

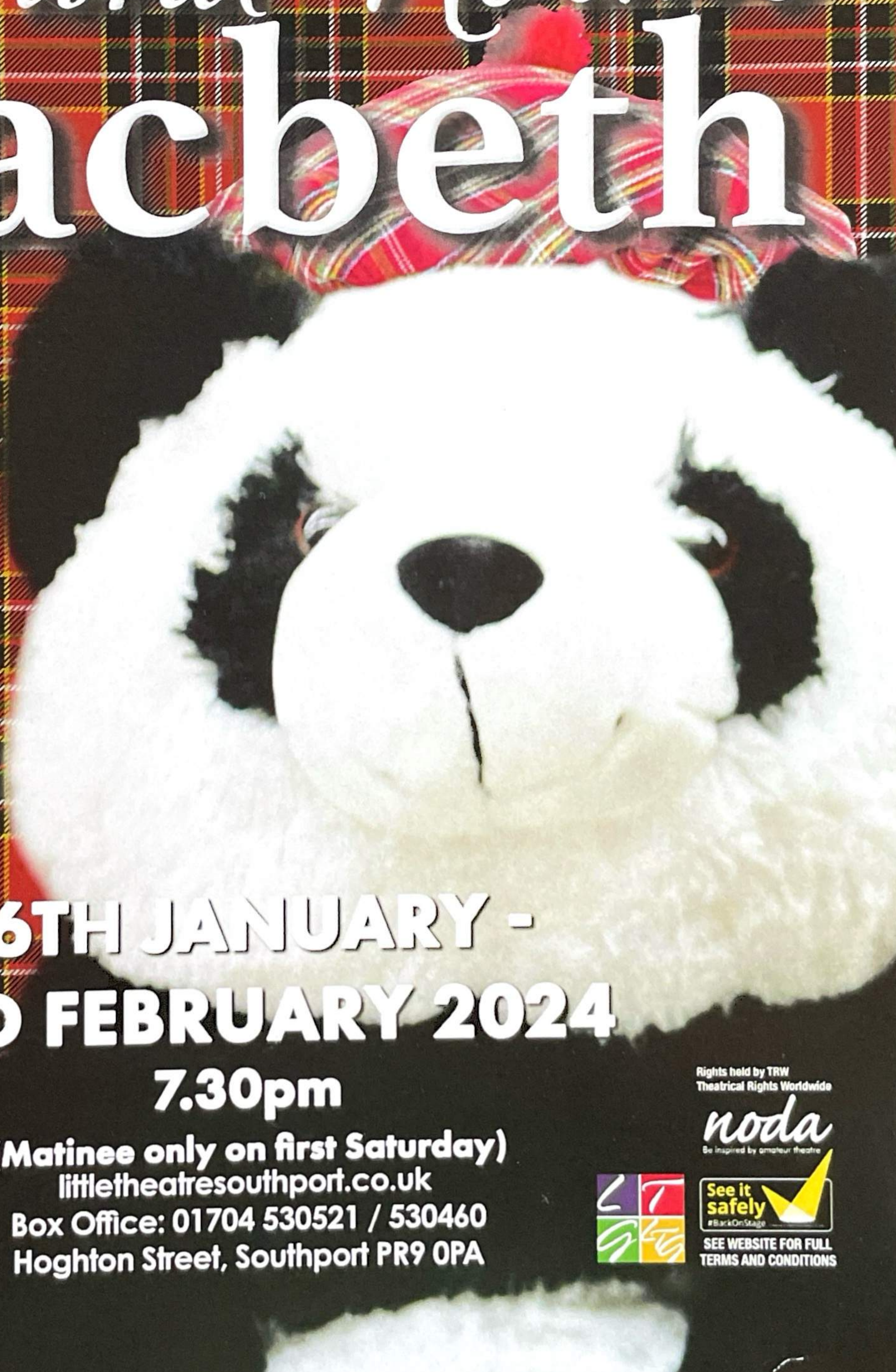
BY JOHN CHRISTOPHER WOOD

DIRECTED BY CATH DUNNE

A SNAPPY COMEDY

SDC
LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT

Elsie and Marm's Macbeth



**26TH JANUARY -
3RD FEBRUARY 2024**

7.30pm

(Matinee only on first Saturday)
littletheatresouthport.co.uk
Box Office: 01704 530521 / 530460
Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA



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Company No. 221585

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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome one and all and step on into 41 Laburnum Avenue, home of Elsie and Norm Grimethorpe.

