



RSAF NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2023

- THEATRE - DRAMA - MUSIC - DANCE -

Welcome to Ringwood School's Spring Season of Performing Arts. In this issue find updates and reviews of Ringwood School Arts Foundation, Chicago!, Christmas Concert, Miss Saigon, Performing Arts Trip, New Staff and more - what an exciting line up of music and theatre we have planned!

We are always looking for people to join our friendly team of helpers. Perhaps you have fundraising ideas, admin or website skills to share or would like to help by selling ice creams, making up hampers for the raffle or just donating a gift - it all helps our students so much. *If you would like to find out how to get more involved just email us at hella@rsaf.co.uk.*

Thank you for joining Ringwood School Arts Foundation, we really appreciate your support.

COMING SOON

March 14 to 18

Miss Saigon

April 27

Natasha Barnes

'The Girl in the Golden Dress'

July 6

Summer Concert

July 14

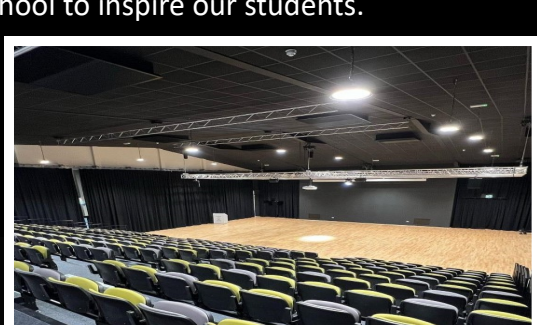
Year 7-9 Production - Annie

Plus news of more RSAF

events coming soon!

Ringwood School Arts Foundation

For over ten years, the RSAF charity has existed to support the performing arts in Ringwood School. A few years ago we spearheaded a fundraising campaign to replace the tiered seating in the hall and raised over £65,000. This seating has been cleverly incorporated into the new seating for 'The Barn' (pictured below). For the last few years, the Artist in Residence programme has allowed Ringwood School to have a professional musical theatre performer in the department for two to three days a week. This opportunity is very rare in state schools and it benefited staff and students in many ways. RSAF supports students to access dance classes and musical instrument tuition. We have also funded a visiting professionals programme, allowing us to bring a range of performers into school to inspire our students.



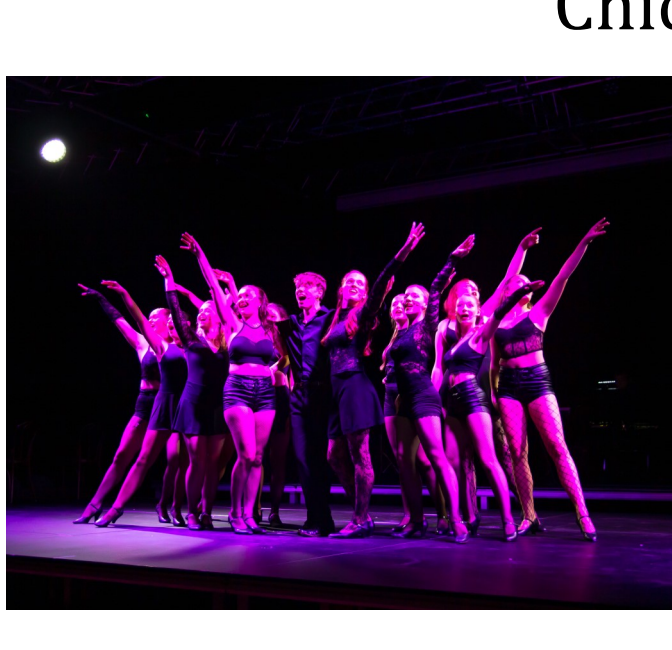
This year, the RSAF is funding a Music Artist in Residence programme which will reach over 300 students in Years 8 and 9. These students will have an opportunity to learn an instrument and, hopefully, inspire some of them to become musicians.

