

# BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE

NEWSLETTER  
2025-2026 Season  
January 2026  
Issue 1719

Member: Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain  
[www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk)

11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD

## I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT

by Peter Colley

Directed by Don Cherrett  
at

BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE

10TH-14TH FEBRUARY 2026

*A spine-tingling comedic thriller*

11 JAMESON ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH BH9 2QD

TICKETS: [BOURNEMOUTHLITTLETHEATRE.CO.UK](http://BOURNEMOUTHLITTLETHEATRE.CO.UK)

This amateur production of 'I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT' is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



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## COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

A great evening's entertainment was had on every performance of BLTC's Christmas play 'BLITHE SPIRIT' by Noel Coward, which was directed by Tim Fearon. Thank you to the audiences who generously bought raffle tickets as well as those who contributed great prizes— £451 was raised, which will be used towards future theatre improvement projects.

'I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT' is in rehearsal, and the set built and ready for painting. Tickets are selling well, with 80% of tickets already sold. If you want one, you know what to do.....

The read-through and auditions for our April 2026 production of the hilarious 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH', by Alan Ayckbourn were held throughout January. The final cast list was just been announced last week, as well as a tumble of other surprises.... See page 5. BLTC is never dull!

See you at BLTC soon! BLTC Committee.

### ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is:

**BLT Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG**

**Tickets £14.00 Members £12.00**

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at [www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) (*booking fees apply*) OR **SCAN THE QR CODE->**
- ◆ **WRITE** enclosing cheque (payable to BLTC) and SAE to BLTC Box Office (*address above*)



Tickets will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form, cheque and SAE. Where an SAE is not enclosed, tickets will be retained to be collected at the theatre on the night of the performance.

It is really easy to book online and, of course, so convenient. Whenever you decide you want to book tickets for a show—whatever the day and whatever the time—you can go ahead.

But—and there's always a but, isn't there? - it is also, sadly, easy to make mistakes.

By making your booking too quickly, it is easy to book on the wrong day—or even to book for the wrong show! So.....a word to the wise...

CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN at every stage of your booking that it exactly fits your requirements, as our booking agent does not make changes and refunds are only given if booking protection is take out with TicketSource, and the reason for cancellation is covered by their insurance.

**Please be aware that member discount on tickets is only available to fully paid up members, for their own ticket or that of another fully paid up member.**

Of course, if you are not entirely happy with the on-line process you can always use the postal option detailed above in the second bullet point.

**A FINAL PLEA: If you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend, please let the Box Office know as soon as possible. Thank you**

**NEXT PRODUCTION:**  
**I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT**  
**by Peter Colley**

**Directed by Don Cherrett**

*I'll Be Back Before Midnight* was first staged in 1979 in Canada, the home of its author, Peter Colley. It was written as a contemporary piece and its themes fit the 1980s style of horror/thriller with a touch of black comedy mixed in. The play is considered the most successful ever staged in Canada and has been performed in 31 countries throughout the world.



*I'll Be Back Before Midnight* is not so well known in the UK. Director, Don Cherrett, came across it when he read it for the first time during the 1990s and has always had it on his list as a possible for the future. Don has only actually ever seen a production of this play once, about 20 years ago, and admits he was disappointed in it - even though it was a professional production, where you hoped they could 'throw money' at the technical side of it, they underplayed it! He hopes that the BLT production better fulfills what the author intended.

The play itself centres round Jan, a young wife recovering from a nervous breakdown and a spell in hospital. Her husband, Greg, has rented a remote country house for them to stay in while she recovers. The house belongs to a neighbour, an eccentric and very odd farmer, George, who delights in telling macabre and gruesome stories. To Jan's discomfort, Greg has also invited his sister Laura, with whom he seems to have an uncomfortable relationship, to stay with them. After Laura arrives all manner of frightening events start to occur as Jan, already mentally fragile, starts to head back to a state from which she was trying to recover - and tragedy soon follows!

