

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

By David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr

Directed by Tony Brownings

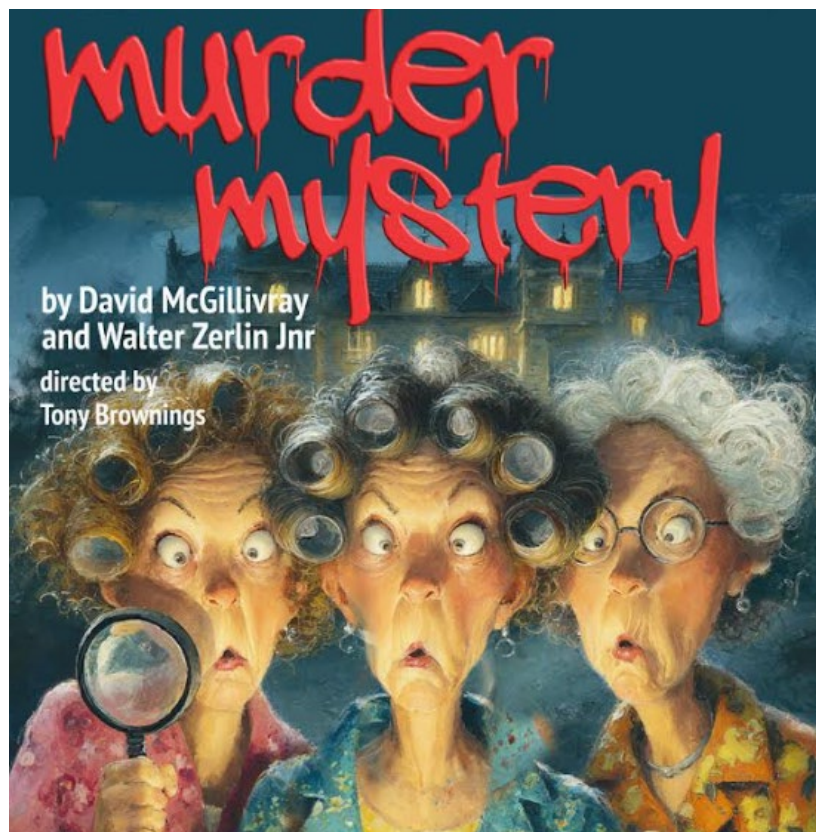
7th – 10th January including a Saturday matinee performance

Barn Theatre, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick Street, Southwick BN42 4TE

Every drama group has experienced the horrors of what can go wrong on opening night, and the ladies of the F.A.H.E.T.G. Dramatic Society are no different - with the possible exception that almost everything that could happen does! The scenery collapses, cues are missed, lines forgotten, and the sound effects take on a strange note at times as the ladies present their ambitious evening's entertainment with the cunning whodunit, "Murder at Checkmate Manor." And just in case the audience should get bored, there's a fashion show, a murder mystery quiz (complete with a prize!) and a jolly sing-a-long at the end.

And for the murder-mystery resolution, Mrs. Reece, doyenne of the group, rises above the slings and arrows of outrageous dramatics to save the situation and provide the final inventive twist.

Before the *Play That Goes Wrong* there were the Farndale Ladies!



Characters:

Mrs Reece

Playing various parts, male and female including Régine the sexy French maid.

Playing age: 40 – 70

Thelma

Various parts including the love interest for the inspector, the perennial leading lady and Miss Farndale.

Playing age : 40 – 70

Felicity

Playing various parts but mainly Pawn the aged butler.

Playing age: 30 to 50

Audrey

Playing various female parts.

Playing age: 40 – 70

Sylvia

Playing Inspector O'Reilly.

Playing age: 40 – 70

Please note – the script and audition pieces are for 4 women and 1 man but will be adapted for 5 women once cast.

Audition Dates

Tuesday 9th September 7:30

Thursday 11th September 7:30

If you are unable to make either of these dates, please contact director Tony Brownings directly at tbrownings@googlemail.com to arrange another time to audition.

Rehearsals begin w/c 13th October 2025.

Fees

You do not need to be a member of the Wick Theatre Company to audition, however if you are cast you will need to join. There is a membership fee of £25 a year (concessions £15). This will include your script and there is no show fee.

Audition Slip

Name:	Mobile:
Email:	
Reading for the role(s) of:	
Are you willing to play as cast?	
<p>Any days you cannot regularly rehearse:</p> <p>Details of holidays booked of other commitments:</p>	
Is there anything else the Director needs to know?	
Photography and Filming: Adults	
<p>During the course of our process there will be film and photography for publicity purposes.</p> <p>Could you please read and sign the relevant declaration below:</p> <p>I give / do not give* permission for photographs or film to be taken for publicity purposes</p> <p>Print Name: _____</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>* delete as appropriate</i></p>	

