

Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU

NEWS RELEASE

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HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF WITH A SELLOUT *MACBETH* AT CHESIL THEATRE

* Williams Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* - Winchester Dramatic Society’s first show in 2023
* 160 years since the Society’s founding and an inaugural performance of *Macbeth*

In 1863 *Macbeth* was the first show offered by the newly formed Winchester Dramatic Society. At that time the venue was St John’s Rooms in The Broadway. There was a huge demand for seats with the result that a substantial gallery was hurriedly built to accommodate an extra 200 audience members whilst the cast carried on with their dress rehearsal, despite the noise! The inspiration came from local businessmen Hugh Wyeth and Giles Pointer who went on to perform further leading Shakespearian roles themselves.

Chesil Theatre welcomes the 2023 New Year with another production of Shakespeare’s tragedy *Macbeth,* running from 20th to 28th January 2023. Once more it has proved a popular choice with the main run fully booked two months before opening night. An extra preview was offered which again sold out within hours. The play has been popular with school groups and a talk-back session is planned after Sunday’s show when the audience can find out more from the cast and crew.

Apart from during two world wars, Winchester Dramatic Society has continued to entertain the community. In 1966 the Society achieved a permanent base in the former church of St Peter Chesil which was then converted into the current Chesil Theatre.

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Editor’s Notes

The attached images are provided repro-free for editorial use.

About Chesil Theatre

Chesil Theatre (Winchester Dramatic Society) is based in the heart of Winchester, presenting up to eight productions a year, ranging from traditional classics to contemporary works. Chesil Theatre also encourages new writing through its biennial festival *TakeTen*, runs drama workshops and readings, plus two lively youth theatre groups, as well as offering stagecraft and technical training. The Company has been performing for over 150 years.

Since 1966 Chesil Theatre has been the Society’s permanent home - a former 12th century church in Chesil Street, Winchester. This medieval building provides an intimate 75-seat studio-style theatre and versatile performance space.