

Welcome to 2026 and we're on the countdown to Studio's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year ...but before we get there, there is the second half of this season's productions

waiting in the wings, news of members past and present plus a President writing with a Sting in the tale, and much to catch up on. Starting with...

## Hot tickets and winning ways

As the last edition of View From The Wings rolled hot off the press in July, our final show of last season, **Noises Off**, attracted heat of another kind. Selling out every ticket four weeks in advance, it was already the hottest ticket in town when the show week hit one of last summer's heatwaves. Audiences, cast and crew sweated their way through the six-night run, with Jamie Pullen dripping profusely as he valiantly jumped up and down stairs before falling



spectacularly down them. But he was rewarded in November when his performance scooped the Best Actor award at the prestigious Rose Bowl awards. The awards seek to recognise the extraordinary talent on stage and off in the southwest of England, and the present season was entered for the first time. Studio received a nomination also for Alistair Faulkner (and the whole team of set builders, decorators and stage crew) for the revolving set constructed for **Noises Off**. Clearly, we was robbed on that one!

## Fringes with Feathers plus imposter inspectors and icy women

Our 25/26 season kicked off with a new venture: Studio Fringe, featuring a new play by Studio member Peter Liney, a dance workshop and performance from the Flaming Feathers and a sell-out evening, when best-selling author (and local resident) Mark Dawson was grilled by our very own Michael Bowyer on the creation of Salisbury detective Atticus Priest. Another sell-out with a local connection followed – an adaptation of Gogol's **The Government Inspector** by Philip Goulding, directed by his brother, George. Concluding the season was **The Ice Queen**, a pantomime written specially for us by Studio member Ian Flindell, performed by an all-female cast playing Principal Boys, Girls, Dames and everything in between.

## Catch up with C@ST

C@ST has lived up to its name (Creative @ Studio Theatre) with a series of playreadings and a script-in-hand performances of short plays written by members, and there are more to come in the upcoming months. These are member-only evenings, but where possible, we open them up to friends and family, with free entry, and this has proved very popular. In October, our new President Barney Norris spent an evening getting to know members, chatting about his early days with Stage 65 and Studio, getting started in theatre and his work as novelist, playwright, university lecturer and theatre-maker. His latest project is the new book for **The Last Ship**, a musical with music and lyrics by Sting, which is scheduled to tour



internationally this year – including a nine-performance run at the Met Opera in New York in June.

## In memory of Anna

The first C@ST meet of the season was a chance to welcome former chairman Peter Lomax and his family (pictured left) for the official installation of a beautiful memorial bench to his late wife and much-missed member, Anna.



On a sadder note, we were sorry to hear that David Parker (pictured right in Othello), founder and editor of the New Valley News, writer, charity worker and long serving city councillor, had died, having packed a huge amount into his 84 years – a stint as a member of Studio Theatre in the 70s in the midst of them.

## Murder is good news for James

Good news for fans of Studio and Midsomer Murders: A stage version of the famous TV series is currently on a major UK tour and coming to a theatre near you. The Killings at Badger's Drift features Daniel Casey as DCI Barnaby and none other than our own James Bradwell as his sidekick Sgt Troy.

## Thank you

We're pleased to report that our annual foray to the darkest depths of Dorset and Wimborne St Giles village hall this summer, armed with cake, sandwiches and gallons of tea, yielded a fantastic fund-raising profit of £630. You, our generous supporters, also added a further £189 with added donations throughout the year when purchasing your tickets – so a big thank you to you. We must also thank another Studio friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, for a much-appreciated £500 donation.



**New Director of Productions for 2026/27 Tamsin Jacson is even now sifting through suggestions and ideas for her season, but in the meantime, we have four more shows to tempt you through our doors in the coming months.**

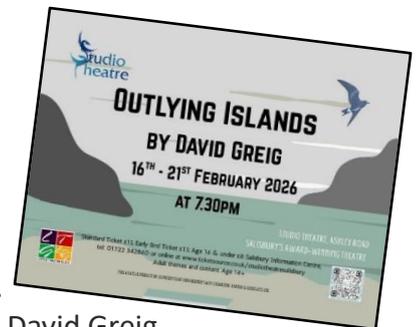
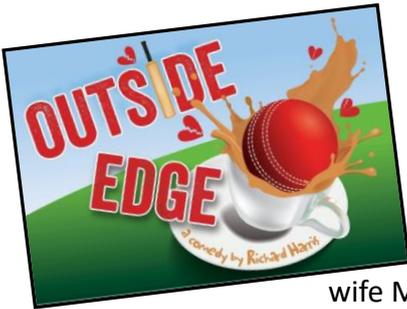
**February 16-21: Outlying Islands.** In the summer of 1939 on the eve of WWII, two young Cambridge ornithologists are sent to a remote uninhabited Scottish island to survey the birds, unaware that it is being considered for an anthrax testing site. Isolated with the island's leaseholder and his niece,

what begins as a scientific mission gradually evolves into a compelling psychological drama.

Written by award winning Scottish playwright, David Greig, and co-directed by Joanna Daniel and Tamsin Jacson. [Tickets on sale now.](#)

**March 23-28: Outside Edge.** English summers and cricket go hand in hand – cricket teas, assembling a team each week, threats of rain, not to mention bowling maidens over. Roger has his work cut out and supportive wife Miriam is running thin on patience in Richard Harris's very British comedy.

[Please note there is a matinee performance on March 28 at 2pm. Tickets will go on sale on February 12.](#)



**May 11-16: Desdemona – a play about a handkerchief.** Pulitzer prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel's take on the three women in Othello. Meet Desdemona, Emilia and Bianca, but not as you think you know them from Shakespeare. Lorna Matthews-Keel brings this intriguing all-female play to the Studio stage.

**July 6-11: Hands Across the Sea/Still Life.** A Noel Coward double bill, helmed by Jackie Pilkington and Jill Redston. Taken from Coward's Tonight at 8.30, **Hands Across the Sea** is a light drawing room comedy of very bad manners and **Still Life** is the one-act play that inspired the iconic weepie, Brief Encounter.



## Plus

Studio is hosting the annual Salisbury and South Wilts Scouts and Guide panto **Camelot** from 7-10<sup>th</sup> January. More details from Roger Demain Griffiths at [roger.demain-griffiths@sswscouts.org.uk](mailto:roger.demain-griffiths@sswscouts.org.uk)

All performances take place at Studio Theatre in Ashley Road, Salisbury, unless otherwise stated. The box office for Studio Theatre productions is Salisbury Information Centre in Fish Row. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860 or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury)