

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
May 2026**

Behind the Scenes

Chairman's message

Dear Members and Friends

What an exciting and rewarding time it has been for our theatre group.

Firstly, I would like to offer my congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in our recent production of *Ripcord*, which delighted audiences and achieved a complete sellout run. This success reflects the tremendous effort, dedication and talent of so many people both on and off the stage.

Special thanks go to our wonderful cast and to the director, Alee Reed, for bringing the production so brilliantly to life. I would also like to recognise all those whose hard work behind the scenes made the show possible — our backstage crew, lighting and sound teams, set builders, costume and props teams, bar and front-of-house volunteers, publicity helpers, and everyone else who contributed their time and energy. Theatre is always a team effort, and this production showcased the very best of our group spirit.

It was also a great pleasure to attend the recent 50th Anniversary book launch celebrating the history of Jávea Players. One of the highlights of the occasion was meeting David Philips, the son of our founder, together with his brother Andrew and sister Jessica. It was a memorable and moving reminder of the remarkable legacy and community that have been built over the past fifty years.

My thanks also go to the dedicated team who worked so hard to research, write and produce the anniversary book. Their efforts have created a wonderful record of the history, achievements and friendships that make our theatre group so special. Thanks also to everyone who provided the entertainment on the evening and helped make the celebration such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

For members who have not yet obtained a copy of the anniversary book, additional copies are still available for purchase. It is a wonderful keepsake and well worth having.

We have another enjoyable evening coming soon with *A Night at the Theatre* on 30th May organised by Lena Elster and Francesca Ashby. We hope to see many of you there supporting what should be a fantastic occasion.

Following this, members can also look forward to our next Members' Night on 5th June called *Radio Plays*, directed by Leigh Patterson and Rosemary Brown. This should be another entertaining and fun evening for everyone involved.

Looking further ahead, excitement is already building for our upcoming summer production, *The Worst Day of My Life* directed by Zhangir Kassymkanov. Rehearsals and preparations are underway, and we are all looking forward to another successful production.

Thank you to you all for your continued enthusiasm, support and commitment to our theatre group. Here's to many more wonderful productions and celebrations ahead!

With best wishes

John McDonald

Chairman

Behind the Scenes

That's a Wrap!

Ripcord by David Lindsay-Abaire

Dear Friends and Members of Jávea Players,

I am still on cloud nine after our six-night, sold-out run of ***Ripcord***. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the committee for taking a chance on a new director and a relatively unknown play. Your trust made this entire experience possible.

Our stellar cast — Claire Schoonover, Pauline McGough, Harold Pierce, Zhangirkhan Kassymkanov, Jessica Carroll, and Simon David Desborough — took audiences on an unforgettable journey from the real to the surreal, from laughter to tears, and often both at once.

A huge thank you goes to our incredible technical crew — lighting, sound, set design, props and costumes — for transporting us so seamlessly from the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility to a haunted house, and even inside (and outside!) an airplane. Your creativity and dedication brought the production vividly to life.

I'm also deeply grateful to the marketing and publicity team for their dynamic, multi-tiered strategy that not only sold tickets but created real excitement and buzz around the show.

Thank you as well to our front-of-house and bar volunteers, and to all members who offered encouragement, enthusiasm, and goodwill throughout this labour of love.

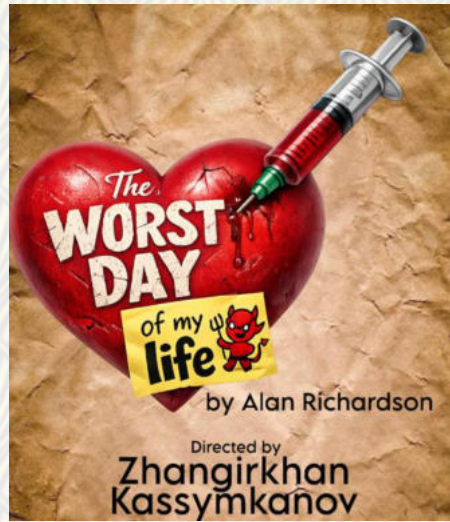
With sincere appreciation,

Alee Reed

Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage next?

