

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
July 2026**

Behind the Scenes

Chairman's message

¡Hola a todos!

Welcome to the latest edition of Behind the Scenes, our first newsletter since my return as Chairman. As I read through these pages, I'm reminded just how much is happening across Jávea Players. From outstanding productions and workshops to new initiatives and social events, there's a real buzz about the Society.

Firstly, I'd like to thank John McDonald for everything he has done since taking on the role of Chairman in 2025. John has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to the Society and, while I completely understand his decision to step down for personal reasons, I'm delighted that he will continue to play an active role behind the scenes. On behalf of us all, thank you, John.

One thing I'd like us all to remember is that every single person involved in Jávea Players is a volunteer. Whether on stage, backstage, front of house, in the workshop, on the committee, or helping in countless unseen ways, everyone gives their time, talent and enthusiasm because they care deeply about our Society. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, that's something we should never lose sight of.

A huge congratulations must also go to everyone involved in ***The Worst Day of My Life***. It was a tremendous success and a wonderful example of what can be achieved when talented people work together with passion, commitment and teamwork. I had the pleasure of attending the Wednesday performance and, if you'll forgive the pun, I'd almost go so far as to say it was The Best Night of My Life! Congratulations to the entire cast, crew and production team on a fantastic achievement. I'm currently bringing myself up to speed across all aspects of the Society and look forward to working with members, old and new, as we continue building on the strong foundations established over the past 50 years.

As always, my door is open. If you'd like to share an idea, ask a question, or simply have a chat, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Hasta pronto

Alastair Wallace
Chairman

Behind the Scenes

That's a Wrap!

The Worst Day of My Life by Alan Richardson

What an incredible journey this has been.

As the curtain falls on *The Worst Day of My Life*, I just wanted to take a moment to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who made this production possible.

To our wonderful **cast** – thank you for trusting me, embracing every challenge, and bringing your characters to life with such commitment, talent, and humour. Watching each of you grow throughout rehearsals and performances has been a privilege.

To our amazing **production team** – thank you for all the work behind the scenes. Your creativity, patience, and hard work turned ideas into reality and kept everything running smoothly.

To our fantastic **Front of House team** – thank you for being the first smiling faces our audiences met. Your warmth and professionalism helped create a wonderful theatre experience from the very beginning of the evening and made every guest feel welcome.

To our dedicated **set-moving crew** – thank you for your strength, speed, and reliability. Theatre magic often happens in seconds, and that's only possible because of people like you working tirelessly behind the scenes.

This production was especially meaningful to me because it was **my first time directing**. Stepping into this role was both exciting and daunting, but I couldn't have asked for a more supportive, talented, and encouraging group of people to share the experience with. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. We made people laugh, we entertained our audiences, and, most importantly, we created something as a team. You've all taught me something, and I'll always be grateful for that.

Thank you to everyone who came to see the show, supported us, volunteered their time, or helped in ways big and small. Every contribution mattered.

I don't know exactly what the future holds, but I do know this experience has made me even more excited for what's to come. I look forward to working with many of you again on future productions and seeing where this journey takes us.

Until the next curtain call...

Thank you, Jàvea Players.

— Zhangir Kassymkanov



Behind the Scenes

What's on Stage next?

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Auditions are now open for the Jávea Players' Christmas production of **John Mortimer's adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol***, which we have the pleasure of directing.

This is a warm, magical ensemble production with opportunities for performers of all ages and experience levels. Whether you're interested in a principal role or the ensemble, we'd love to see you at the auditions.

Audition Dates

Saturday 8 August | 2.00–5.00 pm
Young Performers (playing ages 8–17)

Sunday 9 August | 2.00–5.00 pm - Adults (18+)

Playing ages are a guide only, and we welcome anyone who can convincingly portray the characters.

Venue

Jávea Players Studio Theatre

Carrer del Cronista Figueras Pacheco, 6 03730 Jávea (Xàbia), Alicante

What to Expect

No appointment is necessary—just come along and allow plenty of time to take part in the workshop.

Auditions will be relaxed and workshop-based, including:

- Script readings
- Simple movement exercises
- Singing one verse of a familiar Christmas carol

This is **not** a musical, so no formal singing experience is required.

Rehearsals & Performances

Rehearsals begin **Tuesday 7 October**.

