



THE
HOLROYD
COMMUNITY
THEATRE

A Theatre for Everybody

A Community Theatre for North
Shropshire & the Welsh Borders
at Moreton Hall

Sheila Reid

Patron, Actress & Old Moretonian

Sheila Reid has a long and distinguished career in theatre, film and television. She is best known for playing Madge Harvey in the ITV sitcom *Benidorm* and has performed in numerous other roles including Bianca in the 1965 film version of *Othello*, with Laurence Olivier, and Gower in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. Sheila's TV roles include *Casualty*, *Call the Midwife* and *Doctor Who*.



'Shared Experience' is the name of a theatre company I once worked with, and it epitomises the essence of Moreton's joint venture with the local community to build a theatre for everybody.

To have students from Moreton and the local community working together in this gem of a theatre is a truly thrilling project, and will be of enormous benefit to the community and everyone involved.

Drama played a hugely important part in my time at Moreton. A very shy student, it was only when I could lose myself in the skin of another person that I gained confidence. Experiencing how it felt to be someone else, speaking wonderful words, was gloriously liberating.

In the theatre, there is no place for barriers. Everyone is on a journey together, relying on each other, trusting each other; to create something beautiful and memorable...

“We are such stuff as dreams are made on...”

And now this dream is to become a reality, where Moretonians and local groups alike can explore and experiment together. What an addition to the cultural life of the community; and what a privilege to have such a magnificent theatre in which to spread your wings.

I am so proud to be involved.

Sheila Reid



*Moreton Hall
provides a superb
location for
professional and
amateur expressive
arts in an area with
a strong tradition
of performance.*

Outstanding drama groups in Llanfyllin, Rhydycroesau and Oswestry, professional cinema at Kinoculture, male and female choirs, all provide the richness of participation, although groups sometimes lack the size of venue for performance.

The demand for theatre by audiences who want to see first rate drama and cinema is undoubted – but again we are too often bypassed by groups who need an auditorium with a larger capacity and professional infrastructure.

The school's beautiful grounds provide the setting for a theatre with a capacity of 290. A bar creates a tranquil space for theatre goers to enjoy a pre-show drinks on the terrace.

Paula and I have had the privilege of living and working at Moreton for 25 years. We have always believed that the expressive arts – music, drama and art – provide all young people with opportunities to shine.

Everybody can participate in drama on the stage or back stage. In reality, drama is the ultimate 'team sport'.

Team work is the key to the success of this project - a shared vision by the people of our area for the people of Shropshire and the Welsh borders.

Without the generosity of Bill and Julie Holroyd, this project would never have been more than a dream.

With the support of other generous donors, trusts and foundations, the dream is taking shape.

On behalf of everyone at Moreton Hall and in the wider community, I ask that you support this project because with your support, the dream will become a reality.

Jonathan Forster
Principal, Moreton Hall

About the Community Theatre

The £1.4m 290 seat theatre has been designed by Tim Ronalds, an experienced theatre architect responsible for the restoration of the Hackney Empire.

The Community Theatre will change the cultural landscape of North Shropshire and the Welsh Borders as well as providing Moreton students with direct access to professional drama and theatre performances.

The £1.4m 290 seat theatre has been designed by Tim Ronalds, an experienced theatre architect responsible for the Hackney Empire in London. The theatre will offer the surrounding communities a stimulating and extensive programme of arts; local and professional performances in drama, dance, music, literary events and cinema.

With a mezzanine level to enhance the theatrical space, the theatre will have state of the art technical facilities; retractable and adjustable seating, professional lighting and sound equipment and proper theatre

ventilation. A generous glass foyer with bar and catering facilities will meet the needs of theatre-goers and have the dimensions to be used as an exhibition space.

As well as a venue for professional theatre productions, the theatre will be used by community groups, amateur drama societies and arts organisations. It will also be utilised by the surrounding primary and secondary state schools which will have access to the theatre as well as teaching, performances and workshops from the Moreton Hall drama department. Moreton's Face2Face Performance Academy will also be able to expand its programme of drama, dance and musical theatre.

A new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with governance drawn from the school and the community is being established to run the new theatre. This will ensure efficient management, and maintain the right balance and benefit between school curriculum, community use and extra curricular uses.

Funding of the Community Theatre is progressing well. In addition to the key donation, we have received major funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Millichope Foundation and the Walker Trust. We have also received generous donations from a number of parents and past parents.

This support along with a commitment from the school means that we have reached well over £1 million of our £1.4 million funding target.