The Worst Day of My Life by Alan Richardson
29th June to 4th July 2026 at the Casa de Cultura



Dear Friends of the Stage,

I'm beyond excited to share that our next production, ***The Worst Day of My Life*** by Alan Richardson, is coming to life on our stage. As the director, this play has been a deeply personal journey for me. It's a raw, funny, and often heartbreaking exploration of a single day that changes everything.

I can't wait for you to meet our extraordinary cast: Lesley Davies, James Innes, Jain Spero, Adele Spencer-Wilks, and Beate Hoffman. Each of them brings remarkable honesty, nuance, and emotional depth to the stage, creating characters that feel strikingly real, vulnerable, and unforgettable.

Join us as we dive into a day filled with unexpected twists, sharp humour, and emotional truths that will stay with you long after the final curtain. ***The Worst Day of My Life*** opens on the 29th of June, and tickets will be available soon. We can't wait to welcome you to the theatre for what promises to be an unforgettable evening.

Warmly,

Zhangirkhan Kassymkanov

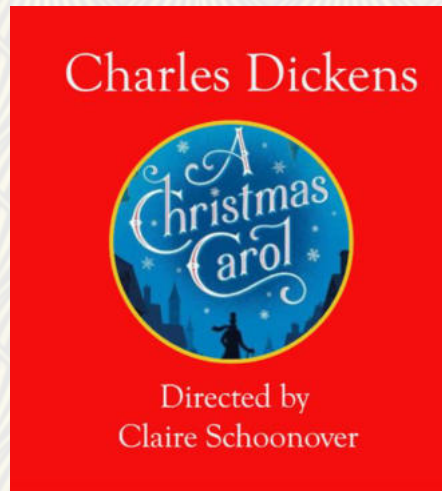
Box Office opens on 28th May for Members and 31st May for non-members.

Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage in 2026?

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

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



This year we're anticipating a joyful production inspired by the celebrated adaptation of **A Christmas Carol** by John Mortimer, famously brought to life by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

This special staging at Gata Theatre marks a vibrant 50-year celebration of creativity, community, and storytelling—honouring a version steeped in theatrical heritage while reimagining it as an inclusive, feel-good festive event for today.

We are calling on **singers and actors of all ages and abilities** to take part. Whether you're an experienced performer or completely new to the stage, this production is built around the joy of participation. With a rich ensemble at its heart, there are opportunities for everyone to shine—through music, character, and storytelling.

Expect a warm, welcoming atmosphere both on and off stage, as we bring Mortimer's lively, characterful adaptation to life with a strong community spirit. This is more than a performance—it's a shared celebration of 50 years of theatre-making, filled with festive cheer, collaboration, and connection.

Auditions will be announced soon, and we encourage everyone with enthusiasm, curiosity, or a love of Christmas storytelling to get involved.

Join us as we gather to tell this timeless tale—full of music, heart, and transformation—and make this anniversary year one to remember. 🎄

Claire Schoonover - Brown

Behind the Scenes

Jávea Players' 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book Launch event Thursday 13th May 2026

The Launch was a truly memorable evening — a joyful celebration of 50 years of friendship, creativity and community spirit at the Jávea Players' Studio Theatre.

Chairman John McDonald opened the evening with a warm and heartfelt welcome, setting the tone for a wonderful celebration of the society's rich history, achievements and enduring spirit.



The evening continued with a heartfelt Fireside Chat hosted by James Ward and Jacqueline Scofield, who welcomed our honorary guests David Phillips, Jessica Carter and Andrew Kerr-Phillips, the children of founder Janet Phillips. Their candid and often humorous recollections offered a fascinating glimpse into family life in Jávea during the 1970s, while also painting a touching portrait of Janet Phillips — a woman of remarkable drive, courage and passion, whose dream created a theatre group that continues to thrive today.