Elsie and Norm will be presenting their interpretation of Shakespeare's Macbeth, one of the greatest pieces of literature what has ever been wrote in the English language. Whether they can pull it off or not, is yet to be seen!

Initially involved as the co-director, I wasn't quite expecting to be here with full responsibility. Originally cast with Lisa Tatler as Elsie and John Dudley as Norm, events meant that John sadly had to leave us just before Christmas. Andrew Sloman, being the director, was in prime position to step into the woollen tank top of Norm and has done with aplomb and thus I was promoted.

I would like to thank first and foremost, Lisa and Andrew for their hard work. A two-hander play is always a challenge, however this, with all its different characters, is on another level. There has



Cath Dunne
Director

been much laughter, and tears (of laughter) and we hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

Secondly, I would like to thank John for his support and his cameo appearances, it's been wonderful to keep him involved, especially given his efforts already given to the show.

And finally, my biggest heartfelt thanks to our wonderful production crew, SDC front of house, and Bar staff. Our shows would never make it onto the stage if it wasn't for our stage crew

to build the sets, our stage managers, lighting & sound designers and operators, wardrobe, Props and of course, our highly appreciated Prompt. Front of house and bar do their best to make your visit as enjoyable as possible. It really is a combined effort.

So come on in, wipe your feet, take a seat, and we hope you enjoy the show.

Cath Dunne, Director



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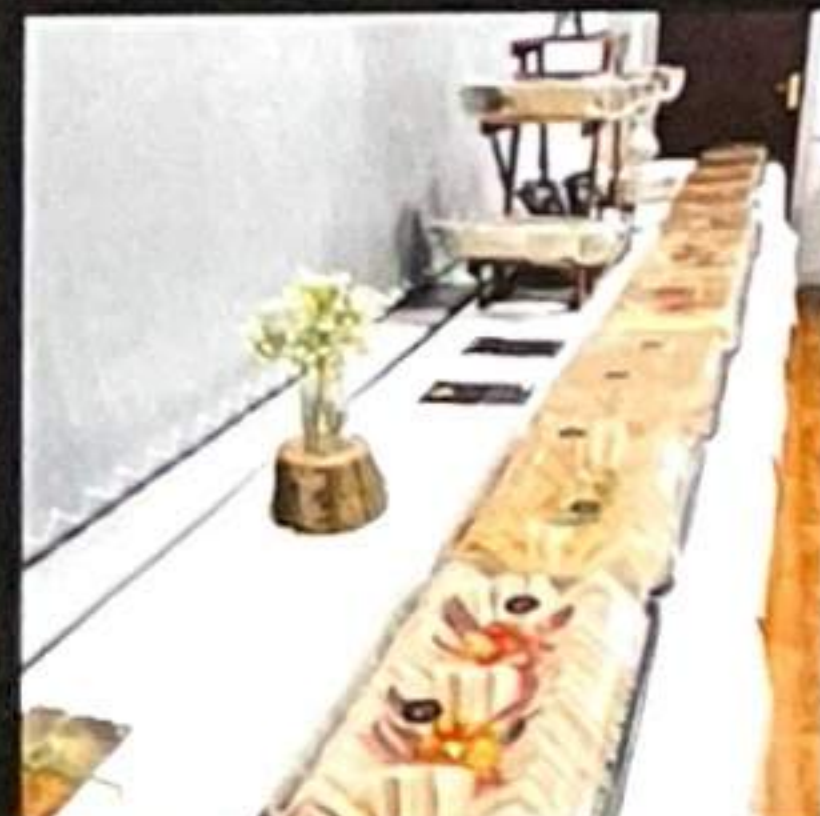
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A closer look at Elsie and Norm's Macbeth

The comedy Elsie and Norm's Macbeth was premiered in Walcot Street in Bath in 1977 and has been performed at theatres across the world.

It is now more than 40 years since its first production and during that time a number of famous names have taken the title role.

