

THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
Beresford Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2FX



GASLIGHT EVENING

by Patrick Hamilton

Programme 50p

76th
Season



PATRICK HAMILTON

Born in Hassocks in Sussex on 17th March 1904, Patrick Hamilton was a playwright and novelist notable for his capture of atmosphere and the Cockney dialect spoken in the East End of London.

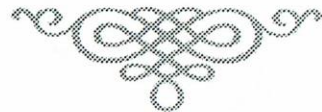
Patrick Hamilton began acting in 1921 and then, fascinated by theatrical melodrama, took to writing. He became known with the novel *Craven House* (1926). Three very successful motion pictures were based on his works. His play *Rope* first performed 1929) was made into the film of the same title by Alfred Hitchcock (1948). The play *Gaslight* (1938) was phenomenally successful not only on the stage but also as a motion picture (1944) starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer; a British made film (titled *Angel Street*) was released in 1952. From his novel *Hangover Square* (1941) was made the motion picture of the same title (1945).



Film poster for
1944 MGM film

Patrick Hamilton also wrote novels portraying the unpleasantness of the modern city; *The Midnight Bell* (1929) and the *Plains of Cement* (1934), both included in the volume *Twenty Thousand Street Under The Sky* (1935).

He died on 23rd September 1962 in Sheringham, Norfolk.



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

presents

by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

GASLIGHT

by Patrick Hamilton

5th - 9th and
12th - 16th December, 1995

DIRECTED BY SUZANNE DAVIES

DESIGNED BY TINA CAMPBELL

GENERAL STAGE MANAGER ... RICHARD MASTERS

Acknowledgements

Specialist Wardrobe Care and Dry-cleaning for the Repertory Theatre courtesy of **Central Cleaners**, 163 Hamil Road, Burslem.

**WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE,
WHOSE MEMBERS VOLUNTARILY ATTEND ALL OUR
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.**

GASLIGHT

by Patrick Hamilton

CAST

Mrs Manningham	Julie Grant
Mr Manningham	Brian Rawlins
Rough	George Slater
Elizabeth	Krissi Carpenter
Nancy	Joanne Brown
Policeman	Bill Hancock



The action takes place in the living-room of a four-storied house in London in the latter part of the last century.

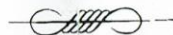
ACT I	Late afternoon
ACT II	No time has passed since the end of Act I
ACT III	Eleven o'clock the same evening

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager (for this production)	Bill Hancock
Lighting Designer	Stuart Campbell
Sound Designer	Richard Masters
Assistant Stage Managers	Mike Adams
Martin Allsop	John Beeston
Tina Campbell	Martin Guest
Gill Franklin	Beverley Halfpenny
Jan Johnson	Brenda Swancott
Wardrobe Mistress	Alison Wicks
Properties	Madeleine Pottinger
Company Photographer	Peter Croft
Theatre Bar Manager	Judy Adams
Front of House Manager	Trevor Barlow
Box Office Managers	Stella Woolliscroft
	Brenda Swancott
Refreshment Organiser	Sandy Holland
Programme	Tina Campbell



The play was first presented on December 5th, 1938, at the Richmond Theatre, Richmond and produced by Gardner Davies.



There will be a Twenty-minute interval at the end of Act I

Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium



THE ENGLISH DETECTIVE STORY

In the early twenties the English were recovering from a devastating war in which three quarters of a million young men died. There was a desperate desire to forget, to lose the trauma in fun and escapism. Musical shows (by Noel Coward) provided a good part of this escapism, the Charleston and flappers took over the fashion and social scene ... and the Golden Age of the Detective story was born.

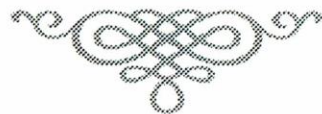
It felt as if the old world, and the old order, had been irretrievably lost and there was a form of refuge to be found in the new genre of literature which subscribed to a recognisable pattern of set rules and traditions.

The English detective story showed clear class distinctions, stereotyped characters and situations and very often cast the 'outsider' permanently from the inner circle of the establishment, usually by murderous means.

We continued to find refuge in this artificially created world, through glossy televised adaptations of detective 'classics', with the ever-popular board game, 'Cluedo' (which has now found its way onto our computer screens) and even in 'Murder Mystery Parties', gatherings which we can attend either in hotels or in the comfort of our own homes, where guests role-play characters in a murder story, and get to solve the case!

The classic English Detective story was usually set in a great country house, rural village or occasionally some other symbol of a cosy elite such as a cruise liner or hotel. It held the classic ingredients of the essential corpse, a closed group of friends or extended family, and always included a surprise solution.

Agatha Christie was one of the first to publish ('Mysterious Affair at Styles' 1920) and has been the most enduring of the popular writers. Others include Margery Allingham, Ngaio Marsh and Dorothy L. Sayers.



RONALD KNOX'S DECALOGUE ...

... appeared in the Preface to Best Detective Stories of 1928-29 which Knox edited. Though a few of the rules are frivolous, most were intended to ensure "fair play" in the construction of an entertaining puzzle.

