



Auditions for “Then and Now: The Glamour Days of Streatham”

Streatham has long been home to theatre, film, music and dance, and now Streatham Theatre Company is bringing that glamour back for this year’s Streatham Festival.

“Then and Now” is written specially for the Festival by Bernie C. Byrnes (who directs) with Brenda Hargreaves (prolific local writer), Kirsty Eyre and Frances Bruce. This revue features scenes following Streatham’s glamorous heritage in show business from the heydays of Streatham Hill Theatre to today.

Starring local performers, and staged in what was previously Streatham’s “west end” theatre, this is the first production by Streatham Theatre Company, our new local ‘open access’ theatre company.

Bernie says “I am really excited to be part of the set up of such an awesome project as Streatham Theatre. The response so far has been brilliant and we have been knocked out by the number of local people who have been waiting for something like this to happen. The enthusiasm and talent we’ve already encountered has been overwhelming. I am happy to say the recent launch event was a fantastic success and we are delighted to have secured the patronage of Lord Michael Grade and received support from Hollywood actor and Streatham resident David Harewood.”

Would you like to get involved in this show, either on stage or behind the scenes? Our auditions are open to all and won’t be like an arduous exam so there’s no need to prepare an audition piece! You don’t need to be a member (but you will have to join and pay subs if you take part in the show).

Dates for your diary:

Auditions (for anyone interested in being cast or crew)

Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd May at 6.00 pm
Vinters Studios, 1b Sunnyhill Road, SW16 2UG

Rehearsals

These will be in Streatham, evenings and/or weekends from late May to mid-July, depending on preferences of the cast and crew.

Performances

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July 2013 at 6.30pm and 8.30pm
Tickets £8, STC Members and concessions £5
Beacon Bingo (the Streatham Hill Theatre), 110 Streatham Hill, SW2 4RD

We thank Streatham Action and its funders, London Borough of Lambeth, Lambeth Forum Network for their support.

For enquires about “Then and Now” go to www.streathamtheatre.org.uk/thenandnow or e-mail thenandnow@streathamtheatre.org.uk

For other enquiries about Streatham Theatre Company go to www.streathamtheatre.org.uk or e-mail info@streathamtheatre.org.uk, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StreathamTheatre or follow us on Twitter @StreathamTheatr [note no final e].

[Images and additional press material can be found at www.streathamtheatre.org.uk/pr]

Ends

Editors Notes:

Streatham Theatre Company is an 'open access' theatre company. It's open to anyone with any level of theatre experience or none, amateur or professional. You don't need to be a member to audition for a part in a show, but to take part in shows you will need to join. Members pay an annual subscription and participants in our shows contribute towards the costs of the show.

The company also holds regular events such as readings, workshops and socials. These will generally be open to all, though some might be limited to members.

Our patron is Lord (Michael) Grade.

Streatham has a long history in theatre and entertainment and was known as "the West End of south London" - and due to the wealth of talent living in the area - as "The Beverly Hills of London".

The main theatre in Streatham was Streatham Hill Theatre (now Beacon Bingo), plus there was the Astoria cinema and theatre (now the Odeon).

Streatham Hill Theatre was opened in 1929 as the Streatham Hill Playhouse. It was bombed in WW2 but was rebuilt and reopened in 1950. It closed in 1962, becoming a bingo hall. Much of the original theatre remains.

The theatre attracted big name stars (including John Gielgud and the newly discovered Vivian Leigh) and big shows either prior to their West End runs, or taking transfers from the West End.

More can be found at www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Streatham.htm#hilltheatre and the Streatham Society has published a book about the theatre, written by John Cresswell www.streathamsociety.org.uk

Streatham Festival is an accessible arts festival celebrating local talent, presenting a mix of emerging and well-established artists and encouraging the imaginative use of the different venues across Streatham that characterise the area. www.streathamfestival.com

Bernie C. Byrnes works as a professional theatre dramaturg/writer/director. Her published work ranges from short stories to academic essays, including several plays performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Previous professional writing commissions include the Future Tense Festival (Riot), the Northern Lines Festival (Wonderland), the Sunderland World Party Literary Festival (Love and Sprockets), the RSC (When There Were Ships), Ronnie Dorsey Productions (Becoming Marilyn). Professional directing commissions include Ivy Paige, Another Midas, Kipper Tie Theatre, AC Random Productions, Stone Crabs, Arena North, Stage Focus and the Ashby Youth Group. Bernie was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2011.

Kirsty Eyre is a self-taught writer/director whose heart lies in theatre. Her specialist interests lie in comedy and working with young people. She is passionate about creating characters and finding their voices. Kirsty also enjoys screenwriting for both film and television, having been shortlisted for BBC Sharps. Kirsty runs a small production company, Class Stage Productions www.class-stage.co.uk.

Brenda Hargreaves has had many roles in our local community to the great benefit of Streatham - as a leading light in the Streatham Players, as a poet, as a playwright, and as a chronicler of early years in Streatham Hill and of inter-war theatricals.

Frances Bruce is an English/South African/Australian storyteller, fascinated with the craft of playwriting and theatre. After years chasing the dream, Frances has recently taken the plunge to be a full time writer.