

Southport Dramatic Club



John Buchan and Alfred Hitchcock's

Adapted by
Patrick Barlow

By arrangement with
Edward Snape for
Fiery Angel Limited

From an original
concept by
Simon Corble and
Nobby Dimon

Directed by
James Hughes-Alty

The 39 Steps

A spoof
spy thriller

23rd November - 1st December 2012

7.45pm



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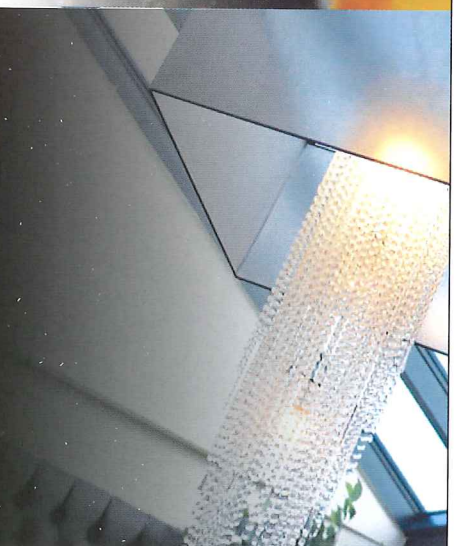
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Director's notes

Good evening and welcome to our production of *The 39 Steps*.

As a director I have been lucky enough to direct the stage versions of some of my favourite films, *Dracula*, *Gaslight*, *The Producers* and now *The 39 Steps*.

Adapting a film for the stage can be a very difficult task, how do you stay true to the feel and style of the original 1935 Hitchcock movie, and make it new and interesting to watch for a theatre audience?

Patrick Barlow has approached this task in a very original way that



James Hughes-Alty
Director

perfectly tells the story of our hero, Richard Hannay, as he valiantly tries to foil the plans of the dastardly foreign agents. He escapes to Scotland where he is

hunted by the police for a murder he didn't commit. Barlow has kept all the drama and tension of a Hitchcock spy movie but also made it hilariously funny.

With only four actors, the minimum of costumes and the most inventive of sets, this show is challenging to say the least. Thankfully I am lucky enough to have a team of hard working and creative actors, and a technical crew who have risen to the challenge to produce a show I am sure you are going to enjoy.

James Hughes-Alty
Director



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Biography of John Buchan, Patrick Barlow, Alfred Hitchcock, Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

John Buchan

This play of *The 39 Steps* is the work of a number of people. It was adapted from John Buchan's 1915 book and Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film, and written by Patrick Barlow from a concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon. John Buchan was born in 1875 in Perth, Scotland, his father was a Calvinist Presbyterian minister. He went to Hutchesons' Grammar School, the University of Glasgow and studied at Oxford. After Oxford Buchan balanced a writing career with a career in public life. He went on to write over a hundred books. The spy-thriller *The 39 Steps*, which was set in the years before World War I, was one of his most famous works. From 1935 until his death in 1940, Buchan was Governor-General of Canada.

Patrick Barlow

Patrick Barlow rewrote the script for a stage adaptation in 2004. He was born in 1947 and is a playwright as well as a comedian and actor. Barlow is most well-known for his amusing two-man *National Theatre of Brent*, which has appeared on theatre, television and radio. He has also had cameo roles in the films *Shakespeare in Love* (1998), *Notting Hill* (1999) and *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001).

Alfred Hitchcock

The 39 Steps was filmed by Hitchcock in 1935, who changed much of the plot, and also added the female character of Pamela played by Madeleine Carroll. Robert Donat portrayed the lead role of Richard Hannay. *The 39 Steps* was one of Hitchcock's earlier films. He would go on to direct over fifty films over his life. Hitchcock moved to Hollywood in 1939 to continue his career there. Some of his most famous films include *North by Northwest*, *Vertigo* and *Psycho*.

He died in 1980 in Bel Air, California.

Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

It was years later in 1995/96, that Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon created the stage version of the Buchan/Hitchcock tale. Corble describes himself on his internet home page as a director, performer and writer. He studied at Manchester Polytechnic, lives in Monyash in the Peak District and is from Manchester. He says on his *Facebook* page: "I met Nobby Dimon while devising a piece for Harrogate Theatre in 1995, and being a life-long Buchan and Hitchcock fan, immediately offered my services as writer and co-director for the team creating the original *39 Steps*. This triumphantly toured village halls and small theatres before continuing on its remarkable road to world-wide success."

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A Closer look at Barlow's Adaptation of *The 39 Steps*

Patrick Barlow's adaptation of *The 39 Steps* was premiered at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds on June 17th 2005. There are lots of different parts in the play, but only four actors play all the roles.

