



**ST MARTIN'S PLAYERS  
IN A PLAY BY ARNOLD RIDLEY**

**DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY STEVE MORLEY AND PAUL RENDLE**  
**THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.**



**AT THE HUXTABLE HALL,  
ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, ERITH ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH**

**FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2013, 7:30pm**  
**SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013, 2:30pm**  
**SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013, 7:30pm**

**PROGRAMME – 50p**

**[www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk)**

# THE DIRECTOR WELCOMES YOU...

*'Leaves on the line', 'slippery rain', 'the wrong type of snow' – there are many excuses that have been used for delayed and cancelled trains. Unfortunately, we had to add 'difficulties obtaining the required permissions' to the list, when we had to postpone this production, which we had hoped to perform this time last year. As soon as the licence became available, we were more than happy to resume rehearsals, so we apologise for the delay, and hope that the wait has been worthwhile.*

*I had been looking forward to directing a play that would suit our group, yet be a bit different from our usual type of production; I achieved this when I directed 'Jekyll' a few years ago. This time, I have chosen another thriller, and have been joined by first-time producer Paul who I have worked with many times behind the scenes. We were fortunate that almost all of the original cast were able to take part in this year's production. Sadly, we had to lose Bethany, our original 'Peggy', as she moved to Scotland a few weeks ago, but thank her for her continued enthusiasm for 'filling in' as the other players took their holidays this summer. Additionally, Rae could not take part this year, and we spent many weeks this year trying to fill the role of 'Jackson' – who would have thought it would be so difficult to fill a part with only eight lines! Thankfully, Christine saved the day by stepping in only this week – so well done!*

*The play has given me the chance to travel around the country for inspiration; I have travelled to York and Swindon to visit rail museums, giving us the chance to make the production as authentic as possible. Additionally, I visited two other productions of the play in Bolton and Havant to see some alternative approaches to the performance; this has made the play especially enjoyable for me to direct.*



*I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the production, especially David and Chris, the unsung heroes at the back of the hall, who will be treating us to some rather intense sound and light effects, and Dave for his weeks of hard work in finishing the set. We hope you enjoy the show.*

SDM

# **THE PLAY AND THE WRITER...**

'The Ghost Train' was written in 1923 by Arnold Ridley, inspired by his own experience of being stranded overnight in Mangotsfield Railway Station, near Bristol. The play was performed to packed houses at the St Martin's Theatre for two years, and has been adapted for films on numerous occasions, most notably in 1941, starring Arthur Askey. Ridley, who had fought in both wars, was discharged from the Army following injuries sustained at the Somme, so returned to the stage on both occasions. He was known for writing over thirty plays ('The Ghost Train' being his most famous).



Ridley was struggling to develop his film company between the wars, so chose to sell the performing rights to the play to pay off the staff, rather than go bankrupt. Many years later, he lived to regret that decision, as the play became so popular with amateur groups. It is believed that the play is performed somewhere in the world every night of the year; the influence was so strong, the world's first 'ghost train' ride, which opened at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in 1930, was named after the play. Later in life, He returned to acting, portraying a number of film and television roles, ultimately performing his most famous role as Pte. Godfrey in 'Dad's Army'.

**A party of train passengers travelling through Cornwall miss their connection due to the irresponsible actions of one of their group, and find themselves stranded at a deserted railway station. The group have no choice but to stay overnight, choosing to ignore the warnings of the stationmaster that the station is haunted. The body of the stationmaster is soon found on the platform, and a visit from a local girl confirms the story, so the group regret their decision. The supernatural events continue to unfold, until their salvation comes from a rather unexpected source.**

**Set in the early 1920s,  
the action takes place in the waiting room  
of Fal Vale Station, on a cold, wet autumn evening.**

**The play comprises three acts:  
There will be a short interval between Acts 1 and 2,  
when raffle tickets will be on sale at the rear of the hall,  
and a longer interval between Acts 2 and 3,  
when refreshments will be available in the small hall.**

# THE CAST...



**Tony Robins**  
as Saul Hodgkin



**Wendy Barnett**  
as Elsie Winthrop



**Richard Percival**  
as Richard Winthrop



**Val Coates**  
as Miss Bourne



**Anna Sims**  
as Peggy Murdoch



**Martin Stone**  
as Charles Murdoch



**Mark Jamieson**  
as Teddie Deakin



**Victoria Jamieson**  
as Julia Price



**Simon Watkins**  
as Herbert Price



**Dave Barnett**  
as John Sterling



**Christine Belsham**  
as Jackson

# **THE CREW...**

Properties

**Marion Biram**

Wardrobe and Make-Up

**Wendy Barnett, Anna Sims, Monica Cane, Julie Exell**

Set and Furniture Construction

**Dave Barnett, Barry Gavin, Chris Suggitt, Paul Rendle, Steve Morley**

Backdrop Artist

**David Batchelor**

Sound and Lighting

**David Batchelor, Chris Suggitt**

Prompt

**Monica Cane**

Front-Of-House and Refreshments

**Daryl O'Sullivan, Julie Exell, Ann Batchelor, Ann Rawlings, et al**

Programme and Poster

**Steve Morley**

With Special Thanks To

**Bethany Allchin**

## **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE...**

**Tickets will be on sale before the play and during the intervals; for this production, we will be supporting the Mothers' Union 'Away From It All' appeal. Please remember to check your tickets at the end of the play to see if you are a winner!**