From there, the audience was taken on a nostalgic journey through the decades as the pages of the book were brought vividly to life through music, stories, photographs and film. James Ward expertly guided the audience through key moments in our history, while funny anecdotes from Pat Kitching and musical performances added sparkle and emotion throughout the evening. Tony Sim delivered rousing renditions from *Oh! What a Lovely War* and *If I were a Rich Man* from *Fiddler on the Roof*, while later performances from Gillian Hodges and Francesca Ashby celebrated beloved musicals including *The Sound of Music* and *My Fair Lady*.

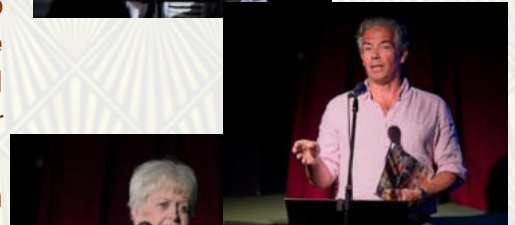


Behind the Scenes

Jávea Players' 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book

There was laughter in abundance as Cherry Cabban gave a wonderfully witty insight into the life of a director, while hilarious anecdotes from Penny Grant, Jen Kellow Ward, Pat Doige, Gillian Hodges and former Chairman Alastair Wallace had the audience thoroughly entertained. Nostalgic video clips from productions such as *'Allo 'Allo* and *The 39 Steps* prompted both laughter and fond reflection from long-standing members and newer faces alike.

The evening also paused for a poignant reflection on the challenges faced during the COVID years — a reminder of the resilience, friendship and determination that have carried the society through changing times and ensured its continued success.



Paul Hunter proved the perfect choice to deliver the final anecdote of the night, sharing a hilarious story from *Love Letters* which led seamlessly into the final *Tapas and Titters* clip featuring Paul, Alastair and Leigh Patterson.

A beautiful finale from Francesca Ashby and Lena Elster, performing *Tale as Old as Time* from the society's recent production of *Beauty and the Beast*, brought the evening to an emotional and uplifting close, earning warm applause from the audience.



Chairman John McDonald ended the celebrations by thanking everyone involved in creating both the book and the event itself with special appreciation extended to David, Jessica and Andrew for travelling to be part of such an important occasion.

As guests left the theatre, there was a genuine sense that this was far more than simply a book launch. It was a celebration of 50 extraordinary years of theatre, friendship and shared memories — and a reminder that the story of the Jávea Players is still very much being written.

Jacqui Scofield

Books are on sale at the special price of €20 to Members and Friends, using discount code jp50th (€25 to non-members)

<https://javeaplayers.com/product/javea-players-50th-anniversary-book/>

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.

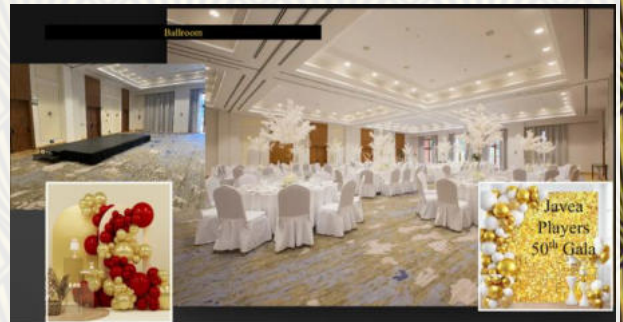
The Gala Night of Stars.

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?

First Members, and guests, Club Night – Angels & Demons



What a treat we had on the 27th March: the first [of four] shows, presented by Rosemary & Roger Brown and Leigh Patterson. The intimate, cabaret-style layout with tables and chairs was perfect for a relaxed evening of laughter.

Rosemary's 40-min self-penned monologue - *The Ladies of the Parish* - was outstanding, as she portrayed three different women describing the same events from different angles. It won the Lockdown Monologue competition in 2020, but due to Covid, she couldn't perform it!

Next, James reprised his interesting talk about the first 20 years of Jávea Players, with additional insights gleaned from research for the 50th Anniversary book.

The trio returned as *Angels and Demons*: the ladies in celestial blue, with wings and halos, who described how the Creation came about. Not always easy to understand what God meant by 'create the waters, and the firmament'. Not one to miss an opportunity, Roger burst into song several times.

