

SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2025

Edited by Doug Craig

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May, the month of merriment, is upon us so get your maypole out, tie a few ribbons on it and enjoy yourself.

Life at Stage One is pretty busy at the moment. The Railway Children is reaching its climax, the Big Move out of the flat behind the stage is almost complete, this will be our last production to have the use of it. We are looking for a replacement production for October, as Move Over Mrs Markham is no longer on the cards. Harmony Choir is learning some new (difficult!) music so watch out for the next concert.

Rita, our cherished Box Office guru, has been unwell and hospitalised recently. We wish her a speedy recovery, not just because we like her but because we need her!

We need more techies up in the balcony, so if anybody out there fancies themselves as a future wizz on lights, sound, computers etc., please contact Clive Richards the Tech Manager, You don't need previous experience as full training will be given.

Don't forget to book your seats for the Railway Children. Not to be missed!



boxoffice@stageonetheatre.net

or 99967737.

"A MUST SEE FOR ANYONE WITH
A HEART - OR A HOMETLAND"

WE WILL RETURN

RAJ'EEN

راج عین



MAY 31
SAT 7:30PM

MARKIDIO THEATRE
PAFOS



*Join us for
a powerful night of purpose*

*Your 15€ ticket goes straight to
helping an orphan in GAZA*

Secure your seat at: RajeenOnStage.com

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ALA KHALIL

Raj'een is not just a play. It's a return.

To memory. To identity. To a homeland that lives within us.

This powerful production tells the story of Ahmad, a Palestinian forced from his land, who carries the unshakable hope of return — even as borders rise and doors remain closed. Through theatre, Dabkeh, and storytelling, *Raj'een* speaks to every displaced soul still dreaming of home.

Brought to life by a multinational cast aged 7 to 70, all living here in Cyprus, and under the direction of respected English theatre directors and myself — a daughter of Palestine — this play is a tribute to the spirit of return.

All proceeds go to Orphans in Gaza.

If you can't attend, you can still support through our GoFundMe campaign.

Visit www.rajeenonstage.com for full details.

Ala Khalil

Scriptwriter & Director

THE INTERVIEW

Spotlight talks to – Jezebel Groove



Jezebel Groove

Q1. Where did you grow up? Tell us a bit about your youth and career...and

Q2. What was your first experiences of singing and theatre?

I'm from what has been officially declared the world's 5th most boring place in the world, so we won't dwell on that, but initially I qualified as a nursery nurse, then decided adults were more interesting than children, and my actor brother

got me a job in the local theatre as an usherette, beginning a career in the UK provinces and London's west end in which I did absolutely every job that there is in theatre, except cleaner and performer. My last job before I left the UK was as Relief Theatre Manager for a group of twelve west end theatres, where I was given a different theatre to run every night. But by this point I'd discovered karaoke, and spent my one night a week off singing in a variety of bands until meeting Paul, who was looking for a new singer for his duo playing the working men's clubs and pubs of the South East. I loved the singing but not the venues, and in 2002 we packed all our belongings into his transit van and drove to a Greek island.

Q3. When did you come to Cyprus and why?

After two summers in Zakynthos, the local live music rules were making life difficult, and Cyprus seemed a compromise.

Q4. When did you join Stage One?

We were working as a man & van service (one of many additional jobs done in order to survive) and Paul Minvalla and Peter Sandwith rang us wanting some flats delivered to the army base for The Rose Bowl competition. I went along and cried tears of joy to find a real theatre in Paphos. I joined immediately, and it was Stage One Theatre who finally let me complete those two missing jobs: Cleaner and Performer (though I've not actually been paid for performing!).

Q5. What has been your favourite production and acting role in the group?

Playing Maria in *The Sound of Music* was wonderful, but the best night of my life was the one woman musical *Tell Me on a Sunday* last year. It took me an hour to get from the pass door to the other side of the auditorium afterwards as so many people stopped to hug and congratulate me.

Q6. As both a singer and a DJ do you have a favourite genre of music?

