



**2023 - 2024
Season**

www.chesiltheatre.org.uk

Chesil Theatre welcomes you to another sparkling new season.

Welcome from our Chairman, Stephanie Danby.

I'm pleased to introduce another varied and exciting season of plays at Winchester's Chesil Theatre, our unique and intimate venue.



The programme opens with two one-act plays: *Trestle* by Stewart Pringle, and five monologues from *15 Heroines* by modern playwrights, based on works by Ovid. *A Christmas Carol* is definitely one for all the family - a new adaptation of Dickens' classic tale by Patrick Barlow, whose version of *The 39 Steps* certainly entertained Chesil Theatre audiences. Who can resist the sparkling wit of Noël Coward? His romantic comedy *Private Lives*, written in 1930, is as bright and clever now as then. Changing genre completely, *The Haunting of Hill House* by F. Andrew Leslie is a chilling psychological drama and is followed by an insight into the lives of three pioneering feminist writers from the 1840s in Polly Teale's *Brontë*. The season is completed with Rona Monro's adaptation of Louis de Bernière's sweeping World War II novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*.

Spring 2024 sees our Chesil Youth Theatre back on stage and also the premières of ten winning 10-minute plays from our *TakeTen* Chesil Theatre New Writing Festival.

We look forward to seeing you at Chesil Theatre in 2023/24.

How to book

Online: www.chesiltheatre.org.uk

Telephone: 0333 666 3366

(Booking fee applies to online and telephone sales)

Post: Ticket Sales, Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU. Send cheque and SAE. Please make cheques payable to Chesil Theatre.

In person: at our Open Mornings. See 'Discover More', page 10.

Ticket enquiries only:

tickets@chesiltheatre.org.uk or 07527 471 539

Performance times: See back page of brochure.

Doors and Bar open 30 minutes before a performance.

Ticket prices

Adults (Full Price): **£16**

Students/Under 18s (at date of performance): **£10**

Groups: 10% discount for groups of ten or more adults paying full price.

Student and School Groups: All tickets **£10** including accompanying teachers. No extra group discount.

Ticket concessions available for Ticket Club members and Friends of the Chesil. Email: membership@chesiltheatre.org.uk

All tickets include a free programme.

Matinées include a free cup of coffee or tea.

Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 0HU

Email: chesilinfo@chesiltheatre.org.uk

To join Chesil Theatre: welcome@chesiltheatre.org.uk

Chesil Theatre reserves the right to make changes to the planned programme.

Double Bill: *Five stories from 15 Heroines* and **Trestle**



Image: Tony Rogers

30 September – 7 October

Five stories from 15 Heroines

By **Chinonyerem Odimba, Lettie Precious,
Bryony Lavery, Charlotte Jones, Samantha Ellis**
Directed by **Daisy Norwood**

Powerful women, powerful stories: these are the heroines of legend.

Journeys over treacherous seas to unknown lands. The promise of love. A pile of letters. Five stories of women in classical mythology, rewritten from a modern feminist perspective.

Contains adult themes and strong language.

Trestle

By **Stewart Pringle**
Directed by **Martin Humphrey**

"We're not here forever. You've got to take a chance from time to time."

Energetic Denise and set-in-his-ways Harry meet while preparing their village hall for different activities. They explore their thoughts on love, loneliness and ageing, but will they have enough in common for anything more?

A Christmas Carol

By **Patrick Barlow**

Adapted from the story by **Charles Dickens**

Directed by **Peter Andrews**



Image: Tony Rogers

18 – 25 November

Charles Dickens' classic tale told in a fresh and exciting way...

Will the curmudgeonly Scrooge discover the true meaning of Christmas in time to stop a ghastly future? This light-hearted comedy is the perfect buildup to the festive season in a new adaptation mixing live actors, special effects and puppetry.

Suitable for age over 8.