The Old Bag Theatre Company brought the show back to Bath in October 2017 and staged it at the Rondo Theatre in Larkhall to mark its 40th anniversary. That production was directed by Old Bag co-founder Charlotte Howard who is quoted on the Broadway World website in an article from 2017 as saying: "As soon as I read the script I jumped at the chance (to direct it); it was one of the funniest things I'd read in ages!"

The comedy takes one of Shakespeare's darkest tragedies and turns into an evening of light hearted entertainment.

Synopsis

Elsie and Norm's Macbeth roughly follows the same story line as Shakespeare's original, with some minor tweaks.

A Scottish general named Macbeth receives a prophecy from a witch (who needs three?) that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and egged on by his nagging wife, Macbeth does in King Duncan (and later, several other characters) and takes the Scottish throne for himself.

Elsie and Norm come up with the idea of staging their own version of Macbeth in their living room after growing bored with playing Trivial Pursuit and watching reality TV.

They believe the original version of Macbeth to be too long, so Norm rewrites the famous play to make it more punchy and to add some jokes into it. Norm has some past experience of writing for the Pigeon Breeders Gazette.

Shakespeare's original play has a large cast but in *Elsie and Norm's Macbeth*, Elsie and Norm play all the characters between them. The only characters not played by these two are Banquo and his son Fleance. Stuffed pandas in kilts take on these roles!

He is then wracked with guilt and paranoia, even though a second prophecy gives him confidence he can't be overthrown. He is told he will not be defeated until Great Birnham Wood comes to Dunsinane (his castle). And trees don't move do they? And also 'no man born of woman' can kill him. But sometimes things ain't what they seem...

Elsie and Norm rattle through the famous tragedy, pointing all the big scenes to great comic effect, for the benefit of their neighbours. Stuffed pandas assist.

Take your seats...

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The bar also offers lunchtime menu and a delicious tapas menu in
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RESTAURANT

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PARODIES AT THE SDC AND PARODIES OF THE BARD

The Southport Dramatic Club (SDC) has presented parodies before during its long history.

In our 2012-2013 season, the club put on the spy spoof thriller *The 39 Steps*, which is a parody of the book and film of the same name. It also makes reference to different Hitchcock films.

The show is similar to *Elsie and Norm's Macbeth* in that it has a small cast. In that production the central character of the show is played by one actor while another plays his love interests. All the other parts

in the show are played by the other two actors.

This latest one is written by John Christopher Wood, who is an Edinburgh Fringe award winner, and it has been described as a "cult comedy classic". It has been compared to Monty Python and one of the scenes is similar to a scene from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company (the other RSC) are known for their parodies of the works of The Bard. They hold the Guinness World Record for

the highest ever performance of a show. On April 23, 2014 they performed the Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged) at 37,000 feet while on a plane from London Gatwick to Verona. They called it "Shakes on a Plane." Only three actors are used in the show, and they play themselves instead of different characters.

There have been parodies of Shakespeare's work since the Restoration and their golden age is believed to be during the nineteenth century.