Richard Hannay, the central character of the show, is played by one actor. Another plays Hannay's female love interests. The other parts in the show are portrayed by the other two actors.

Barlow's play also has many amusing moments, and it makes references to different Hitchcock films. It has often been likened to Monty Python, and Barlow's *National Theatre of Brent*.

The production is based more on the film than the book. Hannay's speech, which was developed by Hitchcock from the book, is extended by Barlow.

It went on a successful national tour and opened in London on August 10th 2006 at The Tricycle Theatre (London), and was called *John Buchan's The 39 Steps*. The play was directed by Maria Aitken and the London Premiere starred Charles Edwards, Rupert Degas, Simon Gregor and Catherine McCormack. In September 2006, the production moved to the Criterion Theatre in London's West End. *The 39 Steps* can still be seen at the Criterion today, and is

going on a nationwide tour from January to July next year. The play won Patrick an *Olivier* award. The same year it also picked up the *What's on Stage Award for Best Comedy 2007*.

Theatre critics in New York raved when the production opened on Broadway in January 2008 at the American Airlines Theatre. It had seven hundred and seventy-one performances and closed in January 2010. During this time it co-won a *Drama Desk Award*, and received two *Tonys*.

The play opens in London before the Second World War in 1935, and the audience is introduced to Richard Hannay, who is in his apartment....



Can you find the film titles "hidden" in the play?

Answers can be found on page 19

Only 39 Steps...



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Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

- Scene 1. Hannay's Apartment.
- Scene 2. Cockney Music Hall. London
- Scene 3. Hannay's Apartment. Night
- Scene 4. Hannay's Apartment. Very Late
- Scene 5. Lobby. Morning
- Scene 6. Hannay's Apartment. Morning
- Scene 7. Edinburgh Train. Day
- Scene 8. Edinburgh Station. Day
- Scene 9. Highland Train. Day
- Scene 10. Forth Bridge
- Scene 11. On the Moors
- Scene 12. Crofter's Cottage. Outside
- Scene 13. Crofter's Cottage. Inside
- Scene 14. Crofter's Cottage. Midnight
- Scene 15. Scottish Moors. Dawn
- Scene 16. Alt-Na-Shellach
- Scene 17. Alt-Na-Shellach. Interior
- Scene 18. The Professor's Study

ACT II

- Scene 19. Sheriff's Office
- Scene 20. City Streets
- Scene 21. Assembly Hall
- Scene 22. Assembly Hall Foyer
- Scene 23. Police Car. Night
- Scene 24. Police Car. Moor.
- Scene 25. The Dark Moors.
- Scene 26. McGarrigle Hotel.
- Scene 27. Hotel Bedroom.
- Scene 28. Hotel Lobby. Night
- Scene 29. Hotel Bedroom.
- Scene 30. London Palladium Stage.
- Scene 31. London Palladium. Backstage
- Scene 32. Outside Palladium. Night.
- Scene 33. Hannay's Apartment. Night.

