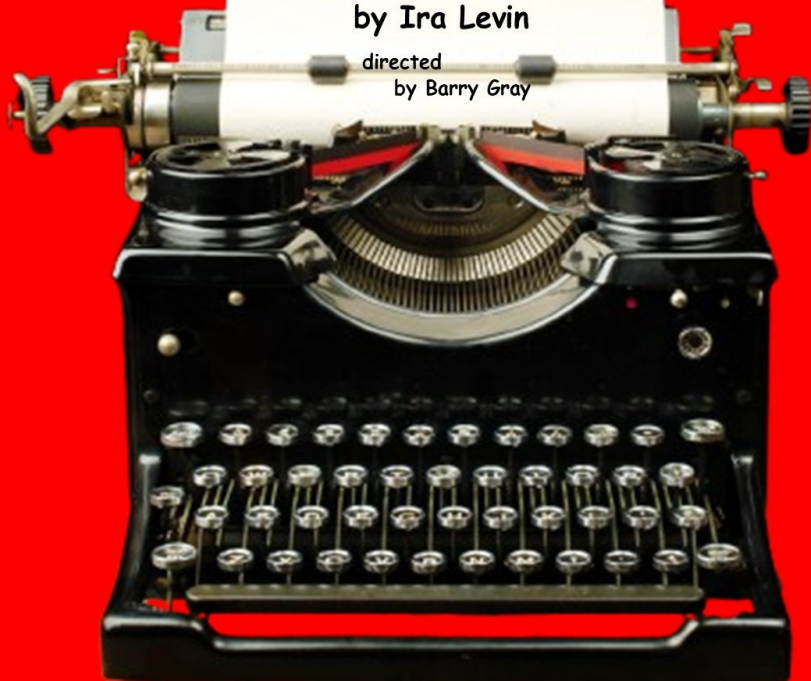


DEATH

R
A
P

by Ira Levin

directed
by Barry Gray



The longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway, nominated for four Tony Awards,
including Best Play.

2nd-6th September 2025

Bournemouth Little Theatre

11 Jameson Road

Bournemouth BH9 2QD

Tickets : Bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

PROGRAMME

‘DEATHTRAP’

by Ira Levin

directed by Barry Gray.

CAST (in order of appearance):

Sam Sheppard - SIDNEY BRUHL

Fifi La Roux - MYRA BRUHL

Topher Lynn - CLIFORD ANDERSON

Lauren Marie Killham - DORIS HAMILTON-KING

(name change)

William Lent - PORTER MILTON

CREW

Stage Manager: Philippa Hendry

Stage crew: Sue Gilani, Parisa Gilani

Set design: Alastair Griffith, Barry Gray

Set Build: Alastair Griffith, Peter Fairbank, Andy Gordon,

Set Painting/dressing: Adam Stoddart, Gwen Jones, Yvonne Gray

Lighting design and set-up : Alastair Griffith, James Blake

Lighting Operation: Alastair Griffith, James Blake,

Sound Design/Operation: Martyn Savage

Costumes: Hilary Guess-England

ABOUT THE PLAY

The play is in two acts, with a 20 minute interval between.

It is set in the beautiful county of Cornwall

A warm welcome to ‘DEATHTRAP.’

ABOUT THE PLAY

From the Director, Barry Gray

Ira Levin was a great fan of thrillers, and of stage thrillers in particular. He wrote of his lifelong interest in the genre, “There were the almost-standard mystery authors who impressed me - Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen - and I went through a big John Dickson Carr period when I was fifteen or sixteen. The works I remember specifically are plays - Angel Street, which I saw at a tender age. Ten Little Indians. Dial M for Murder. Thrillers seemed to me the most exciting, theatrical plays.”

