

A
STOKE
Rep Players
Production

AGATHA
CHRISTIE'S

Dark and Gripping Comedy

**SPIDER'S
WEB**



Tues Feb 8th - Sat Feb 12th

Stoke on Trent Repertory Theatre Leek Rd, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2TR

StokeRepPlayers.co.uk

£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 our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others, fulfil 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 run this splendid theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance 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 for £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.

Meet the cast



Peter Hermans
Sir Roland Delahaye



Simon Bland
(Hugo Birch)



James King
(Jeremy Warrender)



Shelley Rivers
(Clarissa Hailsham-Brown)



Zoe Bailey
(Pippa Hailsham-Brown)



Rosemary Gresty
(Mildred Peake)



Richard Masters
(Elgin)



Ciernan Roberts
(Oliver Costello)



James Freeman
(Inspector Lord)



Matthew Spooner
(Henry Hailsham-Brown)



Evie Kent
(Constable Jones)



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 our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others, fulfil 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 run this splendid theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance 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 for £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.

Meet the cast



Peter Hermans
Sir Roland Delahaye



Simon Bland
(Hugo Birch)



James King
(Jeremy Warrender)



Shelley Rivers
(Clarissa Hailsham-Brown)



Zoe Bailey
(Pippa Hailsham-Brown)



Rosemary Gresty
(Mildred Peake)



Richard Masters
(Elgin)



Ciernan Roberts
(Oliver Costello)



James Freeman
(Inspector Lord)



Matthew Spooner
(Henry Hailsham-Brown)



Evie Kent
(Constable Jones)

THE CAST

Sir Roland Delahaye	Peter Hermans
Hugo Birch	Simon Bland
Jeremy Warrender	James King
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown	Shelley Rivers
Pippa Hailsham-Brown	Zoë Bailey
Mildred Peake	Rosemary Gresty
Elgin	Richard Masters
Oliver Costello	Ciernan Roberts
Inspector Lord	James Feeman
Constable Jones	Evie Kent
Henry Hailsham-Brown	Matthew Spooner

Director Chris Lockett

The action of the play takes place in the drawing room of Coplestone Court, the Hailsham-Brown's rented home in Kent

Act 1 Scene 1: An evening in March.

Act 2 Scene 1 A quarter of an hour later.

Interval

Scene 2: Ten minutes later

Act 3: A few minutes later

CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set Construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set Design	RP Design
Lighting Design	Stuart Campbell
Lighting Operation	Stuart Campbell and Janet Clarke
Sound Design and Operation	Tina Campbell
Props	Kath Vernon and Team
Specialist Props	Tony Rogerson and Kath Vernon
Set Dressing	Margo Bloor
Set Décor	Ken Mills and Team
Costumes	Rep Players and North Staffs Operatic Society
Wardrobe Assistant	Sylvia Wright
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Poster and Advertising Design	John Stone
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances. Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society

From the Director

***'Oh what a tangled web we weave
when first we practice to deceive'***

Shakespeare? No, actually, the quotation is from Sir Walter Scott's *A Tale of Flodden Field*, a verse tale which examines the domino effect which lies can have, creating problems and complications which eventually spiral out of control, and the difficulties of remembering the details of the lie in order to keep it going - something which Clarissa Hailsham Brown would do well to consider, as her attempts to cover up the tricky situation which has occurred in the drawing room of her family's rented country house, become increasingly convoluted.

Spider's Web premiered in the West End in 1954 and is Agatha Christie's second most successful play, having run longer than *The Witness for the Prosecution*. Originally written at the request of its star, Margaret Lockwood, *Spider's Web* was written during the rehearsals for *Witness for the Prosecution* and is one of only a few of Christie's stories to have started life as a play rather than a novel. It ran for 774 performances, joining *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Mousetrap* to be Christie's third play running simultaneously in the West End.