# I'll Be Back Before Midnight

## CAST

**GREG**.....Barry Gray

**JAN**.....Marianne Chabin

**GEORGE** .....Robert Rankin

**LAURA**.....Philippa Hendry



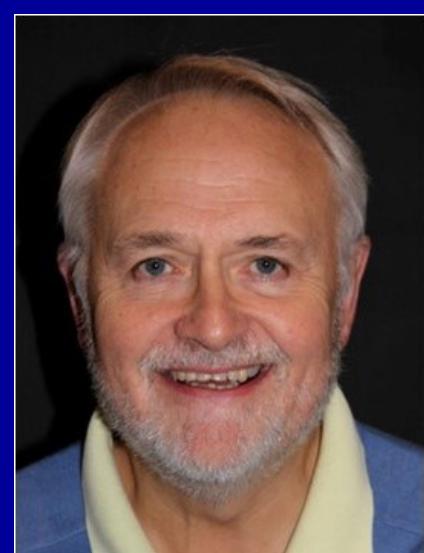
BARRY GRAY



MARIANNE CHABIN

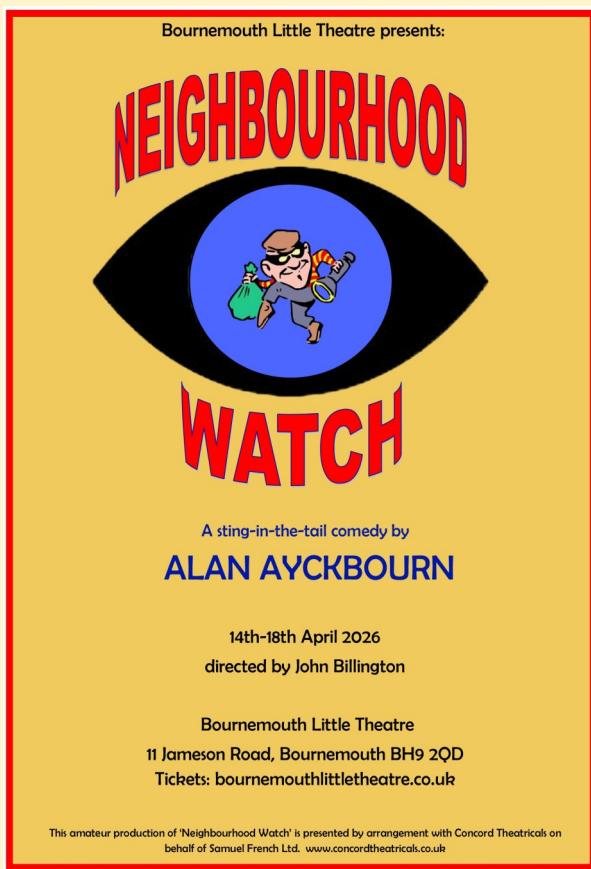


PHILIPPA HENDRY



ROBERT RANKIN

## A season of mystery, murder, ghosts, comedy and sometimes a mix of all four.



Back in 2011, when he wrote Neighbourhood Watch, Alan Ayckbourn could only have envisaged the world of 2025 if he'd had magical foresight. No Brexit, no Covid, no POTUS Trump. And all the rest of it.

Remarkably, this play has elements of national and international divisions that ring all too familiar today. It's also got the wonderful Ayckbourn humour, plenty of gosh-didn't-see-that-coming moments, offstage nefarious ne'er-do-wells and characters upended aplenty.

All the trappings of a great evening's theatre!

### ALL CHANGE

John Billington held the read through and auditions without complaint while in full throws of great pain, caused by a back complaint (*expert medial diagnosis!*). As January progressed, so did the pain, and John realised that he had to back out of the production and concentrate on getting better. We all hope he is better soon.

Many of our past or prospective directors were approached to take over the production, without success, so rather than pull the production, Lindsay offered to take on the directing of Neighbourhood Watch. He did not feel, however, that he could also direct Bracken Moor (the play scheduled immediately after Neighbourhood Watch).

A director has been found for our new June 2026 play (we need formalities to be completed before the play can be advertised...look out for the mailshots ...Bracken Moor will be rescheduled and the subject of a future announcement.

### Cast

**MARTIN**—Barry Gray

**HILDA**—Amanda Hyatt

**LUTHER**—Topher Lynn

**MAGDA**—Philippa Hendry

**GARETH**—Lindsay Jones

**AMY** - Emma Seymour

**ROD**—Chaz Davenport

**DOROTHY**—Sue Spencer

# BLITHE SPIRIT by Noel Coward

## Photo's



by Luke Graham, Dorset View Magazine

Yet another excellent production by Bournemouth Little Theatre Club. This performance of Noel Coward's 1941 supernatural farce 'Blithe Spirit' was funny, well-acted and looked great.

