

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

24th - 29th February 2020

Festival Adjudicator

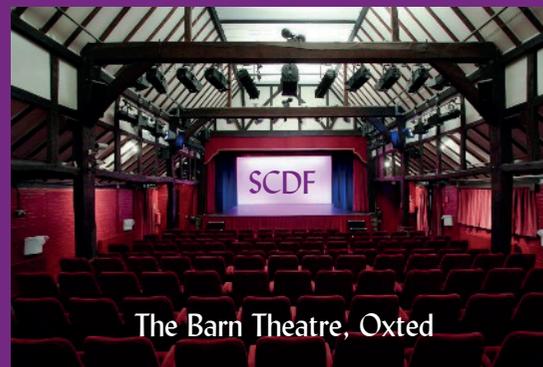
Keith Phillips G.o.D.A.

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

The Secretary

Southern Counties Drama Festival
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www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html



The Barn Theatre, Oxted



Southern Counties Drama Festival 2020

24th - 29th February



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



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



"A great week of theatre, thanks so much"
"What a tremendous week of festival and so very friendly, we shall return"



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 68 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.

Thirteen years ago there was a change in the Festival Management team who have since rejuvenated this popular Festival to become a premier event in the annual arts diary.

The 2019 Festival

The Southern Counties Drama Festival enjoyed another successful season in 2019 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 Glow Theatre Group continued to the Area Final in June, but were pipped at the post for the winners award by another group.

The adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, praised all the teams for their contribution towards some memorable performances. He also congratulated all of them for rising to the challenge of entering a competitive festival of such a high standard and wished the winning Glow Theatre Group all the best in future rounds. During the week Nick had chatted with all the groups after their performances which was greatly appreciated by all.

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 2020 the winning team will take away a cash jackpot of £500.

SCDF 2020 Adjudicator Keith Philips G.o.D.A.



Keith Phillips GoDA.

Keith's involvement and interest in the theatre began in the 1960's when, as a nine year old, he played a tree in an infant school production. From little acorns his interest continued through junior and senior schools where he contributed to productions either behind the scenes or on stage. Memorably, for him, playing in drag (for the first and only time) at 16 in Ionesco's 'The Bald Prima Donna'. After his school years he joined a local amateur group, in Barnet, and continued to learn and gain valuable experience in every aspect of theatre; from acting to stage managing, scenery design and building, lighting and sound and eventually producing and directing. Marriage, and house prices, motivated a move a moderate distance north. He joined a club in Huntingdon, contributing to every production even if that was serving tea in the interval. After becoming a Trustee of the local 'Shakespeare at the George Trust' he played in a number of productions as well as directing. In the 1980's Keith was asked to start a Huntingdon Drama Festival which ran for a few years before local council funding ended. Keith then became very active in the Cambridge amateur theatre community and also co-founded two theatre companies, to take new and classic plays further afield; including a number of shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. Occasionally, when inspired, he will pound a keyboard and turn out pantos or one-act plays but it too modest to mention his three new play awards.

Keith's 45 years' experience and expertise in amateur theatre, led to his joining GoDA in 2014 as an Associate member and he is enjoying adjudicating at Festivals the length and breadth of the UK. He is looking forward to the Southern Counties Drama Festival, the first time he has adjudicated this event.

The 2020 Southern Counties Drama Festival

If you belong to a drama society or youth group who would be interested in competing in the 2020 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'.

2019 ICB Festival Winner and Youth Winner

The Glow Theatre Group with their production of DNA by Dennis Kelly took the audience on an uncomfortable journey into the psyche of teenagers. They also won awards for Best Young Actress (Molly Cook), Best Young Actor (Jack Palmer) and the Best Stage Presentation.

2019 Adult Winner

Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society with their production of "My Second Best Bed" by Barry Syder gave the audience a memorable piece of drama with this original play. Natalie Hall was also the winner of the award for the Best Adult Actress