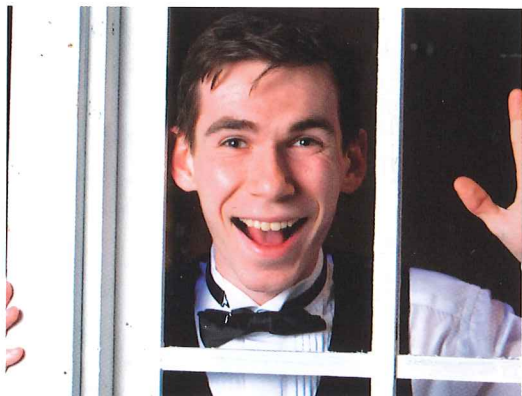
The Cast of The 39 Steps



Richard Hannay
Adrian Roberts



Annabella Schmidt/ Pamela / Margaret
Beth Milligan

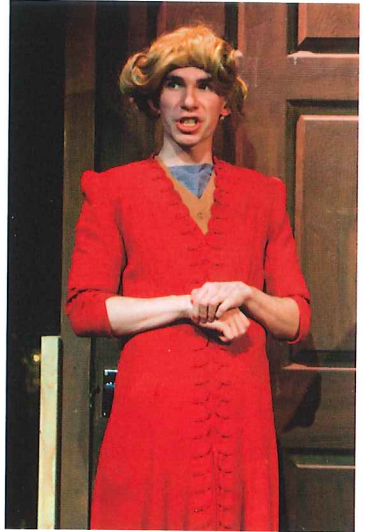


Clown 1
John Delahunty



Clown 2.
Stephen Hughes-Alty





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Staging

Stage Manager	Chris Ratcliffe
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt)	Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
Properties	.....	Lynn Gosling, Lindsay Haywood, Andrea Jenkinson & The Props Team
Wardrobe	.....	Sherel Coley & James Hughes-Alty
Lighting	.....	Alan Gosling & The LX Team
Sound	.....	Pete Beswick
Set Design	.....	Alan Gosling
Set Construction	.....	SDC Productions Team
Scenic Artist	.....	Bob Jessamine
Photographs	.....	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor	.....	Jacquie Bolshaw
Programme Sub Editor	.....	Barry King
Programme Content & Research	.....	Henry James
Programme Layout and Design	.....	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

Music in this production

Music used in the play is from the Hitchcock films:
The 39 Steps, North By Northwest, The Lady Vanishes, Dial M for Murder,
The Man Who Knew Too Much, Vertigo, Under Capricorn, Stage Fright
and: Alfred Hitchcock presents Funeral March of the Marionette
Coronation Scot - Charles Williams, The Devils Gallop - Charles Williams,
Embassy Stomp - Ambrose and his Embassy Club Orchestra
Love is the Sweetest Thing - Ray Noble and his new Mayfair Dance Orchestra.

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank Becky's Blinds of Sussex Road, Southport.
Thanks also go to Katie Doyle for dressing the wigs.

The Little Theatre - Home of the Southport Dramatic Club.

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 co-operation 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 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.

Designated Premises Supervisor,
Alan Newport



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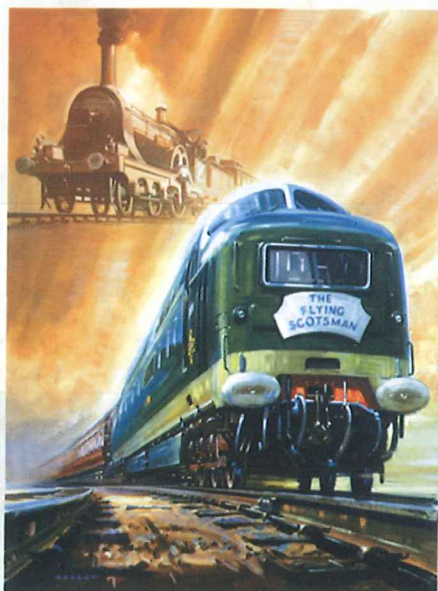
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The Flying Scotsman

The Flying Scotsman is the name given to the railway express passenger service linking London and Edinburgh since 1862, it is currently run by *East Coast*. Two trains departed simultaneously at 10:00 a.m. from London Kings Cross and Edinburgh Waverley stations.

Originally the trip took ten and a half hours, including a half-hour stop at York for lunch. As rail technology improved this reduced to eight and a half hours! It soon became possible for travellers to



THE
FLYING SCOTSMAN
1862 - 1962

lunch on board the train so the York stop reduced to fifteen minutes. In 1928 the run became 'non-stop' with

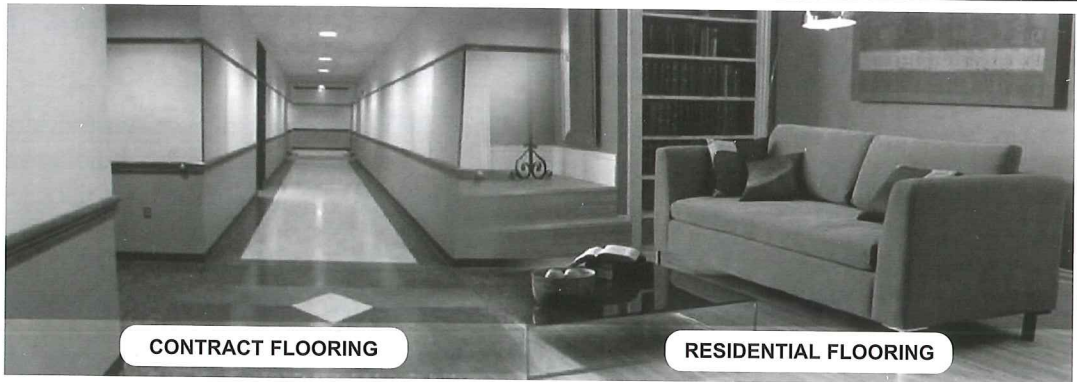


L.N.E.R. no.4472 Gresley A3 Pacific 4-6-2 'FLYING SCOTSMAN'

the use of corridor tenders through which a relief crew could reach the engine from the front carriage. The modern service only travels south and takes four hours and nineteen minutes. There is no longer a northbound service.