Please look at the website and become a Friend of the RSAF. The membership costs £15 minimum donation and we are returning to the pre-Covid19 policy of giving RSAF Friends priority booking for concerts and shows. Being a Friend will mean you are supporting the performing arts in the school AND it will allow you to be part of all sorts of special activities.

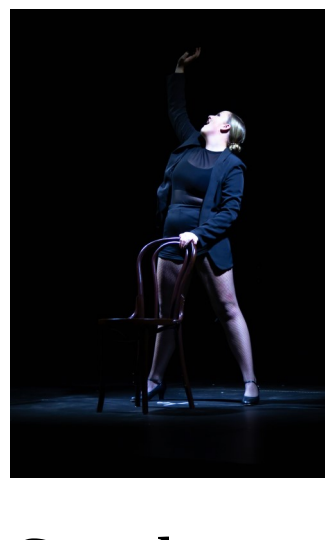
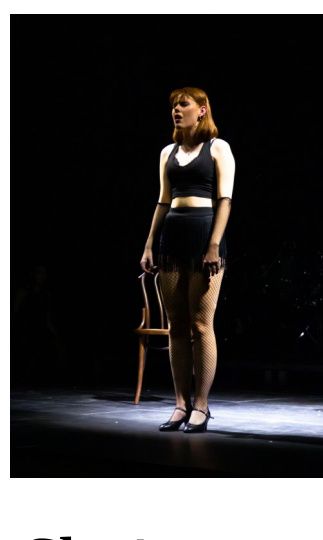
"The RSAF is very proud of all the support they have given to the school and of the enormous impact they have had on establishing the excellent reputation of the Performing Arts in the school. They are ambitious to do more. Please support them if you can."

Ian Hawkins, Director of Performing Arts, Ringwood School

Chicago!



Year 12 & 13 Performing Arts Musical Theatre students perform a musical every year as part of the course. Rehearsals are in lesson time with only a few hours spent putting the whole thing together in the performance space. This year, of course, the performance took place in The Barn which although very exciting, brought some challenges! We performed Chicago for two nights to over 600 people. As well as being impressed with the new space and the staging, audiences were blown away by the committed and assured performances of our sixth form students. The next 6th Form show will be announced at the end of Miss Saigon!



Christmas Carol Concert



We are delighted that, for the first time since 2019, we were able to perform our Carol Concert. Over 170 students were involved in the performances including singers, musicians, poets and readers. We included music and performers representing much of the music-making in school. The students have worked hard, rehearsing since September, juggling their other music, drama and dance commitments, rehearsals for Chicago, Miss Saigon, auditions, university interviews, schoolwork, mock exams and jobs. As always, we have enjoyed working with them and hope that it has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience for them too! We hope that the students will always remember their Ringwood School Carol Concerts with fond memories. We are so pleased that so many ex-students return each year to watch our Carol Concerts and reminisce about their time performing with us at Ringwood School.

Miss Saigon

Ringwood School Production 2023

We are excited to have a cast of over 120 students from Year 7 to Year 13 for this year's main school production of Miss Saigon. There will be six performances of this in March - from the 14th to the 18th. Rehearsals are going well. We were overwhelmed with the level of talent and determination on display at the auditions earlier in the year. Not only do we have the most amazing cast of principals for this show, but we can see all the talent going back to Year 7 for the future. Very exciting.

You can find the latest news and see some rehearsals by following @ringwoodschoolarts on Instagram or visiting www.rsaf.co.uk. Tickets will be made available to RSAF members (via email) from Wednesday 1st February at 5pm.



Miss Saigon is an epic, heart-wrenching adaptation of Puccini's opera, Madama Butterfly. Set during the Vietnam war, an American GI and a destitute Vietnamese girl fall in love in the turbulent days before the fall of Saigon. As the city falls the couple are torn apart and forced to find their own way in life, but their love story continues. With a sung-through score by the creators of Les Misérables, this passionate and emotional musical will take you on an intense journey of love and loss.

