

CENTRE STAGE AIMS

The aims of the society are to encourage and help young people appreciate the arts of music, dance and drama through performances and by other means deemed suitable by its management committee. All other aspects of the theatre, such as script writing, scenery design, lighting, make up, costume etc shall be incorporated when requested by the membership.

CHILDREN IN THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

The statutory provisions relating to the employment of children are contained in the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (which repealed in part the 1933 Act) and in the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968. The act provides basic rules designed to safeguard the health, welfare and education of children in performance and requires a licensing authority (the local education authority) to exercise its powers to grant a licence in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Act itself and in the Regulations, which provide more detailed conditions and restrictions concerning the number of days on which a child may perform, hours of work, rest and meals, educational arrangements, chaperones etc.

- a) Part of the act provides an absolute prohibition on any child taking part in a dangerous performance, i.e., one "in which his/her life or limbs are endangered".
- b) Regulation 18 provides that no child licensed to take part in entertainment shall be employed in any other employment on the day or days of or the day following such entertainment.
- c) The education Acts define the expression "child", when used in any enactment relating to employment as meaning a person who is not over compulsory school age i.e. under 16.
- d) **Performance is defined in the 1963 Act as being:**

- e) Any performance in connection with which a charge is made (whether for admission or otherwise)

Any performance in licensed premises within the meaning of the Licensing Act 1953 or the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1959 or in premises in respect of which a club is registered under the latter of the licensing Act 1964.

Any broadcast performance

Any performance included in a programmed service (within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1990)

Any performance recorded (by whatever means) with a view to its use in a broadcast or in a programmed service or in a film intended for public exhibition

- a) S.37(3) of the Act provides, however, that a licence is not required for a child to take part in a performance if
 - a) no payment in respect of his/her taking part in the performance, other than defraying expenses, is made to him/her or to another person; and EITHER
 - b) in the last six months preceding the performance he/she has not taken part in other performances of the types set out above on more than three days; OR
 - c) the performance is given under arrangements made by a school (within the meaning of the Education Act 1944 or the Education (Scotland) Act 1962) or made by a body of persons approved for the purposes of section 37 by the Secretary of State or by the local authority in whose area the performances are to take place

Ultimately the aims of Centre Stage are of the utmost importance and we strive to reach these aims in a fun way. The society continues to be an "out of school" organization and encourages young people from all backgrounds to share in the life of amateur theatre. This will continue for many more years to come but we are very aware that we must adhere to legislation especially in regard to the welfare of our young people and as a committee we have spent many hours with many authorities making sure we have this right.

The majority of the present committee have been granted enhanced disclosures from the Criminal records Bureau and the rest are waiting to have theirs carried out. 75% of the production team has been licensed as Chaperones by the Education Welfare Services within Devon County Council. Centre Stage is also affiliated to the Local Youth Network and The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).

All legal policies regarding to health and safety and the welfare of young people are held by the Chairman and are available at all times.

Centre Stage Licensed Chaperones: Mrs. Eileen Brammer, Mr. Paul & Mrs. Gaye Caygill, Mr. Hugh & Mrs. Michelle Chudley, Mrs. Sarah Gates, Mrs. Amy Jones, Ms Terrie Newman, Mrs. Clare Tate, Miss Sarah Williams, Mr. Mark & Mrs. Rachel Worsley.