

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year to you all!

Well, what a Season 2023/2024 was! Our adjudicators drove over 5,280 miles to see 95 productions produced by 55 different clubs, groups and societies. All genres of production were seen, with casts ranging from two handers to 40+ on stage. It is so lovely to see that amateur theatre continues to thrive so strongly in the South West.

Congratulations to all the 2023/2024 Season Rose Bowl Award winners. A wonderful evening of celebration was had by those who could attend the Awards Dinner back in November. The weather was atrocious, but it was wonderful to see so many able to make their way through the storms to get to the ceremony. We were lucky enough to be entertained by our special guest Cassidy Jansen who sang two songs before announcing and presenting the winners with their Rose Bowls. You can find all the winners' details on the Winners page of our website.

We are aware of the ticketing issues that some clubs had this time and can confirm that we are investigating improvements for the next time. Please though, do be aware that we have a maximum capacity to comply with at our venue and tickets are allocated on a first come first serve basis, so please get your requests in early this year to avoid disappointment. We work very hard to keep the costs of dinner as affordable as possible and also in an accessible location for the majority of you. This means that we have fewer venue options and many of these have limited capacity. In 2025 we will be staying at the Bristol Marriott.

The Rose Bowl Awards entry fee that all clubs pay, together with the support of an endowment fund managed by Quartet Community Foundation, contributes towards the adjudication costs. However it doesn't fully cover it: in fact it is only due to the voluntary support and goodwill of a dedicated group of people who administer and fundraise to ensure all the costs are covered each year. The entry fee has stayed the same for many years now but, due to the recent and current increases in the costs involved, we need to advise you that the 2025/2026 Season entry fee will increase to £80 per entry, for productions being put on from 1st September 2025.

We also have a new adjudicator to announce. Helen Tompson has experience in theatre, radio, and film, and a Masters in Scriptwriting. Helen brings a strong understanding of storytelling to her role as an adjudicator. She has written and script-edited original works, and her passion for community theatre has led her to adjudicate for several years. We very much welcome Helen to the Rose Bowl Awards adjudicating team.

We wish you every success with your forthcoming productions this season and do please get in touch if there is anything you need to ask. We look forward to seeing a new set of nominees at our next Awards Dinner which will be held at the Bristol Marriott on Sunday 30th November 2025.