

ABTT Seminar: An Introduction to Stephen Joseph - Chat

- 14:07:22** **From Elysia Moore:** Hello everyone
- 14:07:31** **From Adam Mottershead:** Hello
- 14:07:44** **From Iain Young:** Hello from Glasgow
- 14:07:46** **From Elysia Moore:** Hope you are well! Sorry for the delay in starting the event this afternoon! Do let us know where you joining us from today!
- 14:07:48** **From Amy Clare Tasker:** Hello from North London
- 14:07:48** **From Andrew Swift:** Hi from Andrew Swift
- 14:07:53** **From Faynia Williams:** Hello everyone
- 14:07:53** **From Tyler Edwards-Tagg:** Hello from Norwich!
- 14:08:03** **From Adam Harrison:** Hello from Adam Harrison in Richmond
- 14:08:10** **From Alex Wardle:** Hello all! - Alex in Winchester
- 14:08:13** **From Ali:** Hello from Ali Fowler in Malvern
- 14:08:15** **From Elysia Moore :** Thank you all for joining us today. As with other webinars, please change your view to gallery view so that you can see all panelists on the same screen. We can use the chat function in this webinar to talk between ourselves. Make any comments about you may have about Stephen if you knew him also.
- 14:08:17** **From Elysia Moore :** There is also a Q&A tab at the bottom of the screen, we have a Q&A at the end of this session so please put any questions you have in here and our panelists will try and answer them.
- 14:08:18** **From Elysia Moore :** During this seminar we will be hearing from members of the ABTT's Stephen Joseph Committee who will be talking about their time working with theatre practitioner Stephen Joseph, best known for pioneering theatre-in-the-round.
- 14:08:20** **From Elysia Moore :** We are now hearing from our host for this session Dave Wybrow. Dave has been Director of The Cockpit, a purpose-built London theatre in-the-round for over 20 years and is known for his work with The Godot Company. The Cockpit has managed to stay open during the pandemic and is due to revive their five-star in-the-round production of 'Waiting for Godot' next year.
- 14:08:25** **From Terry Lee Dickson:** hi from sunny East Kent
- 14:08:37** **From Vijay Padaki :** Greetings from India! Vijay Padaki
- 14:08:43** **From Bob Millington:** Hello from Bob Millington from Warrington
- 14:08:58** **From Elysia Moore:** Our first speaker is Terry Wilton studied drama at the University of Manchester, where Stephen Joseph was the first Fellow in Drama.

Stephen Joseph gave Terry his first professional job at the Library Theatre in Scarborough and Terry has since performed in many theatre-in-the-round productions, including 15 productions at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester.

14:09:37 **From Elysia Moore :** We will also be hearing from Faynia Williams started her career acting in Stephen Joseph's theatre-in-the-round opposite Alan Ayckbourn.

She is a multi-award winning international director/designer and is Artistic Director of Brighton Theatre. Faynia is also a BBC producer of drama and documentaries and has created a programme on Stephen Joseph's theatre-in-the-round.

14:09:49 **From Elysia Moore :** Our next speaker is Terry Lane worked for six seasons with Stephen Joseph, including at the Library Theatre in Scarborough, where he directed the 1964 season. Terry built and was the founding Artistic Director of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh from 1962 – 1964 and wrote The Full Round which covers the theatrical legacy of Stephen Joseph.

14:10:05 **From Elysia Moore :** We are also joined by Alistair Livingstone is an artist, designer and director. He is the Chairman of the ABTT's Stephen Joseph Committee (SJC). He first met Stephen Joseph and members of his Studio Theatre Company when they performed in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

14:10:47 **From Elysia Moore :** Stephen Joseph was a pioneer of theatre-in-the-round and he was one of the most notable contributors to the performing arts in the 20th century.

His Studio Theatre Company performed in the library in Scarborough from 1955 and this was the foundation for the Scarborough Theatre Trust, the current home of which is the Stephen Joseph Theatre, which opened in 1996.

He also founded the Victoria Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent, the forerunner of the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

He was a tutor at the Central School of Speech and Drama and was later appointed the first Fellow in Drama at the University of Manchester. He was a founding member of the Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT) in 1961 and the Society of Theatre Consultants in 1964; he also wrote multiple publications on topics concerning the creation and presentation of live performance.

He died at age 46 in 1967. His legacy has been carried on by those he inspired with his passion for innovative new forms of theatre, including playwrights such as Alan Ayckbourn, Harold Pinter and David Campton, amongst many other practitioners.

2021 marks the centenary of the birth of Stephen Joseph and also the 60th anniversary of the ABTT. The ABTT's Stephen Joseph Committee came into being to promote his legacy and encourage discourse about the innovative and many forms of theatre presented today that can be attributed to Stephen Joseph's pioneering work 60 and more years ago.

14:16:28 **From Elysia Moore :** If you are interested in finding out more about the Stephen Joseph Committee you can do so here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/committees/sjc/>

14:18:08 **From Elysia Moore :** The Stephen Joseph Committee (previously the Stephen Joseph Association) grew from a small nucleus of professional theatre practitioners who had known or been influenced by Stephen Joseph. They first met in Scarborough in 2017 and became known as the 'Legacy Group'.

14:18:49 **From Elysia Moore :** Later they formalised the group as the Stephen Joseph Association (SJA) with a Constitution and Steering Committee and in 2019 became a committee of ABTT and changed the name, but not its's aim, to SJC (Stephen Joseph Committee).

