

The Friends Of The Playhouse is run as a completely independent organisation which was established in 1990 to assist The Playhouse Trust in its efforts to convert the derelict Playhouse Cinema into a new Arts Centre.

Alnwick Playhouse is now firmly established as one of the leading small venues in the North of England, with a broad and accessible programme that includes the very best in professional dance, drama and music. There are also regular film screenings and the venue is home to a wide range of local amateur groups. The Playhouse Trust has worked hard to develop an educational and outreach programme that seeks to promote the arts in every corner of the Alnwick District.

All of these achievements would have been impossible without the active support of The Friends Of The Playhouse. The Friends have raised substantial funds to equip and maintain the theatre – buying the lighting board and cinema projector, decorating the dressing rooms, assisting with the purchase of new seating, and many other projects.

**FRIENDS DISCOUNT** Members pay a small annual subscription, and in return receive a discount of 50p on their tickets for all film screenings and professional events promoted by The Playhouse Trust. They also receive three mailings a year giving them full information about The Playhouse programme.



There are occasional social events, and members of the Friends often act as stewards at performances and help distribute leaflets and posters. If you have the time and energy to help us in this way then please enquire at the box office during normal opening hours.

The Friends has its own constitution and an AGM is held every Autumn. Copies of the constitution are available from the Box Office.

### What Does It Cost?

Membership costs £10 for individuals, or £15 for a family. Children and senior citizens can join at the reduced rate of £8 with a special price of £12 for senior citizens and spouse.

Subscriptions can be paid at the Box Office. Please complete and submit the attached form. All renewals are due on April 1st, but members joining after October 1st qualify for extended membership until April 1st of the following year.

Please remember that these suggested rates are minimum guidelines only. We keep subscription rates very low to encourage as many people as possible to join. Many members choose to pay more and their generous support is greatly appreciated.

## Friends Membership Form

I/ We wish to join The Friends of The Playhouse and enclose a cheque/ cash for the sum of £..... made payable to The Friends of the Playhouse

I/ We wish to join The Friends of The Playhouse and would like to pay by Standing Order

To (Name and address of Members Bank) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make annual standing order payments to 'The Friends of the Playhouse' on 1st April in accordance with the details shown below until this order is cancelled by me/ us. This order cancels any previous orders under the same reference number.

Please debit my/ our Account numbered \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Annual Payment

£.....(in words) .....

First payment to be made on ..... and thereafter annually on 1st April

GIFT AID  I would like the Alnwick District Playhouse Trust to reclaim tax on all donations made since 6th April 2000 until further notice, having paid at least as much in UK Tax.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to 'Friends of the Playhouse', The Playhouse, Bondgate Without, Alnwick, NE66 1PQ

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY 'THE FRIENDS OF THE PLAYHOUSE'

Lloyds Bank, Bondgate Within, Alnwick  
Sort 30-90-13 Account No 00124619

Ref No: .....

## The Playhouse

The Playhouse was built in 1926 and originally operated as a Cinema and occasional Music Hall. It prospered for many years before changing public tastes led to falling audiences and an 800 seat auditorium became unviable.

The Cinema closed, and the building was bought by the Northumberland Theatre Company who converted the ground floor into a rehearsal and administrative base for their touring productions. They changed their name to NTC Touring Theatre Company, and although still based in The Playhouse, their productions now tour throughout the country.

In 1983 a group of local people came together to form a new and entirely separate organisation – The Alnwick District Playhouse Trust – with the intention of drawing up plans to convert the derelict balcony of the former cinema into a new Community Arts venue. A ninety-nine year lease was agreed in 1989, and the new Playhouse Theatre was opened by His Grace The Duke Of Northumberland on December 12th 1990.

In 1993 The Trust acquired an adjoining property, and began a second phase of major building work to create a new box office, foyer gallery and create full access throughout the building. This work was completed during the summer of 1996, and the new facilities were officially opened by Lord Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council of England on November 6th 1996.

The new Playhouse is one of the most attractive and successful theatres in the North of England. It presents an incredibly broad yet accessible professional programme that embraces film, music, dance and theatre. The auditorium is regularly used by a wide range of local amateur and community organisations. The accommodation also includes a small gallery and a community darkroom.

The Playhouse  
Bondgate Without  
Alnwick  
Northumberland  
NE66 1PQ

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# Join the Friends of The Playhouse



**Alnwick Playhouse**