



LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production



A Party to **MURDER**

by Marcia Kash and
Douglas E Hughes
directed by David Charters



All is not what it seems!

4th - 12th
April 2008
7.45pm



Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782
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Directing *A Party to Murder* by Maria Kash and Douglas E. Hughes has presented various challenges to create their tribute to one of the worlds greatest crime writers Agatha Christie.

Inspired by her novels and plays *And Then There Was None* and *Evil Under The Sun*. *A Party To Murder* depicts a diverse group of people in a strange house cut off from any communication.

Apart from a talented cast (some new to our SDC audiences) there has been terrific support from our team of back stage helpers all united to create the ambience of an eventful weekend celebrating Halloween 1996.

I invite you to sit back and be treated to many tricks.

David



All is not what it seems!

A Party to
MURDER



for a Truly
outstanding
performance

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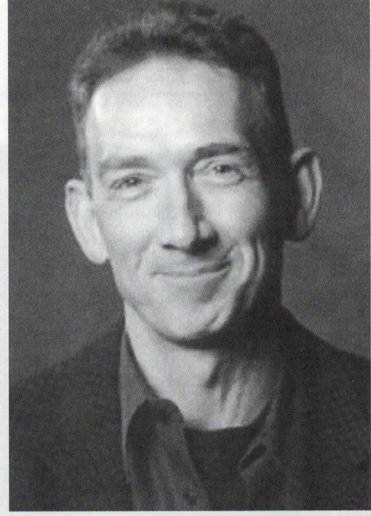
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Marcia Kash & Douglas E. Hughes

Originally hailing from London, England, Marcia trained as an actor at The Drama Centre and began her career at the Royal Court Theatre. In North America she has played many leading roles in theatre and television.

As a playwright she has nine shows to her credit - including *Who's Under Where?*, *A Party to Murder*, *Too Many Cooks* (all written with Douglas E. Hughes) *Thicker Than Water* and four musical revues. Her play *Discovering Elvis* was commissioned in 1997 by Lunchbox Theatre in Calgary and has since been produced across Canada and in the US, winning many theatre awards.

Doug has been a member of the acting company at the Canadian Shaw Festival where he was seen in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, *Detective Story* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Other theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol* at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton and *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon* at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario.

Doug began writing in 1991 when he teamed up with Marcia to pen *Who's Under Where?* As well as collaborating with Marcia on *A Party To Murder* and *Too Many Cooks*, Doug has also written two screenplays - *Hearing Trouble* and *Star Struck*. He makes his home in Toronto.

A Party to
MURDER






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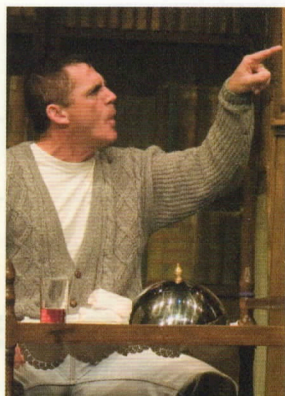
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Rehearsal photographs by Neil Hickson



A Party to
MURDER



A Party to **MURDER**

by **Marcia Kash and**
Douglas E Hughes
directed by **David Charters**



Cast

The Game - Act 1 Scene 1

Konrad Leimgruber - <i>a swave, well-bred surgeon</i>	RAY MANN
Mrs McKnight - <i>a maid</i>	SUSANNE DENNER
Madame O'Karma - <i>a clairvoyant</i>	LAURA JONES
Father Gerald Merriweather - <i>a priest</i>	DEREK McCLEAN
Evelyn Waters - <i>a politician</i>	HOLLY DONOGHUE
Ernie Fenton - <i>deceased</i>	WILL CAIN

The Prize - Act 1 Scene 2

Charles Prince - <i>a successful English mystery novelist</i>	RAY MANN
Valerie Addison - <i>a company director</i>	SUSANNE DENNER
Henri Addison - <i>a company director, Val's sister</i>	LAURA JONES
Elwood O'Callaghan - <i>a shipping magnate</i>	DEREK McCLEAN
McKenzie Arnold - <i>a fashion model</i>	HOLLY DONOGHUE
Willy Yaskovitch - <i>a retired American footballer</i>	WILL CAIN

INTERVAL

The Forfeits - Act 2 Scene 1

The Consequences - Act 2 Scene 2

Place: A cottage on an island in the middle of a lake
somewhere in North America

Time: Ten years ago

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two acts
Why not beat the rush and pre-order your drinks in the bar?