The rolling stock and locos have changed dramatically over the years. The amazing *Gresley Pacifics* carried passengers from the 1920's to the 1950's when dieselisation brought in the mighty *Class 55 Deltics*. Steam and diesel locos have figured prominently in advertisements for the service. In order to further the 'fame' of the service it was decided to name a loco which had seen sterling service pulling the trains *Flying Scotsman*. Another famous locomotive that pulled this service is the world speed record holder *Mallard*, both these engines are now preserved at the *National Rail Museum, York*.

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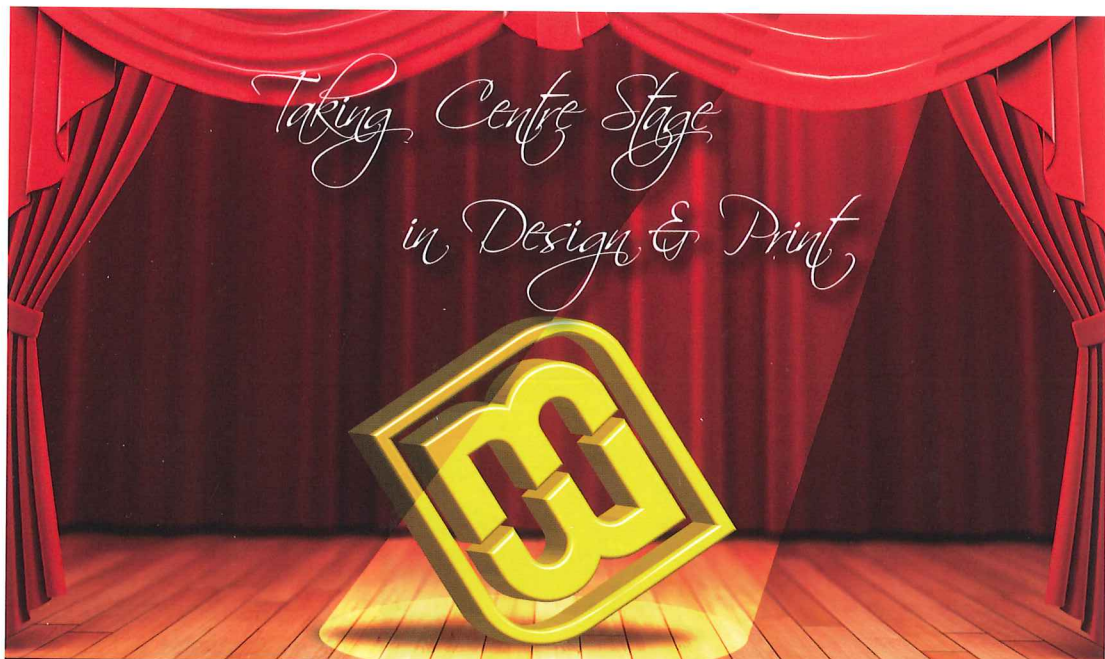


