

POMEGRANATE THEATRE NEW PLAYWRITING

The Pomegranate Theatre has always recognised the importance of new writing and has encouraged Theatre Companies to bring new plays as part of the theatre's drama programme.

The theatre is committed to supporting new writers through the Pomegranate New Playwriting Festivals and to developing writers as artists by participating in the process of creating professional theatre.

A number of new writers have benefited from the experience including Angela Truby, Steve Haythorne, Tim Elgood, Lynn Ludditt, Graham Sellors, Sheila Young and Alan Meadows and some of these have gone on to create new theatre companies and work for other organisations.

DERBYSHIRE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2002

Pieces were chosen from applications by Derbyshire residents.

3 one act plays were rehearsed, learnt and performed by professional actors with minimal set designed by The Chesterfield College performing arts Students on 3 evenings on the main stage

6 one act plays were rehearsed and performed with scripts in hand for 1 evening (3 per evening) on the main stage

3 pieces were read in the bar by professional actors

All the above were directed, stage managed and performed by local professionals.

TWO ENDS OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING - 2002

Written by Alan Meadows

Brought the piece back in 2003 as part of a double bill with a new piece written by the above who has gone on to set up his own Theatre company performing as part of Live and Local and at venues around the country.

The above piece was shown as part of an evening with discussion in partnership with the Health Service for Stroke Awareness at The Pomegranate Theatre.

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2003

Pieces were chosen from applications from across the country. The name was changed because of where Chesterfield is geographically, and to raise awareness of the theatre nationwide.

3 one act plays were rehearsed, learnt and performed by professional actors with minimal set designed by The Chesterfield College performing arts Students on 3 evenings on the main stage

6 one act plays were rehearsed and performed with scripts in hand for 1 evening (3 per evening) on the main stage

3 pieces were read in the bar by professional actors

All the above were directed, stage managed and performed by local professionals.

ANYTHING FURTHER FATHER - 2003

Written by Steve Haythorne supported by funding from CBC

This piece was written about the Marx brothers and performed at The Pomegranate Theatre. The writer has since generated his own work writing pieces for professional actors and companies that have been performed at venues across the country.

eg 'Do they still throw spears at each other' and 'Jenny Vegas'

He was also commissioned to write a new piece for The Pomegranate Youth Theatre '**Let Sleeping Bags lie**' which received an Awards for all Grant

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2004

Pieces were chosen from applications from across the country.

8 one act plays were rehearsed, and performed with scripts in hand over 5 evenings and performed by professional actors with minimal set on the main stage

The Chesterfield College performing arts Students rehearsed and performed 1 piece

3 pieces were read in the bar by professional actors

All the above were directed, stage managed and performed by local professionals.

ANGELS NEVER LEAVE HEAVEN – 2004/5

Written by Angela Truby supported by funding from CBC and The Arts Council.

The writer worked closely with Arts Projects Officer Carole Copeland, with the Robinsons Retirement group to research the stories and lives of the Robinsons workers to develop a script that was performed at the Pomegranate Theatre and on tour inc The Crucible Sheffield

She also wrote **Oh you Pretty Things** for The Pomegranate New Playwriting Festival

Angela has since gone on to start her own theatre taking her own work to the Edinburgh Festival and venues across the country.

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2005

Pieces were chosen from local applications

1 new full length script was rehearsed learnt and performed over 2 evenings on the main stage.

1 new full length script was rehearsed learnt and performed on 1 evening on the main stage.

5 one act plays were rehearsed and performed with scripts in hand for 2 evening on the main stage

Sets were designed by a local design student, who is now a professional designer. ASM was a Chesterfield college student who now teaches stage management at a Birmingham college.

SICK OF THE SITE - 2005

Written by Sheila Young

Sheila was successful with this piece for the Pomegranate New Playwriting festival and was brought back to be mentored and her piece rehearsed to be performed at the Pomegranate Theatre supported by funding by CBC. She has written 'Turkey and Tinsel', 'Maltese Balcony' and 'On the Shelf'. A trilogy of plays featuring the same characters, performed at the Pomegranate theatre and as part of a community tour to halls and care homes. She was also commissioned to write 'Cabbage' a piece of theatre for the under fives also for a community tour of local halls. She was commissioned to write 'Can you feel the Force' for The Pomegranate Youth Theatre.

JACK STROKE NANCY 2005

Written by Tim Elgood

Tim was successful with this piece for the Pomegranate new Playwriting festival and was brought back to be mentored and rehearsed to be performed at the Pomegranate Theatre supported by funding by CBC.

Tim has since started his own theatre co and works closely with Pete Meakin in Derby.

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2006

Pieces were chosen from local applications and across the country

1 full length piece was developed rehearsed and learnt and performed over 3 evenings

2 full length plays were developed, rehearsed and performed with scripts in hand over 2 evenings

5 Short curtain warmers were read before each of the above performances in front of the curtains on the main stage

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2007

4 Writers were chosen from local applications and mentored by Angela Truby who started her writing development with the Pomegranate New Playwriting Festivals. Funded by the Arts Council England

one of the above writers, Lynn Ludditt were chosen and her play was developed, rehearsed and performed by professional actors over 4 evenings at the Pomegranate Theatre. Lynn now uses her writing to work with Derbyshire county council.

