

JP ANNIVERSARY **JAVEA PLAYERS 50**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Jávea Players newsletter: **Behind the Scenes**



**A peek into what's happening during our 50th Anniversary year
Plays and Events confirmed for 2026
Information on the various groups and workshops for you to participate in.
And, so much more
March 2026**

Behind the Scenes

Chairman's message

Dear Jávea Players Members & Friends,

We've kicked off the year in the best possible way — with a sell-out run of “Doubt”! A huge thank you to everyone involved, both on and off stage, for making it such a powerful and memorable production. From cast and crew to front of house and tech, it was a team effort and a wonderful way to start 2026. There's plenty more to look forward to. Next up is “Ripcord”, directed by Alee Reed, followed by “The Worst Day of My Life”, directed by Zhangir Kassymkanov, and later in the year a festive production of “A Christmas Carol”, directed by Claire Schoonover.

We're also excited to begin our new director-led approach to play selection, opening up fresh creative opportunities and giving our directors an even stronger voice in shaping our seasons.

In addition, we have four special members-only productions planned, led by Leigh Patterson and Rosemary Brown — a fantastic chance to showcase talent in a more intimate setting.

We're launching new workshops too, including a Directors' Workshop and Shakespeare Acting Techniques.

This year we have also introduced a Hall of Fame to recognise the remarkable contribution individuals have made to Jávea Players over many years. It is our way of formally acknowledging the time, dedication and passion that so many give to keep our theatre thriving. We were delighted to award Tony and Cherry Cabban this honour in recognition of their incredible service and longstanding commitment to Jávea Players.

Keep an eye out for details of our upcoming Open House Day, where we'll be inviting new technical talent and budding actors to come and get involved.

Behind the scenes, we're also developing new recognition programmes for our wonderful volunteers and improving how we interact and communicate with members.

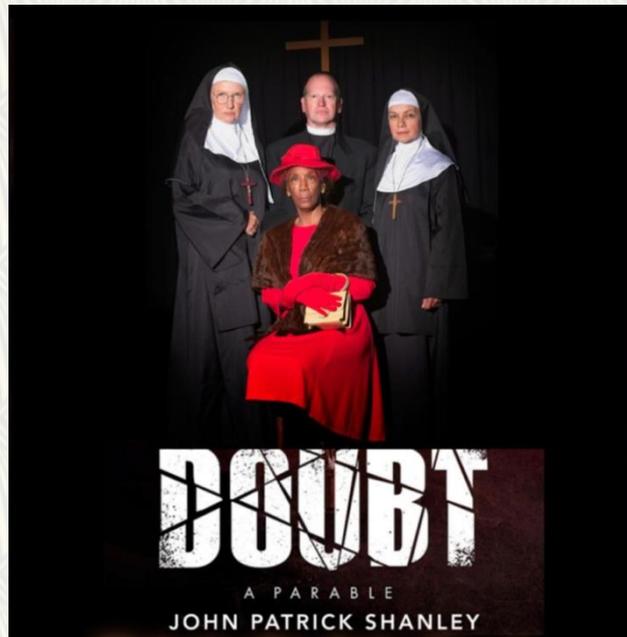
As this year marks our 50th anniversary, we're especially looking forward to the many events we have planned to celebrate this incredible milestone. It's shaping up to be a truly exciting, creative, and celebratory year ahead.

John McDonald
Chairman

Behind the Scenes

Thats a Wrap!

“Doubt : A parable” by John Patrick Shanley



Our group of four actors truly enjoyed performing this wonderful play. The theatre was full every night and we all received some very nice feedback.

Of course, whilst we took the bows, none of this would have been possible without the endless support of all the people behind the scenes. Thank you all so much.

I think one of my favourite memories of the rehearsals is Bea and James having to run down the road to retrieve Bea's phone from her car in full costume.

Just to reassure everyone who saw the play, despite all the yelling at each other on stage we are all still firm friends, and looking forward to telling another story on stage when we have the opportunity to.