***But we need
your help to bring
the Community
Theatre to life!***



Front elevation of
the Community
Theatre

The People behind the Vision



The inspiration behind the Community Theatre is Bill and Julie Holroyd. As well as being Moreton parents, Bill is the founder of the OnSide Youth Zones, a partnership between the public and private sectors building inspiring youth centres. Along with sports and creative arts activities, young people from all backgrounds receive support with their careers.

Bill and Julie are the impetus behind the Community Theatre. Having seen the positive results of drama, through their own daughter's education at Moreton, Bill and Julie are keen to extend those same opportunities to other local students. They also see the need and potential for the community theatre and drove the vision forward in 2015 by an incredibly generous donation of £500,000.

"We are hugely enthusiastic about the new theatre project. Drama is at the heart of Moreton Hall and thousands and thousands of pupils have benefited from being involved in the exceptional productions that we have come to expect. Now is the time to take this facility to the next level and to reach out into the community so they too can take advantage of this wonderful asset. We are proud to be part of the team."

Bill & Julie Holroyd

“I can clearly see the need and the benefit of having a purpose built theatre space in the vicinity of Oswestry.

The theatre would be an excellent resource for the local community (schools, musical groups etc) to use and also a benefit to the wider community in having a viable venue for hosting shows by travelling theatre groups, comedians, musicians etc.

I firmly believe that this Community Theatre will be a vibrant on-going concern, of immeasurable benefit to the community.”

Debra Watson

Vice-Chair, Attfield Theatre, Oswestry

“It would be an excellent addition to theatre space in the Oswestry area. The LADS (Llanmynech Amateur Dramatic Society) would be very keen to run workshops for the public and for your school. Your project is so exciting and we hope that the LADS may be part of it.”

Pam Johnson

Llanmynech Amateur Dramatic Society

*Moreton Hall
production of
'CATS'.*



"The Community Theatre will benefit not just Moreton Hall but the local community. The ingenuity and enterprising spirit of the students cannot fail to impress and I commend their hard work and dedication to such a worthwhile project. I look forward to seeing their plans become reality."

Lord Hague of Richmond



Moreton Hall
production of
'Little Shop of
Horrors'.



Drama at Moreton has always been excellent, for a non-specialist non-selective school, the standard of performances is quite astonishing.

If the girls can achieve what they do in the current learning environment they rehearse in, imagine the level they could take it to in a professional theatre! The girls at Moreton have a desire to achieve their full potential like no other pupils I have worked with before, their work ethic is astounding and if they can't make something work initially, they continue to push themselves until they achieve what they set out to.

Having a professional theatre where the girls can experiment with staging, lighting, sound and special effects will not only enhance the overall effects of productions but also the standard of their performances for GCSE and A Level Drama and Theatre Studies. We will be able to offer technical courses allowing our pupils to have access to a broader range of courses and offer many routes to study.

A theatre at Moreton would give pupils self-worth and confidence to aim and achieve high, but most of all, it would allow them to have the opportunity on a daily basis to work, study and rehearse in a professional environment which will undoubtedly raise standards.

Kate Howells
Head of Moreton Drama



Moreton Hall
production of
'CATS'.

'Play your Part'

How You Can Help

We have now come to the end of the first phase of fundraising and have reached a total of £1.1 million of the £1.45 million needed. Planning permission has been granted for the project to proceed.

This theatre is turning from a dream to a reality. However without further generous support, we will not complete the Theatre Project within the two year timescale that we have planned.

To ensure that this building is completed within the next two years, we are launching a public appeal for £300,000 and we need your help. Your donation however great or small, will secure Moreton and the community the theatre that we deserve.

Be a Founding Patron

£1000

Support the very beginnings of the Community Theatre by becoming a founding Patron. As well as having your name on the front row seats of the Theatre Auditorium, your donation will be prominently acknowledged on the Board of Donors in the foyer of the Theatre. You will also be invited to the annual Patrons Production and Drinks.

Find Your Seat

£500

Sponsor a Seat to support the Community Theatre. A great way to remember your time at Moreton as a Moretonian, Old Moretonian, Parent, Past Parent or supporter of the Community Theatre. Your name will be engraved onto a brass plaque and fixed onto seats within the Theatre Auditorium.

Sponsor a Spotlight

£250

Shine the light on Theatre productions by sponsoring a Spotlight. High-tech lights are expensive and we are looking for donations towards the lighting costs of the Theatre.

For further information about the Community Theatre, please contact Katy Tanner, Development Director at foundation@moretonhall.com

Moreton Hall
FOUNDATION



Charity Registration No: 528409