During the performance there will be flashing lights and

Staging

Stage Manager Syd Coley

Assistant Stage
Manager (Book) Alma Clark

Assistant Stage
Manager (Staging) Chuck Forbes

Set Design Syd Coley

Lighting Design Tony Berry

Sound Design Brian Hodge
assisted by Pete Beswick

Properties
& Stage
Dressing Roy Godfrey
Muriel Leeffe
Ceila Pope
Sandy Threlfall

Wardrobe Celia Pope, Cast
and SDC Wardrobe

Armourer Syd Coley

Set construction SDC Production Team

Scenic Artist Bob Jessamine

Photographs Neil Hickson

Music in this evenings performance

Halloween, by John Carpenter

Alien by Jerry Goldsmith

Psycho by Bernard Herrmann

North by North West by Bernard Herrmann

The Terminator by Brad Fiedel

Acknowledgements

The director would like to thank personally:
the rehearsal stand-ins Peter Burroughs and Sandy Threlfall

The Lamplighters Gallery of Ainsdale
and Stokers Fine Furnishings of Southport

The Little Theatre -
Home of the
Southport Dramatic
Club.

Gunshots &
Pyrotechnics may be
used in this production

The SDC wishes to ensure
that all our patrons enjoy a
comfortable, enjoyable and
safe visit to our theatre. We
should be grateful for your
cooperation in helping us to
achieve this. Please note the
following:

- Should you arrive after
the performance has
started, you will be
guided to your seats
when a suitable
opportunity occurs.
- At the end of the
performance, exits will
be open at both the
front and back of the
auditorium.
- First Aid assistance is
regularly provided by
volunteers from the St.
John's Ambulance
Brigade. Should you
require help, please
advise our stewards on
duty in the Foyer.
- Patrons with hearing
impairments should
note that the auditorium
has an Induction Loop
System for your
assistance. Hearing
wands are also available
from our stewards.
- Cameras and recording
equipment may not be
operated during
performances
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SUPERVISOR, ALAN
NEWPORT

Cast and Staging



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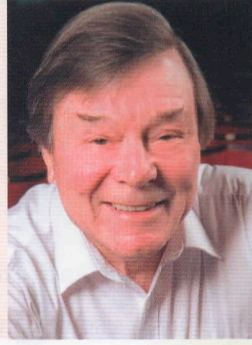
for more information or to make an appointment

We look forward to seeing you

Ray Mann

Charles Prince

By an odd coincidence, Ray is playing the role of an English gentleman for the third consecutive time. Recently, he has been Lord Shrewsbury in *Mary Stuart*; in *Dad's Army* he played Sergeant Wilson, now he is an urbane English author, Charles Prince. In tonight's production, however, Ray is allowed to go one step further. He's been given the opportunity 'to set a good example to people whose English is painful to your ears!', as a certain professor was wont to say!

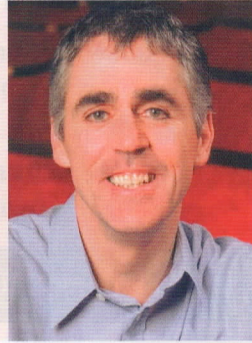


Will Cain

Willy Yoskovich

Will has recently been busy in following a professional career in stage, film and radio but he has found time to take on his role as the sedentary Willy Yoskovich in *A Party To Murder*.

We have seen a lot of Will since his first play with the SDC *Who Dies Wins*. He was the fall guy in *Noises Off*, a ghost that wouldn't say boo to a goose in *A Passionate Woman*, also directed by David Charters, and a camp interior decorator in *Move Over Mrs Markham*. You will definitely see more of him in our next production *The Full Monty*.



Derek McClean

Elwood O'Callaghan

Derek McClean recently moved back to Southport from London after a successful career in Business Communications and Public Relations. He was able to balance business with his love of theatre. He appeared in many classic plays from *King Lear* and *The Cherry Orchard* to the Edinburgh Fringe theatre and Amsterdam Comedy Festivals. He has had extensive experience training young people in performing arts. You may have had a glimpse of Derek as one of the German Sub-mariners in last season's production of *Dad's Army*. We are pleased to welcome him to his first featured part as Elwood in *A Party To Murder*. (Ed.)



