

Streatham is once again the 'west end of south London'

Streatham's very own community theatre company (very appropriately known as Streatham Theatre Company or STC) recently celebrated its first anniversary by performing Alan Ayckbourn's 'Neighbourhood Watch' for the Streatham Festival in July. Audiences packed into the Mark Bennett Streatham Centre at the Library to enjoy the fantastic production, commenting on the excellent performances by the (amateur) cast and comparing the show favourably to west end shows.

I didn't know Streatham had a Theatre...

STC is an 'open access' theatre company welcoming those interested in theatre onstage, offstage or audience whatever their level of experience, be it professional, amateur or novice (aged 18 or over). Membership is only £10 a year, and there are monthly workshops/readings etc. as well as productions. We don't have our own theatre (yet) – we use local venues like the Library and Beacon Bingo (formerly the Streatham Hill Theatre), and usually meet at Vinters Studios in Sunnyhill Road, who kindly support us with facilities.

Theatre workshops in Streatham

STC's "Second Tuesday Club" meets every second Tuesday of the month for play readings and workshops on a range of theatre topics. There is a wide range of theatrical talent in the Streatham area who have kindly come along to pass on their experience. Topics have included Writing for the Stage, Interpreting Play Text, Improvisation, Staging Musical Theatre, Vocal Performance and Stage Movement. The next workshop is September 9th and is open to all.

Future Productions

STC has staged four productions since its launch in 2013. Current plans for future productions include a pantomime for December or January, and maybe a site-specific show in October/November. Watch out for more information, including about auditions!

Future Venues

Streatham doesn't have a theatre of its own anymore. The former Streatham Hill Theatre, built in the 1920's and a regular venue for west end transfers, became a bingo hall in the 1960's. Its continued use has, however, preserved the beautiful building, as witnessed on last year's guided tour arranged by Streatham Society. STC have performed in the Dress Circle foyer, a space more suited to today's smaller audiences – the main auditorium could seat around 2000 people.

The recently renovated Tate Library now includes a multi-purpose hall where STC have staged its two most recent shows.

Looking to the future, the recently revived development of the former Megabowl and Caesar's site in Streatham Hill will include a theatre space. Likely to be run by professional management, it will be available to local groups such as STC. The site is now owned by London Square, who have recently held an exhibition of the plans – see www.londonsquarestreatham.co.uk for more.

For more information on STC, and to sign up to the mailing list, visit www.streathamtheatre.org.uk. For Vinters Studios, see www.vintersstudios.co.uk