



AGM 18 June 2015

Chairman's Report April 2014 to March 2015 and beyond

- **Highlights**

As we move from our second year into our third, it's been another busy but successful year for STC. We've continued to run our monthly events (and a few extras) and staged three and two third shows (one was just at the end of the previous financial year, and another was a pop-up street event); of which more later. And, we've become an established part of the Streatham community.

- **New Patron**

We welcome David Harewood as a patron, joining Michael Grade. David lives just down the road in Sunnyhill Road, when he's not filming in Hollywood! He kindly agreed to become patron (and therefore an honorary member) when I caught up with him on a rare visit to Streatham to turn on the Christmas lights.

- **Events**

Since then have held our regular events on the second Tuesday of every month plus some extras, supported by local theatre practitioners who have willingly given their time and expertise. These have covered a wide range of workshops, seminars, talks, visits and readings – Liz will tell us more later.

- **Community Events**

- Stalls at Kite Day (2013 & 2014, plus 21 June this year), Lambeth Country Show (2013 & 2014, but not this year due to high costs for diminishing returns), Streatham UnCommon (2014 plus 5th July this year TBC). The stalls are staffed by volunteer members, attracting much interest and growing the mailing list. We are still looking for volunteers for Kite Day and the Festival this year.
- Reopening celebrations for Streatham Tate Library and Tudor Hall renovations in March 2014, with a stall and a new show *Playing with Sugar* (more later).
- Providing input into the planning for the proposed new theatre in the Megabowl redevelopment, meeting with developer, architect and planners. We would like to see a financially and artistically sustainable theatre which is available to us (and similar groups) to use.
- I gave a presentation to Streatham Society in November 2014 about STC.
- Attended the opening of the new PRS offices in Streatham, which brings many more creatives to the area.

- **Productions**

- *The Playing with Sugar* project gathered reminiscences of Streatham and devised a production based on them for performances at the re-opening of the renovated Streatham Tate Library and Tudor Hall at the end of our first year in March 2014. This was the first theatre production staged in the new hall. The audiences enjoyed revisiting some memories of Streatham in

dramatic form. The interviews have been written up on our blog and have also sparked interest from around the area. We'll be running an exhibition of these memories in due course.

- *Streatham Festival 2014*. Taking the festival theme of "Street of my imagination" we selected a scripted play *Neighbourhood Watch* by well-loved playwright Alan Ayckbourn (requiring special permission from his agent) for two performances in July. An excellent cast left audiences impressed by the quality of the production and enjoying the humour and satire of the play.
- Created *Show in a Suitcase*, a flexible 'kit-bag' show that can be formed (almost) anywhere. Taking scenes from *Then and Now* and *Playing with Sugar* its first outing was in September 2014's *Ferrers' Triangle Street Party*. Expect to see more soon.
- A Halloween 2014 production at Streatham Hill Theatre (thanks to Beacon Bingo) where a late night guided tour of the theatre stumbles upon the ghosts and former artistes on their one opportunity to return and perform on All Hallows weekend. This was enjoyed by everyone present and we are being asked to do something similar again.
- *Cinderella*, a Pantomime, our most adventurous production yet – oh yes it was! Performed in February at Dunraven School (thanks to the school), a new venue for us but very suitable for a larger scale production, it involved dancing, singing and general pantomime fun. A panto is a big job for us, so we may wait another year before doing another one.

- **Moving on**

- We are continuing the regular second Tuesday events and other extra events, which are important to maintain an ongoing community...
- And to run stalls at events such as Kite Day, and Streatham Festival, and other local events such as street parties, to spread the work and build membership.
- We are constantly looking ahead to our future programme of productions. We envisage further productions of the order of 3 or 4 a year, including Streatham Festival.
- We have many ideas and suggestions about what to do and where to do it – there are some interesting outdoor sites suitable for site-specific shows for example. What we also need are directors/producers to drive forward these ideas and turn them into reality. At the moment we can only really run one production after another in series; if we had more interested people we could perhaps run parallel teams?

- **Members and Friends**

We now have **43 members** (including 3 honorary), a slight reduction as members don't renew. However we have about **675 on our email** list, and over 1000 Twitter followers, and these continue to grow. Some members are completely new to theatre and several have made their stage debut with STC. Others have amateur and professional experience which they share with others. If you have a skill you'd be willing to share through a workshop or similar please let us know.

Terry will say a bit more about membership shortly, but one message from me is:

If your membership has recently come up for renewal, we ask you to please renew. Your subs will help us continue to create and perform theatre in Streatham, and bring theatre skills to Streatham's locals. It also gets you concessionary rates at our events and shows. So far all our workshops have been free to everyone, but as our grant funding came to an end we started making a small charge

(typically £3) to non-members to cover costs. Subscriptions will remain at the low rate of £10 per annum for the time being.

- **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I'd like to express our great thanks to everyone who provided support and encouragement from all around Streatham, and all those who have provided their time and expertise to stage our shows and run our events programme. Plus of course our committee, members, patrons, followers, and audiences – with apologies to anyone I've left out.

You have all continued to help put theatre into Streatham.

Thank you

David Harvey

Chairman, 18 June 2015