14:19:03 **From Elysia Moore :** The SJC was formed to support and celebrate the life work of Stephen Joseph as director and teacher, and as the pioneer of theatre-in-the-round in the UK. His legacy and name live on though the theatres he created, and also through the events, awards and seminars hosted by the SJC.

14:19:10 **From Paul Roberts :** Hello from Warwick - is the talk being recorded for publication on the ABTT website?

14:20:14 **From Elysia Moore :** Hi Paul, yes we are recording this seminar and it will be available on the ABTT Website at the start of next week.

14:20:41 **From Elysia Moore :** You will be able to find it here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/2021-2/intro-to-sj/

14:31:03 **From Elysia Moore :** If you have any questions about Stephen Joseph or our newly released Stephen Joseph Award for 2021

14:31:04 **From Sam :** What was the name of the play mentioned again (about being in hell)

14:31:27 **From Elysia Moore :** please do pop them in to the Q&A tab at the bottom of your screen

14:47:43 **From Elysia Moore :** The article which Alistair is referring to is "Stephen Joseph at Manchester by Peter Thomson" which can be found here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/4a-SJ-at-Manchester-Peter-Thomson-2017.pdf>

14:52:39 **From Elysia Moore :** Do you have a question to our panelists about Stephen Joseph? Or about Theatre-in-the-round? Please add your question to the Q&A tab at the bottom of your screen

14:59:03 **From Elysia Moore :** Some fantastic questions coming in for our panelists!

14:59:40 **From Elysia Moore :** If you have any questions that you would like our panellists to cover then please do pop them in to the Q&A tab and we will get to these shortly

15:02:37 **From Elysia Moore :** Alistair is currently discussing Sam Walters and his piece "In the age of technology, is live theatre yesterday's art form?" (from ABTT Seminar 'Theatre then and now')

You can find the transcript from this event here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SJA-ABTT-talk-Sam-Walters.pdf>

You can also watch our Seminar "Theatre Then and Now" on the ABTT Website here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/seminars_june/sja/

15:05:06 **From Elysia Moore :** In the seminar, "Theatre then and now" we discussed Stephen Joseph, the formation of the ABTT and the importance of the Stephen Joseph Committee. We were joined by Sam Walters, Founding Director of the Orange Tree Theatre talking about: "In the age of technology, is live theatre yesterday's art form?", Barbara Day, Writer and Theatrolgist discussing "Theatre that is always at a beginning"; and Peter Tate, Co-Artistic Director at the Playground Theatre with "To carry on or not to carry on..?"

15:10:21 **From Elysia Moore :** If you have any questions that you would like our panellists to cover then please do pop them in to the Q&A tab and we will get to these shortly

15:10:35 **From Amy Clare Tasker :** Many people call themselves Theatre Makers rather than identifying as an actor, director, designer, etc. Especially in the independent sector (rather than commercial theatre), this is definitely still possible.

15:11:09 **From Elysia Moore :** Thanks Amy!

15:15:58 **From Elysia Moore:** You can find the Haworth Tompkins 'The Den' here: <https://www.haworthtompkins.com/work/the-den>

15:18:30 **From Elysia Moore:** To mark the centenary year of Stephen Joseph's birth and the 60th anniversary of the founding of ABTT, the steering committee of the Stephen Joseph Committee, in collaboration with ABTT, is pleased to announce an Award to commemorate the life and work of this maverick theatrical genius.

15:21:01 **From Elysia Moore :** The Stephen Joseph Award was created to honour Stephen's wide-ranging legacy, which reaches many aspects of theatre practice. The first Stephen Joseph Award will be presented in June 2021, but it is hoped to make it a recurring event as a lasting tribute to Stephen's contribution to our theatre culture.

You can apply for this award if you are:

1. A living individual whose work or body of work has created an exemplary and adventurous relationship between performance and audience.
2. A twenty-first century company that is widely acknowledged for its skills and innovation in creating live theatrical experiences in unconventional spaces
3. A non-conventional performance environment configured from an empty or found space, a recently developed theatre building that offers either an imaginative range of adaptable staging, including in the round, or a purposely-designed theatre in the round.

More information about this award and how to nominate can be found here:

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/sja-award-2021/>

15:25:08 **From Elysia Moore :** For those of you asking, this seminar has been recorded and will be available in a few days with captioning on the ABTT Website here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/2021-2/intro-to-sj/

15:25:21 **From Elysia Moore :** Other ABTT Seminars that have been recorded can be found here:
https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/

If you are interested in finding out more about the SJC you can do so here:
<https://www.abtt.org.uk/committees/sjc/>

If you would like to find out more about our recent Stephen Joseph Award you can do so here:
<https://www.abtt.org.uk/sja-award-2021/>

15:28:52 **From Malgorzata Sady:** thank you so much. living in a different country and slightly later i was not familiar with his work. what an amazing person! and what an amazing gang of people you are! so grateful for this experience. now more exploration to follow.

15:29:26 **From Elysia Moore :** Thank you to all of our panellists today for an inspiring and fascinating seminar and thank you to everyone who joined us today for this interesting topic! We hope you are taking something away with you today!

15:29:42 **From Elysia Moore :** This seminar has been recorded and will be available in a few days with captioning on the ABTT Website here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/2021-2/intro-to-sj/

15:30:04 **From Amy Clare Tasker :** Very enjoyable, thank you!

15:30:37 **From Ellis Jones :** Thanks a lot, folks - a really lively and interesting session!

15:30:41 **From Tyler Edwards-Tagg :** Thank you!

15:30:43 **From Adam Mottershead :** Thank you!