

A Wimborne Drama Production

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S



SPIDER'S WEB

21st-23rd February 2013
TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

WELCOME

Welcome to this performance of *Spiders Web* by Agatha Christie. The play, written in 1954, is somewhat unusual in that it was written for the stage at the request of its star Margaret Lockwood, who mainly appeared in films, had never appeared in a West End production apart from *Peter Pan* and wanted a role in a comedy thriller. Christie also wrote a role for Lockwood's 14 year old daughter although she did not appear in the finished production.



I suppose the main attraction for me in Christie's work is the old fashioned setting, which perhaps to those of us of a certain age brings back memories of a probably imagined childhood, plus the many red herrings with which she seeks to baffle us. Hopefully you will find occasion to smile or even laugh at what is intended to be more light hearted than some of Christie's plays.

As usual I have a very dedicated cast with one or two new faces all of whom have worked incredibly hard to bring their characters to life. The set for this play is more complex than usual and has taken my set designer and main builder Colin Pile many days of work in his spare time to bring it to fruition, although, as always, other members of the company have given much assistance, to all of them many thanks.

I would like to mention a couple of minor points about the script which you may find curious. I have been hassled several times by members of the cast and backstage crew about the appearance of what appears to be a cauliflower when it is supposed to be a broccoli. In the 1950s and 60s, broccoli were generally very similar to cauliflower but were a winter and spring variety, although hardier. The variety we now know as broccoli was grown occasionally but was known as green or purple sprouting broccoli and was not so widely available. I have therefore assumed that the winter broccoli is what is mentioned in the script.

The term Habeas Corpus is also used to denote the impossibility of having a trial without a body, which is not a strictly true interpretation as it usually meant the body of evidence, but which in any case is not nowadays used.

Once again thank you to all who have assisted especially the back stage crew and Tivoli staff.

Settle back and enjoy the show.

David Pile
Director

LOOKING BACK

Incredibly this is Wimborne Drama's 20th season of plays at the Tivoli Theatre.

In 1994, at the invitation of the then manager Malcolm Angel, we moved over from the Allendale Centre, where we had been based since 1970, to become the resident amateur company and our first production was *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn.

Over the past nineteen years we have produced more than 50 plays, won multiple awards and entertained close to 40,000 people.

This year we also celebrate 85 years since Wimborne Drama was founded – so happy birthday to us!

Some of our hit shows at the Tivoli Theatre, from the top:

On the Razzle 2002

Charley's Aunt 2004

Steel Magnolias 2009

Hay Fever 2012



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AGATHA CHRISTIE?

Test your little grey cells with this fun quiz

1. Where was Agatha Christie born?
 - a) St Mary Mead
 - b) Hastings
 - c) Torquay
2. During the First World War, Agatha Christie worked as a what?
 - a) School teacher
 - b) Nurse and pharmacy dispenser
 - c) Actress and singer
3. Which Guinness world record does Christie hold?
 - a) Oldest novelist to have had a book published
 - b) Most murders in her novels
 - c) World's bestselling novelist
4. Under what name did Christie write general fiction?
 - a) Mary Shelley
 - b) Mary Westmacott
 - c) Mary Berry
5. Which of these novels was NOT written by Agatha Christie?
 - a) The Mysterious Affair at Styles
 - b) The Mysterious Stranger
 - c) The Mysterious Mr Quin
6. In December 1926, Christie disappeared for 11 days before being found in a hotel. Where was the hotel?
 - a) London
 - b) Venice
 - c) Harrogate



7. What was the name of Hercule Poirot's valet?

- a) George
- b) Arthur
- c) Jeeves

8. What was Miss Marple's first name?

- a) Emily
- b) Jane
- c) Mary

9. Murder by poisoning occurred in more than half of Christie's stories. Which poison was used most often to dispatch her victims?

- a) Cyanide
- b) Arsenic
- c) Strychnine

10. In the poem Ten Little Soldier Boys, how did the fourth soldier die?

- a) Choked his little self
- b) Chopped himself in halves
- c) He went and hanged himself

11. What interest did Christie pursue with her second husband Max Mallowan?

- a) Astrology
- b) Archery
- c) Archaeology

12. Christie's *The Mousetrap* is the longest running play in the world. Who was its first male lead, back in 1952?

- a) Richard Burton
- b) Richard Attenborough
- c) Richard Gere



SPIDERS' WEB

Cast

Sir Rowland Delahaye	MICHAEL J SMITH
Hugo Birch	SIMON JACKSON
Jeremy Warrender	COLIN PILE
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown	LAUREN HOMER
Pippa Hailsham-Brown	CLAIRE HUTTON
Mildred Peake	JUDY GARRETT
Elgin	STEVE SYMONDS
Oliver Costello	JOHN SIVEWRIGHT
Henry Hailsham-Brown	ALAN DESTER
Inspector Lord	PAUL DODMAN
Sergeant Jones	GRAHAM HAWKINS