It is this love for thrillers that becomes most apparent when watching *Deathtrap*, with subtle nods to all of Levin’s favourites, as well as some gentle and affectionate ribbing. For Levin, *Deathtrap* needed to be more than just a thriller, recognising as he did (when he was writing it in 1978) that live theatre had to offer something more than the audience could see on their televisions or at the cinema. Thus he created a new genre, the comedy-thriller, and the longest-running thriller in Broadway history was born.



From its opening lines, which describe the exact play you’re watching unfold before your very eyes, you can feel the love and sense of fun that Levin had for his subject. From tongue-in-cheek references to his own works, to the little ‘Easter egg’ type clues he hides along the way (such as the eventual unmasking of the “obscene caller [who] was boring” Sidney and Myra) Levin’s writing never allows the audience’s attention to waiver even for a moment.

This is my second time directing for BLTC, following my debut last summer with *Private Lives*, and I am delighted to take on such an iconic and hugely successful play. For our production, I have decided to bring the setting into the 21st Century and move it across the Atlantic to the south-west of England and the great county of Cornwall. In doing so I have been able to update some cultural and technological references that maybe haven’t stood the test of time, or indeed geography. And in much the same way as Levin has done, I’ve included a little homage to the author himself (bonus points for anyone who recognises the musical choices!).

This play has been a joy to direct, and every rehearsal has unearthed another hidden gem within the script that I’d previously missed. I could probably watch this for a year and spot something new and noteworthy each time! Once again I am in-debited to my wonderful cast and crew, who have suffered my insufferable attention to detail with smiles and energy that make the end result so worthwhile.

I really hope that you all enjoy the end product as much as we have enjoyed making it.

CAST



Sam Sheppard - SIDNEY BRUHL

Sam has been acting for just over two years and is delighted to be plotting and scheming his way through Deathtrap. He previously performed with BLTC in 'Private Lives' and has also appeared in pantos, musicals, street theatre and student films. When not on stage, Sam can usually be found looking for his next excuse to avoid "real life" by pretending to be someone else.

Fifi La Roux - MYRA BRUHL

This is Fifi La Roux's very first time treading the boards, and she couldn't be having more fun! She has found the Bournemouth Little Theatre to be a wonderfully welcoming and inspiring place to begin her acting journey — though she promises not to get too comfortable in the dressing room just yet !



Topher Lynn - CLIFORD ANDERSON

Topher first trod the BLTC boards in 2024 as Jesse Kiplinger in 'Plaza Suite'. He played Elyot Chase in 'Private Lives'; Lord Fancourt Babberly in 'Charley's Aunt' and recently played the role of Jack Worthing in 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

This will be Topher's 5th Production with BLTC and he has enjoyed turning to the change of styles for 'Death Trap' and hopes you find the show as thrilling and gripping to watch as the cast have found rehearsing it.



CAST

Lauren Marie Killham - DORIS HAMILTON-KING

This is Lauren's 6th Production with BLT, but it's the first time she gets to play a character as funny as Doris Hamilton King. Lauren was seen most recently as 'Lady of the Night' in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', Kitty in 'Charleys Aunt' and Sybil in 'Private Lives'. Lauren is having a blast playing Doris and working with Barry and cast and crew members once more, but also working with some talented people for the first time. She cannot wait for the BLT audience to see it, they're in for a treat!



William Lent - PORTER MILTON

William begun his acting journey with Bournemouth Little Theatre, where he played Pete in 'The Kitchen Sink' and Bob Cratchit in 'A Christmas Carol,' both in 2022. The following year he performed as Paris in 'Romeo and Juliet' with Brownsea Open Air Theatre, before completing a drama qualification at City Lit in 2024. Comedy has become his natural home on stage, though he enjoys exploring more serious roles when the chance arises. This is his first production since training, and he's delighted to be back performing.

REMAINING SEASON'S PRODUCTIONS -

Our next production is *The Unfriend* by Steven Moffat
- details are on the back page of the programme



BLITHE SPIRIT by Noel Coward

9th-13th December 2025

Charles Condomine is preparing to write his next bestseller. To assist him with the creation of a 'professional charlatan' character he invites local medium, Madam Arcati, to conduct a séance.

