**Studio Theatre Report 2024 – 2025**

This year the Studio has presented a number of very distinctive plays, all of which have attracted different audiences.

Thanks to all the individual production teams/crews for their hard work this season.

We started off with the Dennis Potter classic Brimstone and Treacle which attracted good audiences despite its controversial reputation.

Then we had Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey which proved to be another popular choice with audiences.

Next up was David Harrower’s Blackbird, which despite being very well received perhaps proved too hard a sell with its abuse-based storyline and audiences were mid-range though the week. Unfortunately, this show was also cancelled on the final night due to one of the actors breaking their spine on the Saturday morning!

All these plays have been supported by our Tech and Set Build teams, and despite the limited budgets and resources, they have consistently delivered high quality production values, so special thanks to them for this.

We also have the final show of the season yet to come, with the musical Side By Side By Sondheim starting next week. This looks like it is going to be a fantastic show, and one not to be missed. Nicki has been doing most of the production manager duties on this one due to my commitments to being in Blackbird, and my subsequent incapacity. Many thanks to her for stepping in and helping with this.

Also extra thanks to Elliott for picking up the day to day publicity tasks that I was unable to do whilst incapacitated.

Moving forwards, the number of Studio plays is dropping from four to three, in line with the plan to maximise resources and space, but this does not mean that there will be any drop in the quality of the shows, if fact it has allowed the choice of plays to be an eclectic mix of classic and new theatre which will be an exciting challenge to all involved. I wish all the upcoming directors and their teams the best of luck with their projects.

I am saddened to have to say that criticisms and accusations were made towards me and the way that I was fulfilling my production manager role earlier this year, and, although these were not upheld by those investigating them, I advised the EC that did not feel that could remain in any of my roles at the theatre, and that my position had become untenable and had become the subject of gossip.

Finally, again I’d like to thank all those who have supported the Studio this season, whether that has been via involvement in shows or just by coming to see them. Your support as ever is always much appreciated.

Matt Gray – QMT Studio Production Manager