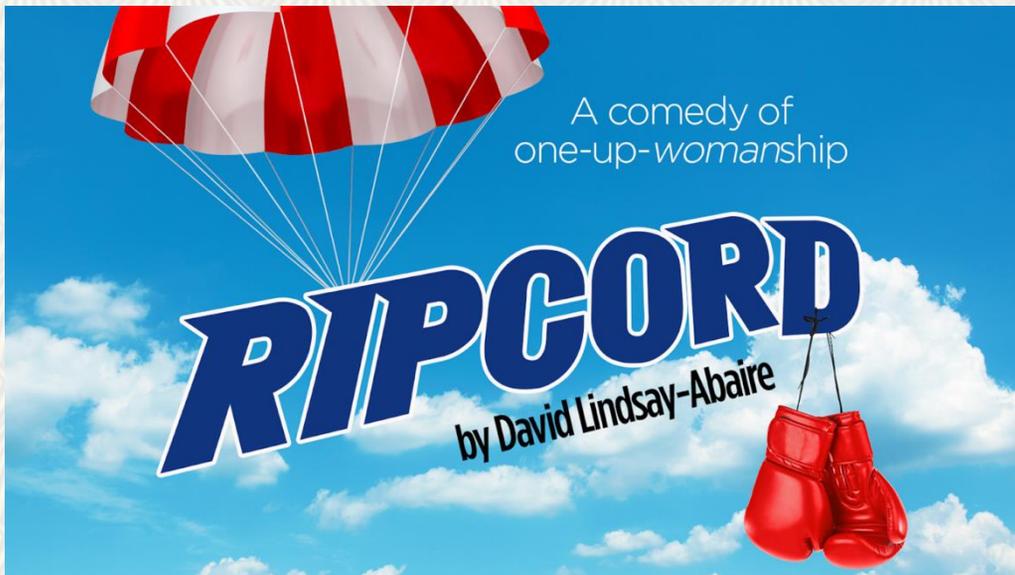
Lesley Davies

Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage on 2026?

“Ripcord” by David Lindsay-Abaire

20th to 25th April 2026 in Jávea Players Studio Theatre



Next up in the Jávea Players 2026 season is **“Ripcord”** by acclaimed playwright David Lindsay-Abaire — a razor-sharp comedy packed with wit, warmth, and wonderfully outrageous moments.

Director Alee Reed began rehearsals on 16 February with a top-notch cast featuring familiar Jávea Players luminaries alongside some exciting newcomers. From the very first read-through, it was clear something special was happening in the rehearsal room.

There is a wonderfully natural synergy within this cast. The actors are clearly enjoying working together, inspiring one another creatively, and discovering new layers of humour and heart in every scene. Rehearsals have been filled with energy, imagination — and plenty of laughter! If the sound of giggles echoing from the Studio Theatre is anything to go by, audiences can expect just as many laughs when the curtain rises.

“Ripcord” centres on a seemingly simple bet between two residents in a senior living facility — but what follows is a delightfully escalating battle of pranks, pride, and unexpected friendship. It’s clever, fast-paced, and full of surprises.

Tickets go on sale **20 March**, and with the buzz already building, early booking is strongly recommended.

Don’t miss this hilarious and heart-warming production — it promises to be an evening of humour, pathos, and outstanding performances from a truly talented cast.

We look forward to seeing you there! 🎭

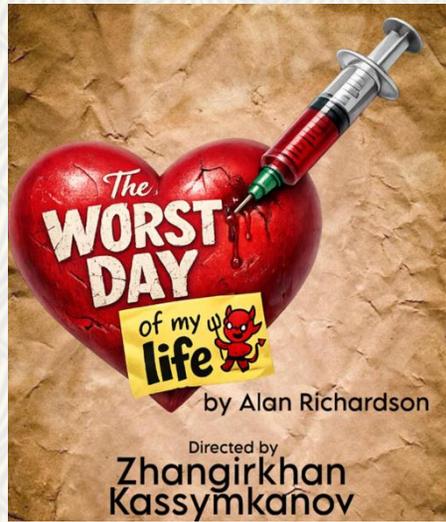
Alee Reed

Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage on 2026?

