



LITTLE THEATRE

A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
PRESENTATION

Sponsored by

Duncan Sheard Glass
Chartered Accountants



GASLIGHT

A suspenseful tale of mystery and murder

By Patrick Hamilton

Directed by James Hughes-Alty

**13th - 21st
October 2006**

7.45pm



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Dramatic Club's production of

GASLIGHT

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Director's Notes



Gaslight is a well known and well loved play and was an instant success on both sides of the Atlantic. When it reached Broadway early in 1939 it ran for almost three years under the title *Angel Street*.

Many of you will have seen the 1944 film version with Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer and a very young Angela Lansbury in her first film role, (she was only seventeen when filming began) for which she received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

In fact, this most highly respected American suspense movie was a re-make of a British film made only four years earlier in 1940, with Anton Walbrook and Diana Wynyard. It was considered to be the finest British suspense movie of the period. It was almost reduced to a foot-note in film history as MGM tried to buy up and destroy all prints of the film when they released their later version.

Thankfully no such underhanded shennanegins surround our production! In fact it has been an honour to work with such a talented and experienced cast on a wonderfully dark and well-crafted script, on this, my first main season production.

I hope you enjoy watching it as much as I and the cast have enjoyed working on it.

James Hughes-Alty
Director

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Patrick Hamilton

Patrick Hamilton was born in 1904, the youngest of three children, his father being a wealthy barrister. Patrick started writing at 19 and established his reputation on both sides of the Atlantic.

In 1927 he fell in love with a prostitute, and later portrayed her in his novel *Midnight Belle*, revolving around the customers of the Midnight pub.

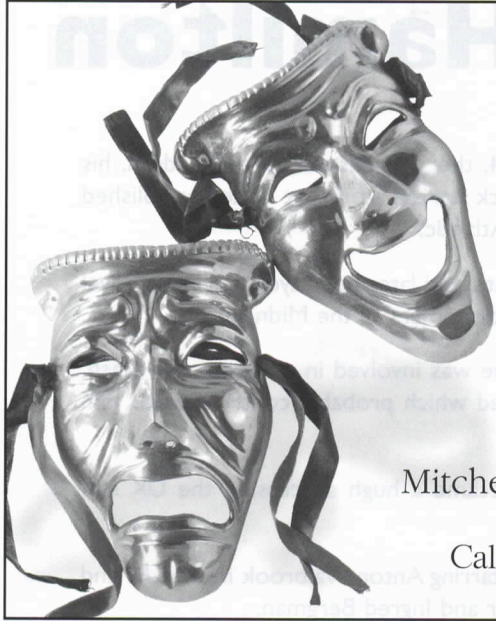
At the peak of his career in 1932, he was involved in a serious car crash, which left him permanently disfigured which probably contributed to him becoming an alcoholic.

In 1938 he wrote *Gaslight* which became a huge success, in the UK and America.

It was made into a film twice, first starring Anton Walbrook in the UK and then by MGM starring Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman.

He eventually settled in Henley-on-Thames where he wrote many more novels, described by J.B. Priestley as “work in a kind of no man’s land” of shabby hotels boarding houses and dingy bars where the homeless of the time could meet and socialise.

Patrick was twice married and eventually died of his addiction to alcohol in 1962.



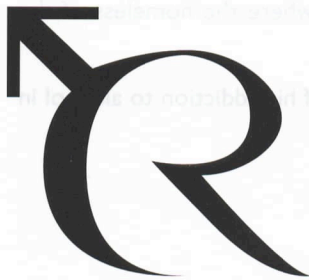
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GASLIGHT



GASLIGHT

by Patrick Hamilton,
directed by James Hughes-Alty

Cast

Bella HELEN BENNETT

Jack DAVID PARRY

Ex Det Rough BRIAN BENTLEY

Nancy MARILYN FLETCHER-HILL

Elizabeth SUSANNE DENNER

The play takes place in the latter part of the 19th century, late afternoon.

The action takes place in the living room on the first floor of a four story house
in a gloomy and unfashionable quarter of London.