Things do not go as planned, resulting in the materialisation of Charles' late first wife, the mischievous Elvira, much to the chagrin of his eminently sensible second wife, Ruth!

'*Blithe Spirit*' is Coward at his very best – witty, fast, charming and full of a spirit of fun!

Read—through and Open Auditions for BLITHE SPIRIT will be held on 12th and 14th September 2025 respectively, at 7pm at BLT.
Full details are on our web-site.

FOR TICKETS FOR ALL PRODUCTIONS at BLT:

www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

Or scan this QR code >



- 'DYING WITH LAUGHTER'

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT by Peter Colley

10th-14th February 2026

In this spine-tingling thriller, a young husband and wife encounter a spate of frightening events in an old country farm-house.

Peter Colley's tremendously successful play is filled with heart-thumping scares, but with some witty dialogue and moments of comic relief.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH by Alan Ayckbourn

14th-18th April 2026

Brother and sister Martin and Hilda live together, leading a quiet existence in the comfortable confines of the Bluebell Hill development. As they are preparing for a housewarming gathering, their peace is shattered by a young trespasser in their garden.

They and their neighbours congregate and together agree to form a neighbourhood watch group to safeguard against further incidents. After their beloved garden gnome is thrown through their window, matters swiftly escalate.

What had begun as a well-intentioned scheme for a safer community, ends in violence and acrimony, with blissful comedic moments on the way.

BRACKEN MOOR by Alexi Kaye Campbell

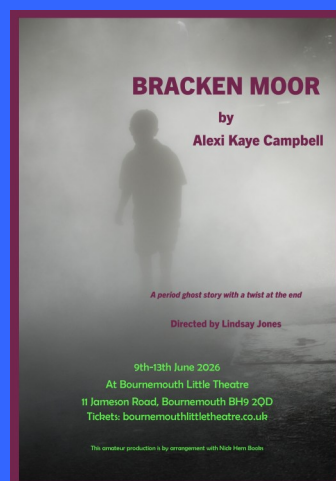
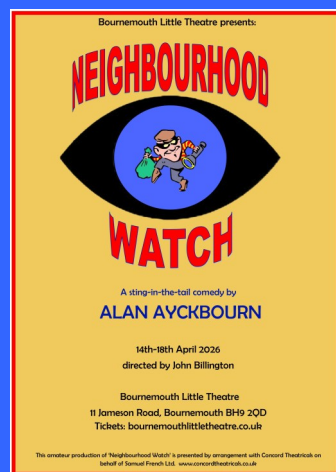
9th-13th June 2026

A boldly theatrical tale of grief and denial, set against the economic crisis of the 1930's. After years apart, two families come together to rediscover their lost friendship. Instead, they conjure up the spirit of a buried tragedy.

A gripping and spine-tingling tale of the supernatural.

'Somewhere between An Inspector Calls and The Woman in Black... I jumped out of my seat...' The Times

'A superior kind of ghost story.. intellectually as well as emotionally haunting...' The Stage



NEXT BLTC PRODUCTION— The second of our season of 'DYING WITH LAUGHTER'



THE UNFRIEND By Steven Moffat

A hilarious, satirical play about middle England's disastrous instinct always to appear nice.

Directed by Caroline Burr

21st-25th October 2025
Bournemouth Little Theatre,
11 Jameson Road
Bournemouth BH9 2QD
Tickets: bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

This amateur production is by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

While on holiday, Elsa befriends Peter and Debbie. She is less than woke but quite wonderful!

They agree to stay in touch (why not?) because no one ever really does - do they?

This play is about what happened when Elsa shows up at their door...

'*The Unfriend*' takes a hilarious and satirical look at middle-class England's disastrous instinct always to appear to be nice.

'Steven Moffat has skilfully crafted one of the funniest plays to be seen on stage in a very long time... pure comedy gold...' WhatsOnStage