year:

- BBC Children in Need
- The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- GS Sanders Charitable Settlement
- The Joseph Mindel Charitable Trust
- Margaret Guido's Charitable Trust
- Mousetrap Theatre Projects
- The Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Regent's Place Community Fund supported by The London Community Foundation
- The Schroder Foundation
- The Shadworth Hodgson Bequest
- The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust
- Tom's Trust
- The Wellcome Trust
- The Wessex Youth Trust

## And a huge Scene & Heard Thank You to our in-kind donors

- ★ The Final Step [www.thefinalstep.co.uk](http://www.thefinalstep.co.uk)
- ★ Azadi Sheridan [www.productle.com](http://www.productle.com)
- ★ The Old Diorama Arts Centre [www.diorama-arts.org.uk](http://www.diorama-arts.org.uk)
- ★ Jez Worsnip [www.thequizteam.com](http://www.thequizteam.com)
- ★ White Light Ltd [www.whitelight.ltd.uk](http://www.whitelight.ltd.uk)
- ★ Origin Housing [www.originhousing.org.uk](http://www.originhousing.org.uk)

Audience Donations this year were an amazing £7,274. Thank you to everyone who put money in the red buckets!

## A Winning Partnership

In celebration of our partnership with Regent High School we commissioned a plaque to display in their new building. To date, 72 Scene & Heard Member Playwrights have attended the school, creating over 180 pieces of new writing for public performance on the London stage. The plaque, featuring quotes from our patrons, was presented to head teacher Gary Moore by Scene & Heard patron Anna Chancellor at an event attended by pupils, playwrights and volunteers.

Our long-term relationships with Member Playwrights are stronger than ever. Many regularly attend Saturday night performances. We offer work experience opportunities for them. Roz acts as mentor and referee for our young people in applications for further education and work.

We currently have 331 Member Playwrights, many of whom are siblings of other participants, thus further cementing our relationship with Somers Town families and the community as a whole.





"At the end of the performance there's this moment, where the child goes up on stage and they take a bow and you see a light go on. It's an utterly transforming moment and is a gift that will last them their entire lives."

EMILY WATSON, Actress and Scene & Heard Patron

Our Eyes & Ears individual givers help bring the words and imaginations of Somers Town's children and young people to the stage and create experiences whose effects will last a lifetime. We are grateful for their belief in the future of our Member Playwrights. You see the results of their investment at every performance.

For as little as £5 a month you can join them. Your gift will enable more children from Somers Town to experience the power of their imagination. You can make it possible for more professional theatre artists to mentor young people and create incredible, innovative theatre. Your donation will change young lives.

To become a Member of Eyes & Ears visit our website or email or call the office.



**SCENE & HEARD**

**FOUNDERS**

Sophie Boyack  
Kate Coleman

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**2018 Productions**

15th - 18th March

**Quick As You Can:  
The Lightning Plays**

*A Replay Production*

12th - 15th July

**Sweet and Salty:  
The Tasty Plays**

*A Playmaking One Production*

25th - 26th October

**Two's Company**

*A One-on-One Production*

29th November - 2nd December

**From A to Z:  
The Logical Plays**

*A Playmaking One Production*



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THE CSJ AWARDS 2015  
WINNER