



# Press Release

Medway Little Theatre - Medway Little Theatre Youth Sections

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## **Duncan Rand One Act Play Festival 2023**

What: 50 Years of the Duncan Rand One Act Play Festival

Where: Medway Little Theatre, Rochester

When: Youth – Thursday 6th July - Friday 7th July, Adult – Tuesday 11th July – Gala night on Saturday 15th July.

Details:

Tickets are available at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mlt](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mlt)

The 50th anniversary of the Duncan Rand One Act Play Festival takes place at Medway Little Theatre in Rochester over the next two weeks. Local amateur dramatic groups were invited to participate. This festival brings together local and international groups both new and familiar, producing original and published productions in the spirit of the friendly competition, which strives to raise standards, forge friendships and to entertain the audience and participants alike.

50 years ago, Duncan Rand decided to start a one-act festival for groups in Kent with the help of Luke Taylor, an experienced hand at organising such events. After Duncan's death in 1981, it was suggested that the festival be named after him, as a tribute to his driving force and guiding hand in the development of this theatre, and in memory of a sincere and lovable man.

Our youth sections will be entering three plays into the youth week – "We're All Zoomed" by Andy Bennison, "Heavens Above" by Diana Raffle, and "Profs Big Idea" by Geoff Bamber, alongside productions of "LGBTeen" by In the Margins Theatre Company, "Natives" and "Ten Minutes" by Bayside & Westside Drama Group.

The adult week has entries from United players with "Why Me?", Chandeliers with "Finding Jenny", FamDram with "Towpath", Alternate Shadows with "The Matchless Orlinda", "Audience" and "Social Distancing", Hempstead Players with "Looking for Dr. Parkinson", Cobham ADS with "Heaven's Waiting Room", Willington Players "The Amazing Hat Mystery" and "Jam and

Dame Judy” and ROAN Theatre Company with ”Four Freaks from Iowa”, culminating with the gala night on Saturday 15th July where up to three plays will be invited back to perform once more.

These plays will be adjudicated by Amanda Conroy-Sharpe, who recently also adjudicated The Kent Drama Association Full Length Play Festival 2023.

Tickets can be purchased from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mlt](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mlt)

More information about the festival and the theatre please visit our website [www.mlt.org](http://www.mlt.org)

We are excited to once again be hosting Bayside & Westside Drama Group from Gibraltar, who will be entering two plays; ”Ten Minutes” – an original play by Julian Felice, and ”Natives” by Glenn Waldron. The group’s visit has been made possible thanks to funding via a cultural grant from Gibraltar Cultural Services and through sponsorship from Gibraltar-based D&H Ceramics. You can visit the Gibraltar Cultural Services website on [www.culture.gi](http://www.culture.gi) and the Gibraltar Tourist Board’s official website on [www.visitgibraltar.gi](http://www.visitgibraltar.gi)



Attending the festival with an informal visit, and to support Bayside & Westside Drama Group at Medway Little Theatre will be the Honorable Professor John Cortes MP, Gibraltar Minister for Culture as well as various other responsibilities, including Education, the Environment and Public Health. He is accompanied by Edward Dove, representing Gibraltar Cultural Services.



Julian Felice is an award-winning Gibraltarian playwright and former Medway Little Theatre Youth Leader. For further information about Julian Felice please see the press release at the bottom of this page.

### **Gibraltar Press Release**

**LOCAL DRAMA GROUP SEEKS FIFTH WIN IN UK FESTIVAL** Bayside & Westside Drama Group will once again be travelling to Medway Little Theatre in Rochester (Kent) next month to take part in the Duncan Rand Youth One Act Play Festival. The group will be performing ”Natives” by Glenn Waldron and directed by Natalie Bonavia, and ”Ten Minutes”, an original play by the group’s director Julian Felice.

This is the eighth time that the group has participated in the Duncan Rand Festival, winning their last four appearances in the event, most recently last year with their production of *The Blue Whale*. Their participation reflects the group's close relationship with Medway Little Theatre's Youth Company, who in turn take part in the Gibraltar Drama Festival every year. The group's participation has been made possible thanks to funding from Gibraltar Cultural Services and sponsorship from D&H Ceramics.

A story about three young people trying to figure out their place in the modern world, *Natives* received an excellent adjudication at this year's Drama Festival, with Nicholas Raggio winning Best Youth Actor and Esther Tricker and Matthew Navas receiving nominations in their respective categories. For its part, *Ten Minutes* came second in the 2021 Drama Festival and won Best Original Play. The absurdist tragicomedy is one of Julian's most successful plays, having been performed twice in London and once in New Jersey, but this will be the first ever all-female production of the play, with Molly Sawyer joining Esther on stage. Rhiannon Hodgson completes the group, providing technical support under the supervision of adult leader Emma Cruz.