The New York Times said of the play, *'What sets Spider's Web apart from most specimens of its genre is that its real motive is fun; all else, dropped clues, plot contrivances etc is of secondary importance'* and this is very true, as the dramatic tension of the plot is seasoned with a humorous lightness of touch which makes the piece such fun. Unlike other Christie plays which take the plot and the action very seriously, *Spider's Web* is a play which has to be performed tongue in cheek because it is intended to be a conscious parody of the detective thriller genre whilst still containing suspense, humour and tension in equal measures in its intricate plot of murder, police and . . . no, to say more would be to reveal too much!

Preparing the production has not been without its challenges; Covid continues to complicate rehearsal schedules for everyone rehearsing productions, however, as a result of the commitment of the cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring the production to fruition, we've made it! A huge thank you to everyone involved in the production and to you, the audience, for supporting live theatre at this time.

Dame Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie is the most prolific and well known writer of detective novels and plays in the world. Audiences all over the world can't get enough of them. Her play *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest running play and was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, when it was closed because of the COVID pandemic.

She wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Two of her fictional detectives have become part of English folklore, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, both of which have been played by some of the world's leading actors.

She was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in 1890 to a wealthy upper middle class family in Torquay, in Devon. She wrote six novels which were not accepted for publication, but her novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, featuring Hercule Poirot, appeared in 1920 and launched her on her amazingly successful career.

She married her first husband, Archibald Christie, in 1914 and her new surname replaced her previous pen name of Mary Westmacott. They had one child before divorcing in 1928.

During both world wars she worked in various hospital dispensaries, acquiring a knowledge of the various poisons that feature in many of her plays and novels.

She married her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, in 1930 and spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East, later using her knowledge of archaeology in some of her novels.

We hope you enjoy tonight's production of one of her most famous plays.



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 our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others, fulfil 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 run this splendid theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance 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 for £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.

Meet the cast



Peter Hermans
Sir Roland Delahaye



Simon Bland
(Hugo Birch)



James King
(Jeremy Warrender)



Shelley Rivers
(Clarissa Hailsham-Brown)



Zoe Bailey
(Pippa Hailsham-Brown)



Rosemary Gresty
(Mildred Peake)



Richard Masters
(Elgin)



Ciernan Roberts
(Oliver Costello)



James Freeman
(Inspector Lord)



Matthew Spooner
(Henry Hailsham-Brown)



Evie Kent
(Constable Jones)

THE CAST

Sir Roland Delahaye	Peter Hermans
Hugo Birch	Simon Bland
Jeremy Warrender	James King
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown	Shelley Rivers
Pippa Hailsham-Brown	Zoë Bailey
Mildred Peake	Rosemary Gresty
Elgin	Richard Masters
Oliver Costello	Ciernan Roberts
Inspector Lord	James Feeman
Constable Jones	Evie Kent
Henry Hailsham-Brown	Matthew Spooner

Director Chris Lockett

The action of the play takes place in the drawing room of Coplestone Court, the Hailsham-Brown's rented home in Kent

Act 1 Scene 1: An evening in March.

Act 2 Scene 1 A quarter of an hour later.

Interval

Scene 2: Ten minutes later

Act 3: A few minutes later

CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set Construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set Design	RP Design
Lighting Design	Stuart Campbell
Lighting Operation	Stuart Campbell and Janet Clarke
Sound Design and Operation	Tina Campbell
Props	Kath Vernon and Team
Specialist Props	Tony Rogerson and Kath Vernon
Set Dressing	Margo Bloor
Set Décor	Ken Mills and Team
Costumes	Rep Players and North Staffs Operatic Society
Wardrobe Assistant	Sylvia Wright
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Poster and Advertising Design	John Stone
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances. Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society

From the Director

***'Oh what a tangled web we weave
when first we practice to deceive'***

Shakespeare? No, actually, the quotation is from Sir Walter Scott's *A Tale of Flodden Field*, a verse tale which examines the domino effect which lies can have, creating problems and complications which eventually spiral out of control, and the difficulties of remembering the details of the lie in order to keep it going - something which Clarissa Hailsham Brown would do well to consider, as her attempts to cover up the tricky situation which has occurred in the drawing room of her family's rented country house, become increasingly convoluted.

