

Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU

NEWS RELEASE

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**CHESIL YOUTH THEATRE TAKE TO THE BOARDS**

**IN AN EXCITING DOUBLE BILL**

Chesil Theatre Winchester’s active youth groups will be presenting their annual production on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February 2024 at 7.30pm. Tickets are now available from [www.chesiltheatre.org.uk](http://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk).

The junior section aged 8 to 12 years have a new play *Mr Churchill’s Chocolate* by Nell Thomson, described as “an explosive adventure”. Set in 1943 in a peaceful rural village, the local children and evacuees from London are having difficulty coming to terms with one another. Then they notice something unusual falling from the sky and their suspicions are aroused. There is also the question of the three odd strangers in the hamlet purporting to be birdwatchers. Can the children learn the truth, as well as learning to live together?

The senior group’s director Nicky Hubbard has just come from producing a sold out run of Noel Coward’s *Private Lives* at the Chesil Theatre. Nonetheless, she has found time to adapt Aristophanes’ classic Greek comedy *Lysistrata* to suit 13 to 17-year-olds. The women of Athens are tired of being left at home coping with their domestic situations whilst their husbands insist on waging war. How can the women unite to bring all this to an end? Will their menfolk listen? Lysistrata has a plan which will certainly demonstrate “girl power” at its most successful.

Members of Chesil Youth Theatre not only work towards their own shows but also take part in the Company’s regular outdoor productions, most recently in *Treasure Island* last summer. They learn theatre skills as well as enjoying drama games and improvisation activities. For more information email youth@chesiltheatre.org.uk.

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Editor’s Notes:

About Chesil Theatre

Chesil Theatre (Winchester Dramatic Society) is based in the heart of Winchester, presenting up to eight productions a year, ranging from traditional classics to contemporary works. Chesil Theatre also encourages new writing through its biennial festival *TakeTen*, runs drama workshops, outreach community projects and readings, two lively youth theatre groups and offers stagecraft and technical training. The Company has been performing for over 150 years.

Since 1966 Chesil Theatre has been the Society’s permanent home - a former 12th-century church in Chesil Street, Winchester. This heritage building provides an intimate 75-seat studio-style theatre and versatile performance space.