

# Drama Competition Judges Biographies:



## Kirsty Williams:

Kirsty graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she was awarded a BA (hons) in Drama, specializing in Acting. Whilst there, she taught pupils of the Junior Academy and wrote and directed *Hard to Swallow*, produced at the Chandler Theatre, Glasgow.

She worked as a director, musical director and acting tutor for several companies in Scotland including Beacon Production, Falkirk youth theatre, SYT, Lewis Campbell school of performing arts.

She qualified with distinction as a teacher at the University of Strathclyde and has worked in many primary and secondary schools across Scotland & England.

She worked as Children's Tutor on the UK tour of *Whistle Down the Wind* and *Joseph and the Technicolour Dream coat* and as an Acting Tutor at the famous Italia Conti stage school.

Kirsty has directed for several companies and theatres as a freelance director and has a love of new writing and working with young actors. She has partnerships with the Edinburgh Fringe, The National Theatre, LAMDA, NAYT, Sheffield Theatres.

Kirsty is a regular judge and assessor, working for the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers as a performance judge and coach and also as an examiner for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) for their speech and drama exams.

Performing credits include a wide range of theatrical roles throughout the UK as far north as His Majesty's in Aberdeen and South as Salisbury Playhouse. For TV *Take the High Road*, *Scottish Men*, *Tartan Shorts*, *Daddy's gone a hunting*, various commercials and presenter on BBC Radio's *Check it out*. She was delighted to appear alongside her eldest son in the BAFTA nominated feature film "*Skeletons*".

## Allie Spencer:

Allie is Education Officer for Nottingham Playhouse and Assistant Director on *The Kite Runner* which is now running in the West End. With a degree in Theatre Studies from the University of Lancaster, she has been writing and directing for youth theatres across the UK since 1993 and is founder and director of Steep Turnpike Youth Theatre in Matlock.

She currently manages the Nottingham Playhouse community youth theatres and directs the annual Nottingham Playhouse summer school. Allie is also a member of the board of the National Association of Youth Theatres.

Previously Head of Drama at Landau Forte College in Derby, Allie has returned to judge Landau Forte's Devised Work competition on two occasions. She holds the LAMDA teachers diploma with Distinction and has been an Arts Award Advisor for over ten years.

Other professional directing credits include *The Princess and the Frog* and *Hare and Tortoise* (Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company), *A Chalk Story* (Roundabout TIE), *All Quiet on The Western Front* (Nottingham Playhouse Youth Theatre) and *Animal Farm* (Nottingham Playhouse Ensemble).

Allie has also directed many plays for Steep Turnpike Youth Theatre including *Blood Brothers*, *CATS*, *Row Row your Boat* and their most recent piece *Perchance to Dream* all of which have been performed at the NAYT Regional Youth Theatre Festival.

## **George Gunby:**

George is a writer based in Belper. His performed plays include *'Old Age Isn't For Sissies'*, *'Mind Games'*, *'The Passion'*, *'The Resurrection'* and *'Boleyn – The Death And Life Of A Queen'*. His latest play, *DIVA*, is on tour around Derbyshire.

George is currently working on the second part of his Tudor Trilogy, *'Bloody Mary'*, which is due to be performed in September and November this year.

He has also written two WW1 commemorations: *"We'll Be Home For Christmas"* and *"The Fourteen"* are community projects with casts in excess of one hundred.

George has also written a biography of Alistair Taylor who worked for the Beatles for ten years. He is a regular columnist with local newspapers and his irregular column, *'Jud's Jottings'*, is read by over 20,000 people.

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The Grand Pavilion, South Parade, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire DE4 3NR  
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