



# NEWSLETTER

2025-2026 Season

March 2026

Issue 1720

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

11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD

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Bournemouth Little Theatre presents:



A sting-in-the-tail comedy by

**ALAN AYCKBOURN**

14th-18th April 2026

directed by Lindsay Jones

Bournemouth Little Theatre

11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD

Tickets: [bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk)

click "buy tickets" or use QR code>>>



This amateur production of 'Neighbourhood Watch' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

# COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

'I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT' was a great success, sadly, with just over a week before the first night, one of the actresses had to pull out of the show, due to illness. Denise King, who had been the rehearsal prompt, gamely stood in. She did a fabulous job, so good that our audiences didn't know how little time she had to "become" Laura Anderson. Many thanks to her for "saving" the play.

You may notice our new logo on the front cover...thanks to Lauren Killham for suggesting it, and to Barry Gray for his design. We are sure you will agree it looks great.

Rehearsals are well underway for our April 2026 production of the hilarious 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH', by Alan Ayckbourn, now being directed by Lindsay Jones (see page 3). Both cast and director are having great fun with this one. We are now embarking on 'QUARTET' By Ronald Harwood to be staged in June 2026, directed by John Willmott. The cast list has just been announced (see page 5). Many thanks to all who auditioned. A production meeting is being held at BLT on Friday, 27th March 2026 at 7:30pm for those interested in getting involved on the production side. Also on page 5 are details of a new play being brought to the BLT stage by our friends at Scaplens Community Players 'SHADOWS OVER WHITECHAPEL', which is being staged in early May 2026. To ensure you get your seat of choice, book for all of these productions as soon as you can—tickets are going fast! See you at BLT 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 taken 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: NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH by Alan Ayckbourn

From the director - Lindsay Jones

'Neighbourhood Watch' is an extraordinary combination of the comic and tragic – with the emphasis on the comic. Few, if any of Ayckbourn's plays (approaching a hundred, so far!) offer such broadly comic characters, combined with some poignant, even chilling moments. Typically, Ayckbourn focuses mainly on the middle classes and the frustrations that rage beneath their apparent gentility and emotional restraint.

This play also takes an hilarious, yet chilling look at how power corrupts. All our characters want is to make their homes safe from the yobbish element lurking in the nearby sink estate. What could be more reasonable? However, the well-known corrupting influence of power quickly makes itself apparent, soon reaching farcical and tragic proportions

At the time of writing, it doesn't seem too fanciful to draw parallels between the residents of Bluebell Hill and- ahem!- certain politicians. Ayckbourn, however, is no polemicist – he's far too funny for that. We are left instead with a little on which to chew and a lot to laugh over.

On a personal note, I became Director of 'Neighbourhood Watch' by default, as my highly capable predecessor had to bow out for health reasons. Nevertheless, it's been a delight to work with this talented, cheerful group, both on and behind the scenes. We are enjoying ourselves hugely and hope that you do too when you see it!