Act 1 Late Afternoon

Act 2 No time has passed; the action is continuous

Act 3 11pm that night

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts one and two.

Staging

Stage Manager	Phil Hutchinson
Assistant Stage Manager	Lindsay Haywood
Assistant Stage Manager (Book)	Fran Percival
Props	Julie Whelan
Costumes	SDC Wardrobe Dept.
Lighting	Tony Berry
	Andrew Connard
Sound	Brian Hodge
	Phil Hutchinson
Set Design	Syd Coley
Set Constructed by	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photography by	Neil Hickson

Theme music for this evenings play is taken from:

Nights in the Garden of Spain by Falla

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:
Master Lock and Safe for the locks.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the auditorium after curtain up until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?

A new induction loop has been installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons. Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open. In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR, ALAN NEWPORT

GASLIGHT



GASLIGHT

Cast

Helen Bennett *Bella*

What do *Run For Your Wife*, *The Anniversary*, *Caught in the Net* and *Gaslight* have in common? Well apart from all being SDC productions, they have all featured Helen playing a housewife living in London. There the similarities end – or do they?

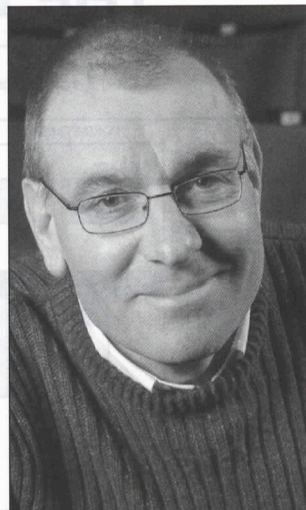
Even though this is the fourth time in a row for Helen, *Gaslight*'s London housewife has certainly presented her with a different and equally demanding set of acting challenges, and she hopes that she can succeed in a serious role.... she thinks she can.... she's certainly had the director in tears.



David Parry *Jack*

Sometimes the parts are given on the strength of ability or past performances, however sometimes casting is based on a character being similar to the actors personality. David hopes he was cast on the former.

He was last seen in *A View From The Bridge* and his son Andrew was in the SDC's last production *The Darling Buds of May*.





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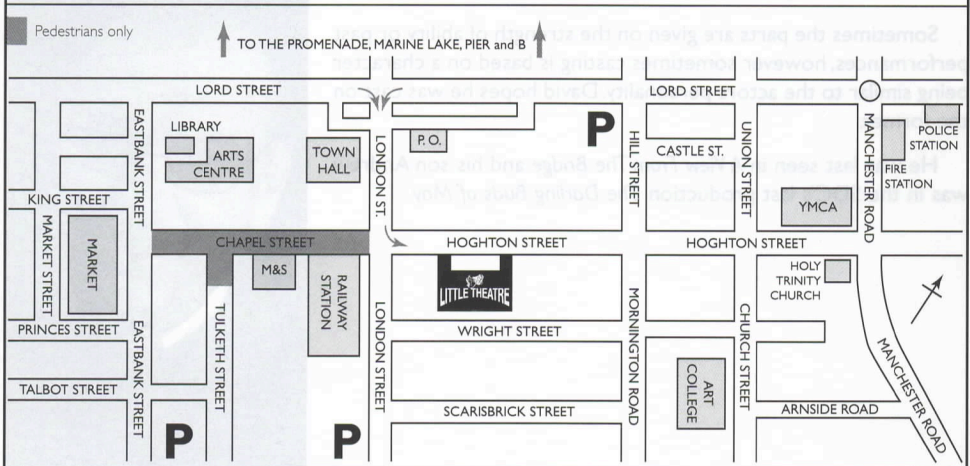
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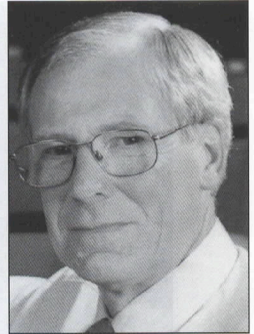
GASLIGHT

Cast

Brian Bentley *Ex Det Rough*

Brian's last appearance for SDC was in *Darling Buds of May*, Monday as a Front of House steward. Other appearances have included the Inspector in *Pack of Lies*, C.S. Lewis in *Shadowland* and the frustrated Richard in *Hayfever*.

