



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

Agatha Christie

and the

**Murder
Mystery
Dinner**



A comedy by Derek Webb

Directed and Produced by

Hazel Bergman and Victoria Jamieson

Friday 17 May 2019, 7:30pm

Saturday 18 May, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAMME

50p

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with stagescripts.com

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Welcome to the St Martin's Players' 85th production – a spoof on an Agatha Christie murder mystery. Yes, you can expect spooky things to happen. Yes, you can expect the deaths of some of the characters. But this time, have a giggle at some of the inept approaches to solving the crime and characters that really don't have a clue what is going on. Of course, you still have the chance to figure out who committed the crimes, but will you spot all of the clues?

Our cast of eleven have worked hard – while some of the parts do not have many lines, spreading them out over the scenes with little time off-stage has been a challenge, but piece by piece, the play has come together, with our directors guiding us through the process and helping to ensure the lines are being delivered correctly and we are not blocking each other out. Hazel directs us for the third time, previously treating us to *Bluebeard* and *Murder Weekend*, while guiding Vicky in her debut in charge – we'd like to thank them for their efforts, and look forward to them bossing us about again very soon (they really aren't that bossy – they are some of the most polite directors we have had!)

Having recovered from a busy pantomime, our technical team have efficiently worked to provide the sound and lighting effects, and our set builders have produced a marvellous living room set (we hope, at the time of writing, that all of the paint will be dry by the opening night!) Of course, a 'thank you' also goes to all of the cast, who have collectively helped to gather props and costumes.

We hope that you enjoy the show, and look forward to seeing you again at our September play – by then, we may have figured out how to fit the very long title of this production onto our ever-growing list on the back cover of the programme..



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www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk

THE PLAY

“Geoffrey and Caroline Robertson are having a dinner party to celebrate ten successful years of Mighty Midget Vacuum Cleaners, the company he jointly owns with Tim McArthur, and to add spice to the evening they decide to make it a murder mystery dinner. And Geoffrey has a special surprise – he has invited the well-known crime novelist Agatha Crusty to join them. She is in the area promoting her latest book and agrees to be the guest of honour. When she arrives, each guest is given a part to play and a costume, then the game begins.

A recorded voice tells them that they are to discover the murderer of Lady Maude Feersome (played by Caroline) in her remote country house one stormy night. Then life imitates fiction as the Robertson’s remote house is cut off by a storm, leading to a power failure and the sound of gunfire, and one of the guests has been found dead...”

The play comprises two acts; there will be a short interval at the end of Act 1. Refreshments will be available during the performance.

The action takes place in the sitting room of the Robertson’s large Victorian house. The three scenes of Act One show the events of the evening of the murder mystery dinner party; the four scenes of Act Two reveal what happened the following morning.

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 intervals; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.

For over 40 years, Bexley Women’s Aid has been committed to providing support and refuge to women and their children affected by domestic abuse. Their mission is to enable and empower women and children experiencing abuse to obtain and sustain a safe living environment. They also provide community education to teach young people about healthy, respectful relationships in order to prevent domestic abuse in the future.



Bexley Women’s Aid

Safe homes. Secure relationships.

THE CAST



CAROLYN ELLERY as Caroline Robertson

Carolyn is appearing in one of our plays for the first time. Previously, she has appeared in our last two pantomimes: we were all scared stiff as she played the evil Gothel, who imprisoned *Rapunzel* in her tower; more recently, she appeared as the Chair of the Smugglers Cove Womens' Institute in *Treasure Island*.

RICHARD PERCIVAL as Geoffrey Robertson

The beard is back! Last year's appearance in *Love Begins At Fifty* led to him going clean shaven for a youthful look. Once that play had finished, it started to grow back – only to shave it off again, having been cast as the panto dame. He is also thankful that, having recently been caught up in panto slapstick and had trifles poured into his trousers in our last September production, he gets to remain clean... for now.



SUE ADAMS as Nicola Braithwaite

Sue was one of the founder members of the group; while continuing to support our productions over the years, she became more actively involved in the group again two years ago. She last appeared on our stage (and at other locations) as the Detective Inspector in our last murder mystery dining experience, *It's Never Too Late*, and has directed and prompted since her return.



