



## About Us

The Crescent Theatre is an established and key venue in Birmingham and is an important part of the local arts scene.

Operating from our purpose built theatre situated on Sheepcote Street, we are in the unique position of having our own resident in-house company whilst also playing host to a myriad of amateur societies and professional companies. Our modern 300+ seat theatre, intimate studio spaces and well appointed bar (all with extensive technical facilities) offer great flexibility of performance space to all.

As one of Birmingham's oldest theatre companies, we have been entertaining audiences with all things theatrical for over 80 years. The strong tradition of creating quality theatre is at the heart of The Crescent and our artistic intent is underlined by our policy of producing seasons of well-known classics woven with a blend of new and innovative works for audiences in the Midlands.

At the cornerstone of The Crescent is the membership and without their dedication our theatre could not exist. Members, past and present, have demonstrated a commitment that should not be forgotten and their enthusiasm has brought the company far as we continue to strive for excellence in pursuit of the arts. In return, The Crescent provides opportunities for members to experience, learn and develop their interests and skills in theatrical arts at the very highest level.

The Crescent Theatre Company has also developed new ways to bring theatre to the surrounding area by way of Crescent events, such as our Summer Tour and the immensely popular Christmas Wassail. All this along with Crescent Cinema, Crescent Youth Theatre and so much more is achieved without any regular funding from the local authority or Arts Council.

In addition to the more traditional aspects of theatre, we have had to diversify to survive. As part of our hire operation, we provide everything from costume, furniture, props and set hire to corporate meeting space, conference space and rehearsal space. We are also actively fund raising to enable us to keep the theatre going for future generations, and for the benefit of the people who will enjoy The Crescent for many years to come.

## Crescent Membership - Joining Information

When you join The Crescent you open up a world of opportunity. Whether you are a seasoned performer or just fancy trying something you've never done before there is plenty on offer to all.

Once you have submitted your application form you will be invited to an induction and tour of the theatre, during which we will discuss with you any areas you're particularly keen to experience, such as properties or costume, lighting or sound design. We will then pass your details on to the relevant Head of Section who will be in touch to get you started.

Once you are a member the world (or at least the theatre) is your oyster! So if you initially joined because you like to serve coffee, but then discover a yearning for lighting design you can always contact the Head of Section and have a go.

# **Crescent Membership – Volunteer Agreement**

The Crescent is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among our members. The aim is for our membership to be truly representative of all sections of society and for each member to feel respected and able to give of their best.

## **1. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The Crescent Theatre Company promotes equality, fairness and respect for all. The Board of Management commits to:

- Encourage equality, diversity and inclusion within the membership;
- Create an environment free of bullying, harassment and discrimination and one where the contributions of all are recognised and valued; ;
- Promote dignity and respect for all,
- Ensure that all members understand that they can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment or discrimination against fellow members;

The Board of Management will take seriously any complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by members. Such acts may result in cancellation of membership and expulsion from the theatre.

## **2. Induction and Training**

We will provide:

- Orientation to the Crescent through a New Member Induction Meeting. The induction will include a tour and will provide information on the building, health and safety, the structure of the Theatre Company, Board of Management, staff, and your obligations as a member;
- A membership card with a photograph of you, which doubles as an ID badge and will grant you access to the building (replacement cost is £5). You can also purchase a range of Crescent branded items, including t-shirts and name badges.
- Adequate training and feedback in support of our Health and Safety Policy, a copy of which is available from the Theatre Manager or the Members Manager.
- Assistance to members with any disability or specific needs, to enable accessibility to as many Sections as possible, providing it is safe to do so and complies with the theatre's Health and Safety Policy.

## **3. Support**

We will help you to develop your membership role with us and recommend getting involved with different Sections as an excellent way to develop your skills and learn about theatre etiquette behind the scenes.

We like to keep our members updated via a weekly newsletter with Front of House availability, audition details, members for members events and lots more. You will also be invited to join our Facebook Members group, which serves as a forum for all members to keep in touch and share news, thoughts and information.

## **4. Problems**

We would hope to resolve fairly, any problems, grievances or difficulties you may have as a member and in the event of an unresolved problem, offer the opportunity to state your case to the Board of Management.

## **5. Insurance**

We will provide adequate insurance cover for members whilst undertaking voluntary work that is approved and authorised by the Board of Management.

## 6. Front of House Duties (FOH)

As a Member of the Crescent you are required to acquire a minimum of 8 Front of House (FOH) 'points' in your membership year. There are many FOH opportunities and we encourage you to get straight in and sign up. This is a great way of getting to meet the staff and other members and seeing what we're all about, as well as supporting the theatre and all of the companies that perform here.

FOH duties are:

- Steward (1 point) – check audience tickets, sell programmes and ice creams, maintain the safety of the audience throughout the performance.
- Coffee (1 point) – serve audience from Coffee Bar
- Bar (Half = 1 point/Full = 2 points) – serve audience from Main Bar.
  - Bar duties can be split into two halves:
    - 1st half equates to 1 hour prior to the start of the earliest performance to after the final interval has finished;
    - 2nd half equates to before the start of the first interval to the end of the night.

Duties performed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are also rewarded with a voucher for a free ticket to any Crescent Theatre Company production (excluding the Christmas Wassail). A commitment of just one afternoon or evening a month will allow you to fulfil your FOH commitment, whereas just four full bar shifts gives the required eight points.

## 7. Grades of Membership

### Full Member

#### Commitment:

- £60 annual fee (£25 for unwaged/student/above state pension age)
- Eight front of house points per year through completion of FOH duties.

#### Benefits:

- Discounts on tickets for all Crescent Theatre Company productions
- Subsidised car parking\*
- Entitlement to take part in productions (onstage & backstage)
- Receive copy of the newsletter
- Opportunities for training in different theatrical disciplines
- Insurance cover for activities approved by the Board of Management
- Limited Company Membership (unless you opt out)
  - Entitlement to attend and vote at the AGM
  - Receive copy of the Accounts
  - Eligible for nomination for election to Board of Management after one year as Full Member

## 8. Car Parking

As a Member of the Crescent you are able to access the subsidised car park facility at BrindleyPlace.

Subsidised car parking is **only** for use when undertaking a Front of House duty, rehearsing, performing, or working backstage, e.g. set building, etc. and cannot be used when watching a show as an audience member or for any other purpose. An electronic record of car park usage is maintained by QPark and abuse of the system may result in suspension of your parking ticket or termination of your membership.

## 9. Zero Tolerance

The Crescent has a zero tolerance policy in respect of aggressive, verbal, racial or physical behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse either on the premises or prior to attending the Theatre. Any such behaviour, or reasonable suspicion of such behaviour may result in the immediate ejection from the premises and termination of your membership.

## 10. Declaration

By becoming a Crescent Theatre Company Member, you agree:

- to help the Crescent fulfil its services to both its customers and its membership;
- to follow the organisation's procedures and standards, including the Health and Safety Policy;
- to fulfil the required number of front of house duties for my membership year
- to meet time commitments and standards agreed to and, when this is not possible, to give reasonable notice so other arrangements can be made;
- to agree to a criminal record check where deemed necessary by the Board of Management;
- to provide updated contact information as necessary;
- to perform my membership role to the best of my ability.

The Members and Staff are an important and valued part of the Crescent. We hope that you enjoy being with us and feel a full part of our team.

**Ready to Join?** Complete the application from on our website:

<https://www.crescent-theatre.co.uk/membership-application-form/>