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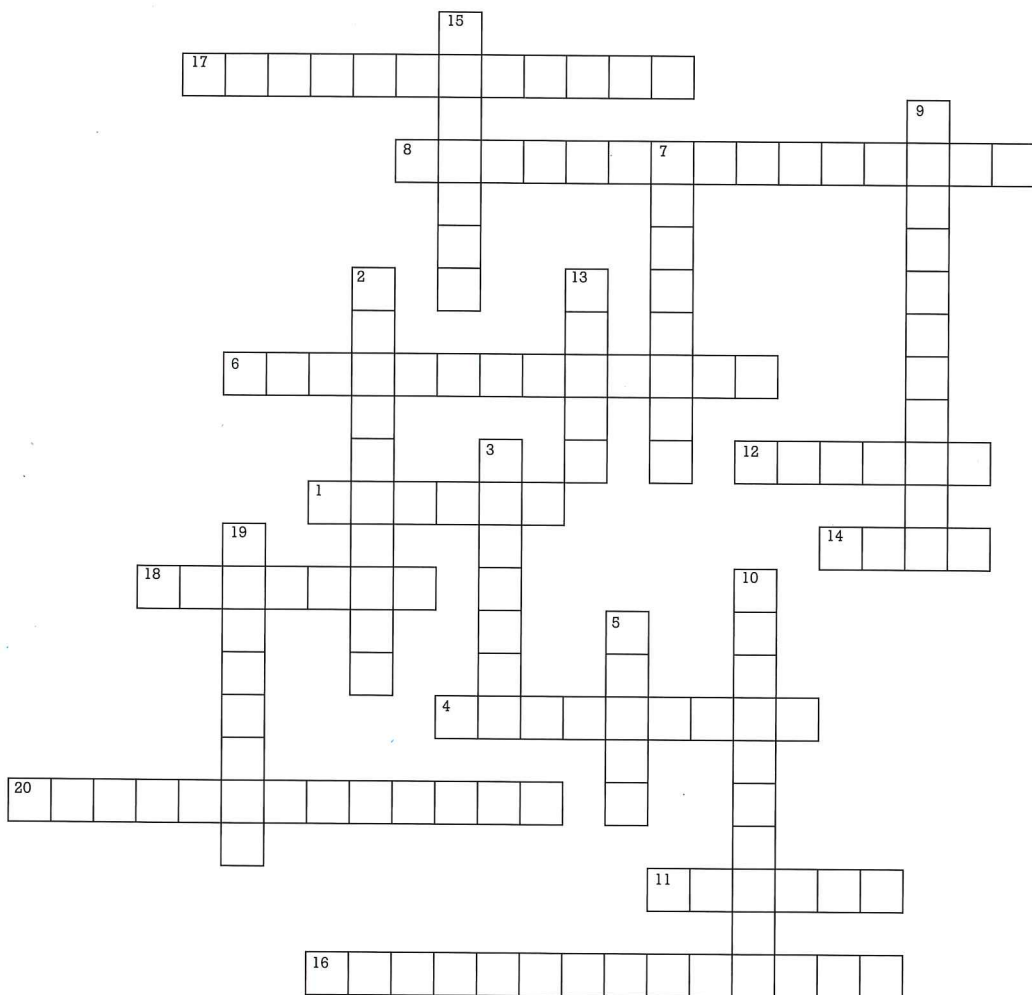
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Can you guess the clues and solve The 39 Steps themed crossword



Across:

1. An Untimely End
4. Spying
6. Our Hero
8. Famous Movie Maker
11. Circus Performers
12. Opposite of Pathos
14. Scottish Moor
16. North British Aviator
17. Military Facts
18. Our protagonists aim
20. Where are we?

Down:

2. Author
3. Not Known to Many
5. Light Hearted Look
7. Scots New Year
9. Replaced the 'Queensferry'
10. London Terminus
13. Pursuit
15. Two-Winged
19. Northern Terminus

answers on page 19



Sandy Town
Director

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Goldilocks and The Three Bears

Written by John Morley

Directed by Sandy Town

19th December 2012 – 6th January 2013

Our Pantomime this year is the favourite fairy story of many children around the world. The tale of Goldilocks and The Three Bears was last performed at this theatre over seventeen-years ago and now is updated and filled with new songs, jokes and much laughter. We have several different characters to scare or delight you, a beautiful Goldilocks and three wonderful bears, who can actually speak!

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Goldilocks meets the three bears and weird and wonderful things happen.

This panto has the usual sprinkling of good and evil, contains much audience participation, fabulous costumes, tricks, songs and dances to bedazzle you. Our highly talented choreographer Tracey Batchelor takes charge of the dancing and Nick Sutor our new, dynamic, young MD has chosen songs both familiar and brand new.

Do join us, it's a Panto for all the family! Meet Joey Wizzbang, Ronnie the Ringmaster, Wilbur Whack and a host of others and add an extra ingredient to your Christmas celebrations! We would love to see you.

Sandy Town, Director

Formby Garden Centre

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All My Sons

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5th April 2013
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12th - 20th April 2013

Entertaining Angels

A Sharp Edged Comedy

By Richard Everett

Directed by Celia Timmington

Answers to The "hidden" film titles from Page 7: Murder, Secret Agent, Mr & Mrs Smith, Notorious, Strangers on a Train, Rear Window, Vertigo, North by Northwest, The Wrong Man

Answers to crossword on Page 17. Across: 1. Murder; 4. Espionage; 6. Richard Hannay; 8. Alfred Hitchcock; 11. Clowns; 12. Comedy; 14. Glen; 16. Flying Scotsman; 17. Intelligence; 18. Anarchy; 20. Little Theatre. Down: 2. John Buchan; 3. Secrets; 5. Spoof; 7. Hogmanay; 9. Forth Bridge; 10. Kings Cross; 13. Chase; 15. Biplane; 19. Waverley.

Southport Dramatic Club



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Written by John Morley

Directed by Sandy Town

Choreography by Tracey Bachelor

Musical Direction by Nick Tudor

**19th December 2012 -
6th January 2013**



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