HARRY OWEN as Nigel Braithwaite

Like Carolyn, Harry is one of our newer members, joining us for the first time in *Rapunzel*. Since then, he has appeared in *Free And Easy* and *Treasure Island*. This will be the fourth role he has played for the group – you may notice a similarity in the roles he has played. Let's hope he doesn't get a reputation for playing dim characters!



THE CAST



BARRY GAVIN as Tim McArthur

Barry first appeared as a baby in a pram in the 1995 panto, with recent appearances in our last pantomime and in *Hound Of The Baskervilles*. Barry is noted for directing some of our best pantomimes and musical plays, including *Beauty And The Beast* and *Free And Easy* – he takes responsibility for the spectacular staging, allowing his wife Debra to focus on the musical aspects – thankfully!

CHRISTINE BELSHAM as Anna McArthur

Christine has regularly performed in pantomimes and plays since 2009, with this being her 18th appearance, Whether as a nagging wife, a vicar or a fairy, Christine is not afraid to try something new. This now leaves our audience to guess how her character will develop this time...



STEVE MORLEY as Duncan Crocker

Steve has been rather busy over the last few years, now appearing in his sixth consecutive production, most recently in this year's panto as Long John Silver, completing six performances on a wooden leg. He equally enjoys backstage roles, with unusual props and rigorous stage management; Steve is now looking forward to work on some new special atmospheric effects as he directs our next production.

LINDSEY CLAYTON as Tanya Crocker

Joining us in 2016, Lindsey is now appearing on stage in her tenth production (though sometimes her appearances are as an understudy or very brief, it shows how versatile and well prepared she is). No stranger to unusual costumes and makeup, having played the *Beast* and *Capt. Bloodheart* in our last two pantomimes, this time Lindsey will be wearing something else to distract us from our lines!



THE CREW



PAUL BERGMAN as Martin Charlton

First appearing in the chorus of *The End Of The Pier Show*, Paul has taken on a number of challenging roles over the years. After a break, he returned to the group last year, and has appeared in *Free And Easy*, *Love Begins At Fifty* and *Treasure Island*.

LUCIE BACHE as Lydia Charlton

Lucie's debut performance was just a few years ago, and has appeared in two pantomimes, and as part of the chorus of pub regulars in *Free And Easy*. In her first appearance, she played a Detective Constable, trying to solve the murder that took place in *It's Never Too Late* – will she solve this mystery? Or perhaps she will be a victim – or even the murderer...



VAL COATES as Agatha Crusty

Val has made regular appearances throughout her time with the group, having made her debut in *Murder In Play*. We are pleased to welcome her back to our stage in another leading role, with this production being her first appearance since *I'll Get My Man*, and co-directed our last murder experience, *It's Never Too Late*.



...and featuring the voice of DAVE BARNETT

Why not join us? We are always happy to welcome new members – whether you would like to appear on the stage, or try one of the many roles behind the scenes, we are sure you can find something to show your creative talents, as well as being part of a fun, friendly atmosphere. Why not come along to our next audition, or contact us to find out more?

THE CREW

Prompt	DARYL O'SULLIVAN
Properties & Costume	THE PLAYERS
Make-Up & Stage Crew	RAE CALNAN
Set Construction	'THE USUAL SUSPECTS'
Lighting & Sound	DAVID BATCHELOR CHRIS SUGGITT
Box Office	RICHARD PERCIVAL
Front Of House	FRIENDS OF THE PLAYERS
Refreshments	ANN BATCHELOR
Poster & Programme	DAVE BARNETT STEVE MORLEY

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

FRANKENSTEIN

**A PLAY BY TIM KELLY, BASED ON THE CLASSIC BY MARY SHELLEY
DIRECTED BY STEVE MORLEY**

27-28 September 2019

*Readings and auditions will take place
on Wednesday 5 June at 8:30pm in the Scout Hall
and Friday 7 June at 8:00pm in the Small Hall*

THE 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.

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
The Ghost 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