



1934 - 2025

Newsletter Sep 2025

Clubrooms: 6 - 8 Castle Hill Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4QP
www.richmond-ads.org.uk

Autumn 2025 5 - 8 November

Bleak Expectations

by Mark Evans

Directed by **Scott Fenney**

RADS Social Events

Clubnights

Monday 8th September - Snap and Solve Treasure Hunt

Dust off your detective hat and clear some space in your camera roll! Teams will scour the Clubrooms (and nearby haunts), cracking cryptic clues and snapping photo evidence at each stop. Expect riddles, dramatic re-enactments, and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments as you race to piece together the final mystery. Less than a miles walk (if you get the clues right!) Phones charged, thinking caps on - see you at the starting line! Starting time will be 1845 - 1900h at the Club Rooms - come as a ready-made team or join one when you arrive! For anyone not able to manage the walking, we will be finishing in Wetherspoons from 1945h onwards, so you are welcome to join us there. **P.S.** Does anyone know the whereabouts of the RADS Treasure Hunt trophy? It is several years since we held one, and we can't remember who won it last! It would be great if it could be returned to the Club Rooms before the above date so we can award it again...

Monday 13th October - Radio Sketches

Following on from last year's read-through of Radio Comedies, Charles Lambert will be conducting a similar read-through, but this time focusing on Radio Sketch shows - prepare for a highly amusing evening, if last year is anything to go by!

Monday 10th November - Read-Through TBC

We expect this club night to be a read-through of our Spring 2026 production, the title of which is not yet confirmed (watch this space!).

Monday 8th December - RADS Xmas Dinner

This year's seasonal festivities will be held at The Farmer's Arms, Brompton-on-Swale - save the date! Menus, booking instructions and arrangements will follow at a later date.

News from the Wardrobe

Great news that we have three new sewers! Ann has had a long association with the theatre in Richmond as her dad was the manager of the theatre. She learned to sew for her mother who made clothes for the ladies of Richmond.

Rook is in the upper sixth and hopes to go on next year to read Costume and Fashion at university. Lastly there is Tom who has just got a sewing machine for his 14th birthday. All welcome to the team.

Don't forget to pass on any names who think they might like to help or have fabrics or costumes they can give us. Crinoline dresses are the challenge for this next play. Lots of new techniques to learn!

Georgie Sale

A(nother) Note from the Chair

As in most organisations and societies, there is a great deal of work going on behind the scenes that doesn't always get seen. The committee and a few key members have been working very hard on everything from clearing out the Clubrooms, to overseeing the recent building work and generally just keeping things ticking along. Not all of this work is immediately visible, but it's very important.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of these people and to reiterate that RADS isn't just about treading the boards - it's a real community-driven group that has so many talented and helpful people on-stage and off, and RADS wouldn't be the same without you!

Max Walker

Sedgefield 2025

A further reminder that Lee Bowles will be directing *Anger Management* - a comedy by Robert Scott at Sedgefield Drama Festival, the week of 9 - 13 September. Our performance will be on Wed 10th September.

It would be great if you could support both RADS and our good friends at Sedgefield by attending on Wednesday and any other nights that take your fancy! It's always appreciated by the team to see some friendly faces in the audience - tickets available [online](#) or from Back of Beyond Books (cash only), Sedgefield. Or pay on the door.

National Theatre Live - Free Tickets!

Anybody who has been attending the National Theatre's excellent initiative of broadcasting live performances to cinemas across the country may be interested in the upcoming showings for 2025.

Dan Westgarth, the Station Cinema's manager, last seen playing Lt. Blouse in *Monstrous Regiment* has kindly offered us two free tickets for the following:

National Theatre *Inter Alia* (Saturday 6th Sep 19:30)
National Theatre *Fifth Step* (Thurs 27th Nov 19:30)
The Royal Ballet *Nutcracker* (Mon Dec 22nd 14:00) - something different people might enjoy.

All you have to do is register an interest with Gregan Davis at secretary@richmond-ads.org.uk as soon as possible for *Inter Alia* and by the end of September for the other two and he will randomly select a winner and contact them before the performance date.

In addition, if you wish to book for any other of the Live events at The Station Cinema, you can use the GTR discount code BUTLER.

Set Manager Wanted!

We would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking over the position of Set Manager from Brian Rogers, who has done a sterling job for us over the years, but is now unable to continue and would like to hand it over to a willing volunteer!

More details can be obtained from Brian or via Gregan Davis as to what the job entails, and training can be given. The time commitment is not huge, but the Set Manager will need to work with directors to provide solutions to their artistic needs, and be available for get-ins if required.



Chair's Corner

Well done, kid-managers - you've survived the Summer! It's time to hand them back over to those teachers who've missed them terribly so you can *checks notes* go back to... work? Well, never mind! There's plenty coming up that will see you through to the next holiday!

Rehearsals are well underway for *Bleak Expectations*, our November show, and things are looking fantastic already. The cast are having an absolute blast right from the off, and I've had reports from our members involved in this play that it's been cracking so far! Do get your tickets booked ASAP because it's already selling well and you really don't want to miss out on this one.

It's also coming up to the Sedgefield Festival where Lee Bowles is taking *Anger Management* as the RADS offering to this great institution that has long been a staple in the RADS calendar. Please go along on September 10th to support the cast and our friends at Sedgefield.

Our social secretary Chloe has released the second episode of the RADS podcast - *'Backstage at the Clubrooms'* and it's well worth a listen! [Episode 2 - 'Harrumble!'](#)

Make sure you come along to the clubnight on Monday 8th September for our 'Snap and Solve' treasure hunt which is sure to be a hit, channel your inner Miss Marple and get yourself down there!

Beki Stevenson is going to be directing Shakespeare's *The Tempest* next year and is on the hunt for driftwood - a perfect excuse to get yourself to the seaside guilt-free!

I recently attended the NODA AGM in Chester-le-Street, which was very well-attended and very positive - Mike and I also attended a great and informative seminar on safeguarding and are looking toward updating our policies to reflect the changing landscape.

Welcome to our many new members, we're so happy to have you here and we hope you're having a great time with us. It's also been great to see so much interest in helping backstage recently, long may it continue!

Right, enough warm-hearted feelings for now: get your tickets for *Bleak*, get along to Sedgefield and let's bring the Autumn months in with a bang!

Max Walker

e-mail: chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk