

Workshop 1: *Encouraging New Writing: The Ilkley Playhouse 8x8x8*

with Jay Cundell Walker

Jay is a long-standing member of Ilkley Playhouse and was Artistic Director from 2017- 2023. This encompassed the Covid shutdown, and it was during this fallow period for the theatre that the 8x8x8 Playwriting Competition was established. Jay worked in education for forty years before using retirement to develop her theatrical interests full time. She is a drama graduate and acts, directs and writes for many local companies. She ran her own touring theatre company for nine years, working in tiny village venues around the Dales, but she has also directed and acted at the beautiful Minack Theatre in Cornwall, which seats more than 500. She is proud to have started her journey at the wonderful Grand Theatre in Leeds at the age of six and hopes to continue her involvement in theatre at all levels for many years to come.

Workshop Content:

Jay will share with the group how the 8x8x8 festival was set up within the IP context. There will be opportunities for questions & discussion and also an opportunity to read some of the plays & explore the range of entries received.



Workshop 2 : *Acting as a Full-Body Activity*

with Damien O'Keeffe

Damien has always had an interest in acting and theatre. He trained as an actor at Middlesex University and worked professionally for a number of years before becoming a teacher. Damien has been a teacher of acting and drama for almost thirty years, delivering workshops, directing productions and researching playful pedagogy, first at Bradford College, and currently at SLP College, Leeds. He was a founder member of Paper Zoo Theatre Company, which provided students and graduates of the performing arts courses at Bradford College the opportunity to gain professional experience. He has been Co-Artistic Director of Ilkley Playhouse alongside Yvette Huddleston since 2023.

Workshop Content:

For some performers, especially those with less experience or training, acting can become just about learning and reciting the lines. This workshop aims to remind us that acting is a full-body activity. Becoming aware of how we move and noticing the subtle changes in the way our bodies feel when we act can be used to create characters that are fully embodied, communicating more to an audience than just the text alone. The workshop is suitable for actors with any level of experience.



Workshop 3: Stage Combat – Unlock your Inner D’Artagnan

with Jack Stockdale-Haley (Jack of All Blades)

Jack is a fully qualified Equity Fight Director (with the Equity Fight Director Register). His journey began in a cinema in Bradford when he saw Spider-Man (2002) with his dad and was inspired to spend his life creating things that could make people as excited as the 6-year-old him was that day.

From then on, he trained in combat sports - primarily SKU Karate (3rd Dan black belt), and Foil, Sabre and Epee fencing (Gold Master-of-Arms), eventually pursuing combat arts as a full-time career.

With his lifelong love for the theatre, he has taken these skills to the stage and other live events, where he can see audiences appreciating the thrill of a fight live in front of them.

Workshop Content:

Make the most of working with a Fight Director and learn various stage combat techniques. Opportunity to participate - please wear loose clothing/flat shoes.

Max 20 participants per session



Presentation 4: 50 Years at The Minack Theatre

with Roger & Barbara Davy

After many years working in the family textile business in Bradford Roger has enjoyed working 'back-stage' in our theatre and has stage-managed many productions. He enjoyed the privilege of being the Playhouse President for six years. Barbara has used her many artistic talents to create spectacular props and paintings for our productions. Some of these will help to illustrate our Minack story.

Presentation Content:

A visit with the company from our Playhouse to the open-air Minack Theatre in the far south-west of Cornwall is still an integral part of our family life. The incomparable seascape view from the Theatre terrace, away across the spectacular stage and the normally clear blue sea, to the grey granite cliffs of the Logan Rock, is permanently etched into the memory of all those who have had the real privilege of travelling to this beautiful and exciting venue. We hope you will appreciate the story of the many visits to the Minack Ilkley Playhouse has made, which began in 1975 with Shakespeare's 'A Winter's Tale'.



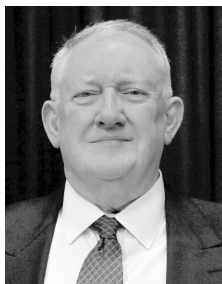
Presentation 5: *iP Green-room – The National Theatre Connections Story*

with Lisa Debney & Andrew Leggott

Lisa and Andrew are both long established members of the Playhouse and have worked side by side for many years leading our Saturday morning green-room classes. This has involved directing our youth productions and coaching green-room students who have taken roles in Playhouse productions.

Presentation Content:

In recent years our green-room students have taken part in the National Theatre's 'Connections' theatre festival. Each year the NT commissions a series of new plays for youth groups across the UK, with the opportunity, at the end of the festival, for some to take their productions to a professional theatre to perform. Join Lisa and Andrew to hear how our Connections story unfolded . . .



Presentation: *Stage Management - Working with Divas and Pirates*

by Kate Davy

Kate and the Davy family are longstanding supporters of the Playhouse and it was during her time working behind the scenes at Ilkley and Minack when her ambition to become a full time Stage Manager grew. After training at Central School of Speech and Drama in London 33 years ago, Kate has worked professionally in all the roles in a Stage Management team covering ballet, theatre and opera. She is currently the Head of Stage Management at the Leeds based international company Opera North.

Presentation Content:

A talk about my 33 years in the shadows, which started at Ilkley Playhouse, before taking me around the UK and beyond. The drama doesn't just happen on stage!



Presentation: *Collaboration, partnerships and advocacy*

with Yvette Huddleston

A freelance journalist specialising in the arts, Yvette has contributed to a range of national and regional publications, writing extensively on film, theatre, literature, music and visual art. She is arts correspondent for the Yorkshire Post newspaper, chairs events and debates for literature and arts festivals around the North and is an occasional contributor on BBC Radio Four's arts programme Front Row. Alongside a long association with Ilkley Playhouse as an actor and director, she is a founder member of Leeds Pub Theatre, has staged small-scale touring productions with her own theatre company and directed in a professional capacity. She has been co-artistic director at Ilkley Playhouse with Damien O'Keeffe since 2023.

Presentation Content:

The importance and value of collaborations and partnerships across the arts and the how Ilkley Playhouse as a community theatre maintains links with other local arts organisations. The talk will focus on a few key relationships that have been in place for some years, in particular the ongoing connection with Ilkley Literature Festival. The festival has been running for over 50 years and the Playhouse hosts several events annually every October. The talk will also touch on how Yvette's work as a journalist and advocate for the arts aligns with her role as co-artistic director at Ilkley Playhouse. Followed by a Q&A with the audience.



Followed by: *An Interview with our Keynote Speaker*