

# BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE

**NEWSLETTER**  
**2024-2025 Season**  
**MAY 2025**  
**Issue 1715**

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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## HUMBLE BOY

By CHARLOTTE JONES

Directed by  
Lindsay Jones

10th-14th June 2025

**BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE**

**11 JAMESON ROAD, WINTON, BOURNEMOUTH BH9 2QD**

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

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

# COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

Since our last Newsletter, our stage has seen three productions—'The Importance of Being Earnest' and Most Rare Vision's version of 'Macbeth' in April 2025, and a one night performance of 'Echoes of Love' by our friends at Scaplen's Community Theatre. Each production was a remarkably good night out, with 'Earnest' and 'Echoes' selling out.

Having two hires between our own productions is a stretch on our volunteers who rose to the challenge of supporting six additional production nights; as well as our set builders /painters etc having less time to turn our blank stage into a luscious garden for Humble Boy, our last production of the 2024/5 season.

We are thrilled to confirm that we are having an air conditioning and heating system installed at BLTC. The work starts on 19th May and air conditioning / heating units will be installed in the auditorium and bar areas, making the spaces cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

All being well, the first production to get the benefit of the new system will be Humble Boy, so if excess heat in our theatre suffered in past June productions has put you off getting your tickets—no need to worry now! Get your ticket before they go!

Having had some difficulty getting performance rights for some plays, we are now delighted to announce our 2025/2026 planned plays—see Page 5.

Best wishes, 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 (with concessions) Members £8.00**

- ◆ **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: HUMBLE BOY

## by CHARLOTTE JONES

Directed by, Lindsay Jones

I first saw Humble Boy in 2002 in the West End, where Felicity Kendall played Flora and Simon Russell Beale played Alex. Interesting that in the play they are mother and son, yet in real life, there is only fifteen years between their ages. So it isn't only in amateur theatre that audiences are asked to suspend belief!



The play was so impressive and hilarious that I directed it as a 6th form play, but have wanted to reprise it with an adult cast for some years. When the BLTC play selection Committee were looking at doing a season of the Best of British Classics, this play came to mind. It is less well known than its predecessors this season, but well deserves inclusion, as I am sure you will agree when you see the play.

I have been lucky to have such a great cast to work with who, when they read the play, all wanted to be involved. They have been enthusiastic (and patient!) in rehearsal, and exceptionally analytical in working out what made their very different characters tick, so they can bring their best to the production. I am looking forward to working with them for the next few weeks of the rehearsal period.

A mention must also be made to give credit to our set builders who regularly change our comparatively small stage into a wonderful place to set our productions. In this case a rather lovely country garden, complete with beehive -which is bereft of bees.

Why is that?..you will have to wait and see!  
We look forward to welcoming you at BLT during one of the performances.