Private Lives

By Noël Coward

Directed by Nicky Hubbard



20 – 27 January

Can't live with them, can't live without them. Noël Coward's classic comedy of tempestuous love

Divorced couple Amanda and Elyot honeymoon in France with their new spouses, only to find that they have hotel rooms next to each other. This quick-witted comedy traces the hilarious events as chaos unfolds after such a fateful chance encounter.

Contains adult themes.

The Haunting of Hill House

By **F Andrew Leslie**

Adapted from the novel by **Shirley Jackson**

Directed by **Jim Glaister**



Photo: Jim Glaister

6 – 13 April

"Now I know why people scream, because I think I'm going to."

Summer 1960 and a small group of strangers move into Hill House to discover its secrets. What begins as curiosity quickly becomes a journey into nightmare. Will they all survive?

Based on the terrifying best-seller, this unsettling psychological drama explores themes of fear, home and the overwhelming desire to belong.

Suitable for age over 16.

Brontë

By Polly Teale

Directed by Sarah Jacobs



Photo: Tony Rogers

18 – 25 May

Three exceptional female authors; one extraordinary story

Branwell Brontë returns home in disgrace. It is 1845 and while he descends into alcoholism and self-loathing, bringing chaos to the household, his three sisters write. Working within the confines of the isolated parsonage, Charlotte, Emily and Anne enter the imagined world of their fictional characters, who come to disturb their creators.

'Ambitious, intelligent and absorbing...' The Daily Telegraph

Contains adult themes.

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

By Louis de Bernières

Adapted by Rona Monro

Directed by Eleanor Marsden



Image: Tony Rogers

13 - 20 July

"I loved the enemy. I loved the Italian Captain..."

1940, the Greek island of Kefalonia is catapulted into World War II. Despite loathing the occupying Italians, local girl Pelagia is drawn to the charismatic Captain Corelli. As boundaries blur between friend and foe, the war prompts everyone to question their loyalties, their ambitions and the price of freedom.

An innovative adaptation of Louis de Bernières' epic novel.

Contains some violence and war themes.

Chesil Youth Theatre

Performances: 8 - 9 February, 7.30pm



We have two Chesil Youth Theatre groups, for 8-12 and 13-16 year olds. Sessions are weekly during term time. Working towards their own production, youth members learn many theatre skills as well as enjoying drama games and improvisation activities.

We welcome newcomers. Email: youth@chesiltheatre.org.uk

TAKE TEN
CHESIL theatre
NEW WRITING FESTIVAL

24 - 25 February, 2.30pm and 7.45pm

Ten plays. Four performances. Two days. One theme.

All different, intriguing and entertaining.

**Snakes
And
Ladders** 

Discover More

about Chesil Theatre...

Winchester Dramatic Society was founded in 1863

- and since 1962 our home has been the medieval former church of St Peter Chesil, now Chesil Theatre. Here we present six main productions a year in addition to our regular Chesil Youth Theatre shows and biennial TakeTen Chesil Theatre New Writing Festival; we also host visiting professional and student shows.

We hold open auditions and welcome newcomers.

An informal reading precedes audition dates when you can meet the director and producer. Just turn up. Details are on our website www.chesiltheatre.org.uk. Other activities include play readings, training sessions, drama workshops and social events.

There are many ways to become involved at Chesil Theatre

- not only acting and directing but also set building and dressing, making costumes, sourcing props, stage management, front of house, serving behind the bar, bringing entertainment to our community through our Outreach Programme and helping with Chesil Youth Theatre. Every first Saturday of the month we have an **Open Morning**, 1030am to 1230pm. Meet members, enjoy fresh coffee and cake, take a look round the theatre and find out what goes on behind the scenes.

Chesil Theatre ... into the future

Chesil Theatre has recently bought land adjacent to our existing building on which we will be creating our new annexe, bringing a bigger and brighter community arts venue to the City. There will be a light-filled foyer, access/amenities for those with mobility impairments, and extended dressing rooms and storage. We plan to expand activities for our Youth Theatre and Outreach Programme and to offer more opportunities to become involved in the arts. You can support this exciting project through the tap-to-donate device on the bar or online via <https://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk/support-us.html>.

