

STC events Report 2019 -2020

Hello everyone, I'm Helen Mason, Events Secretary for STC. As we join each other from our living rooms, bedrooms, offices, gardens, and other spaces around London and possibly the globe, STC has proved yet again that we are innovative in our approach to celebrating all things stagecraft. In this time of isolation due to the COVID 19 pandemic, embracing digital technology to experiment with online workshops has brought more members and STC friends together from across the world. Our last 3 events have had record attendance; proving we miss each other and STC is an open access company.

As at the financial year end, we have been running our STC Second Tuesday events programme for 7 years. In that time, we have run 94 workshops on all aspects of stagecraft in which and an amazing 1,029 people have participated. The year in question saw 192 people attend our monthly events.

Those of us who set up Streatham Theatre Company in 2013 were clear that we didn't want to just focus on the usual amdram offer of production after production. We'd all been part of those kind of theatre groups. We wanted something different. We were keen to appeal to anyone interested in stagecraft; from those looking to act again or help backstage, to their neighbour who wanted less commitment and to dip their toe in the occasional theatre-themed night out.

The Second Tuesday Programme has filled that niche. It is perfectly acceptable to come once because the topic intrigues, to be a regular or to just drop-in to occasional events when you fancy. Obviously, we love our regulars and it's great when this leads to people joining more regular productions (or indeed offering to lead a workshop). Thanks to Rob Keeling re our January Magic event and Eirini leading our playback theatre improv event almost a year ago in July 2019.

The events programme now features some regular favourites; our new writing showcase, *Streatham Shorts*, was so popular we ran it twice in September 19 and February 20 because we were oversubscribed; we are revisiting our annual quiz tonight – the first not in a pub venue and we hope to be back in a Streatham location near you for our end of year social *Streatham's Got Talent (version 6)*.

This year we have continued to explore the world of stagecraft by adding new themes to events. Notable examples include Rob's Magic Show as previously mentioned and Liz's Streatham Theatre Heritage Talk. This was our most popular event, appealing to lovers of theatre, heritage, and local history. Thank you both so much for such entertaining evenings.

Thank you to everyone that has supported me in running the events programme, either by suggesting ideas, facilitating a workshop, or helping with the programme or planning. Like all good productions, the behind the scenes work takes time and makes the night. This varied programme is not something every amateur theatre has in its repertoire and we should be very proud.

Before I go, I want to raise a glass to the late Hild Liptrott, one of our founder members inspired our Comedy and Open Mic night Railway, Streatham Common in support of the Stroke Association.

And finally, please note our future events for the year including, a chance to read and give feedback on Barbara Lee's own play *Oslo Syndrome*, set in a prison next month, our regular new writing slot *Streatham Shorts* in September and possibilities of listening to Rob read a 'nightmare novel' fitting for our Fright night event in October which may or may not be at the Rookery café.