

8th May 2024

Dear Member

CASTING NEWS

- The Bench
- [Moonlight and Magnolias](#)
- [An Evening with The Bard](#)

The Bench by **Keir McAllister** will be presented from **27th to 31st August 2024** in the Studio Bar, and will be directed by Damian Shalks.

Joe is in crisis, his life a swirling scribble of obligations he feels he is failing to fulfil. For five minutes a day he finds a little solace and peace, alone on an isolated bench.

Sandy is mourning the passing of his Maggie. The bench is his memorial to her memory. A shrine to his loss.

As both men attempt to impose their purpose on the bench, so begins an epic conflict of passive aggression. A conflict that will change the two of them, and will, maybe, finally answer the eternal question – when is a bench not a bench? A satirical comedy about finding a safe place in a threatening world.

- **Sandy** – Playing age 60+, pompous, posh, and cantankerous.
- **Joe** – Playing age 24 to 45 exasperated put-upon ordinary man.

Both men are unreasonable and uncompromising and the storyline peels back the layers of these slightly disturbed, somewhat complex characters.

The part of Sandy has previously been cast and we are staying with that Actor.

We will be casting the part of Joe by read through/workshop on **Friday 24th May 2024, 19:30** at the Carlton rehearsal rooms. If you would like to attend, please email stage@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk

If you are unable to attend you may make an expression of interest by emailing stage@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk, by midnight 23rd May 2024.

Casting of Joe is open to members and non-members, and will be in line with the society's casting principles (http://www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk/resident_files/policies.html).

Moonlight and Magnolias by Ron Hutchinson will be presented from 24th to 28th September on the main stage and will be directed by Steve Tetlow.

**Moonlight and
Magnolias**

Synopsis

Legendary film producer David O. Selznick is five weeks into shooting the most anticipated movie of all time, *Gone With the Wind*, when he realizes the script is awful and that the director doesn't have a clue. He has five days to replace them and restart the shoot, or the production will shut down.



Selznick calls Victor Fleming from the set of *The Wizard of Oz* to direct, and he begs legendary playwright, screenwriter, and script doctor Ben Hecht to rewrite the script. There's only one problem: Hecht hasn't read the book.

Over the course of five madcap days, the three men, assisted by Selznick's assistant, Miss Poppenghul, frantically craft one of the most beloved screenplays of all time. As Selznick and Fleming act out the book for Hecht, the phone rings off the hook with calls from the likes of Vivien Leigh, Louis B. Mayer and Ed Sullivan.

Hutchinson's play, based on historical events, is written as farce, but the characters also deal with serious questions about race and the fragile position of Jewish executives in Hollywood.

Characters

David O Selznick

Male should appear 37 American accent.

The renowned Hollywood producer who is under immense pressure to adapt the novel *Gone With the Wind* and make it the greatest movie of all time. He operates on nervous energy and little else. Although Jewish himself he does not consider the plight of Jews at that time to be important.



Ben Hecht

Male should appear 45 American accent.

A former journalist but now a respected scriptwriter and very committed to pro Jewish causes. He clashes with Victor Fleming, the director and freely shares his cynical and sarcastic views. He has never read "*Gone with the Wind*".



Victor Fleming

Male should appear 50 American accent.

A Hollywood director who is known as a "Man's" director working mostly on action films. A no nonsense, macho type who does not hold back on his opinions. He clashes with Ben Hecht because of his sexist and racist opinions.



Miss Poppengul

Female should appear 30-50 American accent.

The long-suffering assistant to David O Selznick. She is very efficient, organised and constantly on call during the five-day confinement but even she cracks over time.

Casting of this play will be by Expressions of Interest and Invite. If you would like to be considered for a part, please email stage@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk by **midnight on 17th May 2024** with your expression of interest.

Casting is open to members and non-members and will be conducted in line with the society's Casting principles (http://www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk/resident_files/policies.html)

An Evening with The Bard

Last year marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare.

We will be presenting 2 performances in the Bar Studio on 13th and 14th September, featuring excerpts from his plays, sonnets and poems.

If you would like to take part and have the opportunity of performing Shakespeare, please email me at stage@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk by **31st May 2024**

Please note this opportunity is only open to members, and participants must be willing to learn their allocated piece or pieces.

There will be an initial get together for participants on Thursday 27th June at 19:30 where the format will be explained. Rehearsals will be ad hoc throughout July, August and September (organised around availability), however all participants should be available to rehearse on the 10th, 11th and 12th September.

Yours sincerely

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