

LTO

LYCEUM
THEATRE
OLDHAM

LYCEUM TIMES

May 2024

COMING NEXT: **Separate Tables**

By Terence Rattigan

Rattigan's play was written 70 years ago and first performed in 1954, but it's as relevant today as it was then. Two plays in one evening, *Table By the Window* focuses on the troubled relationship between a disgraced politician and his wife. *Table Number Seven* deals with a touching friendship between a repressed spinster and a bogus retired army officer.

This still, controlled, repressed play will have audiences gripped and hearts beating fast.

According to Michael Billington of The Guardian: *'Few dramatists of the twentieth century have written with more understanding of the human heart than Terence Rattigan.'*

The show runs Monday 17 June to Saturday 22 June at 7.30 pm.

Tickets for £12 each are available on the Lyceum web site at lyceumtheatre.org.uk.

Separate Tables

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by Terence Rattigan

17 - 22 June 2024

*Classic story of repressed
feelings and unhappy pasts*

All Seats: £12

Book online:
lyceumtheatre.org.uk

Book by Phone:
0161 627 1032



Welcome to the Lyceum Theatre Oldham and our 2024-2025 season

We have a really exciting range of plays and events for the new season, and we hope you will enjoy the journey as we take you somewhere you may not have been before.

Our Artistic Directors have created a really varied programme of theatre. Their selection ranges from classic gripping drama, Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*, to Alan Ayckbourn's madcap comedy *Confusions* and plenty in between!

Season Ticket Booking opens in July. Watch this space!

Ian Orry Chair Lyceum Theatre Oldham

HANSARD *by Simon Woods*

30 September - 5 October 2024

On the face of it, this intimate, funny and tender domestic drama brings echoes of Noel Coward and Terence Rattigan. Underneath the surface, *Hansard* is a brutal exploration of politics in the 1980s and its devastating effects.

SHORTS AND A JUMPER

by Colin Smith & Peter Fitton

25 - 30 November 2024

Crab With Eugene And The Prez by Colin Smith
Last Train to San Fernando by Peter Fitton
Samarkand by Peter Fitton

Three short comic plays by two local playwrights, all of them sharp, witty and funny, exploring themes that aren't always easy in conversation and monologues that draw relationships together.

You'll see all three plays in one night.

APOLOGIA *by Alexi Kaye Campbell*

3 - 8 February 2025

Birthdays are a time for celebration but when eminent historian and one-time political animal Kristin brings her family together, they strip bare her past and reveal what it was really like to live with her life of passions.

This searing comedy explores family, politics and 1960s idealism.

CONFUSIONS *by Alan Ayckbourn*

31 March - 5 April 2025

Five farcical interlinked episodes by one of Britain's most successful and prolific playwrights. Each play follows the one before, exploring loneliness with humour and care.

Full of eccentric characters and situations, these five stories will leave you chuckling by the end of the night.

ALL MY SONS *by Arthur Miller*

16 - 21 June 2025

Joe Keller lives a life of privilege, whilst his business partner during the war went to jail for supplying defective parts for planes. Joe lost his own son and hasn't recovered, but is there more to tell about his involvement in the tragedy?

Arthur Miller's masterpiece delves into a world of power, family and deceit.

2024/25 Season Tickets will go on sale on 23 July for the same price as last year, saving you £2 per ticket on full prices.



In Memory of Irene Skillington

Some of our older patrons may remember Irene Skillington, who sadly passed away in February 2024. Irene played at The Lyceum Theatre many times from the 1970s, until she began her professional career some years later. Many people have spoken about Irene since we heard the news and all mention her acting abilities, her generosity and professionalism. Here are a few.

"Irene was always professional and generous, never a diva, always a team player. If she wasn't in a show, she would always be around helping front of house or anywhere she was needed. On stage, her versatility was unbounded, playing anything from a Tudor Queen to Roxie Hart, the main character in the musical Chicago. We can all look back on our lives and think of a special person who had a powerful influence and even helped change us for the better. These people are rare in our lives and for me, Irene was one of them." **Ian Lumley**

"Irene was one of the best actresses ever to step onto the Lyceum Theatre stage. She was a dear friend and a superb actress, playing any character with total sincerity." **Dave Fielding**

"In Frost on the Rose her performance moved me to tears nightly. She was acting royalty, a one off." **Pat Lowe**

"Many happy memories of singing with Irene in Quartz with Lesley and Brenda. Lots of gigs including the Royal Exchange, Christmas residency at Grange Arts Centre two years running and even on tour to Spain! I will always think of Irene when I hear There are Worse Things I Could Do from Grease. RIP Irene." **Peter Wakefield**

The theatre critic of the local newspaper said she didn't give a performance, she metamorphosed into the character.

When the family moved to New Zealand, it was a huge loss to the theatre, as well as to Irene's friends, of which there were many. She had a beautiful soul and such a kind caring nature. Irene's daughter, Bryony, sent us a link to the funeral service so we could say goodbye to her and mourn her loss. It was clear from this moving service that Irene was very much loved by her many friends in New Zealand too.

Professional Career

Irene appeared in *Emmerdale* as Marilyn in March and April 1996. She also made appearances in *Coronation Street*, *Children's Ward*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Screen Two*, *Seaforth*, *Harry*, *Cardiac Arrest*, *Coogan's Run*, *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates*, *In Suspicious Circumstances*, *Heartbeat*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Always and Everyone*, *Harold Shipman: Doctor Death* and *In Denial of Murder*. Irene was also in *Soul Survivors'* with Ian McShane, Isaac Hayes and Derrick O'Conner.

After moving to New Zealand Bryony followed in her Mum's footsteps and has a professional career herself on stage and in TV. A wonderful legacy.

Sue Garlick

