

THEATRE BY THE LAKE ELDERS COMPANY



INFORMATION SHEET

SPRING 2019 – WITH EMMA RYDAL



The upcoming block of work will be led by professional actor and writer Emma Rydal, who has many TV and film credits to her name. At TBTL, she most recently appeared in her own play *Soaked*, directed by Peter Macqueen, which some of you may have seen.

Sessions begin on **Wednesday 16th January** and will be based around skills and scripts, creating scenes and characters, exploring complicité, learning through improvisation, and having lots of fun. By the end of the term, the group will have developed ideas ready for performance in the summer term. This showcase of Elders work will include sketches, monologues, duologues and original pieces written by group members.

ELDERS COMPANY DATES

- Ages: 55+
- Times: Wednesdays 11.00am – 1.30pm
- Venue: Theatre by the Lake (off-site venues may be arranged during the TBTL Maintenance Period and Words by the Water festival.)
- Cost: £70 to sign up for the full programme = 11 sessions for the price of 10. Participants may also choose to pay weekly at £7 per session. The price will include free tea and coffee supplied as a break in the middle of each session.
- Dates: 11 Workshops – all on Wednesday at 11.00am to 1.30pm:
- January 16th, 23rd, 30th
 - February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
 - March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

MORE ABOUT EMMA

Emma discovered her love of the arts when she joined Century Youth Theatre back in 1987. She then worked in 'The Blue Box' as an Office Assistant which she loved. Gaining a BA in Performing Arts at Middlesex University in 1994, she has since worked extensively in television, film, radio and theatre.

Highlights of her career include playing Stella Moorhouse in the Bafta-winning Brit Flick *East Is East*, working with Max Stafford Clark in his 'Out of Joint' company for two years, playing 'Celia' in Ruth Jones's Series *Stella* and then forming her own company 'La'al Marra Productions' when she returned back to Cumbria.

Her first play *True* gained a place at Manchester's 24.7 Theatre Festival in 2011. The play, which is about a mother/daughter relationship, won The Audience Award for Best Play, an Equity Award and was nominated for a Manchester Theatre Award. The play toured Cumbria and Emma, along with actor Toby Gaffney made two short films from the play which both won local awards.

Her second produced play *Soaked* gained Arts Council funding and opened to a full house at Rosehill Theatre last year. It went on to tour around Cumbria, also taking in Manchester and Lancaster. In August *Soaked* returned and played a week at Theatre by The Lake to a fantastic response with sell-out audiences.

MORE ABOUT THE ELDERS

The Elders Company is our participatory company for anyone aged 55+. No previous experience of theatre work or amateur dramatics is required - we just ask for bags of enthusiasm and commitment!

Blocks of weekly sessions at Theatre by the Lake will bring participants to the heart of the theatre, giving them access to our productions, on stage and behind the scenes at selected times during the course of the year. Our Elders Company will be given the chance to watch, be inspired and challenged by, the high quality theatre that we present in the main house and studio. They will have the opportunity to meet cast members and creative teams, giving them an invaluable insight into the world of theatre, whether they are aspiring actors, directors, stage managers, technicians or audience members. As well as regular skills development sessions with our theatre practitioners, the Elders Company will have their own performance opportunities throughout the year including 'Curtain Raisers' on main house productions, performance nights in the studio and outdoor performances at the annual Derwentwater Regatta.

In 2017 the Elders worked towards three performances of *The Hidden Key* in our Studio theatre.

In 2018 the group worked with North Cumbria Scriptwriters to present *Connect Three*, an enigmatic quartet of plays.

By joining Theatre by the Lake's Elders Company, participants will:

- Develop performance skills and create imaginative theatre
- Devise original pieces of drama as well as rehearse and perform existing scripts
- Develop confidence and self-esteem while enhancing key skills such as communication, concentration and empathy
- Make friends and work as part of a team

PAYMENT

To block-book sessions in advance contact Theatre by the Lake Box Office on 017687 74411.

If you would prefer to do pay-as-you-go, please pay weekly when you arrive.

For further information, please contact dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND A SESSION?

Please let us know in advance by phoning Dave on 017687-72282 ext 283 or emailing dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com

WHAT HAPPENS IF A SESSION HAS TO BE CANCELLED UNEXPECTEDLY?

Should the occasion arise where we need to cancel a session at short notice we will email you, contact you by phone or leave a message at TBTL Box Office. Wherever possible, we will try to reschedule the session. However, if the session cannot be rescheduled, credit notes will be issued where appropriate.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DROP OUT PART WAY THROUGH A BLOCK?

We encourage commitment and we hope that participants will get a lot out of the sessions. We understand that circumstances change, however we **do not** automatically offer refunds for remaining pre-paid sessions – a credit to your account is our normal procedure.