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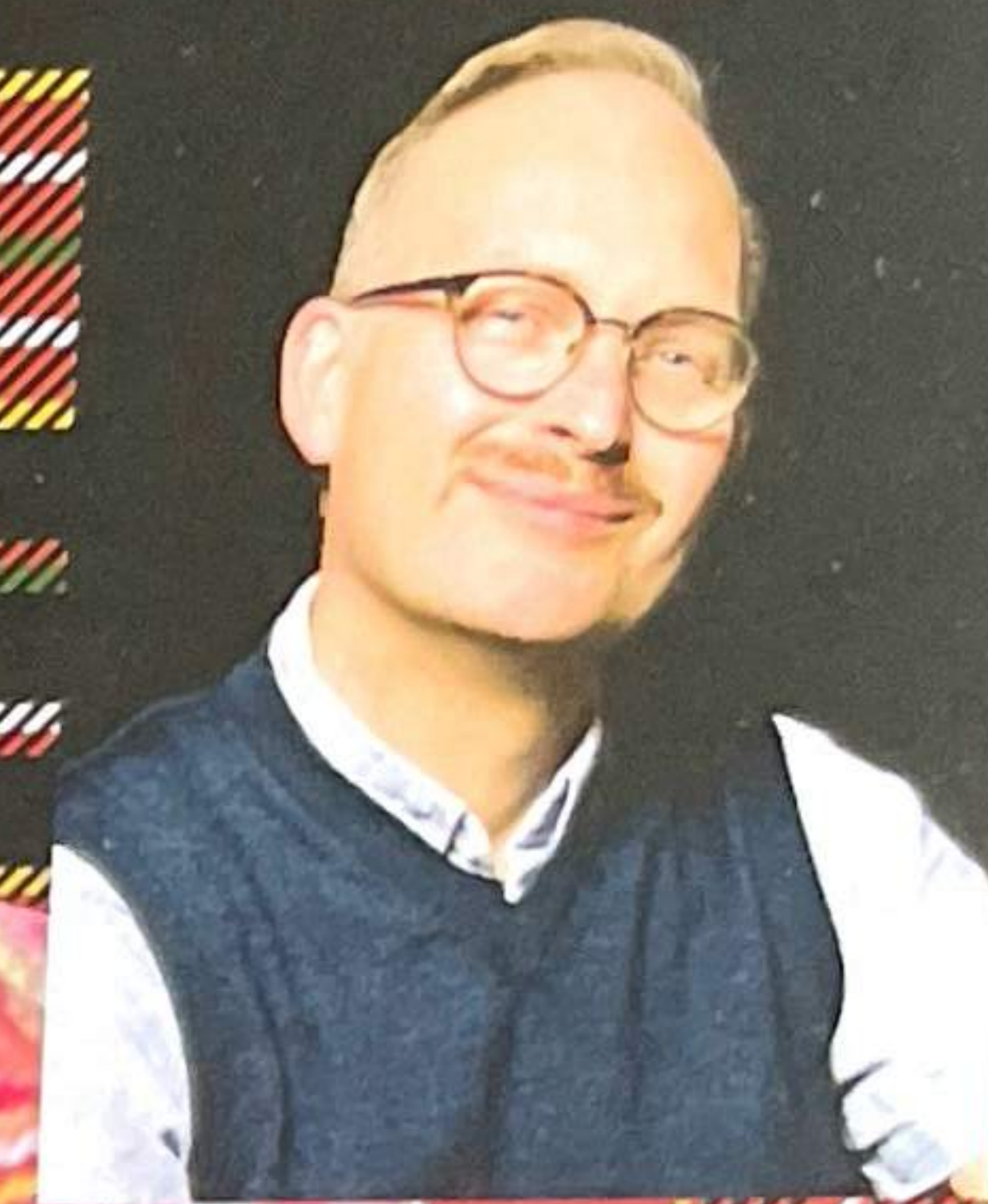


Elsie and Norm's Macbeth



Elsie

Lisa Fuller



Norm

Andrew Stanton



William

& radio announcer

John Dudley





Production Team

Director	Cath Dunne
Stage Manager	Chris Ratcliffe
Prompt	Jenny Ross
Lighting Design	Andrea Shacksmyth-Claire & Team LX
Lighting Operator	Neil Yates
Sound	Debbie Moss & Pete Beswick
Properties	Cath Dunne & Cast
Wardrobe	Cast with support from Michèle Martin
Stage Crew	John Dudley, Diane Mackley, Kate Bordi and Fi Billington
Set Design	Alan Gosling
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Set Construction	SDC Construction Team
Photographs	Graham Fletcher-Hill
Rehearsal Photographs	Cath Dunne and Jenny Ross
Programme Editor	Guy Horsley
Programme content & research	Henry James
Programme Layout & Design	Ultragraph Ltd

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 would 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.
- If you require First Aid assistance, 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.
- Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched off during the performance.
- Photography and video recording are not allowed during the performance.