With JOHN BRUTON as The Doctor

The action takes place at Copplestone Court in Kent
over one evening in late spring

There will be one interval of approximately 20 minutes

Creative Team

Director	DAVID PILE
Set Designer	COLIN PILE
Stage Manager	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Sound Designer	PHYLLIS SPENCER
Assistant Stage Managers	VAL MANTLE
	CAROLINE PAPP
	HEATHER SEATON
	JENN SINGLETON
Continuity	CAROL BRUTON
Costumes	LIZZIE PETERS
Hair & Make-up	CHARLEE HULBERT
Tivoli Production Manager	KYLE BEST

Production Acknowledgements

This production would not have been possible without the help of the following organisations:

Daisy Graphic	Forest FM	Royal British Legion Wimborne
Doubles	Hierarchy Costumes	The Olive Branch

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne 21st - 23rd February 2013

MEET THE CAST

ALAN DESTER

Henry Hailsham
-Brown

Alan was born in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe) and as a child wanted to be a marine biologist or a professional jockey, the latter of which he achieved after moving to England in 1989. He now works in software sales. Recent acting credits include *And Then There Were None* for Wimborne Drama, *Nightmare - The Fright Of Your Life* for KCA Players and *Habeas Corpus* for BLTC. "I enjoyed working with KCA because the size of the part made it challenging. But *And Then There Were None* was also a favourite because this is the nicest, most fun group I have ever worked with but still manage to maintain an exceptional standard". Alan has also fallen in love with the Tivoli.



Oxon and moved to Dorset in 1974. He always wanted to be a farmer when he was very young, although now he teaches. Paul played Orsino in last summer's open air show *Twelfth Night* and will be directing this summer's production *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. His favourite roles were Proctor in *The Crucible* from a while back and Leonard Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution* more recently. His favourite theatres are the Tiv ("obviously!") and The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane ("pretty magnificent").

JUDY GARRETT

Mildred Peake

Born in Poole, Judy has resided in Dorset throughout her life apart from five years in Hertfordshire where she worked in a children's residential nursery and gained her childcare qualification. As a child she wanted to become a doctor and she has in fact spent her whole working life in the caring professions. Judy currently works part time for Prama, a



Dorset based care agency, and also volunteers in a local primary school. Her favourite roles have included Teresa in *Memory of Water*, Karen in *The Anniversary* and Childie in *The Killing of Sister George* - all with Broadstone Players. Since she rejoined Wimborne Drama the part of Constanza in *Enchanted April* was very special - "quite a challenge as I needed to learn Italian!" Her favourite theatre is the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond where plays are performed 'in the round'.

GRAHAM HAWKINS

Sergeant Jones

Graham was born in South-ampton and moved to Ferndown in 1991. He always wanted to become a teacher but due to lack of paternal support ended up in financial services. "I became a yuppie in the 1980s and eventually an all-round know-it-all in all aspects of the industry!" His most recent role was Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and his favourite



PAUL DODMAN

Inspector Lord

Paul was born in Chipping Norton,



role was Bobby in Ray Cooney's *Run for Your Wife*. "It was a role that allowed me to go really over the top, expansive, offset by a wonderful pair of pink marigolds!" As for theatres, Graham likes Shakespeare's *Globe* – "it allows the audience to feel intimate with the play, allowing you to join in and you can observe the concentration and professionalism of the actors (and their fear of course) at close quarters".

LAUREN HOMER

Clarissa Hailsham-Brown

Poole-born Lauren dreamt of being a ballerina when she was a child, but grew up to be a seamstress and a school receptionist. She played the sweet but dim flapper Jackie Coryton in our well-received production of *Hay Fever* last October, one of her favourite roles, along with Fiona in *Physic* with Broadstone Players for which she won the award for best actress at the Dorset Drama League. Her favourite theatre is of course The Tivoli!



CLAIRE HUTTON

Pippa Hailsham-Brown

Claire was born in Poole and has lived in Wimborne her entire life except for the three years she spent completing a degree in Drama and English Literature at the University of Kent. She graduated in 2012. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher or a vet but eventually found herself drawn towards stage and television in her early teens. "My career is still pending, but I'm still aiming to go down the theatre/television route". She is currently working at the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth. At university Claire played *Tellus* in John Lyly's *Endymion* – her favourite role - *Eunice* in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Nora* in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Her favourite theatre is the Olivier Theatre at The National.