5 Short curtain warmers were read before each of the above performances in front of the curtains on the main stage

Writing workshops were delivered to all ages by Brief Candle Theatre Company.

SHUFFLE - 2007

Written by Lynn Ludditt supported by funding from CBC and The Arts Council. The writer went through a mentor process that resulted in a full length script that was performed at The Pomegranate Theatre.

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL – 2008

3 Pieces Chosen from by writers who have developed from previous festivals

5 new Curtain warmers chosen from the shortlist of 2006 Festival

Workshops developed in partnership with Brief Candle Theatre Company
All the above pieces were performed Studio Style (the main stage becomes the performing space and audience space.)

Bar readings of new pieces written by The Pomegranate playwriting group

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2009

2 Pieces Chosen from by writers who have developed from previous festivals
1 Piece was a showcase for a mainly invited audience to high light and raise awareness of New writing at the theatre

All the above pieces were performed Studio Style (the main stage becomes the performing space and audience space.)

Bar readings of new pieces written by The Pomegranate playwriting group

DANCING IN THE DARK - 2009

Written by Richard Stone

Performed as part of the New Playwriting Festival and at other venues and is still available for bookings to raise the profile and raise awareness of new writing at The Pomegranate Theatre

THE MOST ORDINARY PLACE IN THE WORLD - 2009

Written by Angela Truby

Performed as part of the Launch of using the Pomegranate Theatre as a cinema and summer theatre at the Pomegranate
still available for bookings to raise the profile and raise awareness of new writing at The Pomegranate Theatre

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2010

NO ONE TO ASSIST

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a grant of £16,300 to The Pomegranate Youth Theatre to help the young people plan, research and write a play based on the Chesterfield Workhouse, one of the towns most prominent buildings, its place in the lives of the people at the time and its legacy in the present day. It was performed with professional actors and contained original music and lyrics by Robert Laughlin. A 50+ sewing group was set up who made the costumes (this is still going) There is an educational pack, script and objects box housed at the museum for other youth groups to borrow. There is also a DVD of the production.

Written by Sheila Young, Carole Copeland, The Pomegranate Youth Theatre, The Chesterfield Young Writers group (with River Wolton)

BORIS JOHNSON AND HIS SODDING BICYCLE

Written by Steve Haythorne

Was performed as part of the New Playwriting Festival 2010 and toured other theatres including The Kings Head in London.

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2011

Nine new pieces of work were performed as rehearsed readings in front of an audience and invited Judge Louise Page over three evenings. The audience decided which pieces went through to the final at the end of the week. The Finalists were Alice Bell, Drew Biggin, Jeremy Duffield, George Gunby, Tina Jay, Jenny O Mahoney, Thelma Knowlson, Jeff Tulin, and Mike Stewart. The prize for the winning piece was £500. This was won by Drew Biggin with his piece 'The Balance'.

'**Tabasco**' was performed as a special Saturday matinee. The piece was written by a previous New Playwrights Festival winner who sadly died last year of Leukaemia. We raised £1000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

THE POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING GROUP

The 'Pomegranate Playwrights' came together in 2004 as an offshoot of the New Playwriting Festival held at the Pomegranate Theatre in Chesterfield. The group, many of whose members have been showcased in the festival, made their debut with *The Chesterfield Tales*, produced to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Chesterfield's Market Charter. In subsequent years the group has made regular contributions to Chesterfield's annual Market Festival whilst their annual *Winter Warmers* evenings have become a regular part of the Pomegranate Theatre's festive fixtures.

Future plans include taking the new writing experience out to other audiences in the region as well as continuing to write and perform new work at the Pomegranate itself and providing a supportive environment for people interested in writing for the stage.

The group have a programme of new works which they will read themselves and are on offer to travel to care homes, groups and clubs.

CHESTERFIELD TALES - 2004

The Pomegranate Playwriting group supported by funding from CBC wrote short pieces to celebrate the 800 anniversary of the Chesterfield Charter that were put together to provide an evenings entertainment at The Pomegranate Theatre as part of the first Chesterfield market and arts festival.

TARRADIDDLE - 2008

The Pomegranate New Playwriting Group wrote short pieces looking at the History of Entertainment to help celebrate the 150 anniversary of the Civic Theatre in Chesterfield. These pieces were then taken by Viva Orchestra and improvised with Newbold school to produce original music to accompany the spoken word. The Pomegranate Youth theatre improvised the spoken word and with Movement performed the piece at the Pomegranate Theatre as part of the Pomegranate New Playwriting Festival

This project was supported by CBC, Derbyshire County Council and Orchestra's Live

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2012

The Youth Theatre have been devising and are currently rehearsing this new production 'Cuckoo'- Tales of the Chesterfield Canal, which will be performed with professional actors as part of the Festival in March 2012.

POMEGRANATE NEW PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2013

We hope to be in a position to ask for submissions in spring 2012 for this festival. Watch this space!

If you would like more information on new writing or are interested to join the Pomegranate Playwriting group please contact;

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