

70th Anniversary Season

Alan Ayckbourn's Comedy

"Bedroom Farce"

15-18 October 2014

"Four couples, three bedrooms, one unforgettable night!"

Hugh Whitmore's Thriller

"Pack of Lies"

4-7 Feb 2015

"How well do you REALLY know your neighbours?"

John Buchan's **"The 39 Steps"**

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

22-25 Apr 2015

"Murder has never been this funny"

Bram Stoker's **"Dracula"**

Adapted by Jane Thornton & John Godber

15-18 Jul 2015

"A fast-moving multi-layered masterpiece of fear"

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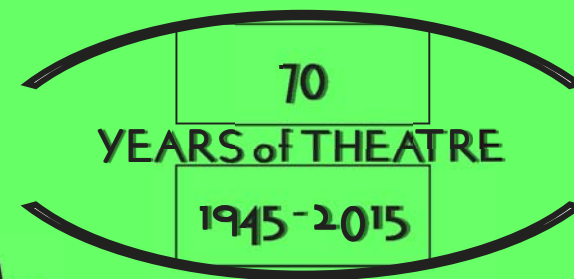
www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk

JOHN BUCHAN & ALFRED HITCHCOCK's



Adapted by Patrick Barlow

from an original concept by Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon



Welcome to our spring offering of the 2007 Olivier Award winning comedy *The 39 Steps*. Born as John Buchan's novel in 1915, transformed into Hitchcock's 1935 film, this tale is now being widely performed on stage in the guise of Patrick Barlow's adaptation.



I have seen this production – both amateur and professional - three times, and have never failed to be totally entertained by the fast-moving comedy and clever staging. I am sure our interpretation will have you rolling in the aisles and rooting for our hero, Hannay. BCP are particularly pleased to be welcoming back Chrissie Garrett as director - some 19 years since she last directed for us with Alan Bennett's *Habeus Corpus*.

Whilst *The 39 Steps* has been in rehearsal, we have been auditioning for our final show of the season, *Dracula*, and our festival play, Diana Raffle's *The Canary Cage* - which sees BCP taking part in the Lighthorne Drama Festival in June for the third year running. Preparations have also been on-going for our grand dinner - taking place in June 2015 at The Wroxton House Hotel - to celebrate our 70th Anniversary.

So, as you can see we are extremely busy and, as a society (together with our regular Tuesday social evenings) we offer a wide range of exciting activities. If you would like to join us either on stage, behind the scenes, or as a social member get in touch with us and come and see what we do first hand. More information can be seen on our website www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk.

Finally, a big thank you to our sponsors who have supported us throughout our 70th season. With their help we have been able to continue providing a wide variety of quality theatre for our Banbury audiences at The Mill and further afield.



We hope to see you again in July for the final production of our 70th season, Jane Thornton and John Godber's adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and, as always, thank *you* for your continued support.

Jem Turner
Chairman



John Buchan's original novel, *The 39 Steps* - one of his series starring the hero Richard Hannay - has been consistently popular since it was published in 1915. Three films have been produced (1935, 1959 and 1978) but not one of the film-makers stayed true to the original story and all with their own interpretation of the meaning of "the 39 steps".

The best film has to be Hitchcock's 1935 black and white version, adapted by playwright Charles Bennett, Ian Hay and Hitchcock. It is this version we reproduce tonight, as a stage show, using cast and crew to produce a 'B' movie style theatre production. The serious spy story is played mainly for laughs and the script is full of allusions to (and puns on) Hitchcock films, including *Psycho*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Vertigo* and *North by Northwest*. How many can you spot? In true Hitchcock style, the man himself makes a guest appearance!

The play is written as a homage to Hitchcock - a pastiche of the film, an artistic piece consisting chiefly of techniques borrowed from the film. The script bears a resemblance to the film and although it is a spoof, comedy version, it is not meant to make fun of the film, but to pay tribute through mimicry.