“The Worst Day of My Life” by Alan Richardson

29th June to 4th July 2026 at the Casa Cultura



What is the worst day of your life?
Is it the day everything falls apart?
Or the day you finally see the truth?
Or maybe... the day you are forced to change?

Our upcoming production, ***“The Worst Day of My Life”***, explores that exact moment — the breaking point that becomes a turning point. It’s a story about human fragility, unexpected humor in chaos, and the strange beauty that can emerge from disaster.

This piece is raw, honest, and at times uncomfortably familiar. It asks us to reflect on our own “worst days” — and whether they were truly the end of something... or the beginning.

We are currently preparing for auditions and are excited to invite members to be part of the journey. Look out for an email soon, with dates and how to apply.

We are looking for committed, curious performers who are ready to explore emotional truth, vulnerability, and bold storytelling. Whether you’re a seasoned actor or stepping into something new, this project promises deep collaboration and a meaningful creative process.

Zhangir Kassymkanov

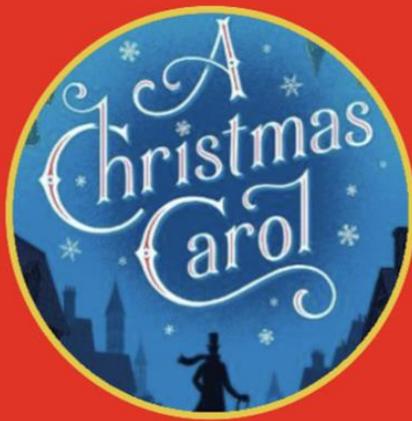
Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage on 2026?

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

3rd to 7th December 2026 at the Union Musical de Gata

Charles Dickens



Directed by
Claire Schoonover

Step into a world of candlelight, music, and timeless wonder.

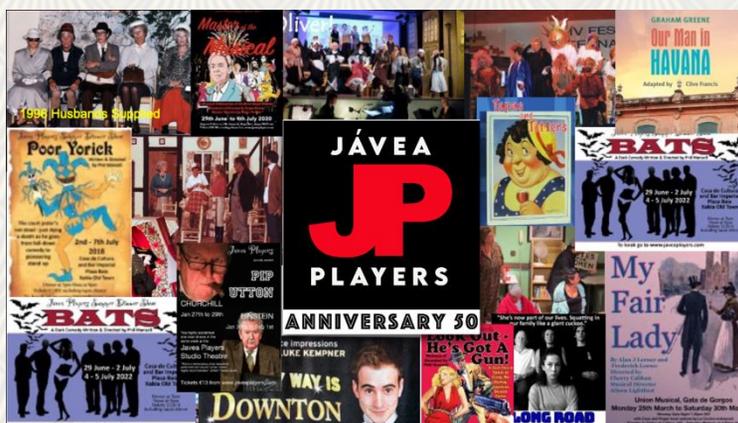
Jávea Players presents *"A Christmas Carol"*, Charles Dickens' beloved tale of redemption, generosity, and the magic of second chances.

Join Scrooge, the Spirits, and a cast of unforgettable characters for a theatrical experience that will warm hearts of all ages.

Claire Schoonover

Behind the Scenes

Jávea Players 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book
Launch event Saturday 16th May 2026
Jávea Players Studio Theatre. Time TBA



For the first time ever, Jávea Players will be publishing a book celebrating everything we've achieved over the past 50 years.

It's ambitious — and it's already shaping up to be something very special.

The book will be an engaging, photo-filled journey through hundreds of productions, thousands of images and five decades of stories, fun facts and treasured memories.