A Party to
MURDER





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Book & lyrics by
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Original dances by
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Susanne Denner

Valerie Addison

Susanne's 'accented' tour of the world in recent productions continues with attempts from both sides of the pond. However, she is concerned that her request to Play Selection and Casting Committee to be allowed out from below stairs appears to have gone unheeded... or has it? All may not be quite as it seems!!!



Laura Jones

Henri Addison

Laura's first experience of theatre was as a very young dancer, in Ainsdale, in pantomime. Since then she has trained as a teacher of English and Drama and is very pleased to be performing in her first featured role on the Little stage and with this very talented cast, directed by David Charters.

Welcome to the SDC Laura. (Ed.)



Holly Donoghue

McKenzie Arnold

Holly last appeared in our opener, as Sylvie the Au Pair, in *Move Over Mrs Markham*.

Now that she knows what a Goose really is she is prepared to appear with Will Cain again in this production. Although she thought that playing a complete ditz (sic) this time, would be difficult, she says that it has come quite naturally to her for some reason. However she is pleased to be part of this very talented cast and, directed by David Charters.



A Party to
MURDER





Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie died from natural causes at the ripe old age of 85. After decades of slaughtering her victims in the most creative and devious of ways, Dame Agatha's own denouement was rather uneventful.

Although Ms. Christie is not directly responsible for *A Party To Murder*, playwrights Marcia Kash and Douglas E Hughes seem enamoured with the lady. In the play, Christie's wildly successful stage play *And Then There Were None* is repeatedly alluded to and her motherly visage looms large from a frame above the fireplace. The twisting, turning, and shocking plot is an homage to the style of the mistress of murder.

Other dramatists made successful stage versions of some of her novels - notably **Arnold Ridley**, whose huge success with *Ghost Train* enabled him to live comfortably on the royalties from amateur productions.

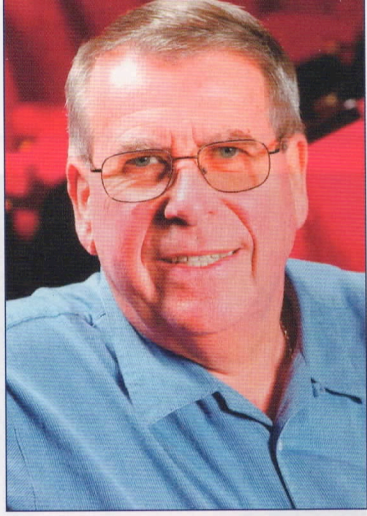
But when Agatha heard that *And Then There Were None* was about to be adapted, she realised that she wanted to do the job herself.

In 1946 the BBC discovered that **Queen Mary** (the then Queen Mother) was an admirer of Christie and would like a radio play by her as her majesty's 80th birthday celebration. Agatha accepted the commission, stipulating that her fee go to the **Southport Infirmary Children's Toy Fund**.



A Party to
MURDER





11th - 19th May, 1979

Something's Afoot

Book, Music and Lyrics by McDonald, Vos and Gerlach
 Directed by Don Anderson
 Musical Direction by Joyce Goldsworth

Cast in order of appearance

- Lottie - Jill Maxwell
- Flint - John Hale
- Clive - Charles Preston
- Hope Langdon - Angela Cox
- Dr. Grayburn - Ray Jeffs
- Nigel Rancour - Brian Tooley
- Lady Grace Manley-Prowe - Betty Mook
- Col. Gillweather - David Charters
- Miss Tweed - Betty Rawlinson
- Geoffrey - Arnold Gorse

Musicians

- Piano - Joyce Goldsworth
- Assisted by - Gerald Ball
- Percussion - Kevin Winsland



Talking to David Charters about our current production *A Party to Murder* brought back memories of a previous 'Agatha Christie' type thriller *Something's Afoot*. Unusually, one of several musicals presented by the SDC over the years, at the Little (Theatre) we have always tried to encompass all types of theatre, musicals included.

