

Welcome to the September issue of the NODA e-mail newsletter, packed with news and information which we hope you will find useful.

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### **NODA National Weekend**

NODA's National Weekend takes place from 24 to 26 September at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford. More than 200 delegates from across the UK are booked to attend, and the gala dinner is now full. However, we can still accept bookings for other parts of the weekend, and members are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 25 September at 10am (entrance is free). For further details contact the Conference Organiser, Derek Grattidge, on [derek@noda-western.org.uk](mailto:derek@noda-western.org.uk).

A full report on the National Weekend will be published in the Winter 2004 issue of NODA National News, which will be distributed to members in the week beginning 6 December.

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### **Amateur Theatre Week**

Registrations continue to roll in for the first ever national Amateur Theatre Week, with over 100 productions already registered. If your society is performing or putting on an event between Saturday 23 and Saturday 30 October, then please visit [www.amateurtheatreweek.org.uk](http://www.amateurtheatreweek.org.uk) and register online.

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### **StageFest at the Beck Theatre, Hayes**

The next StageFest takes place on Sunday 19 September at the Beck Theatre, Hayes.

The StageFest events are free and are open to all amateur groups or individuals who wish to participate or just to visit and run from noon to 4pm. Each event is a celebration of amateur theatre in the area and is not only an opportunity for members of societies to network and exchange views, but more importantly, to have the opportunity to participate in question and answer sessions with senior management from Clear Channel, who will demonstrate their commitment to giving maximum support for community users of their venues. The events will also be promoted to the public, and will serve as a useful tool for recruiting new volunteers.

National and local suppliers and advisers to amateur theatre, from publishers of plays to costumiers, lighting and sound suppliers will also be hand to promote their services. Short seminars will be given by leading experts on a range of such issues, such as Health & Safety, providing up-to-date advice to the benefit of the amateur theatre movement.

For further information contact Amateur Stage on 020 7636 4343 or email [cvtheatre@aol.com](mailto:cvtheatre@aol.com)

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## **Local Authority Licensing Policies - National Campaign for the Arts Call For Action**

The National Campaign for the Arts (NCA) has been campaigning on issues arising from the Licensing Act (2003) for nearly three years. We have been monitoring its progress very carefully and analysing the implications of each stage in its development. We now think that it is necessary to warn you about a potential threat arising from the local authority licensing policies currently being drafted across the country.

### **What are Local Authority Licensing Policies?**

Under the terms of the Act, local authorities will be completely responsible for all licenses administered in their area. They must produce a policy to govern how they will distribute licenses and then put it out for public consultation. This is so that anyone likely to be affected by new licensing laws can make sure that their concerns are being addressed, and that they are not going to be disadvantaged by changes. Most local authorities will have entered this consultation phase by September.

### **Why is the NCA telling me about them?**

Obviously, any change in the licensing laws will affect live entertainers, but the NCA is concerned that this has not been sufficiently recognised by many local authorities. Licensing policies seem to be taking one of two attitudes towards live performance.

#### **Ignoring the issue altogether**

This means that when the policy comes into practice it will be ambiguous and both artists and venue managers will face confusion and lot of bureaucracy when arranging live performances.

#### **Using the change in the law to undermine live events**

This is usually an unintended side-effect of other changes the council want to make, such as reducing noise pollution, but unless they get a strong reaction against their proposals they will carry them through.

Most local authorities are planning to consult venue owners but not artists. A recent MORI poll found that most venue owners are not aware of the implications of the licensing policies, so they cannot be relied upon to protect the interests of live performers. If artists want their voices to be heard, they are going to have to do the shouting.

### **What is the NCA doing to counter this threat?**

The NCA has worked hard on this issue and achieved a lot of important concessions before the Licensing Act received royal assent in 2003. We now plan to assist the Live Music Forum in reading all local authority draft policies and passing comment on to the DCMS. However, because the real action is now at a local level there are limitations on how much effect a national body like the NCA can have. It is up to local arts practitioners to lobby their councils to ensure that live music and theatre in their own region is protected.