SIMON JACKSON

Hugo Birch

As a young boy growing up in Huddersfield, Simon dreamed of being 'Dan Dare Pilot of the Future' and ended up a 'Jack



of all trades' (now retired). He moved to Dorset in 1972 and has been a member of Wimborne Drama since 1977. His most recent appearances have included Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* and General Mackenzie in *And Then There Were None*, but his favourite role was Mr. Shanks in *Habeas Corpus*, played in his favourite theatre, the Tivoli.

COLIN PILE

Jeremy Warrender

Colin was born in Dorchester. As a child he loved playing with Meccano and Lego and later electronics, and so was always going to follow a 'hands on' career. Colin works as a computer engineer and his spare time is divided between music making and building stage sets for a lot of our productions. His most recent acting role was Bob Jackson in *Pack of Lies* and his favourite role was Melchior in *On the Razzle* - "the most fun I have had on stage and I had a catchphrase too – 'classic!'" His favourite theatre is the Tivoli!



JOHN SIVEWRIGHT

Oliver Costello

John was born in Boscombe and has lived in Dorset all his life. As a child, he wanted to be a journalist when he grew up but actually became an insurance salesman ("not something any child anywhere dreams of becoming"). John recently played The Mayor in Robinson Crusoe, a pantomime with All Saints Dramatic Society in Southbourne, and his favourite role, also with All Saints, was Eric Birling in An Inspector Calls. His favourite theatre is The Regent Centre in Christchurch "because of how old school it still feels".



MICHAEL J SMITH

Sir Rowland Delahaye

Michael was born in Harrow "which was a bit of a mistake as my family all come from Oxford to which we returned when I was six years old (the fault of the war). The only advantage of this was that I could claim my



education as Harrow and Oxford!" He moved to Dorset in September 2007. As a child he dreamed of being "a great actor, pianist, singer or almost anything great but certainly not a boring accountant" which is what he became. He did manage to keep it within the theatre business which retained his sanity. Michael has appeared recently for Wimborne Drama as Toby Belch in Twelfth Night (which he also directed), Sir Lawrence Wargrave in And Then There Were None (yes he did do it!) and the very camp valet in The Unexpected Guest (he didn't do it!). His favourite roles were King Lear and Garry Essendine in Present Laughter. The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane is Michael's favourite theatre.

STEVE SYMONDS

Elgin

Steve was born in Chichester. As a child growing up on the Isle of Wight, Steve dreamed of joining the army. But unfortunately



this was not to be, so he trained as a bricklayer and joined the building industry for a number of years. Since he moved to Poole in 2006 he has driven a lorry delivering supplies to fish and chip shops across the south coast.

He joined Wimborne Drama in 2008 and made his acting debut as Mr Rogers in Badgers Green (his favourite part to date). He has also appeared in How the Other Half Loves and And Then There Were None.

"Having worked both on stage and backstage at the Tivoli and also been a member of the audience I have to say that the Tivoli is my favourite theatre."

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1 - c
- 2 - b
- 3 - c
- 4 - b
- 5 - b (Mark Twain)
- 6 - c
- 7 - a
- 8 - b
- 9 - a
- 10 - b
- 11 - c
- 12 - b

**Wimborne Drama
Open Air Theatre**

**Lord Arthur
Savile's Crime**

A Comedy by Constance Cox
based on a story by Oscar Wilde

28th-30th June 2013

In the grounds of Deans Court

Bring a picnic and something to sit on and relax in Deans Court's historic gardens as you watch this delightful comedy based on a story by Oscar Wilde. Lord Arthur Savile is deliriously happy; a pillar of Victorian society on the verge of marriage to the lovely Sybil Merton. An encounter with a chilling clairvoyant called Podgers reveals that at some point in Arthur's life he is destined to commit murder. Arthur decides he must commit this bloody deed before he marries and searches for the most convenient relative to sacrifice. Chaos ensues in Oscar Wilde's highly entertaining comedy of upper-class morality. Further details on the back of your programme.

The next Wimborne Drama
Production at the Tivoli will be

An Inspector Calls

JB Priestley's classic drama

17th-19th October 2013

When Inspector Goole arrives unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home, their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman. His startling revelations shake the very foundations of their lives and challenge us all to examine our consciences.

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Wimborne Drama Open Air Theatre

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

A Comedy by Constance Cox based on a story by
Oscar Wilde

In the grounds of Wimborne's
historic Deans Court

Fri 28th & Sat 29th June 2013 - 7.30pm

Sun 30th June 2013 - 5pm

Tickets £12 from:
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01202 886116

Tivoli Theatre
01202 885566

Or book online:
www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk

Grounds open for picnics 90 minutes before
performance starts. Admission by ticket only.
Free parking. Licensed bar. Bring your own chairs
or rugs. Ts & Cs at www.WimborneDrama.co.uk