You may remember many of them, starting with 'Stephen Foster (1960), Salad Days (1963 and again in 1971) in the capable hands of Benny Darrah & John Wright, the World Amateur Premier of 'Follow the Girl' (1968), Oh! What a Lovely War (1972), 'Wizard of Oz' (1972), 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1973), 'The Fantastic's' (1975), 'The Good Companions' (1995), Lock up your daughters' (1997) all covering a range of styles and subject matter over the years.

'Something's Afoot' (1979), directed by the late, great, Don Anderson was so like 'A Party to Murder', a humorous satire on the Christie format with music and songs added to make fun of 'the Thirties', influenced by Agatha Christie's 'And Then There Were None'. The ten characters, all being systematically bumped off as the show progressed.

Long before I donned the dame's red wig and outrageous frocks, in *Something's Afoot*, I played Geoffrey, the Juvenile (that shows how long ago it was! - Ed.) an un-expected visitor to Lord Rancour's isolated island

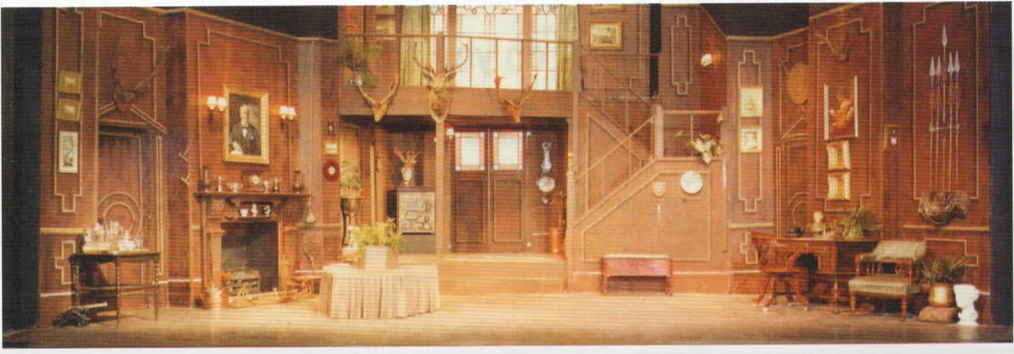
home in bad weather. One by one each member of the cast met their untimely demise in various locations on the enormous two-tiered set.

Lottie the maid, swallowed up by the chinoiserie cabinet, Flint the caretaker blown-up by a gas boiler, Clive the Butler dying on a collapsing staircase. The Doctor suffocated by a trick telephone. The Nephew concussed by the newel post. Lady Grace electrocuted by a faulty light switch. The Colonel by a poisoned dart from an Amazon blowpipe and Miss Tweed, the amateur detective strangled by her own scarf.

My leading lady, Angela Cox and myself were the only characters left to sing the final song and drink a celebratory glass of champagne, which was, of course, poisoned. I remember, it took us all some time to convince Don that despite the demise of the entire cast, we really would like to appear on the curtain call to take our bows.

As the Club, once again, presents a musical 'The Full Monty' To close the season, I am sure tonight's 'A Party to Murder' will be just as full of intrigue and trickery as we remember from 1979.

Arnold Gorse





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2nd May -
10th May
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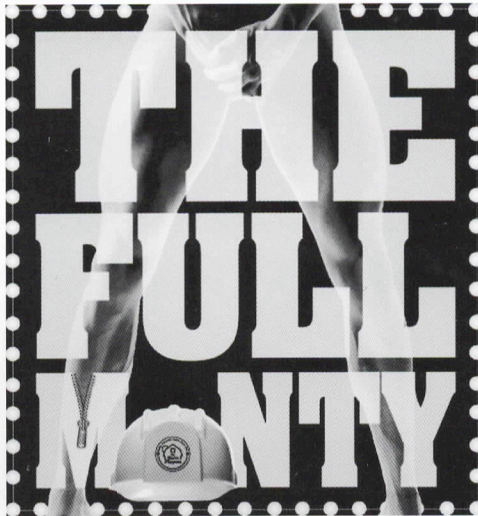
Houghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA. www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk





LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production



Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek

Book by Terrence McNally

Based on the Motion Picture Released by Fox Searchlight Pictures
Written by Simon Beaufoy, Produced by Uberto Pasolini and Directed by Peter Cattaneo

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited
on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.

Directed by Alistair Hewitt

Warning: This play contains strong language and male nudity

2nd - 10th May 2008

7.45pm

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