### **What can I do?**

It is very easy to make sure your area is not detrimentally affected by the changing licensing laws.

Contact your local authority (borough or city council) and ask to see a copy of the draft licensing policy. Read it through and check that proposals for live music and theatre have been included, and that these proposals will not undermine it. If you are unsure of anything, contact your local authority again and ask. Set out your response in writing and post/email it to your local authority.

If enough people do this then your local authority will be forced to listen.

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### **Summer Holiday**

Josef Weinberger are very pleased to announce that Summer Holiday The Musical has just been released for amateur production.

Please contact us for further information and booking forms for your Summer Holiday.

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London, W1T 3JJ  
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### **Emotional Intelligence Opera Research - Please help**

New scientific research is being conducted as part of a MSc in Culture Heritage and Tourism Development

The aim of the research is establish which industry has the most emotional people, and if this can be linked to personality, music tastes and/or medium preferences. If you wish to participate please visit the following site [www.rexa.co.uk](http://www.rexa.co.uk), the questionnaire only takes 20 minutes to complete. All information is completely anonymous and will only be used for this research.

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### **West End Artists' Forum - Careers Advice**

Led by the Artistic Director of Clear Channel Entertainment, this session is going to provide the inside facts of gaining employment in the West End.

Ever wondered what your CV should include? Whether your photo should be full length/head and shoulders or colour/black and white? Got any burning questions about how to develop your performing career? Maybe you just want the chance to meet others who are in the same boat?

Careers Advice 21 September 2004, 2-4pm, at The Spotlight Rooms (7 Leicester Place, London)

'Careers Advice' is a one-off session for West End performers led by Artistic Director of Clear Channel Entertainment, Stacey Haynes, to offer advice and guidance on a career in performance.

This is the last forum in a series of six of the West End Artists' Forum (WEAF) sessions - and at ONLY £5 to become a WEAF member, offering you free entry, this opportunity should not be missed!

For further information or to BOOK YOUR PLACE contact Natalie Andrews on 020 7247 4030 or e-mail natalie@cdet.org.uk

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London E1 6LS  
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### **NODA Theatre Club**

For this email newsletter NODA Theatre Club has a fantastic offer available for individual bookers to see THE RAT PACK and groups to see THE LION KING.

#### **BUY ONE TICKET AND GET ONE FREE FOR THE COOLEST PARTY IN TOWN**

Relive the performances of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr and Dean Martin, names that have been immortalised on the silver screen and in the wider sphere of popular music – pioneer entertainers of Las Vegas.

When The Rat Pack were in town everybody had the best of times and everybody who was anybody wanted to be part of the hottest and coolest exclusive club the world has seen. This amazing night of entertainment includes renditions of classics such as 'The Lady is a Tramp', 'I've Got You Under My Skin', 'That's Amore', 'Fly Me to the Moon' and 'My Way'.

Buy one ticket for £40 and get another one free (+ £1.50 booking fee per ticket). Valid for Monday – Wednesday evenings until 22 November. Exclusions may apply.

To book call now on 020 7907 7056 quoting 'Rat Pack NODA offer'.

#### **SAVE UP TO £10 PER TICKET ON PERFORMANCES AND GET THE 10<sup>TH</sup> TICKET FREE**

Disney's THE LION KING is now in its sixth triumphant year at London's Lyceum Theatre, this landmark musical continues to captivate and enthral.

Based on the much-loved Walt Disney film, it follows the delightful adventures of Simba the lion cub as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny to be King of the Jungle. Over 40 talented actors, singers and dancers bring the enchanting story to life. The production combines stunning scenery, fabulous costumes and puppetry with an amazing score written by Tim Rice and Sir Elton John.

Buy tickets at just £30, £25 and £20 (until 24 Sep), £32.50, £27.50 and £22.50 (from 28 Sep) if booking 10 tickets - a wonderful saving of £10 per ticket on the top three prices PLUS get the 10th ticket free. Valid for Tuesday to Friday evening performances and Wednesday matinees from 7 September - 15 October 2004.

To book call now on 020 7907 7002.

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