For more information on how you can help:

fundraising@chesiltheatre.org.uk

Your visit

Theatre Bar

Enjoy pre-show, interval and post-show drinks in our intimate licensed bar. Tea, coffee and ice cream are also available. Beat the rush and pre-order on arrival. Doors open 30 minutes before a performance.

Access

An infrared audio system is available. Just ask the Front of House Manager for a free headset or neck loop.

We welcome wheelchair users. Spaces are available in the front row. When booking tickets, please email tickets@chesiltheatre.org.uk or call **07527 471539** to reserve a wheelchair space. We regret, however, that because of our medieval building, the toilets are not wheelchair accessible.

How to find us

Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester;
sat nav users enter SO23 0HU.

There is a well signposted multi-storey car park opposite the theatre, free after 6pm and all day Sunday. Chesil Theatre is five minutes' walk from Winchester bus station.

Chesil Theatre
Chesil Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 0HU



For more about membership: welcome@chesiltheatre.org.uk
To join our mailing list: marketing@chesiltheatre.org.uk
To book tickets: www.chesiltheatre.org.uk

Looking for a 1930s dress or a particular style of telephone?
Costumes from our extensive wardrobe are available for hire:
wardrobe@chesiltheatre.org.uk
We can also help with props from our database of thousands of items stored: props@chesiltheatre.org.uk

September / October 2023

15 Stories from **Heroines and Trestle**

Sat 30 (September)	7.45pm
Sun 1 (October)	2.30pm
Mon 2	7.45pm
Tues 3	7.45pm
Wed 4	7.45pm
Thurs 5	7.45pm
Fri 6	7.45pm
Sat 7	7.45pm

November 2023

A Christmas Carol

Sat 18	7.45pm
Sun 19	2.30pm
Mon 20	7.45pm
Tues 21	7.45pm
Wed 22	7.45pm
Thurs 23	7.45pm
Fri 24	7.45pm
Sat 25	7.45pm

January 2024

Private Lives

Sat 20	7.45pm
Sun 21	2.30pm
Mon 22	7.45pm
Tues 23	7.45pm
Wed 24	7.45pm
Thurs 25	7.45pm
Fri 26	7.45pm
Sat 27	7.45pm

February 2024

Chesil Youth Theatre

(details to be announced)

Thurs 8	7.30pm
Fri 9	7.30pm

February 2024

Take Ten

Sat 24	2.30pm
Sat 24	7.45pm
Sun 25	2.30pm
Sun 25	7.45pm

April 2024

The Haunting of Hill House

Sat 6	7.45pm
Sun 7	2.30pm
Mon 8	7.45pm
Tues 9	7.45pm
Wed 10	7.45pm
Thurs 11	7.45pm
Fri 12	7.45pm
Sat 13	7.45pm

May 2024

Brontë

Sat 18	7.45pm
Sun 19	2.30pm
Mon 20	7.45pm
Tues 21	7.45pm
Wed 22	7.45pm
Thurs 23	7.45pm
Fri 24	7.45pm
Sat 25	7.45pm

July 2024

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

Sat 13	7.45pm
Sun 14	2.30pm
Mon 15	7.45pm
Tues 16	7.45pm
Wed 17	7.45pm
Thurs 18	7.45pm
Fri 19	7.45pm
Sat 20	7.45pm

Chesil Theatre amateur productions are given in association with the following:

Trestle, five stories from *Fifteen Heroines*, *Brontë* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* are presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books www.nickhernbooks.co.uk

A Christmas Carol (Barlow) and *Private Lives* are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

The Haunting of Hill House is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd www.josef-weinberger.com

[f /chesiltheatre](https://www.facebook.com/chesiltheatre) [@chesiltheatre](https://www.instagram.com/chesiltheatre) [_TheChesilTheatre](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

To join Chesil Theatre: welcome@chesiltheatre.org.uk

To join our mailing list: marketing@chesiltheatre.org.uk

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