

RSAF Newsletter Summer 2022



Congratulations to all our *CATS*!

We hope you agree that this year's main school show was nothing short of spectacular! Such a triumphant return to the stage. Ringwood School Arts Foundation is so proud to continue to support all those involved in our amazing school productions.



A Big THANK YOU to the Ringwood Community

The RSAF are enormously grateful to the generosity of Ringwood shop keepers and restaurateurs who so generously supported our incredible raffles during the recent musical production of *CATS*. During 'Show Week', we were able to run a raffle for audiences every evening, thanks to so many kind donations. Subsequently we raised over £2000 - a phenomenal amount! This has enabled us to fund our incredible Artist-in-Residence through one final term at Ringwood School.



Artist-in-Residence Mark Houston

Our decision to fund Artist-in-Residence Mark Houston through our charity has proved to be a wonderful success. This will be Mark's last term with us as he moves onwards to pastures new. How lucky we have been to have had him work alongside us.

Mark is an incredibly talented performer in his own right and has, during his time at Ringwood School, enriched the lives of so many of our students. He has provided extracurricular enrichment in dance, singing and instrumental tuition and has worked over and above his contracted hours. His commitment to the school has been incredible. The high esteem in which the students hold him and the energy and enthusiasm he can generate amongst them is testament to both his professional ability and also to his determination to do his best at all times for our students.

Thank you to Mark for all his work enhancing the Performing Arts in Ringwood School. We wish him well in future ventures.



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New Artist-in-Residence for Music!

Following Mark's success, the RSAF would like to fund a similar programme of enhancement next year. From September there will be a new Artist-in-Residence for Music and several visiting artists for the Performing Arts.

After the detrimental impact of Covid on music education, we are delighted to begin fundraising to support a programme where ALL students learning music in years 8 and 9 will be able to have small group tuition on a range of popular instruments. These lessons will be taught by Alex Needham who is excited to get started on this new project. Students will experience group tuition for half a term, receiving a half hour lesson each week.

There has been an alarming fall in the number of children playing musical instruments countrywide. At Ringwood School we are seeking to address this problem and Head of Music Mrs Himmel has come up with this wonderful plan which the RSAF is committed to supporting.

We initially need to raise £7000 but it is hoped that in due course we will be able to double that, bringing our funds back in line with pre-pandemic levels. We are very grateful to all our RSAF Friends for supporting us in our fundraising ventures.

Royal Night Out at *SIX the Musical*



A large group of RSAF members recently took advantage of the discounted tickets we were able to offer them and travelled to Southampton to see *SIX the Musical*, currently taking the country by storm! The *SIX* wives of Henry VIII took us all on a musical romp, singing out their individual stories and expertly supported by their 'ladies in waiting' - an all-female band who performed with the 'wives' on stage. Everyone loved the show and we look forward to further discounted outings. Read on for more...

Crazy For You Ticket News!

Join us and come along to our next RSAF Members' Outing, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 August 2022, to Chichester Festival Theatre to see *Crazy For You*, a Musical production starring Charlie Stemp!

In the past, the RSAF have been delighted to employ Charlie as a freelance choreographer for several school-based workshops. Following his starring role as Bert in *Mary Poppins* in the West End, Charlie is due to star in the Chichester production of *Crazy For You* this summer. Many of our students will remember working with him and will want to come and support him

We have managed to reserve 40 premium tickets at the centre of the front stalls. Normally these tickets would be retailing at £45/£55 but we are bringing them to RSAF members for the crazy discounted price of £30. These tickets will only be available from our Treasurer until Friday 15th July. First come first served!



You'd Be Crazy Not to Book...

To purchase ticket(s), please:

1. Transfer £30 per ticket direct to the RSAF: Ringwood School Arts Foundation, Sort code: 30-84-87, Account: 25846260, with Reference 'CRAZY <your name>'.
2. Follow up with an email to treasurer@RSAF.co.uk detailing the number of tickets you've paid for and the reference from your bank transfer.
3. We will send confirmation to you within 48 hours.

We look forward to seeing you on the night!

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RSAF Funds Bus to *Connections*

Ringwood School's performance of *Like There's No Tomorrow* at Salisbury Playhouse for the National Theatre's *Connections* 2022 was truly stunning. All the students had a wonderful experience working alongside and being treated as industry professionals. Thanks to your support, RSAF funds paid for the coach to transport all the students to the theatre (pictured right). More memories made!



Summer Showcase & Gala Concert

We are so looking forward to this year's Summer Showcase on Thursday 14 July followed by a very special Gala Concert Friday 15 July.

As usual tickets for this event will be advertised and can be purchased from the school. Priority booking will be given to cast members, but RSAF members will have a short booking window before tickets are put on sale to the public.

We would be grateful for any RSAF volunteers to sell raffle tickets and ice creams on these nights. Please contact our team by email at marketing@rsaf.co.uk if you are able to help. Thank you!

RSAF Cheese and Wine Evening

Following our successful social evening for RSAF members at the Elm Tree earlier in the year, we are organising another fun event to see in the summer. Our Cheese and Wine Evening will be hosted at Ibsley Village Hall, BH24 3NL at 7pm on Tuesday 5th July. Tickets are still on sale so grab one while you can - £10 per person (tables of 8).

The ticket price includes a drink on arrival (a glass of wine or a delicious 'non alcoholic fruit punch') and a 'Light Supper' of bread, cheese and a selection of cold meats etc. Supper will be served on sharing platters - one meat platter and one vegetarian platter per table.

During the evening some of our talented Ringwood School Performing Arts students will perform for your entertainment. Additional drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks) can be purchased from our bar and we will as ever be running a raffle.

To buy ticket(s), please:

1. Transfer £10 per ticket direct to the RSAF: Ringwood School Arts Foundation, Sort code: 30-84-87, Account: 25846260, with Reference 'CHEESE <your name>'. Remember it's tables of eight, so feel free to buy a whole table's worth of tickets and gather friends!
2. Follow up with an email to treasurer@rsaf.co.uk detailing the number of tickets you've paid for and the reference from your bank transfer.
3. We will send confirmation within 48 hours.



Become a Friend of the RSAF

After a tricky couple of years, it's been so great, and so important, to see the students performing again. Performing Arts, Drama and Music all help develop key life skills as well as confidence and life-long friends. We need your help, now more than ever, to enhance these opportunities for our young people. Please do visit our website and invite your friends and families to help support the Arts at Ringwood School - www.RSAF.co.uk

Andy Rix, Chair of the RSAF