



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

Cash On Delivery

A Comedy by Michael Cooney

Directed and Produced by Rae Calnan and Monica Cane

Friday 13 May 2022, 7:30pm

Saturday 14 May 2022, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath

PROGRAMME

50p

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!



Welcome to our May 2020 production! All was well when the play was first cast, but then we were told to stay at home. Thinking that these arrangements would only be in place for a few weeks (how wrong we were!), we continued to learn lines for a bit, making use of our new online friend, Zoom, for word rehearsals, which we have continued to use in recent weeks. When we had to abandon our plans to perform that year, the cast were committed to starting again as soon as we could.

There have been a few changes to our original line-up: Monica has assisted Director Rae this time as Lucie (our original Producer) has now moved away, while Marion has taken over the role of *Linda Swan* as Julie is unable to join us this time. We also welcome Stephen to his first play (having been a part of our last two pantomimes), while James and Ciara take on backstage roles for the first time. We are grateful to our set-building team for erecting the scenery for the play for a second time (the previous set had to be dismantled when the hall was rewired and decorated last year).

This is our second production since restrictions were eased: our production of *Cinderella* had a number of unknown factors: are people ready to return to us? Do we have to have a smaller, masked audience? We did try to restrict numbers (though no longer obliged to), but the draw of the pantomime was so great, the house was overflowing and several productions sold out, making it one of the most successful productions in our history. We were very pleased to see so many of our faithful audience members have returned and many newcomers seeing us for the first time, impressed by the performance and rating us higher than other local productions – so please continue to spread the word – we're back!

We hope that you enjoy the show, and look forward to seeing you again in the autumn for our 90th production.



THE WRITER AND THE PLAY

Born in 1967, **Michael Cooney**, is a screenwriter and director, known for several film thrillers including *Jack Frost* (and its sequel); he also writes literature for children and young adults. He is the son of actor and playwright Ray Cooney, known for his association with the farce genre; both father and son have also written together.



Cash On Delivery was Michael's first farce, was first performed in 1996 at the Whitehall Theatre, with Bradley Walsh playing the lead role.

"Eric Swan (aided by his Uncle George and unbeknown to his wife Linda) has pocketed thousands of pounds through fraudulent DSS claims. When Norman Bassett (his lodger) opens the door to Mr Jenkins, the DSS Inspector, deceptive mayhem follows – as do the undertaker, bereavement counsellor, psychiatrist, Norman's fiancée, a corpse, the ominous Ms Cowper and a rather rebellious washing machine..."

The action takes place in the living-room of 344 Chiltern Road, just off the Mile End Road, and is set just after 9am on a windy October morning in the 1980s.

The play comprises two acts; there will be a short interval at the end of Act One. Refreshments will be available in the Small Hall during the interval.



Though there is no longer any legal obligation, guests in the audience at our productions are welcome to wear a face covering if they wish.

Please also be considerate of those seated close to you.



If you would like to take advantage of our hearing induction loop system, please adjust your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.

THE 'USUAL' SMALL PRINT... Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

THE CAST

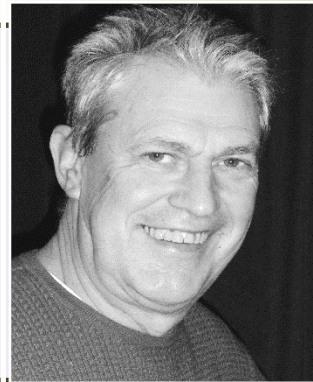


MARION BIRAM as Linda Swan

Joining the group in 2008 to keep Val company, Marion has taken a number of key roles, from Mole in *Toad Of Toad Hall*, to Mr Hyde's female companion, and even won an award for the role of Karen in *Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals*. In more recent years, Marion has made many appearances in pantomime chorus groups and takes a leading role in organising props for our performances.

MARK JAMIESON as Eric Swan

Mark keeps himself busy by appearing on different stages in the area: aside from playing an Ugly Sister earlier this year, his last appearances with us were in *Henry The Tudor Dude* and *The Ghost Train* (although he directed our 25th anniversary production of *See How They Run!*). First appearing with us in *Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami* in 1994, he is best remembered for playing Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde on stage simultaneously.

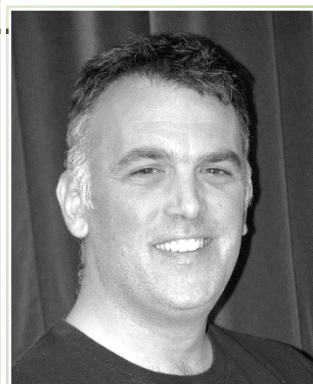


PAUL BERGMAN as Norman Bassett

Paul joined the group in 2004, first appearing in the chorus of *The End Of The Pier Show*. After a break after *And Then There Were None*, he returned to the group in 2018, and has appeared in *Free And Easy*, *Love Begins At Fifty* and *Treasure Island*, *Agatha Crusty* and *Jack And The Beanstalk*. Paul is no stranger to playing roles in ladies' clothes, so his reluctance in this play is purely acting!

