

# Rose Bowl

## News



### Winter 2022

#### Hello everyone

Gosh what a 2021-2022 Rose Bowl Season that was. Although we were just below pre-covid' entry numbers, the quality of productions, and the number of new clubs entering was very encouraging. We had a very successful Awards Ceremony on Sunday 27th November, when it was wonderful to meet once again to celebrate all things am-dram.

Unfortunately, earlier this year we lost our President, Joan Hawkins. A wonderful supporter of the Rose Bowl Awards who will be missed by all those who had the good fortune to know her. Our love and heartfelt sympathy goes to her family, especially Veronica Northam (Joan's daughter) who continues the family association with the Rose Bowl Awards. An Obituary by Gerry Parker can be read further on in this Newsletter.

#### Our New President

Following the sad news of Joan's passing, the Rose Bowl Committee would like to announce that they have asked Gerry Parker to be the new President of the Rose Bowl Awards.

Gerry has been involved with the Rose Bowl's since they started (Has he??) as an adjudicator, a committee member and of course host of the Awards Ceremony and it was felt that he is the natural successor. As well as his Presidential duties, Gerry will continue to adjudicate and attend productions.

#### Our Awards Ceremony

Thank you to everyone who attended the Rose Bowl Awards Ceremony, held at the Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel on Sunday 27th November. What an evening, it was joyous to be able to celebrate, in person, all the nominees and each category winner.

Rob McDonald was this year's host, and he did a superb job, considering he only had 4 days' notice due to Steve Blackmore going down with one of the many flu bugs going around at the moment. Thank you, Rob. We were delighted to welcome back our special guest for the evening, and great supporter of the Rose Bowl Awards, Ben Stock, who many of you know from the Bristol amateur theatre scene before he went to train at the Guildford School of Acting

and who is now an actor, director, musical director, cabaret performer and regular Ugly Sister!

Ben entertained us with song and story before announcing and presenting the winners with the coveted Rose Bowls. Two of the award winners were announced by video, Dominic Brewer, another actor who started his career in amateur theatre in the South West, and who is currently touring the UK in Fisherman's Friends, the Musical, announced the Best Actor in a Musical Award and our Best Musical Award was announced by Roger Bart and Ben Joyce, the stars of the West End production of Back to the Future, this was very kindly arranged by Mark Collins, another local lad done good. So, it was an evening of old friends and new.

Stewart McPherson was a very busy man photographing all the winners and through the evening so please do visit his website, [Mcpersonphotography.co.uk](http://Mcpersonphotography.co.uk) where you will find the Rose Bowl Awards folder. All the photographs are free to download.

All the winners and nominee information can be found in the Rose Bowl Awards website, [www.therosebowlawards.org.uk](http://www.therosebowlawards.org.uk)

**Date for your diary:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023, when we will be returning to the **Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel** for next year's Rose Bowl Awards Ceremony.



Rose Bowl Award Winners 2022



## Nominations Notifications 2022-23 Season

We would like to give you advance notice of a change to the way in which nominees will be advised of their nomination in a category from this Season.

Due to the problems experienced this year with the Royal Mail postal service, it has been agreed by the Rose Bowl Committee that individual nomination certificates will no longer be posted out to clubs. All nominations will be announced on the Rose Bowl website. At the same time the arrangements for purchasing tickets to the Awards Ceremony will also be emailed to the nominated clubs. This will ensure all nominees, be it a club or an individual, learn of their nomination at the same time.

## The Original Rose Bowl

At the Awards Ceremony we had on display the original Rose Bowl with a list of all the winners of it from 1963-1990. Most of the winning clubs are still going strong but some have sadly gone. You can find this list in this edition of our newsletter.

## A Rose Bowl Mystery

We have our very own Rose Bowl Mystery, and we would like your help please. We have a Rose Bowl that was won by Adrian Hill in 1993 for Merchant of Venice, and we would like to pass it on to either him or his family. However, we hold no personal information for Adrian so cannot give it to him.

Do you know him or his family? If you can cast some light on this mystery, please email [secretary@therosebowlawards.org.uk](mailto:secretary@therosebowlawards.org.uk) thank you.

## Professional or Amateur?

We would like to remind clubs entering that The Rose Bowl Awards are open to amateur clubs and performers not professionals. It is stated in the entry form, **Amateur (sic) shall mean any player who does not seek to earn a living by means of theatrical, cinematography, television or spoken word performance.** When it is seen in programmes that a performer is just going into or coming from paid performances as well as participating in an amateur production, they will be classed as professional. This will have a reflection on the production as a whole and will of course have a knock-on effect on possible nominations, not just for an individual but the whole production.

# Joan Hawkins

By Gerry Parker

When, after founding and supporting The Rose Bowl Awards for twenty years, the Bristol Evening Post decided to withdraw their support in 1991, their then Theatre Critic David Harrison, who had taken over that post from John Coe, who with the 'Posts' managing director Walter Hawkins, had instigated the Rose Bowl Awards, declared 'well that's the end of that'. Fine journalist and Critic that he was, David had a blind spot when it came to Amateur Theatre, being unable to find anything of merit in such a theatrical form.