Spider's Web premiered in the West End in 1954 and is Agatha Christie's second most successful play, having run longer than *The Witness for the Prosecution*. Originally written at the request of its star, Margaret Lockwood, *Spider's Web* was written during the rehearsals for *Witness for the Prosecution* and is one of only a few of Christie's stories to have started life as a play rather than a novel. It ran for 774 performances, joining *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Mousetrap* to be Christie's third play running simultaneously in the West End.

The New York Times said of the play, *'What sets Spider's Web apart from most specimens of its genre is that its real motive is fun; all else, dropped clues, plot contrivances etc is of secondary importance'* and this is very true, as the dramatic tension of the plot is seasoned with a humorous lightness of touch which makes the piece such fun. Unlike other Christie plays which take the plot and the action very seriously, *Spider's Web* is a play which has to be performed tongue in cheek because it is intended to be a conscious parody of the detective thriller genre whilst still containing suspense, humour and tension in equal measures in its intricate plot of murder, police and . . . no, to say more would be to reveal too much!

Preparing the production has not been without its challenges; Covid continues to complicate rehearsal schedules for everyone rehearsing productions, however, as a result of the commitment of the cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring the production to fruition, we've made it! A huge thank you to everyone involved in the production and to you, the audience, for supporting live theatre at this time.

Dame Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie is the most prolific and well known writer of detective novels and plays in the world. Audiences all over the world can't get enough of them. Her play *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest running play and was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, when it was closed because of the COVID pandemic.

She wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Two of her fictional detectives have become part of English folklore, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, both of which have been played by some of the world's leading actors.

She was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in 1890 to a wealthy upper middle class family in Torquay, in Devon. She wrote six novels which were not accepted for publication, but her novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, featuring Hercule Poirot, appeared in 1920 and launched her on her amazingly successful career.

She married her first husband, Archibald Christie, in 1914 and her new surname replaced her previous pen name of Mary Westmacott. They had one child before divorcing in 1928.

During both world wars she worked in various hospital dispensaries, acquiring a knowledge of the various poisons that feature in many of her plays and novels.

She married her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, in 1930 and spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East, later using her knowledge of archaeology in some of her novels.

We hope you enjoy tonight's production of one of her most famous plays.



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 our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others, fulfil 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 run this splendid theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance 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 for £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.

Meet the cast



Peter Hermans
Sir Roland Delahaye



Simon Bland
(Hugo Birch)



James King
(Jeremy Warrender)



Shelley Rivers
(Clarissa Hailsham-Brown)



Zoe Bailey
(Pippa Hailsham-Brown)



Rosemary Gresty
(Mildred Peake)



Richard Masters
(Elgin)



Ciernan Roberts
(Oliver Costello)



James Freeman
(Inspector Lord)



Matthew Spooner
(Henry Hailsham-Brown)



Evie Kent
(Constable Jones)

THE CAST

Sir Roland Delahaye	Peter Hermans
Hugo Birch	Simon Bland
Jeremy Warrender	James King
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown	Shelley Rivers
Pippa Hailsham-Brown	Zoë Bailey
Mildred Peake	Rosemary Gresty
Elgin	Richard Masters
Oliver Costello	Ciernan Roberts
Inspector Lord	James Feeman
Constable Jones	Evie Kent
Henry Hailsham-Brown	Matthew Spooner

Director Chris Lockett

The action of the play takes place in the drawing room of Coplestone Court, the Hailsham-Brown's rented home in Kent

Act 1 Scene 1: An evening in March.

Act 2 Scene 1 A quarter of an hour later.

Interval

Scene 2: Ten minutes later

Act 3: A few minutes later

CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set Construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set Design	RP Design
Lighting Design	Stuart Campbell
Lighting Operation	Stuart Campbell and Janet Clarke
Sound Design and Operation	Tina Campbell
Props	Kath Vernon and Team
Specialist Props	Tony Rogerson and Kath Vernon
Set Dressing	Margo Bloor
Set Décor	Ken Mills and Team
Costumes	Rep Players and North Staffs Operatic Society
Wardrobe Assistant	Sylvia Wright
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Poster and Advertising Design	John Stone
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances. Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society

From the Director

***'Oh what a tangled web we weave
when first we practice to deceive'***

Shakespeare? No, actually, the quotation is from Sir Walter Scott's *A Tale of Flodden Field*, a verse tale which examines the domino effect which lies can have, creating problems and complications which eventually spiral out of control, and the difficulties of remembering the details of the lie in order to keep it going - something which Clarissa Hailsham Brown would do well to consider, as her attempts to cover up the tricky situation which has occurred in the drawing room of her family's rented country house, become increasingly convoluted.

