

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.

VERLINGUE

Verlingue is proud to sponsor SCDF. Privately owned and locally based, the Verlingue ICB Group is amongst the top twenty independent insurance brokers in the UK, providing insurance and risk management services to businesses and individuals. If you would like to know more about these services, please contact Maia Olesen on 0208 282 8510 or email maia.olesen@verlingue.com

Regulated and authorised by the FCA

Festival Information

Venue

Barn Theatre

Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0AA

Festival Dates

21st - 26th February 2022

Festival Adjudicator

Louise Manders

LLAM ALAM GODA MSTSD (Adj)

**Winning team prize of
£500 to be won**

The Secretary

Southern Counties Drama Festival

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The Barn Theatre, Oxted

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2022

21st - 26th 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"



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 70 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.

Fourteen 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 2020 Festival

The Southern Counties Drama Festival enjoyed another successful season in 2020 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 normally pleased to support the winning team as they progress to the successive rounds of the All-England Theatre Festival, but sadly Coronavirus disrupted all of this with further rounds and the final being cancelled. The adjudicator, Keith Phillips, 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 Keith had chatted with the groups after their performances which was greatly appreciated by all.

The ongoing sponsorship provided by Verlingue is warmly welcomed and will enable SCDF to continue their support for the winning teams in future years.

SCDF 2022 Adjudicator

LOUISE MANDERS
LLAM ALAM GoDA MSTSD (Adj)



Louise was born in Westcliff on Sea and first trod the boards when only five days old and has never looked back. Her varied and interesting professional theatrical career began in repertory theatre with Haymarket Stage Productions progressing from stage management to acquiring her

Equity card as an actress. Louise really enjoyed touring the UK and she appeared in all aspects of theatre including repertory/repertoire and musicals, as well as appearing on television and in films. Louise is presently not only an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, but is also an adjudicator member of the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama. She was Artistic Director of the Phoenix Youth Theatre in Southend, formerly the New Focus Theatre, for many years. Louise's extensive work as an adjudicator has taken her all over the UK and abroad. She has adjudicated regularly in Sri Lanka. She runs workshops and master classes, directs plays (including open air productions) and musicals, devises original drama compositions, writes poetry and has written many musical plays for children and students. She teaches speech, drama, musical theatre, mime and dance drama to students of all ages, including adults, and specialises in the LAMDA examinations. Louise is an experienced theatre director and even finds time to dance flamenco! A festival is a celebration and enables all entrants to bring their creativity and enthusiasm to fruition. Louise is really looking forward to sharing in these celebrations on her first visit to the Southern Counties Drama Festival.

The 2022 Southern Counties Drama Festival

If you belong to a drama society or youth group who would be interested in competing in the 2021 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".



Diana Drysdale 'got the bug' for performing' when her childhood dancing school put her on stage at the Scala Theatre in London in 1947, playing Pan. After leaving school she had two years with East Surrey Operatic Society as a dancer but acting being her preferred activity, she joined Merstham ADS in 1958. MADS were founder members of the Betchworth Drama Festival (as SCDF was originally called) and she appeared in many of their entries. She acted in and directed many MADS entries over the years and they achieved Best Set, a couple of Best Supporting Actors and a Best Actress. She was flattered to be asked to be Vice Patron of SCDF and is looking forward to being part of this very friendly contest.

2020 ICB Festival Winner and Youth Winner

Glow Theatre Group with their production of *The Heights* by Lisa McGee. From the very beginning the stage erupted into a melange of vitality as the audience were immersed in the fast but brutal world of adolescence. They also won awards for Best Youth Production and Jackie Driscoll won Best Director award.

2020 Adult Winner

Oast Theatre with their production of *Equal Terms* by Jill Hyem, a poignant duologue which is as pertinent today as it was in the 70's. There was an integrity and depth of feeling not often seen on stage. Elizabeth McCreadie won the award for Best Adult Actress.

**In 2022 the winning team will take away a
£500 cash prize**