Brian says, retirement precludes too much involvement! (You know you love it, Brian.) Ed.



Marilyn Fletcher-Hill *Nancy*

Marilyn is enjoying taking part in another costume production for the SDC. She last appeared in *Crown Matrimonial* as a Queen!, but is now reduced to a mere Parlour Maid.

As a hobby!! Marilyn is a supply teacher at Norwood Primary School where she often teaches her own four children.



Susanne Denner *Elizabeth*

Susanne is delighted to be playing the part of the housekeeper in *Gaslight* as it affords her the opportunity to work with both James and David again.

However she is somewhat perturbed by Play Selection's determination to keep her below stairs - having last appeared as a mad, Hungarian cook in *A Murder is Announced*.

Susanne says, surely the only way is up? If not, onwards and downwards! (I am sure you also love it, anyway, Susanne.) Ed.



GASLIGHT





2nd Half Season 2007

26th January - 3rd February 2007

Brassed Off

By Paul Allen from the screenplay by Mark Herman
directed by Robin Hirsch. Sponsored by Mitchell & Wright Printers Ltd.

16th February - 24th February 2007

Mary Stuart

By Schiller adapted by Peter Oswald,
directed by Alistair Hewitt.

23rd March - 31st March 2007

A Passionate Woman

By Kay Mellor, directed by David Charters.
Sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland.

20th April - 28th April 2007

Dad's Army

By Jimmy Perry and David Croft
directed by Margaret Mann. Sponsored by Davies Maintenance

22nd May - 26th May 2007

Bar Production T.B.A.



LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT
DRAMATIC CLUB

Dates for your Diary

25th October - 28th October 2006

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A Maghull Musical Theatre Company Production

4th November - 11th November 2006

SCROOGE - THE MUSICAL

directed by David Charters

A Birkdale Orpheus Society Production

24th November - 2nd December 2006

STRANGERS ON A TRAIN

by Craig Warner, adapted from the Novel by Patricia Highsmith
directed by Stephen Hughes-Alty. Sponsored by Master Lock and Safe



An SDC Production

21st December 2006 - 7th January 2007

ALADDIN

written by Alison Tarpey, directed by Elsbeth Fisher

Sponsored by NatWest



An SDC Production

26th January - 3rd February 2007

BRASSED OFF

By Paul Allen from the screenplay by Mark Herman
directed by Robin Hirsch. Sponsored by Mitchell & Wright Printers Ltd.



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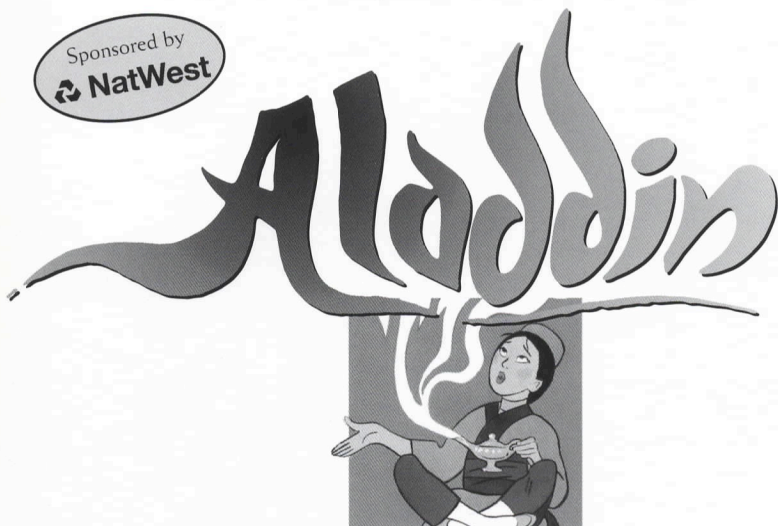
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By Craig Warner

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**24th November -
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7.45pm



Tickets: Tues/Wed: £8.25 & £7.00

Box Office from: Friday 17th November 2006, 11am

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