

A statement from the PB Theatricals Board:

Since 2009, PB Theatricals has been committed to providing fun, supportive and inclusive theatrical experiences for young people. Though PBT has changed and evolved over the past sixteen years, our mission has remained the core of what we do.

To honour that commitment and ensure the long-term health of our organisation, we are making a strategic shift in our 2026 programming.

After careful consideration, the PBT governing board has made the difficult decision that we will not be producing a Youth Show (10–18 year olds) in 2026. **We will however be welcoming people aged 16 and above into our 2026 summer show.**

This decision stems from our unwavering commitment to safety and quality. A combination of factors, including a decline in volunteer numbers and increasingly complex safeguarding regulations, means we are not confident we can deliver the high-quality, safe experience our participants deserve.

We know that many people will be saddened by this decision, as the PB Theatricals Youth Show has added so much joy to people's lives. The majority of our board members started their PBT careers as Youth Show participants, and we each believe that being involved in PBT from a young age has had an overwhelming positive effect on our lives.

However, this strategic pause allows us to refocus our resources, strengthen our foundations, and pour more energy into creating ambitious, high-quality productions. We are excited to channel this focus into the following opportunities for 2026:

The Mikado in Concert – for ages 8+

Saturday 11th April | Hathersage Memorial Hall

A staged concert of *The Mikado*, produced in one day.

More details of how to get involved will be released soon.

The Gondoliers – for ages 16+

8th – 16th August | The Chapel Playhouse

Additional performance at the Bakewell Medway Centre

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most grandiose shows, *The Gondoliers* will be the focus of our 2026 flagship summer programme. One week of concentrated rehearsals will take us from auditions to performances! Registrations will open in spring 2026.

With a year to take stock, work on recruitment, and discern what is possible, we believe PB Theatricals will become a more ambitious organisation, continuing to provide educational and fun experiences for all.

We will review this decision next year, but one thing we do know is that we cannot run a Youth Show without increased volunteer support, particularly in the realms of safeguarding and recruitment. If you would like to register your interest in volunteering, please email enquiries@pbtheatricals.org.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We look forward to making 2026 an unforgettable season for PB Theatricals.

The Governing Board,
Jamie, Michael, Katy, Liddy, Sam, Patrick & Benedict