*Lindsay*

# HUMBLE BOY – CAST

## CAST

FELIX HUMBLE: Alex Welsford

MERCY: Carole Allen

FLORA HUMBLE: Joy Blake

JIM: Michael Mackey

GEORGE: Peter Bennett

ROSIE: Anne Charbel



ALEX WELSFORD



CAROLE ALLEN



JOY BLAKE



MICHAEL MACKEY



PETER BENNETT

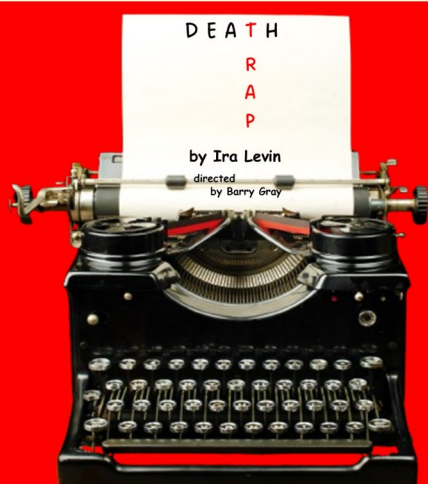


ANNE CHARBEL



# NEXT SEASON'S PLAYS - 'DYING WITH LAUGHTER'

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



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

2nd-7th September 2025  
Bournemouth Little Theatre  
11 Jameson Road

Bournemouth BH9 2QD

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



## I'LL BE BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT

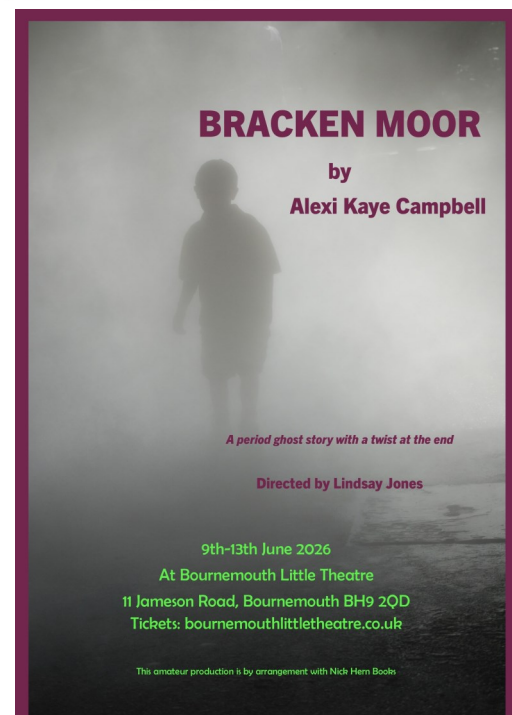
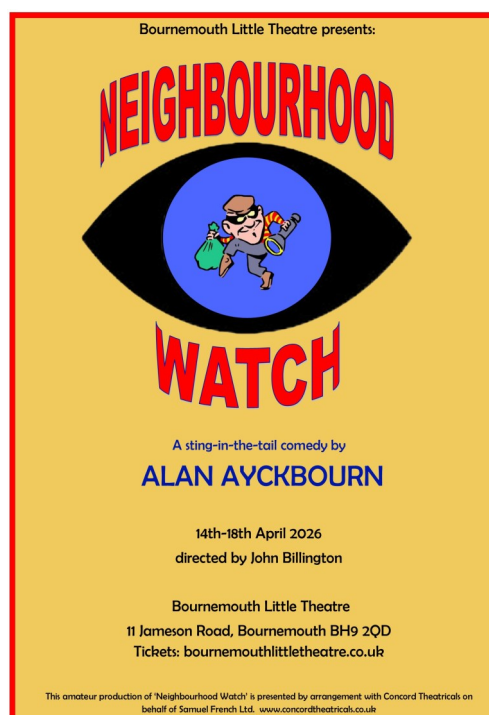
by Peter Colley

Directed by Don Cherrett  
at  
BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE  
10TH-14TH FEBRUARY 2026

11 JAMESON ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH BH9 2QD

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



At the AGM in October last year, our members decided that huge increase in the costs of running the theatre, together with the improvements that were needed to give audiences a better experience at BLT meant that we needed to review ticket prices for our productions.

In line with other local groups, it was decided to retain the standard ticket costs of £14. However, the concessions offered at BLTC, which are now rarely offered at other groups, would change.

From our September 2025 production, there will be no concessions for seniors (so their tickets will go up from £12 to £14), but BLTC will still have concessions for members, given the work they do in putting our productions together or in helping manage the theatre. The member's rate will go up from £8 to £12 for a ticket purchased by a fully paid up member for their own use. We regret this necessity, but are sure you will understand the reason behind it.

## CRITIC'S REVIEW of The Importance of Being Earnest

### DORSET VIEW—First Night Review by Luke Graham

Oscar Wilde's classic farce is brought vividly to life in this adaptation being performed at Bournemouth Little Theatre until Saturday 12 April.

First performed in 1895, 'The Importance of Being Earnest' sees two well-to-do gentlemen, Algernon Moncrieff and Jack Worthing, leading double lives using the fake name 'Ernest' to pursue their romantic interests, while trying to dodge the overbearing matriarch Lady Bracknell.

Despite being more than a century old, Wilde's script still holds you, with its clever witticisms and turns of phrase. No wonder it has stood the test of time and been adapted so many times for stage and screen.

Director John Billington and assistant director Tracie Billington-Beardsley have done a phenomenal job. Their take on the material emphasises the physical comedy of the script, and there is a particularly fun moment at the play's climax that lets the whole cast join in on one of the play's immortal catchphrases.

The cast are all very good. Topher Lynn, who has appeared in several Little Theatre productions including 'Private Lives' is fantastic as Jack Worthing, with great physical humour and facial expressions. Alex Welsford was splendid in his debut with the company as Algernon, Jack's frenemy in London, playing up the character's gluttony and louche behaviour.

Vanessa Turner had a tricky role to fill as Lady Bracknell, memorably played by Edith Evans in the 1952 film version, but Vanessa played it well. Philippa Hendry was fun and entertaining as Jack's love interest Gwendolen, while Sophie Powell as Cecily was very amusing and brought energy to the stage in her flirtations with Algernon and verbal sparring with Gwen. Meanwhile, Denise King was delightful as the prim and proper governess Miss Prism.

Other cast members, including Lauren Killham, Andrew Whyatt, Michael Mackey and Simon Nightingale were superb.

There were some opening night jitters, with a couple of the actors occasionally stepping on lines or mispronouncing Wilde's more complicated turns of phrase, but this will likely be ironed out in later performances.

A special mention to the incredible costumes created by the Little Theatre's costume team. The extravagant outfits of the principal cast, full of ruffs and eye-catching designs, were truly impressive, especially the bustle's worn by some of the female cast. Gwendolen's act one outfit, a peach dress with white frills, was particularly striking.

As always, the Little Theatre's design team did an excellent job making detailed and professional-looking sets for the actors to perform in.

I'd never actually seen Wilde's famous play before – I'd only seen snatches of it online, or parodies of the original – so seeing a traditional take on the material was very enjoyable, and once again the Little Theatre has done a great job. Catch the show if you can.



## The Importance of Being Earnest—COSTUMES

Everyone agreed that the costumes for "Earnest" were absolutely fabulous and worthy of a second viewing—many thanks to our Costumes team, comprising: Helen Ross, Hilary Guess-England; Caitlin Sprake-Follett; Isobel Kantaris; Philippa Hendry and Adele Smyth—who made or adjusted many of them, ably led by Mo Hamill.

Thankyou ladies, for all of your time and hard work making such beautiful garments.

Here are photo's of some of them...





# 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> ).....	0774 9409634
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

Bournemouth Little Theatre Club  
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Bournemouth BH9 2QD  
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**Facebook:**  
<http://facebook.com/BLittleTheatre>

**Co Reg No: 02699332**  
**Charity Ref: 1019571**

### Not on the Committee:

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