Designated Premises Supervisor, Alan Newport



WE DON'T MAKE A
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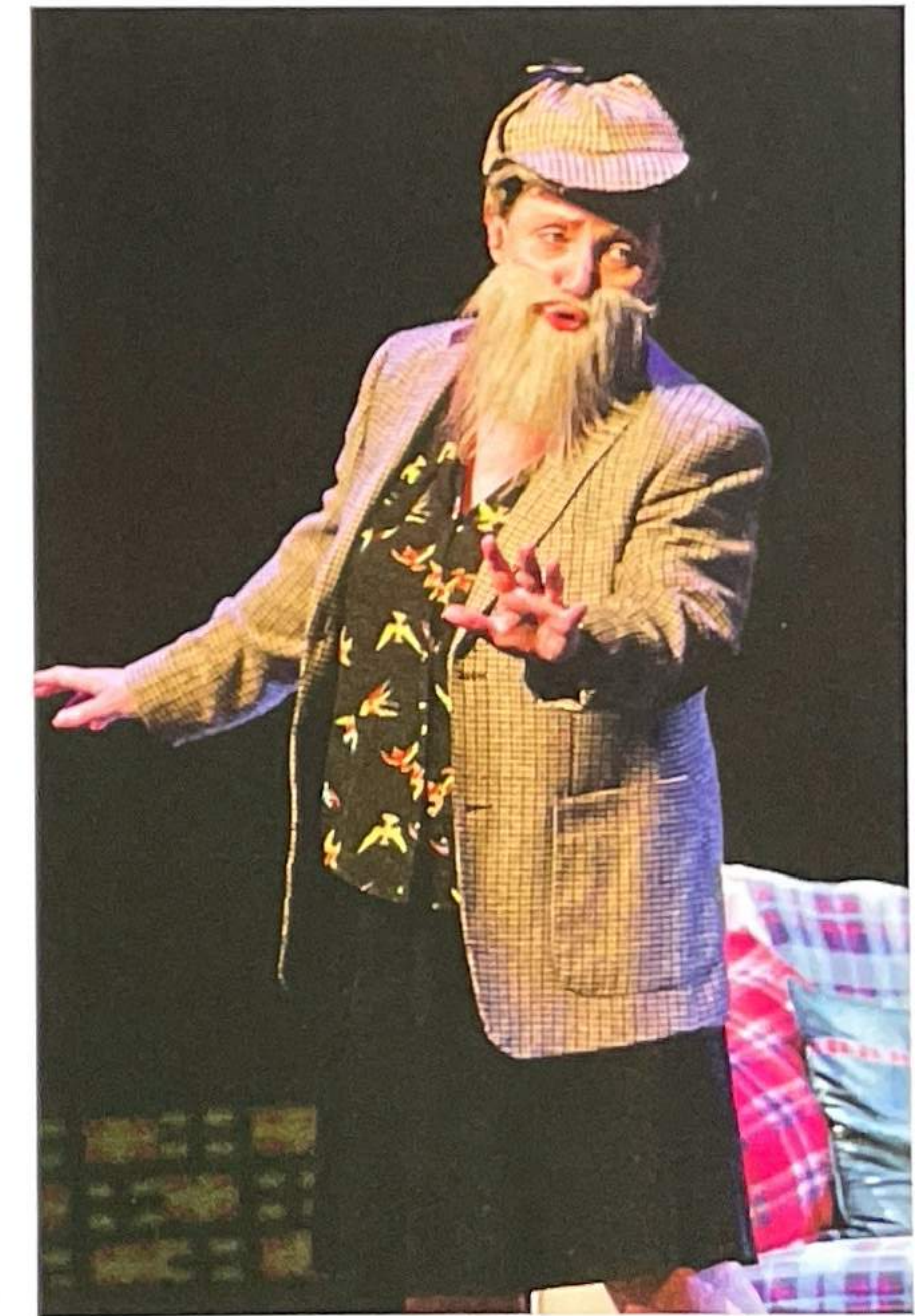
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New for 2024!

Matinee and Q&A EVERY PLAY!

In response to audience feedback we have added a Matinee performance at 2.30pm on the first Saturday of every main season SDC play.

These matinees replace the evening performance on the first Saturday only of SDC plays. Afterwards, in the Bar, there is an opportunity to **MEET THE CAST and DIRECTOR** who will take part in a 'Question and Answer' session.

We hope that you will join us for this new feature of the SDC season!

Matinee and Q&A dates coming up:

Matinee performances are also performed by visiting societies.