It has a scrapbook feel, because let's be honest — we all love flipping through pages to see who starred in which production, rediscovering forgotten moments and laughing at the personal anecdotes that bring it all back to life.

It's not just a book. It's a bundle of memories. Backstage giggles. Proud curtain calls. Shared stories.

A keepsake packed with heart, history and joy.

We begin right at the start — with our founder, Janet Philips — featuring wonderful insights from her children, David, Andrew and Jessica. In 1976, just after the end of Franco, three productions were staged in that very first year. If you think bureaucracy in Spain is complicated now... imagine then. But enthusiasm and pioneer spirit won the day — and Jávea Players was born.

A huge thank you to the fantastic team helping to bring the book together: James Ward, Pat Doidge, Gillian Ashworth, Peter Bayliss, Stephen Langley and Lesley Davis.

Want to get involved? We are looking for people who know their way round

Apple Keynote so please get in touch. jacqui@paragoneurope.com

Jacqui Scofield

Behind the Scenes

Jávea Players 50th Anniversary Celebratory Gala Event

20th November 2026, Marriot Hotel, Denia

Jávea Players' Gala Night of Stars!



The biggest event Jávea Players has ever staged.

Because 50 years deserves something spectacular.
The Gala Night of Stars.

This glamorous red-carpet evening will be held in the ballroom at the Marriott Hotel on **20th November**. Think photographers, exceptional food, music, dancing, a full stage, lighting and unforgettable entertainment!

We've secured a special room rate for a limited number of rooms and transfer coaches will run from the hotel through the Arenal, Port and Montgó areas.

It will be a night to remember — so please put the date in your diary now.
Dress code: **red-carpet ready**.



Make sure you save the date and invite family and friends to the biggest event of the year!

This anniversary year is about celebration, community and creativity — and there are so many ways to get involved.

Here's to 50 years — and to the next act in the Jávea Players story.

Jacqui Scofield

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Members, and Guests, Club Nights

Longstanding JP members Leigh Patterson and Rosemary & Roger Brown are currently putting together 4 “Club Nights” aimed at our members and their guests, in celebration of our 50th anniversary year.

These are “Cafe Style” one night only events with seating for 60 people. They will showcase an eclectic mix of comedy and music and will feature 1 act plays, sketches, radio plays, Comedy, Drama and even some music hall.

The four planned dates are: Friday March 27th, Friday June 5th, Friday September 25th and Friday December 11th. So put them in your diary.

Leigh, Rosemary and Roger have each been involved in amateur (and some professional) theatre for over 50 yrs.

Both Rosemary and Roger have a long history in Amateur theatre both in UK and Spain, joining Javea Players in 2014. Rosemary’s first acting role with JP was in Lillies on the Land in 2015 and Roger’s first directorial role was Steel Magnolias during the following year. They have been involved in many productions since then.

Leigh Started acting with the Gillette Players in 1975 and trod the boards of the Theatre Royal Brighton in Roald Dahl’s “*The Witches*” with Clarion Productions.

On moving to Spain she first joined Careline theatre for several years and was a regular actor in many performances.

Her first acting role with JP was in On Golden Pond in 2017. She acted in two further JP productions before turning to directing including I Colitis, Duets, Showcase, and most recently the Little Panto on the Prairie.

Any members wishing to be involved in any of the future club nights will be most welcomed so please make sure Leigh, Rosemary or Roger have your names, and they will send you some info.

Leigh - gataleigh@yahoo.co.uk

Rosemary & Roger - aahbees@gmail.com

Leigh Patterson

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
Members, and Guests, Club Night
27th March in Jávea Players Studio Theatre.



The first of four Members and guests Club Nights this Anniversary year debuts on Friday 27th March.

Come and join us for an evening of eclectic entertainment, with something for everyone. It will begin with three interlinked monologues entitled "**Ladies of the Parish**" written and performed by Rosemary Brown.

Following an interval, the second act will begin with James Ward who reprises his history of Jávea Players, "**In The Beginning**" and focuses on the first 20 years of our amazing association.