MARK FOULDS as Mr Jenkins

Having appeared on stage elsewhere (and often rehearsing more than one play at a time), Mark first joined our group in 2017 in *I'll Get My Man*; he has also appeared in *It's Never Too Late*, and as the dame in *Rapunzel*. Most notably, his last appearance on our stage was as Frankenstein's creature, where he showed his versatility as an actor, portraying the intimidating and vulnerable traits of the character excellently.



THE CAST

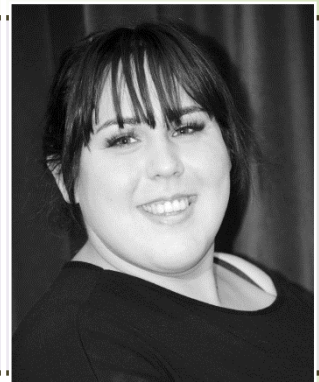


STEPHEN BRODY as Uncle George

Stephen is the newest member of the group appearing in this play. Having performed onstage before moving to the area, Stephen has appeared in our last two pantomimes: a brokers man in *Jack And The Beanstalk*, and in the chorus of our most recent production of *Cinderella* – best remembered for his attempts to keep time in the Seven Dwarves' routine.

VICTORIA JAMIESON as Sally Chessington

Victoria has appeared in over thirty of our productions, having first appeared in the youth chorus of *Treasure Island* in 2001. Whether playing a household maid or an unexpected guest, her presence on stage is always very notable. Victoria also has a habit of getting injured on stage, having had to punch out window panes, and her own father breaking bottles over her head.

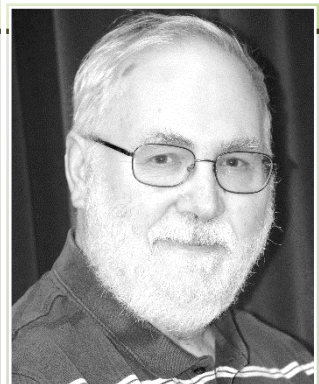


HAZEL BERGMAN as Dr Chapman

Hazel first joined us in *King Arthur* in 2003, appearing in several productions throughout the next decade and directing a play and a pantomime. Returning in 2018, she played the landlady in *Free And Easy* and directed *Agatha Crusty*. Things can get messy when Hazel is on stage, from throwing a pot of soup over Steve, to putting trifle down Richard's trousers – will she behave herself this time?

RICHARD PERCIVAL as Mr Forbright

Richard is the Drama Group's Chairman. His first appearance was in *Pride And Joy* in 1999; since then, he has appeared in a large number of productions and directed six times. He is probably best known for playing panto dames and murdering more characters on stage than any other member of the group, but is portraying an undertaker on this occasion, who realises that his latest client is not quite what he expected.



THE CAST



VAL COATES as Ms Cowper

Val has made regular appearances throughout her time with the group, having made her debut in *Murder In Play*; she is also the only lady in the group to have played a pantomime dame (twice). More recently, she has played the mysterious *Agatha Crusty* and *Cinderella's* wicked stepmother – this time, she takes the role of an intimidating senior DSS inspector.

LINDSEY CLAYTON as Brenda Dixon

First appearing in 2016 as Wishy Washy in *Aladdin*, Lindsey has appeared in eleven previous productions, most recently as the Prince in *Cinderella* earlier this year. Lindsey is a versatile member of the group, having directed *Rapunzel*, working backstage, and (on several occasions) stepping into a role at the last minute: this time she has had two years to prepare for a small part.



THE CREW

Prompt	STEVE MORLEY
Properties, Stage Crew	JAMES BELSHAM, CIARA COGLEY
Make-Up	RAE CALNAN, LINDSEY CLAYTON
Set Construction	DAVE BARNETT, BARRY GAVIN et al
Lighting & Sound	DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT
Box Office	DAVE BARNETT
Front Of House	SUE ADAMS, WENDY BARNETT, DARYL O'SULLIVAN, MARTIN STONE
Refreshments	VICTORIA WHITEHEAD et al
Poster & Programme	DAVE BARNETT, STEVE MORLEY

SAD NEWS

On 21 March, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend Ann Batchelor.

While Ann was not a performer, she had continued to support the group throughout its 30-year history as our 'Queen of Refreshments' both for our audiences and our cast and crew backstage, as well as organising the Guides to assist her for pantomimes and larger productions, with proceeds helping to support our raffle charities.