Performances run from **Thursday 3 December to Monday 7 December**.

A rehearsal schedule will be issued after casting, and cast members will only be called when required.

Whether you're a long-standing member, returning to the stage, or joining us for the first time, we'd love to welcome you.

We hope you'll join us in bringing this much-loved Christmas classic to life.

Directors

Claire Schoonover & Pauline McGough

Charles Dickens



Directed by
Claire Schoonover

3rd to 7th December
Unión Musical de Gata
Tickets on sale in October

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Second Members, and guests, Club Night



On 5th June our members were entertained with a 2-hour theatre show. Rosemary and Roger Brown and Leigh Patterson presented their 2nd Members' club night to celebrate our 50th anniversary with a radio-style script in hand comedy ***Macbeth The Knife*** written by Bruce Kane.

Costumed, and read on stage with live sound effects, Shakespeare's finest were thrown into situations even the Bard never imagined !

After a short interval the second half of the evening began with the 2nd part of James Wards presentation on the history of Jàvea Players and was followed by three short comedy plays.

Rosemary, Roger and Leigh would like to thank all the actors, some new to Jàvea Players and our back stage crew for contributing to a relaxed, fun evening which was much appreciated by our audience.

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Open Mic Café

24th October: Jávea Players' Studio Theatre

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome family and friends to our 4th Musical Theatre showcase; The Open Mic Café! We hope your **Summer Nights are Drifting Away Supercalifragilisticexpialidociously.**

Your hosts Francesca & Lena want you to **Be Our Guest!** Let's face it; **There is no business-like show business**, so let's prepare for our next musical theatre night. We know that it is the summertime, **When the living is easy and the fish are jumping**, but please remember to dust off your song book, learn your next showstopper, pencil in the date, and **Come hear the music play!** Hope to see you then, we will **Thank you for the music.** //Francesca and Lena

Join us on in our Studio Theatre for our next Open Mic Café Night
Doors open at 6 pm, show starts at 6:30 pm.

€5 entrance fee includes 1st drink and snacks.

