



Stoke on Trent Repertory Players

**£1.50**

# The Ladykillers

**BY GRAHAM LINEHAN**



The Ladykillers by Graham Linehan.  
From the Motion Picture Screenplay by William Rose.  
By Special Arrangement with StudioCanal.  
By Special Arrangement with Fiery Angel Ltd., London.

**7th to 11th June 2016 at 7.30pm**  
**Matinee: Sat. 11th June at 2.30pm**

This amateur production of "Ladykillers, The" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD."

# Welcome

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 which our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will encounter tonight, others fulfil a less visible, but no less vital role.

Backstage Crew, Front-of-House, Bar and Coffee Bar, Members and all other helpers - we are deeply in-debted to everyone involved -  
**Thank You.**

Some information which you may find helpful:

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

**Coffee, tea and confectionery** are available in the foyer from 6.45.

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

**The car park** is open from 6.30. until 11.00pm on performance evenings; overspill parking is available in the Staffordshire University car park further along Leek Road.

**Neither the Rep nor Staffordshire University can accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of vehicles.**

**Please note that smoking is not allowed in any part of the theatre building.**

**We hope that you enjoy your evening with us.**



**PLEASE ENSURE THAT MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**

# Booking Information

Our box office is open from the Monday preceding each Rep production through until the last night of the show from 5.00 to 8.00pm.

Tel: 01782 209784

Book on line at

[www.stokerep.info](http://www.stokerep.info)

Book tickets during opening hours from Music Mania, 4 - 6, Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley.

Tel: 01782 206000

Book on line at

[www.musicmaniauk.com](http://www.musicmaniauk.com)

# [www.stokerep.org.uk](http://www.stokerep.org.uk)

- Find out 'What's On' and 'What's News' by visiting the Rep's website.
- Online booking, information about current and forthcoming productions, shows, concerts and activities is available at the click of a mouse.
- Join our emailing list and keep up to date with the latest news.
- Have your say (and find out what others are saying) at

[www.facebook.com/stoke.rep.theatre.players](https://www.facebook.com/stoke.rep.theatre.players)



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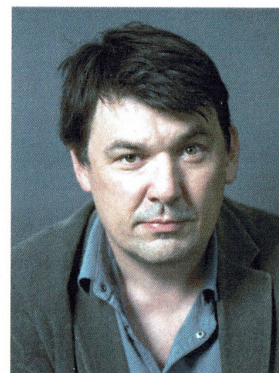
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## Graham Linehan

Television comedy writer and director Graham Linehan was born in Dublin in May 1968. As a child he attended Plunkett's School in Whitehall, followed by Catholic University School, a Roman Catholic secondary school for boys, located on the south side of central Dublin. Having completed his education he had a column in the magazine *In Dublin* before moving to live and work in London.

Along with his writing partner, Arthur Matthews, he has written or co-written a number of the most popular television comedies and comedy series of the last twenty years, including *Father Ted*, *Black Books* and, in 2006, the Channel 4 sitcom *The IT Crowd* (for which he was awarded an International Emmy in 2008). In *The IT Crowd* he sought to move away from the recent British trend towards mock-documentary comedies and to return to an old-fashioned style of sitcom, recorded in front of a studio audience.

In their early collaborations Linehan and Matthews were responsible for segments in many sketch shows, including *Alas Smith and Jones*, *Harry Enfield and Chums*, *The All New Alexei Sayle Show*, and *The Day Today*, and their more recent work also includes *Big Train*, *Count Arthur Strong*, *Brass Eye* and *The Fast Show*.

In late 2003, they were named one of the fifty funniest acts to work in television by *The Observer*.



# The Cast

(In order of appearance)

Constable MacDonald: ..... Alan Clarke  
Mrs. Louisa Wilberforce: ..... Beverley Marshall  
Professor Marcus: ..... Frank McGregor  
Major Courtney: ..... Howard Goodall  
Harry Robinson: ..... Leo Capernaros  
One-Round: ..... Ian Birkin  
Louis Harvey: ..... David Bryan  
Mrs. Jane Tromleyton: ..... Kara Lancel  
Concert Audience: ..... Margo Bloor, Janet Clarke,  
..... June Hodson, Gill Plant, Ann Pope  
..... Kath Vernon, Sue Thompson  
Radio Announcer: ..... Geoff Legan

The action takes place in Mrs. Wilberforce's rather rickety home in the King's Cross area of London between the 5th and 9th November 1956.