Ann was a dedicated member of the St Martin's community, as a long-serving guider and the church's Lay Reader. Even while unable to be present in person, Ann continued to organise and participate in online church services, and was very disappointed that she was unable to help us at our last pantomime.

Our thoughts and condolences go to husband David and all of her family at this time. Continuing the tradition of the Guides taking the lead, we are pleased that Vicky and her team are now ready to take on the not-so-straightforward role of organising the refreshments for our future productions.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE



As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the interval; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.



StrongMen

www.strongmen.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1184242

StrongMen is a charity with the aim of supporting men following bereavement. Grief can cause severe emotional and mental health conditions which are often overlooked and even ignored, especially in men. The charity offers various services to reach out and support as many men as possible, including their *Man2Man* telephone-based peer support, weekender retreats for men with shared experiences, an online social network for health matters, motivational talks and drop-in sessions.

COME AND JOIN US!

The St Martin's Players were reformed in 1991, and normally present two plays and a pantomime each year. In recent years, we have also branched into musical plays and murder mystery evenings.

We always welcome new members (over 18s, with opportunities for young people to join our pantomime chorus): whether you want to tread the boards, help behind the scenes, or contribute to the creation of scenery, costumes and props (or try a bit of everything!), we'd love to hear from you. Just come along to one of our rehearsals (Friday evenings in the Church Hall), speak to one of our members, or contact us online – we look forward to hearing from you!



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

30 September 2022

1 October 2022

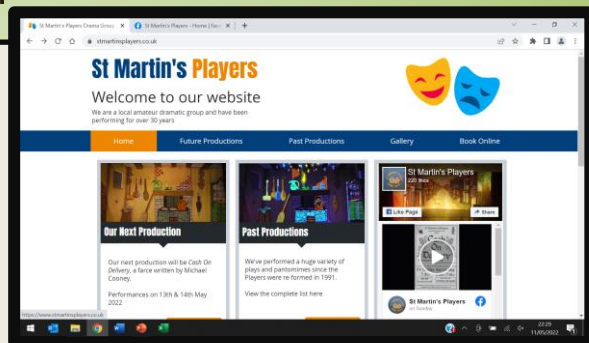
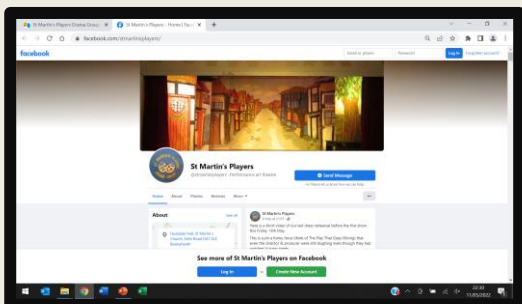
'A MYSTERY'

(TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Please look out for announcements on our Facebook page to learn more about our auditions / readings and the arrangements for our performances.

VISIT US ONLINE

Why not visit our website? Here, you can find photos and programmes from our previous productions, news of our next production and a link to our online booking system.



Our Facebook page has even more photos, plus backstage footage and our latest news. Don't forget to like us and leave a nice review!

Thank you very much to Chris and Rae for continuing to manage our online presence.

www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk



Like us on
Facebook

COMMUNITY NEWS

Do you know a young person who is looking for something different to do? Someone who wants to get out and about, trying new things and meeting new friends, after spending a lot of the last two years stuck at home? St Martin's may have something for you!

There are a number of Rainbow (ages 4-7), Brownie (ages 7-10) and Guide (ages 10-14) units that meet in the Church Hall throughout the week, ready to welcome new girls for their fun and adventurous activities each week.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding



The 4th Barnehurst Scout Group is also ready to welcome boys and girls to share their challenges and adventures, whether as a Beaver (ages 6-8), a Cub (ages 8-10½) or a Scout (ages 10½-14).

For further information about joining (or joining the waiting list, if not yet old enough), please speak to one of the Guide or Scout Leaders at any of the performances, or contact 07791 116628 (Guides) or 07950 650401 (Scouts), and we will be happy to direct you to the right person. We are also always pleased to hear from any adults who would like to get involved, whether working with the young people, or 'behind the scenes' – please contact us if you can offer your support.

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**

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS

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
The Ghose Train**

2014

**Mother Goose
Henry The Tudor Dude
Murder Backstage**

2015

**Sleeping Beauty
The Wizard Of Oz
See How They Run!**

2016

**Aladdin
Key For Two
Hound Of The Baskervilles**

2017

**Beauty And The Beast
I'll Get My Man
It's Never Too Late**

2018

**Rapunzel
Free And Easy
Love Begins At Fifty**

2019

**Treasure Island
Agatha Crusty And The Murder Mystery Dinner
Frankenstein**

2020

Jack And The Beanstalk

2022

Cinderella