Absolutely musical theatre, but I rarely get to sing it and never play it as a DJ.

Q7. You are known as a journalist and broadcaster as well as for your performing skills. Which area of work gives you the most satisfaction?

The early days on Rock FM when it was a real local, live station are fabulous memories, and I still laugh at the ridiculousness of my being Head of English News at Paphos TV – I had never watched the news before, and never since, but that was such a challenge – nobody else at the station spoke English and I had to use sign language to direct the cameramen and editors. Being on radio and TV every day meant I couldn't use the main supermarkets as I got recognised and stopped all the time – that doesn't happen any more. Most satisfaction? Singing in a musical.

Q8. What show would you most like to see Stage One perform and would we be able to cast it?

Mamma Mia – but the EU rights aren't out yet. Maybe we could do my own version, *Abbaphrodite Fabulous*, instead? Really, any musical that hasn't been done here recently. I believe we could cast anything, if we cast our net further: there are loads of people out there who would love to be on stage but haven't joined us yet.

Q9. Which professional musical comedy stars have had the greatest impact on you?

Julie Andrews, Barbra Streisand...but it's lyrics and melodies that inspire me more than performers.

Q10. If you had words of advice to give to give to actors who may be less musically experienced but are required to sing on stage, what would they be?

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC. First, listen and concentrate on the original, and then listen to the backing music (recorded or live), and familiarise yourself with both, before even starting to sing along. And when you do, again, listen to the music and sing with it, not in spite of it. And if you are an actor: act the part of a singer!

Thanks Jez. I'm sure we all feel we know you better now. Glad you are such a central part of Stage One!

Auntie Prue's Advice Column

Dear Auntie Prue

My neighbour learned that I was a member of Stage One and it seems he fancies himself as a bit of an actor. Every time I go out into the garden he is leaning on the wire fence and insists on reciting bits of Shakespeare at me. How can I make him realise that he is really dreadful and anyway I'm not interested?

H. Amlet
Kurion

Auntie Prue says:

Dear H

Connect your fence to the mains, that should give the desired effect.

Dear Auntie Prue

I'm thinking of having a facelift to improve my chances with the opposite sex (whatever that is, nowadays!). Do you approve of facelifts and do you think a facelift is the way ahead for me?

Anonymous
Emba

Auntie Prue says:

Dear Anonymous

I know who you are. I've ordered the forklift.

Dear Auntie Prue

I have forgotten my wife's birthday and our wedding anniversary for the fifth time. I need to make amends here – flowers or perfume? Please tell me what should I get?

Memory Man.

Auntie Prue says:

Dear M.M.

A sharp smack round the chops!

MAY CLUB NIGHT

Club Night on 15 May is another of our Chat and Catch-Up evenings with an American Supper (bring a plate of food to share). The usual bar facilities and a raffle. Jenny our Theatre Manager has organised a fund raising sale to enhance the evening. Here is her pitch:

Bric a Brac Table

If you have any item/s suitable for a 'Brick a Brac' stall (not Jumble!)

and willing for the proceeds to go to the 'Big Move' expenses fund

please bring along to this month's 'American Supper' Club Night.

Or contact Jenny theatremanager@stageonetheatre.net to arrange a drop off at the theatre.

Many Thanks.

Please support this evening and donate any stuff which is suitable and then come and buy somebody else's stuff! We need the funds!! Speaking of which the fundraiser concert, A Night at the Musicals was a resounding success and hugely enjoyed by a full house. We owe sincere thanks to Matthew, Melanie and to all the participants and here's to the next time!

Panto Auditions

Auditions for this year's pantomime Old Mother Hubbard (and yes, there are only 4 lines to the story!) will be held in the theatre at 7pm on Tuesday 20 May. If you are interested, contact the auditions supremo, Peter Sandwith, who will give you the script and audition pieces. All welcome.

Do drop Spotlight a line if you have anything you wish to comment on about Stage One or even if you don't but would just like to tell everyone that you are still alive. Have a great May and don't forget to get your seats for the Railway Children – not to be missed!