*There will be a twenty minute interval between Act One and Act Two*

**We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances.**

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# The Crew

Director: .....	Diana Halstead
Assistant Director:.....	Alan Clarke
Set Design: .....	Dawn Birks
Stage Director:.....	Terry Wright
Stage Manager:.....	Terry Wright
Scenic artists: .....	Dawn Birks, Peter Burrows
Set construction:.....	Mike Adams, Andy Baddeley Simon Bland, Bob Flowers, Andy Ford John Hall, Bill Hancock, Nick Haynes Alan Hill, Peter Logan, Richard Masters, Ken Mills, Ray Vernon, Terry Wright
Lighting Design & Operation:.....	Malcolm Rushton
Sound Design & Operation:.....	Mike Adams
Flyman: .....	Peter Logan
Set Dressing: .....	Margo Bloor
Props :.....	Margo Bloor, Janet Clarke, Kath Vernon
Wardrobe: .....	Sylvia Wright, Joy Rawlins
Costumes: .....	Lichfield Costume Hire
Programme design.....	Janet Smith
Front of House Director:.....	Nick Bailey
Company Photographer: .....	Peter Croft

We hope you enjoy this play, and perhaps fancy “having a go” yourself. However, we welcome new members into all posts/jobs in the theatre. Perhaps you are not aware of all the things that are needed to support the play on the stage. Apart from acting, members are working behind the scenes as stage manager, prompting, providing the lighting and sound effects, building the sets, providing furniture and props, organising costumes running the bar and coffee bar, running the booking office, selling programmes and being “front of the house” to welcome the audience. If any of these appeal to you, you can chat to members and find out more. Each Wednesday of the Rep Players productions I will be in the bar, and can direct you to the knowledgeable, relevant person.

**Judy Adams** (Chair for the Players)

# The Ealing Comedies

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'The Ealing Comedies' is an informal name for a series of comedy films produced by the London-based Ealing Studios during the period 1947 to 1957; *Hue and Cry* (1947) is generally considered to be the earliest of the cycle, and *Barnacle Bill* (1957) the last, although some sources list *Davy* (also 1957) as the final Ealing Comedy before the Ealing Studios brand was absorbed into the Rank Organisation in 1959.

Today it is virtually impossible to think of Ealing Studios without adding the word 'comedy'. Even more than half a century after the lights went down on the classic production company, Ealing comedy is one of British cinema's most powerful brands, its only serious rivals for lasting fame being the Hammer horrors, the James Bond films and the *Carry On* series.

Amazingly, the classic Ealing Comedies embraced fewer than ten films in under nine years - from the release of *Hue and Cry* in February 1947 to December 1955, when *The Ladykillers* was released. During the war years the studio had carved a niche for itself with a succession of films that stressed collective heroism in place of the tales of individual courage and officer heroics commonly favoured by other British studios.

By 1944 the public appetite for war stories was on the wane, and Ealing

was casting around for new types of films. Over the next few years the studio experimented with fantasy, classic adaptation, costume melodrama and even a horror (1945's compendium film *Dead of Night*). During this period some of the biggest names in comedy entertainment starred in their films including Lancashire-born ukulele player George Formby, Stanley Holloway, Alastair Sim, Will Hay and Alec Guinness; *The Ladykillers* in 1955 featured a very young Peter Sellers

In total, ninety five films were made under the Ealing Studios name. During the Ealing's later years there were attempts to refresh the brand with vehicles for international star David Niven (*The Love Lottery* 1954) and for newcomers Benny Hill (*Who Done It?* 1956) and Harry Secombe (*Davy* 1957), but it is for just eight or nine of their most famous titles that Ealing remains known; films which remain firmly in the hearts of the public with their unmistakably British humour and themes.

Following the 2015 pensioners' Hatton Garden raid, many commentators automatically compared the plan and the individuals involved to an Ealing comedy - and rightly so - it was a heist of which the haphazardly dysfunctional gang in *The Ladykillers* would be justly proud!

# Some Ealing Favourites



**Whisky Galore! (1949)** The whisky-parched inhabitants of the Hebridean island of Todday have their prayers answered when a ship carrying 50,000 cases of their favourite tippie is sunk off their coast. But between them and their dreams come true stands the self-righteous Englishman Captain Waggett and allied customs officers, determined to protect the valuable cargo. The priggish Waggett's humiliation at the hands of the devious, thirsty islanders set the tone for the often cruel social satire.



**Passport to Pimlico (1949)** The residents of a South London street discover long-buried treasure along with ancient documents that prove that they are citizens not of England but of Burgundy. The new Burgundians take full advantage of their sudden freedom from British rule, with its petty rules, rationing and lousy weather.



**Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949)** A young man, disinherited by his aristocratic family because of his mother's decision to marry an Italian commoner, determines to murder all the relatives who stand between him and the dukedom he considers his birthright. Director Robert Hamer's film was an elegantly savage analysis of class and Edwardian society that has lost nothing of its wit or bite with age. Film critic Philip French has called it one of the 'most perfect' films ever made in Britain.



**The Man in the White Suit (1951)** A meek but brilliant chemist invents a stain-proof, indestructible fabric, inadvertently sparking an all-out war between greedy textile barons and alarmed trade unions.



**The Ladykillers (1955)** A gang of crooks successfully carry off an audacious robbery, only to meet their match in the form of their apparently frail old landlady.

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