*Registered Charity No. 240531*

*[www.rochestermothersunion.co.uk](http://www.rochestermothersunion.co.uk)*

*Along with other branches across the UK, the Rochester MU branch has helped to support a number of families take a much-needed holiday this year. By supporting our raffle, you will be able to help boost the funds to enable the AFIA scheme to support more families next year – thank you!*



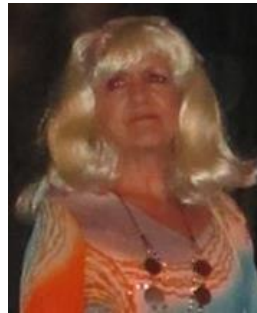
# NEWS FROM THE PLAYERS...

We are pleased to announce that at the recent Bexley Drama Awards, St. Martin's Players were the recipients of two awards for our last production, 'Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals'.

To our delight, Marion Biram received the Matt Crowley Cup and certificate for 'Best Actor In A Supporting Role'; to our further delight, and surprise, St. Martin's Players received the Certificate For Musical Excellence.



Our congratulations go to Marion for her fine performance as 'Karen', who after trial and tribulation was reunited with her childhood sweetheart; to Barry and Debra Gavin, who directed 'Crazy Capers' with enthusiasm and attention to detail that was duly rewarded, and to our Musical Director, Peter Wilson, whose patience, skill and enjoyment guiding us through unfamiliar material were key. DB



## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION...



### MOTHER GOOSE

*a pantomime by Roger Lamb & Bob Heather  
directed by Anna Sims*

**24 January 2014, 25 January 2014  
31 January 2014, 1 February 2014**

***New members are always welcome!***

We will be reading for the next production on **Friday 11 October** (adults and children) and **Wednesday 16 October** (adults only).

We meet on Friday evenings, from 8:00pm, in the Huxtable Hall.

Don't want to be on-stage? No problem – why not help behind the scenes!

Visit us online, at [www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk), or find us on Facebook!

# OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS...

**1991**

SLEEPING BEAUTY  
SEE HOW THEY RUN!

**1992**

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARVES  
VIRTUE TRIUMPHANT

**1993**

CINDERELLA  
CONTINENTAL QUILT  
SURPRISE PACKAGE

**1994**

ALADDIN  
LAUGH! I NEARLY WENT TO MIAMI  
POST HORN GALLOP

**1995**

BABES IN THE WOOD  
KEEPING DOWN WITH THE JONESES  
PLAY ON!

**1996**

DICK WHITTINGTON  
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED  
THE ROSES OF EYAM

**1997**

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK  
PARDON ME! PRIME MINISTER  
MURDER IN COMPANY

**1998**

PUSS IN BOOTS  
PULL THE OTHER ONE  
BLITHE SPIRIT

**1999**

MOTHER GOOSE  
BEDROOM FARCE  
PRIDE AND JOY  
LAST TANGO IN BARNEHURST

**2000**

PETER PAN  
SEE HOW THEY RUN!  
MY FRIEND MISS FLINT

**2001**

TREASURE ISLAND  
SHOCK TACTICS  
OUTSIDE EDGE

**2002**

CINDERELLA  
THE MURDER ROOM  
RUNNING RIOT

**2003**

KING ARTHUR  
PARTY PIECE  
NO TIME FOR FIG LEAVES

**2004**

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY  
KINDLY KEEP IT COVERED  
THE END OF THE PIER SHOW

**2005**

BLUEBEARD  
A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

**2006**

ALADDIN  
HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES  
NOAH'S ANIMALS

**2007**

THE THREE MUSKETEERS  
MURDER WEEKEND  
OUT OF FOCUS

**2008**

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD  
MURDER IN PLAY  
TOAD OF TOAD HALL

**2009**

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK  
THE DAY GOD DIED  
BARBECUES 'R' MURDER  
LADY LOLLIPOP  
JEKYLL AND HYDE

**2010**

DICK WHITTINGTON  
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE  
OVER MY DEAD BODY

**2011**

SNOW WHITE  
ALICE IN WONDERLAND  
MURDER AT THE NEW VICARAGE

**2012**

CINDERELLA  
PANIC STATIONS

**2013**

ROBIN HOOD  
CRAZY CAPERS, DODGY DEALS

**COMING UP IN 2014...**  
MOTHER GOOSE

**WE ARE STILL RECYCLING...**



**INK AND TONER CARTRIDGES**

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**MOBILE PHONES**

**WRITING INSTRUMENTS**

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(make sure you have selected '4<sup>th</sup> Barnehurst Scout Group' as your charity).

**2 Follow the link to one of the many retailers...**

(or download the Fundraising Tool, and you can go straight to the retailer).

**3 Buy something online, and the Scout Group receives a donation – AT NO COST TO YOU!**