



# THE FLYDAYS

Written by Monica Yell

Directed by Philip Leigh  
& Alyson Goodey

**1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**The Bear Pit Theatre  
Stratford upon Avon**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to "Heyday" a riotous new play crafted in the bold tradition of Noel Coward's work by Monica Yell, our gifted (almost resident) Playwright. The play and production is bursting with irreverent humour, frenetic energy, and unapologetic wit, in a piece which at its heart, is a unique collaboration between playwright and Director from the piece's inception. This is a show that defies neat categorisation - a swirling vortex of modern ensemble prowess, visceral physicality, and comedic swagger, where characterisation, timing, and pace are the heartbeat of our absurd odyssey.

In "Heyday " we subvert expectations at every turn. Our cast - a dexterous ensemble of talented performers - embody a kaleidoscope of zany characters whose manic interactions propel us into a hilariously skewed universe. Think farce married to razor-sharp comedy, that jolts, jives, and careers wildly off-kilter - often simultaneously.

Our world premieres a script that lurches joyfully between the surreal and the brutally funny, spotlighting characters who stumble, collide, and somersault their way through the plots slapstick minefield. At its core, "Heyday " skewers the absurdities of self obsession and hubris with gleeful impunity - a raucous cocktail of misadventures, narcissism , and obsession that's perpetually on the knife-edge of chaos.

The play centres on Leonora Bow a once-renowned actress whose star has waned - yet she's gripped by a desperate longing to recapture her glittering past. In a bid to reclaim her glory days, Leonora, with the help of Dotty, a physis saleswoman of dubious integrity, concocts a hairbrained scheme involving time travel. But as her temporal machinations go haywire, the fabric of the contemporary world begins to unravel with delirious consequences. Past and present collide, sending everyone - and everything - careening into bedlam.

As director, I've revelled in sculpting this pandemonium - marrying the fearless spirit of Coward's boundary-pushing legacy with a more contemporary resonances. "Heyday" isn't just a play - it's an invitation to surrender to the exhilarating mess of it all, where hilarity and humanity collide with gleeful abandon.

Buckle in. The mayhem starts now.



# CAST & CREW

Leonora Bow - Lynne Neale  
Young Leonora - Clara Abel  
Sylvia Bow - Eloise Essig  
Professor Roland Fairburn - David Hopkins  
Mr Bow - Rob Warnes  
Maud - Samm Lees  
Dorothy 'Dotty' Abernathy - Karen McDonald  
Errol Finch - Baz Stilinski

## Ensemble:

Elea Walker, Lisa Morris, Nicholas Milton,  
Diana Truchanova, Angharad James,  
Nick Johnson

Director - Philip Leigh  
Co-Director - Alyson Goodey  
Sound - Andy Jepson  
Lighting & Props - Andi Hardy  
Set Design - Adam Clarke & Graham Robson  
Costume - Jacqui Lindsay, Caroline Adams  
and Michelle Stead  
Backstage - Lisa Maxwell  
Rehearsal Prompt - Fiona Robson  
Front of House Manager - Lindsay Hogg

Finally, thank you to the dear members of Phoenix  
Players for their support with the set build and front  
of house duties.

Phoenix Players are a registered charity, and rely on donations and ticket sales to ensure we can continue to provide quality amateur theatre to the community- and a creative outlet to local people. We thank you kindly for your continued support and look forward to welcoming you to our next production. Information on how to book ticket, donate, or get involved (on or off the stage) can be found on our website, via the QR code to the right, or by emailing us.

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Psst- check out our next productions!

# Phoenix's Christmas Cracker

Join us for a night of festive fun- filled with songs, sketches and mince pies.

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December  
@ 7:30pm

Tiddington Community  
Centre

# HERCULES THE PANTO

WRITTEN BY  
CALLUM MCCORMICK

29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026  
The Methodist Hall, Stratford upon Avon