This is followed by 3 light-hearted, tongue in cheek, comedy sketches under the heading "**Angels & Demons**", performed by Leigh Patterson and Rosemary & Roger Brown.

Come along and support our members who have put together these 4 events, just for you, to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Doors open at 19:00. Performances start at 19:30.

Tickets at €8 Euros, including your first drink. Book tickets now by copying this URL into your browser.

<https://javeaplayers.com/product/members-and-guests-evening-27th-march/>

Leigh Patterson

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Open Mic Café

21st March in Jávea Players Studio Theatre



Picture yourself in a dimmed, candle lit, warm and friendly café, where laughter and good spirit will permeate your body the moment you step into the room, all this surrounded by great music and good friends.

Of course, there is a bar flowing with refreshing beverages and morish snacks.

And let's not forget to mention your hosts – Francesca and Lena – who welcome you with open arms to their Café, where your night will include magical live performances from your favourite musicals, performances that will - one after another - blow you away.

You are only asked to do one thing, participate in fun filled sing-along musical hits.

For this night we are paying a tribute to “Sound of Music’s” 60th anniversary.

Last, but not least, we must mention the performance by The Acting Singers.

We hereby promise you that you will be leaving this event having both laughed and cried AND topped up your musical appetite enough to last you until our next event in May.

Due to the popularity of the last event, we are now selling tickets via the website (not the Box Office). Your €5 entry includes your first drink.

Book tickets now by copying this URL into your browser.

<https://javeaplayers.com/product/a-night-at-the-theatre/>

Looking forward to seeing you there

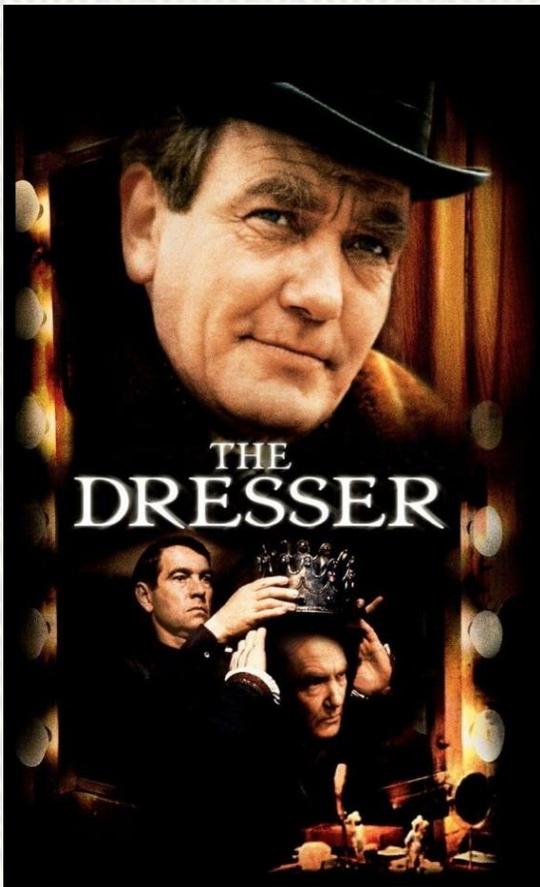
Francesca and Lena

Behind the Scenes

JP Studio Film Club

“The Dresser”

Starring : Albert Finney & Tom Courteney, with Eileen Atkins & Edward Fox
Directed by Peter Yates **Written by – Ronald Harwood**



A great screenplay based on one of the finest plays of the 20th century, two fine emotional performances by Courtney and Finney, a realistic vision of war time London, a great supporting cast. This film takes you on an emotional rollercoaster through humour, sadness, loss and fulfilment. If you are in the theatre, it is even more effective. Based partly on the experiences of Donald Wolfit - who was **not** a 'ham' actor, but a performer of the old school, **“The Dresser”** shows "Sir's" dedication to continue touring, despite being manifestly unable to do so. Tormented by the ghosts of actors past, he believes that he can no longer give of his best; the only way he can be patched up to go onstage is through Norman's continual promptings.