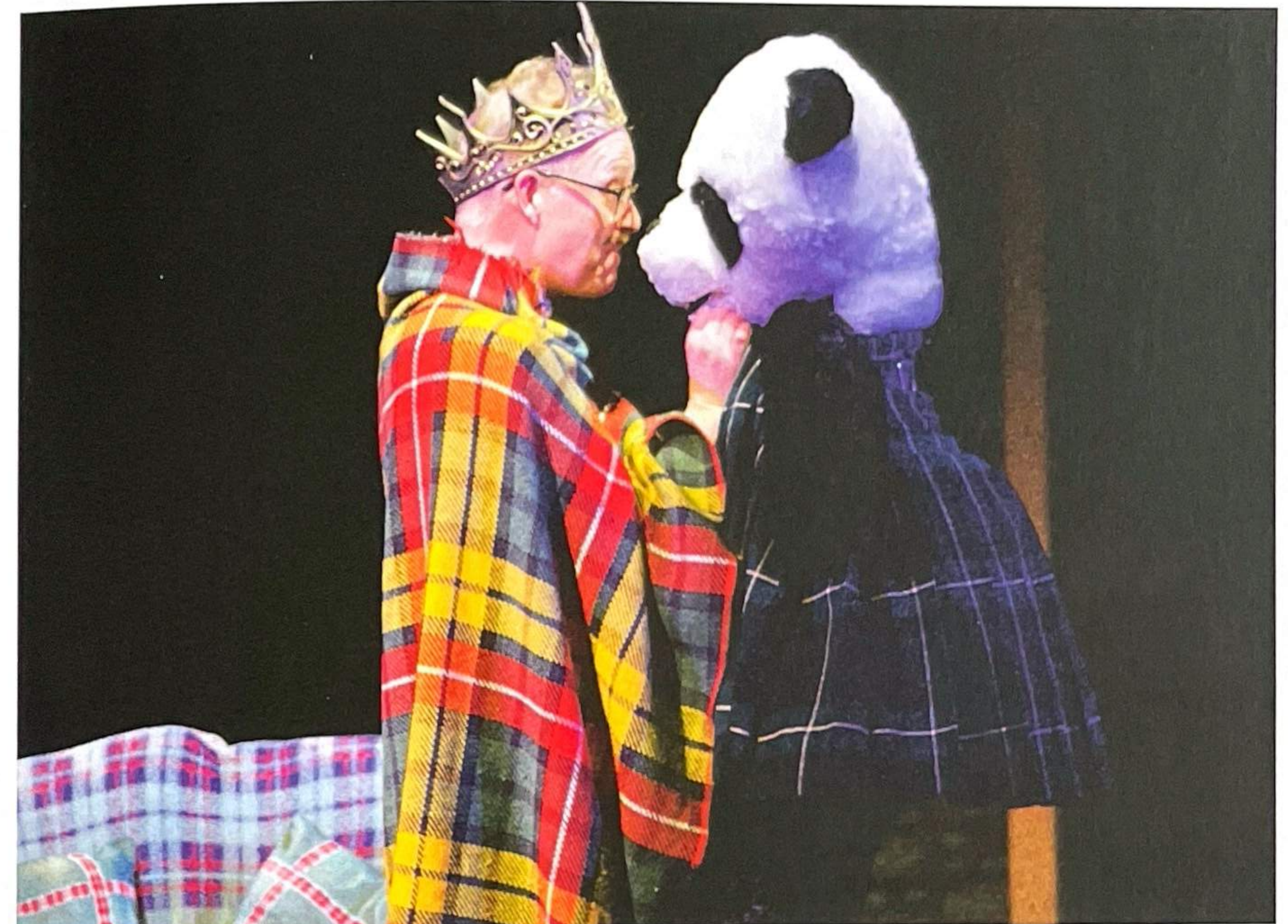
Details at: www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk

Sat 27th Jan - Elsie' and Norm's 'Macbeth'

Sat 24th Feb - Pressure

Sat 13th April - Dead Guilty

Sat 11th May - The Good Life



Now In Rehearsal

PRESSURE

It is Friday 2nd June 1944 in the Supreme HQ for Operation Overlord in Portsmouth. In just 3 days, after years of secret planning and preparation, the biggest ever amphibious invasion in history is due to begin on D-Day. The date has been chosen for its perfect alignment of a full moon and low tides.

