

The All-England Theatre Festival



The All-England Theatre Festival has a history dating back to 1919 when the British Drama League was formed. By June 1923 there were 360 affiliated societies which included amateur and professional bodies. In 1938 the final of the National Festival was held outside London for the first time, following the invitation of the Scottish Community Drama Association.

Entries totalled 602. The war brought a significant reduction in the League's membership but activities continued as best they could throughout. The emphasis changed somewhat to encourage Youth Clubs and military units for educational purposes. The All-England Theatre Festival organises an eliminating series of festivals which leads ultimately to the English Final.

England is divided into four Areas for the purposes of this Festival: Northern, Central, Eastern and Western.

Each Area is also divided into a number of Divisions according to the size and/or history of the areas.

The winner of the English Final goes on to compete against the winners of similar festivals in Wales, Scotland and Ireland.



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Festival Information

Venue

Barn Theatre

Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0AA

Festival Dates

25th February - 2nd March

Festival Adjudicator

Nick Wilkes G.o.D.A.

**Winning team jackpot of
£500 cash to be won**

The Secretary

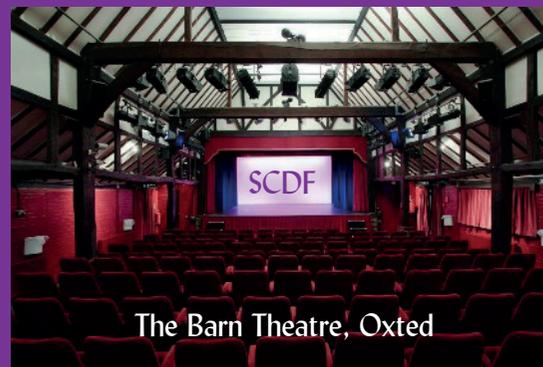
Southern Counties Drama Festival

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The Barn Theatre, Oxted



Southern Counties Drama Festival 2019

25th February - 2nd March



"Can't wait to come back next year it was so much fun"

"Such high standards, a super week of live theatre"



"What a tremendous week of festival, and so very friendly, we shall return"

"A great week of theatre, thanks so much"



Premier festival of the Eastern Region

**A competitive festival of one act plays
varying from 20 minutes to 55 minutes
in length**



The Barn Theatre

Bluehouse Lane, Oxted,
Surrey, RH8 0AA



Southern Counties Drama Festival

"The premier festival of the AETF Eastern Area"

The Southern Counties Drama Festival has been an important part of local amateur dramatics in Surrey and Kent for 67 years. Traditionally the venue of the Festival had moved around with different groups hosting the event each year. As time moved on, the standards of technical facilities were found lacking in some of these venues, which were in the main church halls, hurriedly converted for theatre use on the morning of the technical rehearsals. In 1989 the Festival moved to the Barn Theatre, was a great success and since that time the Barn has become the resident home to the Southern Counties Drama Festival.

Twelve years ago there was a change in the Festival Management team who have since rejuvenated this popular Festival.

The 2018 Festival

The Southern Counties Drama Festival enjoyed another successful season in 2018 at the Barn Theatre, Oxted. The standard from the youth and adult entries was particularly high and it was not easy to forecast any of the winners until the final play had been performed on the Saturday evening. SCDF are pleased to support the winning team as they progress to the successive rounds of the All-England Theatre Festival and were delighted that The Oxted Players continued to the Area Final in May, to Maidenhead, winning the Adjudicators Award but pipped at the post for the winners award by another group.

The adjudicator, Jennifer Scott-Reid, praised all the teams for their contribution towards some memorable performances. She also congratulated all of them for rising to the challenge of entering a competitive festival of such a high standard and wished the winning Oxted Players all the best in future rounds.

The continuing sponsorship provided by the ICB Group is warmly welcomed and will enable SCDF to continue their support for the winning teams in future years. In 2019 the winning team will take away a cash jackpot of £500.

SCDF 2018 Adjudicator Nick Wilkes G.o.D.A.



The adjudicator for the 2019 festival will be Nick Wilkes G.o.D.A. Nick trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has worked extensively in the theatre over the past two decades.

He has appeared in over seventy productions both in the UK and overseas in classical and contemporary drama, musical, pantomime and weekly rep, working alongside names as diverse as Charlton Heston and Simon Callow through to Keith Harris and Orville the Duck!

Nick is Writer in Residence at Malvern Theatres and has written and produced twenty-four new plays to date. All of these have been produced through Nick's own theatre company Malvernbard and have played in many venues around the country, from small studio theatres and larger theatres to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon.

As well as being an actor and writer, Nick is a freelance Producer, Director and teacher of drama. He is also proud to be a fundraiser for several charities, amongst them the NSPCC, Children's Hospice South West, Food Cycle, Help for Heroes and the Clean Up Britain campaign.

Nick is an Associate Member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators (GoDA) and is very much looking forward to adjudicating the Southern Counties Drama Festival.

The 2019 Southern Counties Drama Festival

If you belong to a drama society or youth group who would be interested in competing in the 2019 Southern Counties Drama Festival, you are warmly invited to contact the Secretary who will be delighted to send you an entry pack. This information is also on our web site or you can e-mail us. Full contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

Our Festival Patrons



Nicholas Owen, is a household name as a presenter of the news and current affairs on BBC and ITV.

In 2006 he was a 'Strictly Come Dancing' contestant and in the same year he appeared on the ITV game show 'The Mint'. Nicholas was a member of Reigate Amateur Theatrical Society where he fell in love with live stage and was awarded the Best Actor Award in the 1977 Festival at the Barn for his performance in "Two Gentlemen of Soho".

Jill Perry, a founder member of the Student Players (now The Oxted Players) and Oxted Operatic Society, societies who both celebrated their 70th anniversary at the Barn in 2016 has experience of more plays and musicals than most and the Festival was always a highlight of her year. Jill was Best Actress in 1979 for her portrayal as a maid in 'The Respectable Establishment'.

2018 ICB Festival Winner and Adult Winner

The Oxted Players with their rivetting production of Nine by Jane Shephard also won awards for Best Actress (Amy Prosser) and the Martin Patrick Award for the Best Director (Ghislaine Bowden).

2018 Youth Winner

Glow Theatre Group with their production of "Blood on Canvas" by Richard James. Glow also won awards for the Best Young Actor, (Zachary Millar), Best Young Actress (Charlotte Bridson and Isabella Falconer) and the Adjudicators Award (Connie McMillan).