

Regular Events

Our **Second Tuesday Club** sessions are open to all, and cover a wide range of activities including play readings, workshops, quizzes and social events. We also hold other events and activities. Many events are free. Do come along, and if you have a suggestion for an activity please do let us know as below.

Our next few dates for your diary (more details on our website):

Second Tuesday Club: 8 April, 13 May, 10 June and so on!

Playing with Sugar exhibition: April

Special Events: 9 May "Barnets and Greasepaint" with Funky Medusa

Stalls: 6 April Streatham Kite Day; 19-20 July, Lambeth Country Show

Productions

Our programme of future productions will be performed by our members in local venues for local audiences, plus we may take our shows 'on tour' to showcase Streatham's talent elsewhere. If you're interested in getting involved in any capacity, do get in touch as below. Our plans include:

July 2014: Production on Streatham Festival's theme 'Street of My Imagination'

October/November 2014: To be confirmed

December 2014/January 2015: Pantomime

Membership

Membership is open to everyone (aged 18 or over), with a connection to Streatham, and whatever their level of experience in theatre - amateur, professional, audience or none. Annual subscriptions are only £10 - ask one of our team for an application form or contact us as below.

Contact

You'll find more on our website www.streathamtheatre.org.uk where you can also join our mailing list and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You can email us on info@streathamtheatre.org.uk or call 020 3432 5710.

Thanks

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who has helped us, including: Friends of Streatham Library, Lambeth Libraries, The Mayor's Outer London Fund, Vinters Studios, Streatham Action, Streatham Society, Network Theatre, our volunteer committee, our members and friends, our patron Lord Michael Grade (Baron Grade of Yarmouth), our contributors, all our cast, crew and production team, our front of house team, and of course you our valued audience.

www.streathamtheatre.org.uk



streatham
theatre company presents

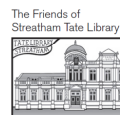
PLAYING WITH SUGAR

Every cube tells a story

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 March 2014 at 8pm (doors 7.30pm)
Streatham Tate Centre, Pinfold Road, Streatham, SW16 1PN

www.streathamtheatre.org.uk

Supported by



Why are we 'Playing with Sugar'?

In 1872, Henry Tate, the successful owner of *Henry Tate & Sons* sugar refinery, purchased the patent on a method of making sugar cubes. Tate lived in Streatham and gave generously but discreetly to many local and national charitable causes. Our show *Playing with Sugar* recognises that Streatham Library was founded through his generosity in 1890.

Director's Notes

I first lived in Streatham in 1991. This was a fleeting stay and if I'm honest, a happenstance of a convenient rental location, rather than a desire to be a Streathamite! However, like many of the people who contributed memories to this project, somehow my life plan conspired for me to return 10 years later; this time to put down more permanent roots. Through experiencing its changing fortunes and various make-overs, I've grown fond of Streatham over the years.

Helping to found the Streatham Theatre Company in 2013 with the associated networking involved, opened my eyes to the amazing diversity of activity, energy and commitment going on in clubs and committee rooms 'just down my street'. It made me realise just how diverse the streets of Streatham are and how so many people are proud to live here and keen to make a difference. Of course this has always been the case; *Playing with Sugar* is a testament to that.

I'd been thinking for a while that the collected memories and remembered incidents of local people could form the basis of a devised show. They would provide a great opportunity for theatre, and celebrate Streatham's heritage in a way that archives and photographs don't quite. When the refurbishment of the library was announced, along with plans for a celebratory weekend for the reopening, there was no excuse.

It has been a delight to share in the retelling of these tales. Everyone, no matter how young or old has a memory of something special in Streatham's history. Some tales make us laugh, some entrance us and others stop us in our tracks and make us think. Amazing pictures have been painted and secrets told. The one common and undeniable theme is that people are proud of Streatham.

Now that the memories have become theatre, I'd like to publicly applaud the *Playing with Sugar* Company for their approach to the project. This has been a truly collaborative venture. As an open access project, experienced and less-experienced actors and writers have worked together in a harmonious and supportive way to share, coach, draft, re-write, learn and encourage. Several of our Company are new to acting and/or writing, others are returning, and some have many years of varied stagecraft and writing experience. What has united us is our love of theatre and the written and spoken word, but more importantly, our love of Streatham. Congratulations everyone; it has been a fun and inspiring journey.

Helen Mason, Project and Show Director

Lead Interviewer's Notes

As a lover of local history and the lead interviewer for the project, I've been fascinated by the stories that people have told me, and in particular I've come to realise how dramatically Streatham has changed, even within living memory. The earliest memories I've collected come from the 1920s and in less than 90 years, Streatham has gone from being a prosperous upper middle class neighbourhood with large houses reposing in lush gardens to a vibrant multicultural environment, with a spell from the 1930s to the 1950s as the 'West End of South London'.

As someone who could not wait to escape from the rural setting of my childhood, I envy those people brought up in Streatham who had everything any child or teenager could want, from trendy shops, to the swimming pool and ice rink, coffee bars and the Locarno, and the wild areas of the Common, all on their doorstep!

One abiding memory, mentioned in almost every account, it is of Pratt's, which since its closure has developed almost iconic status, and it is one of the great regrets of my life that I was never able to go there!

It is clear from everything I have been told that Streatham is a unique and special place, the birthplace of talent and innovation, and a place that deserves to be celebrated and remembered!

Liz Burton, Lead Interviewer

The Contributors

We would particularly like to thank the following local people for sharing their memories. Without them this show would not have been possible:

Bob Baker, Lily Baker, Ernie Cole, Rita Cole, Mary Cummins, Terri Douglas, Betty Fitzgerald, Marion Gower, Graham Gower, Karen Hadfield, Bridged Hall, Brenda Hargreaves, Charlotte Mackie, Charles Mansfield, Sean McCormack, Pauline Milligan, Juliet Mitchell, Tony Mitchell, Anne Morgan, Doug Poupard, Betty Searle and 'Sutha'.

You can relive these memories at <http://blog.streathamtheatre.org.uk> and in our associated exhibition which will be staged in April.

Notice

Please note that the show is a work of fiction. Although inspired by memories contributed by local residents, the characters and action are not intended to represent actual people or events. The language used and attitudes expressed are typical of the times represented, but are not necessarily those of the Company or Contributors.

The Company

Director: *Helen Mason*

Cast: *Joslin Bariffe, Liz Burton, Andrea Charles, Jeremy Clyne, John Edmead, David Evans, Stephen Knight, Enda Lambe, Hild Liptrott, Andreina Sambucetti, Alan Scott, Marsha Zambrano*

Writers: *The Cast and Director, Jo Ostrowska*

Stage Manager: *David Harvey*

Assistant Stage Managers: *Hild Liptrott, Stephen Knight*

Producer: *Liz Burton*

Publicity: *Marsha Zambrano, David Harvey, Ian Freeman*

Front of House: *Paul Hutchinson, Catherine Mahy, Melanie Newman, Terry Wynne*

Artistic Support: *Frances Bruce, Mhairi Grealis*

There will an interval of 15 minutes during which the bar will be open.