Tickets on sale 12th September

Behind the Scenes

JP Studio Film Club

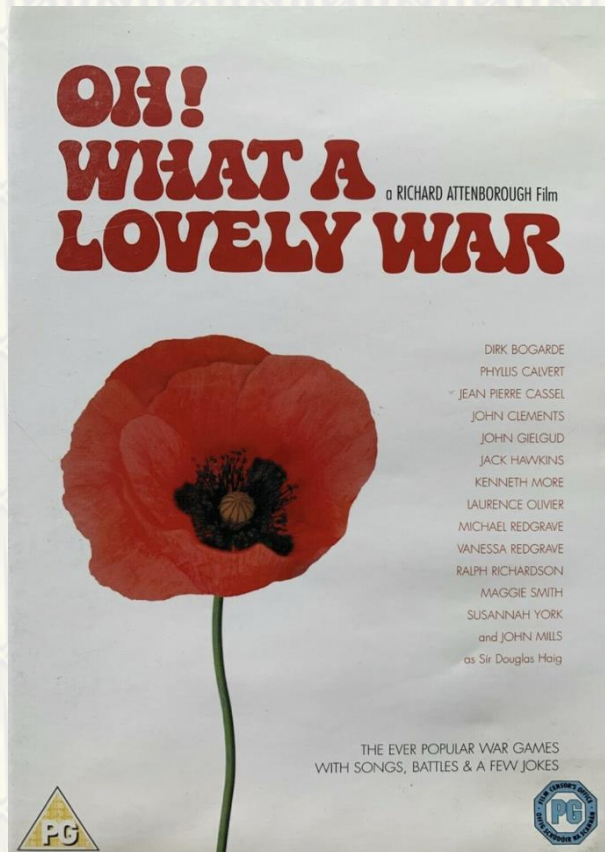


Continuing with the theme of projecting films which Jávea Players has produced as a play, ***Our Man in Havana*** was the chosen one on 17th June. It was the original 1959 black/white version, with a stellar cast including Noël Coward, Alec Guinness, Burl Ives, Ralph Richardson, Ernie Kovacs and Maureen O'Hara. Brenda Bates, Diana Jarvis, Penny Grant, Jen Keller Ward and myself brought a touch of Cuban colour to the proceedings, and Cuba Libre drinks were available. Jen recounted an interesting anecdote regarding the lady on the screen. It seems she can be found in a market in Old Havana where she's happy to be photographed in exchange for a donation - not to pay for much-needed dental work, but to help with her granddaughter, whose father is no longer on the scene. Hugh, who was Stage Manager for the Jávea Players production, related the incident during the play in 2016 where one evening the dining table [complete with tablecloth] which descended from the gantry, got stuck half-way down: the rope on one pulley jumped off the track, and got stuck. That raised one of the biggest laughs of the evening! The puppet dog, essential to the plot, was attached to the underside of the table [Lyndsey Johnson slipped underneath to manipulate it as it ate the poisoned food]. Smaller folding tables were quickly brought on stage and the Queen's corgi on wheels became the substitute, which slightly detracted from its surprise entrance towards the end of the play! Thanks, as always, to James and Jen for an entertaining evening, Brenda for collecting money on the door, plus Betty and Chris Waters for supplying the refreshments

Gillian Ashworth

Behind the Scenes

JP Studio Film Club



Our next film night, on 21st October, is going to be ***Oh What a Lovely War***, a musical play that was Jávea Players's first production in Benitachell Cinema in December 1987, nearly 40 years ago.

Following the success of ***Our Man in Havana***, we shall be expecting the audience to dress up, join in the singing and enjoy a few classic WW1 drinks that were favourites of the troops.

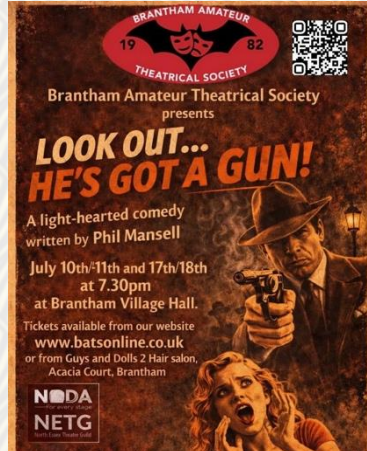
Wednesday 21st October @ 7:30pm, doors open 7:00pm

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

Booking essential by email: jamesguytonward@gmail.com

Behind the Scenes

Playwright Phil's Summer Hat Trick!



Jàvea Players playwright Phil Mansell is celebrating a remarkable summer, with three of his plays—two of which premiered with Jàvea Players—being staged at venues across the UK. In addition, his collection ***Six Pocket Plays*** has recently been published by Stage Scripts Ltd and is now available for licensed performance worldwide.

In May, his play ***Bats*** was performed by Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society. July saw Brantham Amateur Theatre Society have great fun staging his 1950s sleuth spoof ***Look Out – He's Got A Gun!***. Looking ahead to August, Phoenix Theatre Company in Ross-on-Wye will stage his Shakespearean send-up ***Poor Yorick!***, which was previously a hit as a JP summer production.

“I’m incredibly proud that drama groups are choosing to stage my work,” says Phil. “I now have over a dozen plays published, with performances spanning the globe—from Australia to British Columbia and Texas. It’s always a thrill to see how each production brings something new, as talented casts, directors, and production teams shape the work into something greater than the sum of its parts.”

He adds, “Writing a play is both demanding and deeply rewarding. It’s not just about putting dialogue on a page—it’s about creating characters who feel real, building tension without narration, and crafting lines that truly come alive in performance. It’s a challenging process, but seeing the finished piece on stage makes it all worthwhile.”

Alongside his playwriting, Phil has also written and illustrated a dozen popular children’s books, available on Amazon. He is currently working on the fifth draft of a darkly comic novel about a man whose already complicated life takes a turn for the worse when he accidentally hires a hitman.

Phil Mansell

Behind the Scenes

The workshop is on the move.



“A sad day. The final clean up after emptying the workshop ready for the new owner to arrive next week. Many thanks to the workshop team for their hard work” – **John Ranger**

Behind the Scenes

Exclusive Members (and Guests) event

The poster features a night scene with a starry sky and a balcony with string lights. On the left, a tree is wrapped in warm white lights. On the right, a balcony with tables and chairs is also lit with string lights. The text is overlaid on this background.