“227 performances of King Lear and I can't remember the first line!”

This is the second film chosen to mark our 50th Anniversary. James and Jen performed in Jávea Players production in 2005, so come watch a film that is close to their hearts.

Wednesday 29th April at 7:30pm, doors open 7:00pm

Entrance €3 paid at the door (including 1st drink)

Booking essential by email: jamesguytonward@gmail.com

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Acting Workshop for Adults – Start 30th April

A promotional poster for an acting workshop. At the top, it features the 'JP JAVEA PLAYERS' logo in red and white, followed by 'ANNIVERSARY 50' in white. The main title 'Acting Workshop for Adults' is in large, bold, white font. Below it, the schedule 'April 30 for 6 weeks from 18:30 to 21:00' and the price '€50' are listed. The workshop is led by Adam Lake, a New York Actor. The text describes the workshop as covering a wide range of acting skills with an emphasis on scene work and actor choices, suitable for both beginners and experienced actors. It concludes with contact information for Adam Lake at Workshops@JaveaPlayers.com.

JP JAVEA PLAYERS **ANNIVERSARY 50**

Acting Workshop for Adults

April 30 for 6 weeks from 18:30 to 21:00 €50

Workshop led by New York Actor Adam Lake

This workshop covers a wide range of acting skills with an emphasis on scene work and the choices made by actors in their roles. It is suitable for both beginners and experienced actors. Come along and explore the acting craft in a safe, friendly and fun environment.

To reserve your spot email Adam at Workshops@JaveaPlayers.com

The third Acting Workshop for Adults is currently underway with sell out participation.

Do you want to join the next group, to hone our acting skills?

Classes start on Thursday 30th April.

If you want to find out more, please contact Adam Lake at workshops@javeaplayers.com

Adam Lake

Behind the Scenes

What else has been going on?

Creative Writing Workshop

The creative writing workshop, curated and facilitated by Adam Lake, was a resounding success. 20 participants with varying writing experience attended this 6-week course. The spectrum included people who had done little more than write an address on an envelope, to published authors, and everything in between. This diverse group came together for more than 2 hours each week for a non-traditional workshop. Using various exercises to get their creative ideas flowing, they created works written on the spot. These were then shared as readings with their fellow participants.

Next Creative Writing Workshop

Planning is currently underway for the next workshop to commence on **Tuesday 28th April** from 18:30 to 20:30. We will be expanding the scope to work on monologues and short plays with a view to workshopping and eventually performing them to an audience.

It will be a 6-week programme for just €30. A longer 8-week course at €50 is also being considered.

If you would like to find about flexing your creative skills, by joining the next group, please contact Adam Lake on workshops@javeaplayers.com for more details.

Adam Lake

Behind the Scenes

Your Committee

Chairman	John McDonald
Vice Chairman	Jacqui Scofield
Secretary	Brian Mattes
Treasurer	Rene Sebregts
General Member	Lena Elster
General Member	Helen Aitken
General Member	Paul Twomey

Non-Committee positions

Bar Manager - Chris Waters

Box Office – Peter Bayliss, Helen Aitken

Costumes - Anne Bentley, Rosemary Brown, Cherry Cabban

IT – Peter Bayliss

Lighting - Cherry Cabban, Kjell Elster, James Ward

Membership Secretary - Cherry Cabban

Newsletter Editor – Helen Aitken

Press Officer - Gillian Ashworth

Props – Leigh Patterson

Publicity - Tony Cabban

Set Construction - John Ranger, Chris Waters, John McDonald, Chuck Schoonover

Sound - Paul Twomey

Studio Manager - Ally O'Brien

Acting Workshops - Claire Schoonover

Workshop Manager - John Ranger

Do you have an item for our newsletter?

If so, please contact us on Javeaplayersnewsletter@gmail.com