Go Forth and Multiply saw two senior angels grappling with how procreation should be achieved: "a male, what's that? then a female?? - I guess they'll work it out!"

Finally, Roger performed *Toby, the Devil*, dividing up the new arrivals in Hell into appropriate groups, leaving one special place for Trump! We can't wait for the next one on 5th June.

Gillian Ashworth

Leigh Patterson, Rosemary and Roger Brown would like to thank their wonderful backstage crew and the appreciative audience who attended their first Club Night in March. A magnificent performance of the monologue *Ladies of the Parish* written and performed by Rosemary introduced us to three very different women viewing the same situation from different perspectives. Rosemary never left the stage for 40 minutes, morphing from one character to another. With over 6,000 words to memorise, she never once faltered and turned in a truly amazing and worthy performance. After the interval, this was followed by James Ward, who delighted us with *In the Beginning* a recap of the first 20 years of Jávea Players including some lively audience participation! Following on the celestial theme the evening continued on a heavenly trajectory as we enjoyed *Angels & Demons*, A trilogy of light-hearted looks at the the angelic creation and procreation of our Earth, cumulating in Beelzebub himself making an entrance from a nasty little place down below and warning us of where we might end up if we don't look after this planet and each other !

Leigh Patterson

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Open Mic Café – 30th May

30th May Jávea Players' Studio Theatre



Join us on Saturday, 30th May in our Studio Theatre when our next Open Mic Café Night celebrates love through song.

Doors open at 6 pm, show starts at 6:30 pm.
€5 entrance fee includes 1st drink and snacks.

Book tickets at <https://javeaplayers.com/events/open-mic-cafe-a-showcase-of-love-songs-across-all-genres/>

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

The 2nd Members, and Guests, Club Night

5th June in Jávea Players' Studio Theatre.



Continuing with their “Club Nights” aimed at our members and their guests. Rosemary & Roger Brown and Leigh Patterson will present their next production on **Friday 5th June**. You think you know MacBeth ? Think again, as they present the 45-minute comic radio play **MacBeth the Knife** written by Bruce Kane. This will certainly give you a different perspective. Nine actors will take to the stage as we follow Fictional Detective Dick Shamus as he attempts to unravel the Murder of King Duncan, with hilarious effect. Following an interval you will be entertained by James Ward’s continuing history of Jávea Players, the next fifteen years from 1996 - 2011. A true celebration of our 50th Anniversary year.

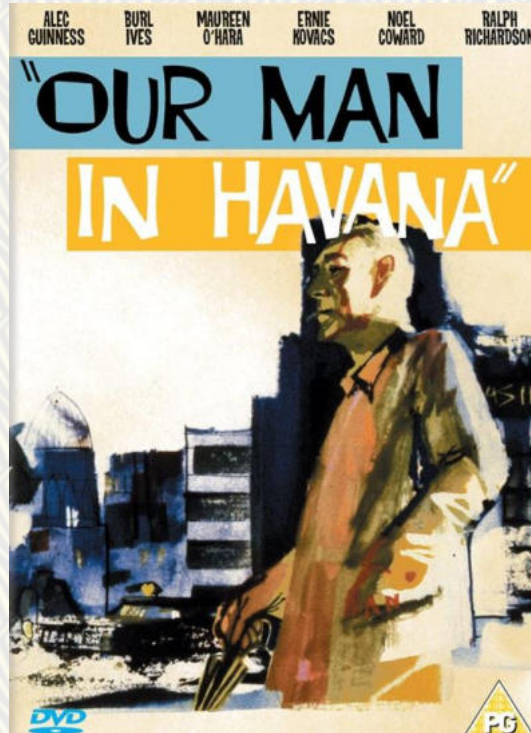
Finally, they will finish their fun-packed evening with three short comedies plays to leave you laughing. **Smooth Criminals**, **It Costs Nothing to Dream** and **Two woofs for Yes**’.