Spider's Web premiered in the West End in 1954 and is Agatha Christie's second most successful play, having run longer than *The Witness for the Prosecution*. Originally written at the request of its star, Margaret Lockwood, *Spider's Web* was written during the rehearsals for *Witness for the Prosecution* and is one of only a few of Christie's stories to have started life as a play rather than a novel. It ran for 774 performances, joining *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Mousetrap* to be Christie's third play running simultaneously in the West End.

The New York Times said of the play, '*What sets Spider's Web apart from most specimens of its genre is that its real motive is fun; all else, dropped clues, plot contrivances etc is of secondary importance*' and this is very true, as the dramatic tension of the plot is seasoned with a humorous lightness of touch which makes the piece such fun. Unlike other Christie plays which take the plot and the action very seriously, *Spider's Web* is a play which has to be performed tongue in cheek because it is intended to be a conscious parody of the detective thriller genre whilst still containing suspense, humour and tension in equal measures in its intricate plot of murder, police and . . . no, to say more would be to reveal too much!

Preparing the production has not been without its challenges; Covid continues to complicate rehearsal schedules for everyone rehearsing productions, however, as a result of the commitment of the cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring the production to fruition, we've made it! A huge thank you to everyone involved in the production and to you, the audience, for supporting live theatre at this time.

Dame Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie is the most prolific and well known writer of detective novels and plays in the world. Audiences all over the world can't get enough of them. Her play *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest running play and was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, when it was closed because of the COVID pandemic.

She wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Two of her fictional detectives have become part of English folklore, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, both of which have been played by some of the world's leading actors.

She was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in 1890 to a wealthy upper middle class family in Torquay, in Devon. She wrote six novels which were not accepted for publication, but her novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, featuring Hercule Poirot, appeared in 1920 and launched her on her amazingly successful career.

She married her first husband, Archibald Christie, in 1914 and her new surname replaced her previous pen name of Mary Westmacott. They had one child before divorcing in 1928.

During both world wars she worked in various hospital dispensaries, acquiring a knowledge of the various poisons that feature in many of her plays and novels.

She married her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, in 1930 and spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East, later using her knowledge of archaeology in some of her novels.

We hope you enjoy tonight's production of one of her most famous plays.



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 our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will meet this evening, others, fulfil 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 run this splendid theatre.

Some information you might find useful

The bar is open from 6.45pm until shortly after the end of the performance 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 for £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.

Meet the cast



Peter Hermans
Sir Roland Delahaye



Simon Bland
(Hugo Birch)



James King
(Jeremy Warrender)



Shelley Rivers
(Clarissa Hailsham-Brown)



Zoe Bailey
(Pippa Hailsham-Brown)



Rosemary Gresty
(Mildred Peake)



Richard Masters
(Elgin)



Ciernan Roberts
(Oliver Costello)



James Freeman
(Inspector Lord)



Matthew Spooner
(Henry Hailsham-Brown)



Evie Kent
(Constable Jones)

THE CAST

Sir Roland Delahaye	Peter Hermans
Hugo Birch	Simon Bland
Jeremy Warrender	James King
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown	Shelley Rivers
Pippa Hailsham-Brown	Zoë Bailey
Mildred Peake	Rosemary Gresty
Elgin	Richard Masters
Oliver Costello	Ciernan Roberts
Inspector Lord	James Feeman
Constable Jones	Evie Kent
Henry Hailsham-Brown	Matthew Spooner

Director Chris Lockett

The action of the play takes place in the drawing room of Coplestone Court, the Hailsham-Brown's rented home in Kent

Act 1 Scene 1: An evening in March.

