

# Welcome to the Attic Theatre

Since 1932, the Attic Theatre (formerly Attic Players) has been staging quality amateur dramatic productions for theatre goers in West Wales. Today we have a strong membership working to create the theatre's most ambitious programme of productions to date. We stage a broad range of plays, from challenging dramas to light hearted comedies, and we are now hosting additional productions from other companies to enrich the programme.

We are fortunate to have our own permanent, attractive, eighty four seat theatre in the heart of Newcastle Emlyn, with good back stage facilities; which along with a licence for selling refreshments allows us to offer a great theatre experience for our audiences; and we are delighted to have won a number of awards for our productions, including recently, Woman in Mind and London Wall.

## **Join In !**

We are keen to welcome anyone interested in become part of the team. Those with experience of, or an interest in, acting and directing of course; but there is as much work off stage as on: including stage management; Front of House; costume and make-up; set construction; lighting and sound; music; prompting; marketing, and more.

Enthusiasm is more important than experience, as in whatever area you would like to work, you will be supported and encouraged by existing experienced members of the team.

All Attic members are volunteers who give of their time according to the level of commitment they want to make, and all pay a modest annual membership fee to help support the running costs of the theatre; while our main source of income is ticket receipts.

## **How to join in**

For a start you might simply want to drop in to the theatre and see what we do. We work on current and forthcoming productions on various evenings during the week and sometimes at weekends, but there is always something going on on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 8 pm.

You can just drop-in off the cuff and say hello, but we recommend that you first contact the theatre via email or phone, so we can arrange for someone to meet you and show you around the theatre.

Contact:

**[info@attictheatre.wales](mailto:info@attictheatre.wales)**

After your introductory tour, if you think you might be interested in becoming a member we'll provide you with a membership form that details the simple terms of membership and gives you opportunity to note which areas of the theatre's work you are interested in taking part in.

## **When you have joined**

The vast majority of activity within Attic relates directly to play productions. Each play has a director who puts together a team of actors and backstage crew. So to get stuck in you volunteer to join the team (audition if acting: see below) and in the first instance you will work with an experienced team member. When ready, you can look to take the lead in that work: Stage Manager; Lights & Sound, etc.

## **ACTING**

With acting, the process of getting involved is a little more particular, but again don't worry if you have little experience, that can be gained.

## **Workshops**

Firstly, we recommend you join in one or more of our occasional acting workshops, which are led by an experienced actor/director. If you don't have much experience this will give you a feel for what is required, touching on: warm-up routines, character development, movement, speech, interaction with other actors. If experienced, it's still an important way of meeting and working with the Attic team.

## **Casting**

Each play produced has a cast selection process, led by the director. Firstly there are one or more group readings of the play to be produced, which are open for anyone to attend.

If having taken part in a read through, you'd like to be in the play, you let the director know, along with any role preference you have, and subsequently the director holds auditions for the parts. The auditions might be primarily based on reading and discussing the role you're auditioning for, or might include acting short sections of the play; according to the director's preference.

There is no bar to auditioning based on experience, but if you are new to acting it is recommended you look at a smallish part in your first production. The cast selection is obviously down to the director's final decisions.

## **PRODUCTIONS**

*The plays we put on are selected through a two stage process, and if you become an Attic member you will have the opportunity to submit plays you'd like to see put on. This is covered in another Attic guide: you'll be given a copy when you join.*

Whatever part you take in a given production, you will need to be able to commit to regular work, under the guidance of the director, for typically a three month period leading up to a run of usually four nights. The director requires everyone to do their bit, so make sure you can make this commitment.

This will require you to be at the theatre at least one night per week, and nearer the run, usually two nights and some weekend work.

## **DIRECTING**

*To take on directing a play you will either submit a play you want to direct, through the play selection process (note, above) or put yourself forward to direct a play selected for production requiring a director.*

If you are interested in directing plays and you have experience of direction you may well be able to dive straight in.

If you are interested but have little or no experience, the first thing to note is that the director is responsible for co-ordinating the entire production through the team of cast and crew: it's not just directing the actors on stage. In the first instance you would typically understudy a director for one of our productions, before taking on the directorial reins yourself. If you want to act too, we recommend you take on a role in one or more productions before moving into direction.

## **Finally**

The above gives you an overview of how the theatre team works. There is always flexibility according to experience and inclination, and most importantly, we work together as friendly enthusiasts.

We are not rule-driven: support, encouragement, and enjoyment could perhaps be called our watchwords, and whether you just drop-in to see us or decide to become an active member, there's always a warm welcome.

For further information, see our website: [www.attictheatre.wales](http://www.attictheatre.wales)