Don’t miss out on this one night only show aimed at you our members, and guests. Tickets are just **8€** and include a drink and nibbles. We are limited to **60 tickets only**, so be sure to book quickly at <https://javeaplayers.com/events/club-night-5th-june/>

Leigh Patterson

Behind the Scenes

JP Studio Film Club



Celebrating another of the productions from Jávea Players' 50 years, the next film night will show ***Our Man in Havana***. Directed by Carol Reed and written by Graeme Greene.

This film is a total time machine with crisp black-and-white cinematography and gritty, on-location, shoots serve up 1950's Cuba so vividly you can practically smell the cigar smoke and diesel.

Alec Guinness anchors a "who's who" of British acting royalty, with Ernie Kovacs, Noël Coward, and Ralph Richardson providing some seriously heavy-hitting backup.

Even with its patient, slow-burn pacing, the movie is a sophisticated cocktail of style and wit. While it keeps you guessing with its moody atmosphere, the brilliant satirical payoff and dark humour make it a uniquely rewarding watch for anyone who loves a clever, atmospheric classic.

"Everything's legal in Havana"

Wednesday 17th June 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?

Want to join the next - Adult Acting workshop?



Acting Workshop for Adults

5 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 Jávea Players Adult Acting Workshops have been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for those who attended.

Some of the workshop attendees have become new Jávea Players' Members and one has been cast in our Summer show.

If you have always wanted to try acting but it felt overwhelming, come to a Jávea Players workshop, have some fun and see what you are truly capable of.

The latest workshop started on 7th May, but Adam is planning another when the current programme completes.

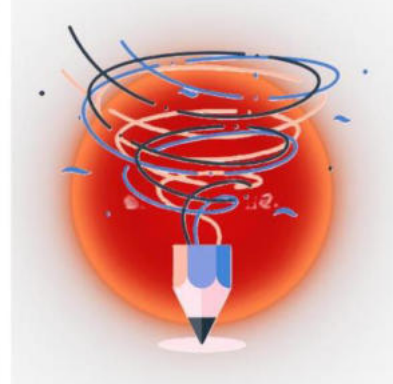
Please contact Adam at workshops@javeaplayers.com to find out more about joining our next Adult Acting Workshop.

Adam Lake

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Want to join the next - Creative Writing Workshop?



Always wanted to write but don't know where to start?
Have you been writing for a while, but get stuck?
Looking for an outlet for your creativity?

**Come to the Jávea Players
Creative Writing Room**

Explore your creativity! Be part of a creative process that
elevates and encourages. All levels and abilities welcome.
Tuition: €50

runs every Tuesday 18:30 to 20:30
Jávea Players Studio
Carrer del Cronista Figueras Pacheco 6, Jávea

For more information contact Adam Lake
workshops@javeaplayers.com

The latest workshop started on 5th May, but Adam is planning another when the current programme completes.

Please contact Adam at workshops@javeaplayers.com to find out more about joining the next Creative Writing Workshop.

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

The Acting Singers

Are you interested in acting and singing? Would you like to combine those two interests?

Then why not visit one of our rehearsals and listen to the **Acting Singers** while they do exactly that; combining acting and singing. (Hence the name. 😊) Maybe you will want to join our group after your visit.

We have been practising since last June and are now looking for more members.

We are currently meeting on Sundays between 16.00-18.00 at Jávea Players' Studio.

We practice both singing in harmonies (like most choirs do) and also acting to some of the songs we sing. The goal is to improve both skills.

We also aim to perform a couple of times a year.

You do not need to be able to read music (although it can help).

You don't have to be an experienced choir-singer, but you should have some experience of singing (at home or elsewhere).

You will get recordings to help you learn the harmonies and to practice between the sessions.

There is no fee to join the choir..

If you would like to find out more please contact Lena Elster, WhatsApp +46 709 39 49 72, or mail lena@lfiab.se

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 – Paul Twomey

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

Sound - Paul Twomey

Studio Manager - Ally O'Brien

Acting Workshops - Claire Schoonover, Adam Lake

Workshop Manager - John Ranger

Do you have an item for our newsletter?

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