'What makes you say that' I asked 'do you imagine all the clubs are now going to pack up producing shows and lose their interest in The Rose Bowl Awards?'. With the then secretary of the 'Awards' we quickly found a new sponsor in the Nat West Insurance group. After two years however they decided that they could not continue with their sponsorship cutting us adrift just as the new season was about to start. After a conference of war with the adjudicators, they agreed to work until Christmas without remuneration in the hope that a new sponsor could be found by that time.

When November arrived and no new sponsor was looming on the horizon things were indeed looking very dark for the future of the Rose Bowl Awards. It was then that I received a telephone call from a lady, Joan Hawkins. I had met her but once before, at an Awards ceremony held in the board room of the Bristol Evening Post. After enquiring what the present position was with the Rose Bowl Awards, she invited me, at the time it felt more like a summons rather than an invitation, to come to her home 'The Loans' to discuss the matter.

To say that I was apprehensive as I drove down that long drive to The Loans for the first time would be putting it mildly. As I was passed a cup of tea, I was so nervous that like Elizabeth, Hyacinth Bucket's neighbour in 'Keeping up Appearances', I was sure that I was about to spill it all over the carpet, finally dropping and breaking the cup and saucer. It was immediately obvious, fortunately, that my host was no Hyacinth Bucket, here was a lady genuinely interested in The Rose Bowl Awards, and very determined to ensure that her late husband Walter's theatrical brainchild, which she knew to be the envy of many local newspapers throughout the country, was not about to disappear into oblivion. I set out that day fearing for the future of the Rose Bowl and returned home sure that its future was secure.

Under Joan's guidance a small, but hard working, fully committed committee was quickly formed, ideas for fund raising, concerts, shows, productions and, events in the garden of the Loans appeared, all driven with fierce determination by Joan. Despite all these efforts on more than one occasion in those early days our new Treasurer Peter Stoppard, would have to announce that the adjudicators, and others requiring bills to be paid would have to wait until the coffers were replenished. Time after time at this juncture Joan would announce that she had not made a donation for some time and come to our financial rescue. Such gestures were never allowed to be heard of outside the committee meeting held at the Loans.

After the disastrous Awards ceremony at Leigh Court, Joan, with strong Support from Bernard Fennell, realised that running, and expanding the Rose Bowl, encouraging new Awards for Youth productions and performances, for technical achievement, at the same time keeping interest alive for classical theatre, was one thing, running a successful Awards evening was quite another animal. The sub-committee under the expert leadership of Richard Jones proved to be more than just adequate for the job turning, with Joan forever keeping a motherly, but always determined eye on plans, turning the Awards evening into a most prestigious theatrical event for local theatre.

When you look at the strong based firmly established position the Rose Bowl Awards now occupy it is almost impossible to remember the precarious position they were in when Joan made that initial telephone call to a very worried chairman. We have been very lucky to have had someone at our head who had such great love for the Awards, and put so much energy, time and commitment into building them into such a prestigious part of local theatre.

To say that we will miss her is like telling someone dying of thirst that they will not miss having a drink of water.

ROSE BOWL WINNERS ENGRAVED ON ORIGINAL SILVER BOWL 1963-1990

|  |                              |      |
|--|------------------------------|------|
| Taunton AOS                              | Call Me Madam                | 1963 |
| Bristol MCC                              | Oklahoma                     | 1964 |
| Bristol Light Opera Club                 | The Most Happy Fella)        | 1965 |
| The Swindon <u>Adastrians</u>            | Chrysanthemum )              | 1965 |
| Bath Operatic & Dramatic Society         | -                            | 1966 |
| Bath Operatic & Dramatic Society         | The King and I               | 1967 |
| Swindon Amateur Light Operatic Society   | Bitter Sweet                 | 1968 |
| Bristol Musical Comedy Club              | My Fair Lady                 | 1969 |
| Bristol Musical Comedy Club              | Camelot                      | 1970 |
| Bristol Light Opera Club                 | The Sound of Music           | 1971 |
| University of Bristol Operatic Society   | Ivan IV                      | 1972 |
| Bristol Light Opera Club                 | Fiddler on the Roof          | 1973 |
| Yeovil & District Amateur Operatic Soc   | Finian's Rainbow             | 1974 |
| The Mercury Players                      | Cabaret                      | 1975 |
| Bristol Amateur Operatic Society         | South Pacific                | 1976 |
| Bath Light Operatic Group                | Pickwick                     | 1977 |
| Headley Players                          | The Card                     | 1978 |
| Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society          | Annie Get Your Gun           | 1979 |
| Thornbury Amateur Operatic Society       | <u>Cowardy Custard</u>       | 1980 |
| Musical Theatre Co.                      | West Side Story              | 1981 |
| Headley Players                          | Godspell                     | 1982 |
| St Mary's Players Fishponds              | Calamity Jane                | 1983 |
| Bridgwater Amateur Operatic Society      | Godspell                     | 1984 |
| Bath Light Operatic Group                | 7 Brides for 7 Brothers)     | 1985 |
| Headley Players                          | Grease )                     | 1985 |
| Headley Players                          | Follow the Star              | 1986 |
| Glastonbury & Street Musical Comedy Club | West Side Story              | 1987 |
| Bath Light Operatic Group                | West Side Story/Kiss Me Kate | 1988 |
| Thornbury Amateur Operatic Society       | Orpheus in the Underworld    | 1989 |
| Bridgwater Amateur Operatic Society      | West Side Story              | 1990 |

