

A **STOKE REP**
PLAYERS
Production 

Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th February 2020

performance times 7.30pm Sat Matinée 2.30pm

A FEAST OF FUN!

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

by **Marc Camoletti**
adapted by **Robin Hawdon**



Stokerep.info

£1



Welcome to the Rep

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is supported and run by volunteers who regularly give up their time and without whom we could not deliver the standard of production and customer service that our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others fulfill less visible but no less vital roles behind the scenes.

We are deeply indebted to our backstage crews, front-of-house helpers, bar and coffee staff and to all members and friends who help to run the theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance on performance evenings and drinking up time is 20 minutes.

Coffee, tea and confectionery are available from the coffee bar from 6.45pm.

All interval refreshments may be ordered before the performance to avoid queuing later.

The car park is open from 6.30pm until 11pm on performance evenings. Over-spill car parking is available in the University car park further along Leek Road, free from Monday to Friday and £1 Saturday matinée and evening.

Neither the Repertory Theatre nor Staffordshire University can accept any responsibility for damage to or loss of vehicles from their car parks.

Please note that smoking is not permitted in any part of the theatre.



Booking **INFORMATION**

Our box office is open each evening from the Monday preceding each production until the last night of the show from 5pm to 8pm.

Telephone: 01782 209784

For online bookings, information about current and forthcoming productions and visiting companies, concerts and activities, visit our website

www.stokerep.info

You can also book tickets during normal opening hours from Musicmania, 4-6 Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley

Telephone: 01782 206000

Book online at www.musicmania.com

- Join our mailing list. Keep up to date with the latest news.
- Have your say and find out what others are saying about the Rep on

facebook.com/stokereplayers

- You can also follow us on Twitter @StokeRepTheatre.

From the Director

Everyone, at some point in their lives, would probably say they wish it had a little more excitement. However, there is also the saying: “be careful what you wish for”. When Bernard plans a romantic weekend with his chic Parisian mistress, whilst his wife, Jaqueline, is away, he gets more than he had bargained for. He has planned everything to the finest detail, from booking a Cordon Bleu chef, to inviting his best friend Robert along as an alibi. What could possibly go wrong...?

In terms of morals and messages, there isn't any really deep thinking required or any deep and meaningful philosophical questions, raised purposely for you, the audience, to ponder during the performance. Ultimately, there is the suggestion that married people should stick together and singletons likewise – irrespective of whether they are happy in their relationship.

However, that isn't really the purpose of the play. There is certainly a lack of morality on all sides as none of characters is squeaky-clean. It is really just a great night of breakneck physical and spoken comedy. The situation itself is so hilariously absurd that the rather more deeper moral concerns and question raised are overtaken by the ridiculous lengths people go to “Get their leg over”.

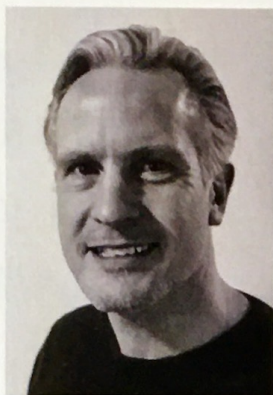
The fact that the bedrooms were a former cow shed and piggery suggest a certain animalistic urge for carnal pleasures needing to be met. In the best traditions of farce, mistaken identify, confused alibis and everyone talking at cross-purposes lends itself to an evening of hilarious confusion that ensures Bernard and Robert have to improvise at breakneck speed.

This level of pace and humour requires a cast that is capable of meeting the demands of the piece. In that respect, I have been truly blessed. Given the breadth and depth of experience in this cast, it has been an absolute joy to rehearse. It has been a truly collaborative effort with each cast member bringing their own talents and ideas to the rehearsals, to be crafted into what you see this evening.

My final heartfelt thanks goes to James King, my co-director. He has been a huge source of strength and support during the whole process and for that I will be forever grateful.

Craig Wood

Meet the cast...



James Freeman
(Bernard)



Bethany Froud
(Jacqueline)



Elena Fox
(Suzanne)



Rob Lawton
(Robert)



Chris Ridge
(George)



Sian Weedon
(Suzette)

THE CAST

Bernard

James Freeman

Jacqueline

Bethany Froud

Robert

Rob Lawton

Suzanne

Elena Fox

Suzette

Sian Weedon

George

Chris Ridge

Directed by Craig Wood and James King

The action takes place in a country farmhouse hidden away in the French countryside some distance from Paris.

Act I: Early evening. Act II: Two hours later

A chance to act on the Rep stage!

Are you a male actor who looks between 18 and 25? We are holding open auditions for five excellent roles as Cambridge undergraduates for our production of *Blue Stockings*.

Auditions will be held from 3pm on Sunday 1 March in the Rep rehearsal studio, Eldon Road, Hanley, ST1 6AZ. Production dates are 9 to 13 June, with rehearsals beginning on Monday 6 April.

Anyone interested can contact the director, Brian Rawlins, via e-mail at bgrawlins@aol.com. Or just turn up on the day!

CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set Design	Dawn Birks
Lighting design	Malcolm Rushton
Lighting operation	Janet Clarke/Malcolm Rushton
Sound operation	Tina Cambell
Props	Kath Vernon
Set dressing	Margo Bloor
Set décor	Ken Mills, Dawn Birks, Ray Vernon, Tina Cambell
Wardrobe co-ordinators	Sylvia Wright and Joy Rawlins
Costumes	Rep Players
Wigs	John Cumberlidge
Front of House Manager	Nick Bailey
Programme compiler	Brian Rawlins
Publicity design and artwork	John Stone
Company photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John's Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances

Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society

Coming soon...

A preview by the director of our next play

Our next production, *Hangmen*, is a savage, hilarious, dark comedy about vengeance, with twists and laughs from the pen of Martin McDonagh, author of *The beauty queen of Le-nane*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Pillow Man*, *Three Billboards*, *Outside Ebbing* and *Missouri*, winner of four awards in the 2018 Golden Globe Awards.

The play opens in 1963 with a short, shocking prologue. Then fast forward to 1965, where Harry Wade, the bow-tied and sergeant-majorly landlord of a small pub in the north of England, is something of a local celebrity, with sycophantic bar-flies hanging on his every word.

The Oldham Gazette has sent a young reporter to interview Harry, “the second best hangman in England”, (the best hangman is, of course, the landlord of another pub, Albert Pierrepont). But how does Harry feel on the day that hanging has been abolished in Britain?

The tension increases as Mooney, a smart suited interloper from the south, appears and flirts with Harry’s bored wife, Alice, and his terminally naïve and moody daughter, Shirley, which all gets under Harry’s skin.

Then, horror, Shirley goes missing. The storm clouds gather, the lightning strikes and things get nastier—or funnier—as the play races to its gripping conclusion.

Although it is a comedy, the play does contain some strong language.

Diana Halstead

A **STOKE REP**
PLAYERS
Production

Tues 31st March - Sat 4th April 2020
performance times 7.30pm Sat Matinée 2.30pm

The Hit Comedy
HANGMEN
By Martin McDonagh

★★★★★
GRIPPING, FUNNY
AND DRAMATICALLY TENSE
The Sunday Times

PLEASE NOTE THIS PLAY CONTAINS ADULT LANGUAGE

The Players Box Office 01782 209784

Book online

stokerep.info ticketsource.co.uk musicmaniauk.com

*booking fee applies



TICKETSOURCE



This amateur production of 'Hangmen' is presented by special arrangement with GAMBEL FRENCH LTD



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