Act 2 Scene 1 A quarter of an hour later.

Interval

Scene 2: Ten minutes later

Act 3: A few minutes later

CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set Construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set Design	RP Design
Lighting Design	Stuart Campbell
Lighting Operation	Stuart Campbell and Janet Clarke
Sound Design and Operation	Tina Campbell
Props	Kath Vernon and Team
Specialist Props	Tony Rogerson and Kath Vernon
Set Dressing	Margo Bloor
Set Décor	Ken Mills and Team
Costumes	Rep Players and North Staffs Operatic Society
Wardrobe Assistant	Sylvia Wright
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Poster and Advertising Design	John Stone
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances. Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society

From the Director

***'Oh what a tangled web we weave
when first we practice to deceive'***

Shakespeare? No, actually, the quotation is from Sir Walter Scott's *A Tale of Flodden Field*, a verse tale which examines the domino effect which lies can have, creating problems and complications which eventually spiral out of control, and the difficulties of remembering the details of the lie in order to keep it going - something which Clarissa Hailsham Brown would do well to consider, as her attempts to cover up the tricky situation which has occurred in the drawing room of her family's rented country house, become increasingly convoluted.

Spider's Web premiered in the West End in 1954 and is Agatha Christie's second most successful play, having run longer than *The Witness for the Prosecution*. Originally written at the request of its star, Margaret Lockwood, *Spider's Web* was written during the rehearsals for *Witness for the Prosecution* and is one of only a few of Christie's stories to have started life as a play rather than a novel. It ran for 774 performances, joining *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Mousetrap* to be Christie's third play running simultaneously in the West End.

The New York Times said of the play, *'What sets Spider's Web apart from most specimens of its genre is that its real motive is fun; all else, dropped clues, plot contrivances etc is of secondary importance'* and this is very true, as the dramatic tension of the plot is seasoned with a humorous lightness of touch which makes the piece such fun. Unlike other Christie plays which take the plot and the action very seriously, *Spider's Web* is a play which has to be performed tongue in cheek because it is intended to be a conscious parody of the detective thriller genre whilst still containing suspense, humour and tension in equal measures in its intricate plot of murder, police and . . . no, to say more would be to reveal too much!

Preparing the production has not been without its challenges; Covid continues to complicate rehearsal schedules for everyone rehearsing productions, however, as a result of the commitment of the cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring the production to fruition, we've made it! A huge thank you to everyone involved in the production and to you, the audience, for supporting live theatre at this time.

Dame Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie is the most prolific and well known writer of detective novels and plays in the world. Audiences all over the world can't get enough of them. Her play *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest running play and was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, when it was closed because of the COVID pandemic.

She wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Two of her fictional detectives have become part of English folklore, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, both of which have been played by some of the world's leading actors.

She was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in 1890 to a wealthy upper middle class family in Torquay, in Devon. She wrote six novels which were not accepted for publication, but her novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, featuring Hercule Poirot, appeared in 1920 and launched her on her amazingly successful career.

She married her first husband, Archibald Christie, in 1914 and her new surname replaced her previous pen name of Mary Westmacott. They had one child before divorcing in 1928.

During both world wars she worked in various hospital dispensaries, acquiring a knowledge of the various poisons that feature in many of her plays and novels.

She married her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, in 1930 and spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East, later using her knowledge of archaeology in some of her novels.

We hope you enjoy tonight's production of one of her most famous plays.



Best New Play 2016
Laurence Olivier Awards

The Hit Dark Comedy

HANGMEN

By Martin McDonagh
Tues Apr 5th - Sat Apr 9th

7.30pm Nightly, 2.30pm Sat Matinée
Stoke on Trent Repertory Theatre Leek Rd, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2TR

Tickets £12 Saturday Matinée £10
Concessions (Students/Children) £8.50
Available online from

StokeRepPlayers.co.uk & ticketsource.co.uk

Online Booking fee applies

Players Box Office 01782 209784

Email boxoffice@stokereplayers.co.uk

There will be two **Socially Distanced Performances**
Thurs 7th & Sat 9th (Matinée)



This amateur production of "Hangmen" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