JÀVEA PLAYERS
50 ANNIVERSARY

JÀVEA PLAYERS
INVITES YOU TO

*An Exclusive
Members and guests
BBQ under the stars*

A relaxed evening of good food,
live music, dancing, laughter
and friendship ♥

 **SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026**
FROM 6.00PM

Save the date! ♥

Save the date! ♥

Faro Azahar
CALLE CAP NEGRE 3, BALCÓN AL MAR, JÀVEA

 **faro AZAHAR**
cocina mediterránea

★ **TICKETS ON SALE FROM 11TH AUGUST!** ★
more details to follow soon. ♥

Join us on Saturday 19th September for the exclusive Members (and guests) only event, to celebrate 50 years of Jàvea Players.

To keep us all going through a night of music, dancing and laughter you will be treated to a welcome drink, nibbles, BBQ with side dishes, desserts and coffee.

This event is to thank you, our Members, and all the wonderful volunteers that make Jàvea Players the vibrant community it is.

Details of how to purchase your ticket will be sent by email in August.

Behind the Scenes

Join the Spontaneous Acting Club (SAC)

Where spontaneity meets performance.

Have you ever wanted to become more fearless on stage? To trust your instincts, connect deeply with fellow actors, and develop the confidence to perform without a script?

The **Spontaneous Acting Club (SAC)** is a dedicated space for actors who want to strengthen their craft through the art of improvisation.

Whether you're looking to sharpen your instincts, become more present in your performances, or simply rediscover the joy of play, SAC offers a supportive and challenging environment where actors can grow together.

Through a series of practical workshops and ensemble-based exercises, we'll explore the foundations of improvisation—active listening, emotional availability, character creation, storytelling, status, relationships, and spontaneous scene work. Every session is designed to help you become a more confident, responsive, and versatile performer.

What you can expect:

Practical, hands-on improvisation training

A welcoming and collaborative ensemble

Exercises that build confidence and creativity

Opportunities to explore character, storytelling and scene work

A space to take creative risks without fear of failure

Who is it for?

SAC is open to actors, drama students, performers, and anyone with a genuine passion for acting. Whether you're completely new to improvisation or already have experience, all that's required is curiosity, commitment, and a willingness to say **"Yes, and..."**

Our Mission

At SAC, we believe improvisation is one of the most powerful tools an actor can develop. It teaches us to listen, trust, adapt, and respond truthfully in the moment. By embracing spontaneity and creative risk-taking, we cultivate actors who are more confident, emotionally available, and connected to both their fellow performers and their audience.

Improvisation isn't about being funny or having the perfect idea—it's about being present, supporting one another, and discovering what can happen when we let go of the need to get it right.

If that sounds like the kind of actor you aspire to be, we'd love to welcome you to SAC. For more information or to register your interest, please get in touch:

Zhangir Kassymkanov - zhangirkhan.k@gmail.com

SAC – Spontaneous Acting Club

Building fearless, responsive, and emotionally available actors through the craft of improvisation.

Behind the Scenes

What else is going on?

Want to join the next - Adult Acting workshop?



ACTING WORKSHOP
— FOR ADULTS —

 5 WEEKS FOR JUST €50	 18:30 – 21:00 TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER	 LED BY ADAM LAKE NEW YORK ACTOR
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This workshop covers a wide range of acting skills with an emphasis on scene work and 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.

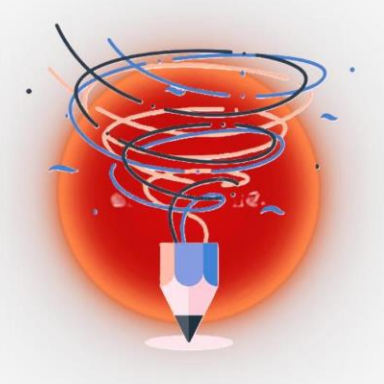
Please contact Adam at workshops@Javeaplayers.com to find out more about joining our next Adult Acting Workshop.

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

**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@ltiab.se

Behind the Scenes

Your Committee

Chairman	Alastair Wallace
Vice Chairman	Jacqui Scofield
Secretary	Helen Aitken
Treasurer	James Grigor
General Member	Lena Elster
General Member	Paul Twomey
General Member	Chris Waters

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

Props – Leigh Patterson

Publicity – Paul Twomey

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

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