The story follows Charles Condomine, who finds himself in the unfortunate situation of becoming a "spiritual bigamist" when the ghost of his long-dead wife Elvira is summoned after a séance goes wrong. Elvira then tries to drive a wedge between Charles and his second wife, Ruth, disrupting the couple's upper-class way of life.

Coward's script is still sparkling, even 80 years on. The witty dialogue sees the characters regularly bicker, fight and argue, and the lines are well delivered by the experienced cast.

Topher Lynn has been in several Bournemouth Little Theatre Club productions and is always enjoyable to watch. He is great here once again as Charles, a pompous novelist caught between two wives - one living, one dead.

Belinda Harward is enjoyable as Charles's wife, Ruth. Her anger and growing irritation at the situation, unable to see or hear the spirit of Elvira, were palpable.

Mairi Holmes was very good as Edith, the Condomines' maid. Her role required lots of physical humour, as she is either rushing about or moving incredibly slowly so as not to drop anything, and Mairi delivered in spades.

Lauren Killham was fantastic as the vicious Elvira. At times demure and softly spoken, at others childish and nasty, Lauren played the balancing act well and was entertaining to watch. Her white gown and blanched white makeup were an effective way to portray her ghostly appearance.

David Maxwell and Carole Allen performed well as the Bradmans, a couple who join in with the séance at the start of the play.

Huge kudos to director Tim Fearon, who steals the show as the eccentric medium Professor Arcati (Madame Arcati in the original script), who inadvertently summons Elvira while conducting the séance. Tim's mannerisms and line delivery are hilarious, especially in the amusing costume and fez that he wears. It's a very physical role, as Tim flings himself across the floor while in a trance. Quite the accomplishment!

Kudos as always to the behind-the-scenes team as well. The set and costumes are very good, and the theatre tricks to portray the arrival of the spirits and the haunting of the house are well done, with books and ornaments being thrown off the shelves.

One criticism, and it's not really the production's fault, is that it is a long play, with a runtime of nearly three hours including intermission. Starting at 7.45pm, we didn't leave the theatre until 10.45pm.

This was a brilliant show, probably my favourite of the ones I've now seen at Bournemouth Little Theatre since 2024.

# Get Involved Get Involved Get Involved



Each season, Bournemouth Little Theatre brings six main productions and up to two Studio productions to the stage. Each production requires a Director and cast. In addition to this are the unsung heroes, who toil away (lark about) behind the scenes to make these productions possible. We are all unpaid volunteers at Bournemouth Little Theatre and if you have any occasional spare time and would like to get involved with a production, you would be very welcome- come along to the advertised production meetings to see how you could be involved or to Set Build/ Set Painting days, back-stage or support.

## BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE

### CONTACT DETAILS:

#### Your Committee Members:

Bournemouth Little Theatre Club  
11 Jameson Road  
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Facebook:  
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Co Reg No: 02699332  
Charity Ref: 1019571

Gwen Jones ( <i>Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/</i> <i>Venue Hire</i> )	07825 064731
Lindsay Jones ( <i>Play Selection Committees/Photographer</i> )	01202 083504
Mo Hamill ( <i>Properties and Costumes Co-ordinator</i> )	07585 504500
Adam Stoddart ( <i>Studio Play Selection Committee,</i> <i>Rota organiser</i> ).....	0774 9409634
Tim Fearon ( <i>Play Selection Committees/</i> <i>Website co-ordinator</i> ) .....	07973 198811
Caroline Burr ( <i>Main Play Selection Committee</i> ).....	07905 650952
Adele Smyth ( <i>Properties and Costumes</i> ).....	07883 095884
<b>Not on the Committee:</b>	
Alastair Griffith ( <i>Lighting Design</i> ).....	07400 014135
Andrew Whyatt ( <i>Main Play Selection Committee</i> )	
Chris Huggill ( <i>Bar Stocks Manager</i> ) .....	07443 626484
Sue Hyder ( <i>Box Office</i> )	
Hilary Guess-England ( <i>Costumes</i> ).....	07718 188203