6th Form Residential Trip to London

As part of the Level 3 courses, we take our 6th Form Performing and Production Arts students to London for a four day residential! This year, we had a backstage tour at The National Theatre, went to The London Dungeons, had a set design lesson and tour at Harry Potter Studios and went to see Back to the Future, Choir of Man and Matilda.

One of the great things about going to London is the opportunity to see our ex-students who are now training or working there. A few students were very fortunate to have a quick back stage tour at Back to the Future. Amy Hill, who studied Production Arts with us in 2019 now works as a Costume Dresser for the show. All the students were also able to go up onto the stage in Choir of Man as Jordan Mills, an occasional guest tutor, is a member of the cast in the show.



We are incredibly lucky to have these connections in London. For those students wanting to work in this industry, it is vital to have a network of people that they know. This experience allows them to get to be in London for a number of days and live "the city life!". It is the best trip!

Year 11 Trip to 'Come From Away'



On Wednesday November 9th, our Year 11 Performing Arts and GCSE Music students, along with some sixth formers went to see the matinee performance of Come From Away. This award winning musical tells the story of a small community in Canada who host a lot of travellers who are stranded after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The students absolutely loved the show finding it both funny and moving. The design of the show is minimalistic, so that the power of the story comes through, this is great for both performing and production students as a lot of what they see could be replicated at school. In the Spring, we will be taking our Year 9 and 10 students to see the musical they have been or will study, Matilda.

RSAF Supporting Music

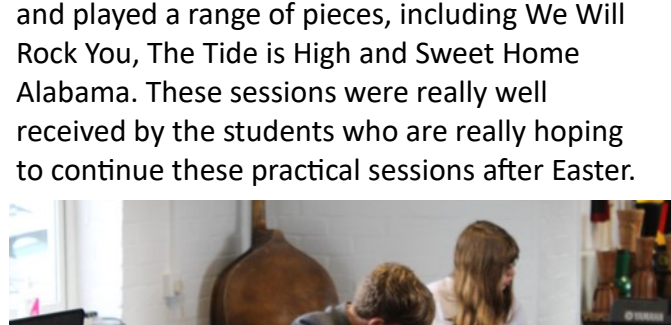


Year 8 Trumpet Lessons

A group of Year 8 students have started learning trumpet! These sessions have been a huge success, and approximately 90 students have had the opportunity so far. The rest of Year 8 will get this chance this term. The sessions have been run by Alex Needham, our brass and piano teacher, and funded by RSAF.

Year 9 Band Skill Sessions

Students studying the 'Music Pathway' as a creativity option in Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a Year 9 Band Skills project at the start of this term. They played a variety of different instruments typically found in a band, and played a range of pieces, including We Will Rock You, The Tide is High and Sweet Home Alabama. These sessions were really well received by the students who are hoping to continue these practical sessions after Easter.



BTEC Production Arts Course

We are very lucky to have a new performing arts technician. Mr Will Gilbert joined us in October - the day before Chicago! Mr Gilbert has worked extensively in theatre, on cruise ships and at Bird Conservatoire in London. He brings a wealth of experience and an enthusiasm and has already made a huge impact on our work.

There has never been a better time to be a Production Arts student! The Barn is an amazing space with lots of opportunities for students to work in a professional environment.

Students of all ages can now get a taster of Production Arts by joining two new clubs: Music Tech Club is on Monday and Production Club on Friday (both 3pm - 4pm).



Year 13 Success

This year, we have seven students auditioning for places in Musical Theatre. The application and audition process for this is gruelling and highly competitive. Each school has an average of 3000-3500 people auditioning for a course that will take between 30-60 students.

We are very pleased to say that Elizabeth Foster and Mel Simons have accepted places to study Musical Theatre and Film Acting at Chichester Uni, Morgan East will be studying Musical Theatre at Performers College, Essex and Sophie Dunning has accepted her place at Bird Conservatoire of Dance and Musical Theatre in London to study Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. We are very proud.

We wish all the luck to the rest of the students who have auditions booked over the coming months!