# ‘Neighbourhood Watch’

## CAST

MARTIN - Barry Gray

HILDA - Amanda Hyatt

LUTHER - Topher Lynn

MAGDA - Marianne Chabin

GARETH - Lindsay Jones

AMY - Emma Seymour

ROD - Chaz Davenport

DOROTHY - Nicola King



BARRY GRAY



AMANDA HYATT



TOPHER LYNN



MARIANNE CHARBIN

PHOTO ON  
PAGE 3



LINDSAY JONES



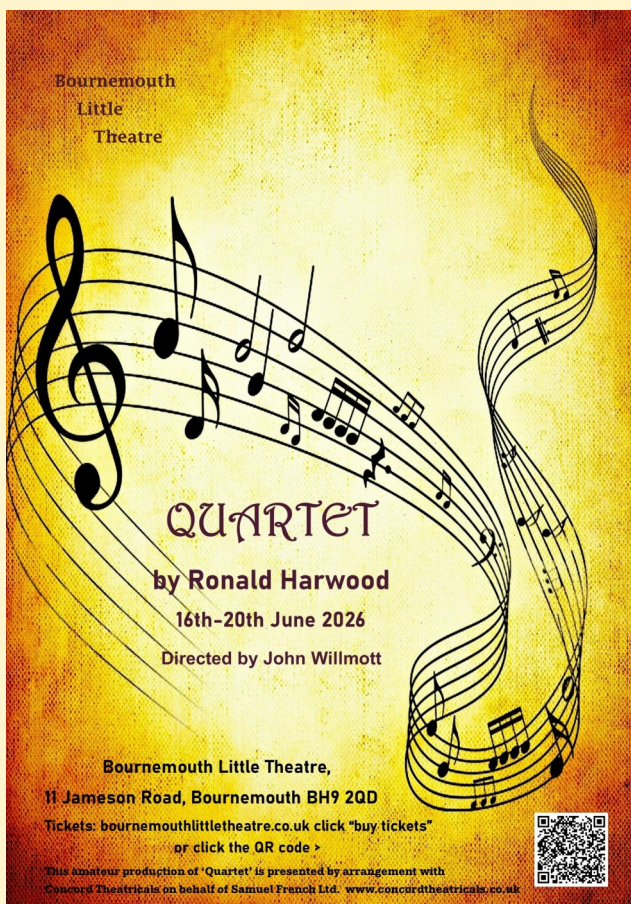
CHAZ DAVENPORT



NICOLA KING

# 2025/2026 SEASON'S PLAYS - 'DYING WITH LAUGHTER'

The last play in our season of mystery, murder, ghosts, comedy and sometimes a mix of all four.



Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers in Kent, England.

Each year, on the tenth of October, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing.

But the show must go on in this outrageously funny and poignant play by the author of *Another Time*, *The Dresser* and *Interpreters*, to name a few.

**Just announced....THE CAST....**

**CECILY ROBSON - Carol Allen**

**REGINALD PAGET - Bob Rankin**

**WILFRED BOND - Peter Watson**

**JEAN HORTON - Caroline Burr**

BACK AGAIN—our friends from **SCAPLENS COMMUNITY PLAYERS**, with a new play ...



'Shadows Over Whitechapel', directed by Shipa Khatun.

This is a gripping new stage play about the Jack the Ripper case, has been written by Katy Nutt and the Scaplen's team.

With strong local connections through Chief Inspector Frederick George Abberline and suspect Montague John Drutt. This locally written play blends historical fact and mystery. It tells the fascinating story and challenges the legends surrounding the Ripper, and the women whose identities were defined by their tragic deaths.

The production includes historic content, the enduring mystery and the personal involvement in one of the most famous, unsolved cases.

## REVIEW— 'I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT'

By Marilyn Barber, Dorset View Magazine

A thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat - and, in my case, on a couple of occasions, nearly jumping out of it - is clearly achieving what it sets out to do: to engage the audience in a couple of hours of escapism.

Directed by Don Cherrett, the play follows the story of Jan, recovering from a nervous breakdown, who moves with her archaeologist husband, Greg, to a remote farmhouse. Is Jan relapsing, or should we look more carefully towards her unsympathetic husband?

Marianne Chabin, who is just 21 years of age, steps into the shoes of Jan with aplomb, evoking sympathy and understanding in equal measure.

It soon becomes clear that her husband is not quite as he first appears, with Barry Gray bringing a steely edge as Greg, a husband with more than one secret up his sleeve.

Laura, his sister, is coming to stay, which brings an uncomfortable element into the mix, as Jan dislikes and mistrusts her.

Denise King puts in a rather good performance as the manipulative and unlikeable Laura, who has an unnaturally close relationship with her brother. One moment coy and the next unpleasant, her motives are very suspect.

Enter eccentric farmer and landlord George Willoughby, played with comedic skill and energy by Bob Rankin, who puts in a standout performance.

Atmosphere is added to this story, which has shocking twists, by sound effects like booming heartbeats. The stage set is ingenious too.

This production, which is part of the 'Dying with Laughter' series, is another triumph for this company - and you won't guess the ending.

# 'I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT' Photo's



# 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.



## CONTACT DETAILS:

### Your Committee Members:

Gwen Jones ( <i>Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/ 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, Rota organiser</i> ).....	07749 409634
Tim Fearon ( <i>Play Selection Committees/ 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

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