The play is performed as though it were the making of a film where the audience have to suspend disbelief as they see props, furniture and even the cast doubling up. The backstage crew (likely to belong to the film set) are also involved, making sure the play runs its course, whilst not taking the time or trouble to disguise their action (in a film they can leave that up to the editing suite, of course!)

In the making of a 'B' movie, the funders were likely to be too impoverished to use realistic sound effects so relied on the many skills of the orchestra and conductor, a small group of budding actors desperate to do an excellent job with a fairly difficult script. Our live sound effect orchestra looks to emulate that in tonight's performance.



I am thrilled to be directing again for Banbury Cross Players. Working with such talented and supportive people on this show has been great, and I hope you have as much fun watching, as I have had producing.

Chrissie Garrett

Director
Chrissie Garrett

Stage Manager
Liz Riley

ASM
Trish Thompson

Backstage Crew
Becs Calverley, June Ronson,
Mary Sullivan, Anne Twigg

Lighting
John Hicks, Linda Shaw

Sound
Mark Neale

Costume & Props
Jane Shanahan

Dressers
Anne Bennett, Rebecca Redhead
Ann Westcott, Brenda Williams

Make Up
Jenny Tustian

Wigs
Anne Twigg

Prompt
Gill Huband

Production Manager
Jane Shanahan

Set Design
Chris Garrett

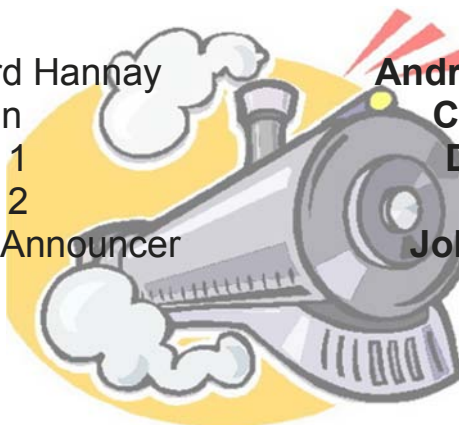
Set Build
Richard Ashby, David Cawdery
Chris Garrett

Set Decorator
Peter Bloor

THE 39 STEPS CAST

Richard Hannay
Woman
Clown 1
Clown 2
Radio Announcer

Andrew Whiffin
Clare Lester
Dave Smith
Nik Lester
John Bennett



**London, Scotland and a variety of places in between
- 1935 -**

*Please be aware that theatrical smoke, gunshots and flashing lights
are used in this production*

Patrons are requested to switch off mobile phones before the performance
begins and are reminded that photography and video recording are
strictly prohibited.

Emergency exits are to the left of the stage area and to the rear of the
auditorium.

In case of emergency, please follow instruction from Front of House staff.



Sound Effects Orchestra
Helena Boughton, Kate Groves
John McCormick, Helen Watson

Filming & Video Production
Robin Williams

Front of House Managers
Alan Hall & Mike Jack

Foyer Display
Clare Lester

Members of the Society
built the Set and
staffed Front of House

The Mill Management & Staff
Banbury Guardian
The Oxford Mail
Castle Quay Shopping Centre
Fairprint UK
Pan Designs
Mr Fenemore
St Mary's Church
Andrew Fairbairn
Banbury Operatic Society
Banbury CVS
Mr & Mrs Nurden
Pete Jordan (Model Planes)

Jim Muller
Philip Rigby
Mike Watling

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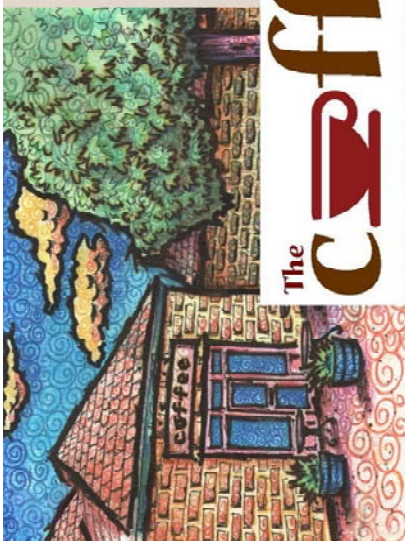
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