Now all we need are clear skies and calm seas, so everything depends on the weather forecast.

For 6 weeks the weather has been fine and sunny. A situation chief US meteorologist Krick thinks will continue to Monday but chief British meteorologist Stagg vehemently disagrees. He predicts gale force winds with low cloud and rain creating poor visibility and 6 to 12 foot waves with a 10 foot swell.

Based on these forecasts Eisenhower has to decide if D-Day will happen on Monday. All he wants is a definite yes or no, but as Stagg says: "Nothing is predictable about British weather. That's why we love to talk about it."

The play covers the events over that weekend leading up to D-Day. It's a thrilling tale, everyone who's read it has found they couldn't put the script down and it's probably the most popular play of this season with our members.

Don't miss it.

BY DAVID HAIG
DIRECTED BY MICHÈLE MARTIN
A WARTIME DRAMA

PRESSURE

SDC
LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT

23RD FEBRUARY -
2ND MARCH 2024
7.30pm
(Matinee only on first Saturday)

littletheatresouthport.co.uk
Box Office: 01704 530521 / 530460
Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA

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SDC
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LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT

23rd February - 2nd March 2024

Pressure

By David Haig
Directed by Michèle Martin
By arrangement with Nick Hern Books

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7th March 2024

Ed Byrne 'Tragedy Plus Time'

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Home of the
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SCAN ME

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when the Box Office is open.

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Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA
Registered Charity No: 1164398

BY DAVID HAIG

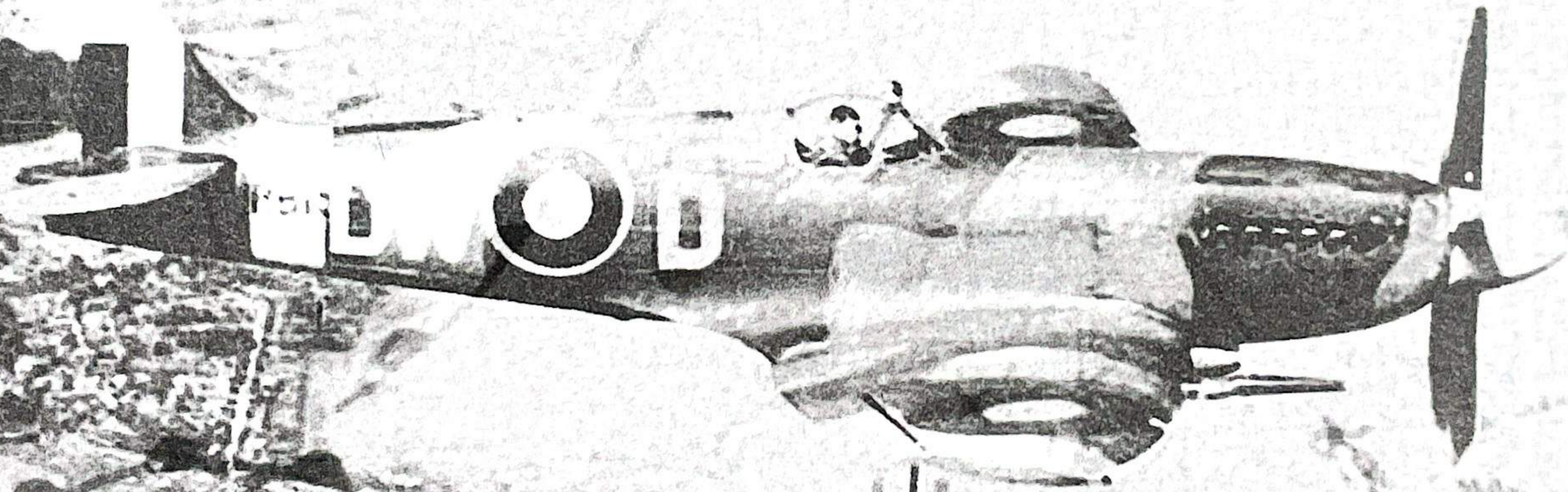
DIRECTED BY MICHÈLE MARTIN

A WARTIME DRAMA



PRESSURE

1035



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1040

23RD FEBRUARY -
2ND MARCH 2024

7:30pm

(Matinee only on first Saturday)

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