Audition Pieces

Mrs Reece

Caught me on the hop. Sorry. Just one or two announcements before we begin: first of all some of you may have heard that we had a little calamity last night with the interval teas. Now we haven't as yet found out exactly who it was who misbehaved themselves in the tea urn. But we have spent all day scrubbing the thing out with Dettol. And I can assure you that there's nothing wrong with the water tonight. I passed it myself. Also I'd like to draw your attention to a change in the programme. The part of Inspector O'Reilly will not be played by Sylvia Frobisher. As you know Sylvia's not that quick on her feet, and that floodlight really did fetch her a heck of a thump on the head. But I spoke to her *au pair* this morning and apparently Sylvia has started forming sentences. Which is more than she could do when she was in the play. But with any luck she'll be up and about for the dinner dance. And stepping into the breach tonight is our stage manager Gordon Pugh. I know we're going to be behind him tonight because he hasn't acted since he played the second ox in The Star of Bethlehem. And finally those of you who were at this year's AGM will know that we had to cancel the traditional screening of Mrs Beasley's holiday movies due to the controversy surrounding the election of "Miss Farndale", an incident I won't elaborate on now because we don't want to open old sores. Suffice it to say that the title went *eventually* to Thelma Greenwood, our perennial leading lady. And perennial Miss Farndale. And I'm sure we all admire her diligence in demanding fourteen recounts.

Pawn

Good morning. This is Pawn, Lady Bushop's bitler at Checkmate Manor. Yes, it is indeed a capital morning, but I fear we must discuss a graver matter than - oh. (*He replaces the receiver, picks it up again and dials a number and speaks without pausing as before*) Good morning. This is Pawn, Lady Butler's bishop at Checkmate Manor. Yes, it is indeed a capital morning, but I fear we must discuss a graver matter than the weather. What am I driving at? I'll tell you, Officer. Murder that's what. (*He takes the receiver, looks at it quizzically, and then replaces it to his ear*) No, this is not a practical joke. There is a corpse up here and it smells fishy to me. What's that you say? The inspector will make this case a priority? I'll inform her ladyship.

Daphne and Inspector O'Reilly

O'REILLY What a positively delightful meal Thelma ... Daphne.

DAPHNE It was nothing.

O'REILLY But what about that delicious lemon soufflé, which added a touch of sheer luxury to the bill of far?

DAPHNE Well, it may have seemed ultra-sophisticated, but in fact it's so quick and easy to prepare.

O'REILLY I must make a note of the recipe.

DAPHNE Let me see if I can remember it. Ah, yes, To serve six to eight people put the yolk of four eggs, five ounces of sugar, half a pint of water, half an ounce of gelatine, and the grated rind of two lemons into a large basin.

O'REILLY Will a wash-basin do?

DAPHNE Certainly not. Then put the basin over a saucepan of hot water and whisk the mixture until it's light and creamy. Remove from the heat and add the juice of two lemons and continue to whisk until thick. Add half a pint of double cream and the whisked egg white. Turn this into a soufflé dish and leave to set. Decorate with whipped cream and nuts.

O'REILLY Mmmmm, thanks, Daphne. I'm sure the boys at the station will want to give this to their wives tonight.

DAPHNE And what about you, Inspector? Will you be giving it to your wife tonight?

O'REILLY I would if I had one. But, truth to tell, I'm fancy free. What about you?

Régine

RÉGINE Excuse-moi, monsieur. I 'ave made up a spare room for you in ze bed.

O'REILLY Thank you, Régine. Daphne – I'm glad you told me everything

DAPHNE So am I, Inspector. Good-night.

DAPHNE *skips off right.*

RÉGINE (*running down to O'REILLY*) Inspectair, Inspectair, I 'ave vital information for you about ze killer of Mamzelle Clarissa.

O'REILLY Well? Spit it out, girl.

PAWN *sidles on right carrying a tray with a bottle and glasses stuck to it. When he realizes he's being observed by RÉGINE, he drops the tray by his side and goes upstairs, dislodging the banister.*

RÉGINE No, I cannot speak now. Meet me 'ere at midnight. If you want a little bedtime reading, Inspector, you will find a très interesting book behind you. Bonsoir.

Violet and Rose

ROSE It seemed to come from in here, like.

VIOLET Ay.

ROSE But there's nowt to be seen.

VIOLET Nay.

ROSE Except that window's open.

VIOLET Eeeee.

ROSE *(forgetting accent)* Are we going in or not?

VIOLET *(ditto)* Can't move the chair.

PAWN *frees himself and runs off up the stairs.*

ROSE Wheel me closer, Violet.

VIOLET Ay, I will.

ROSE I think I can see summat in t'flowerbed.

VIOLET Eeeee.

ROSE Ay, it's Régine the French maid.

VIOLET Nay.

ROSE She's dead, Violet.

VIOLET By gum!

ROSE The brake's on, you idiot.

VIOLET Oh, I never thought of that. *(She takes the brake off and wheels the wheelchair straight into one of the other chairs).*

ROSE Watch where you're going! *(She picks up the chair and hands it to VIOLET).*

Felicity

PAWN (*offstage*) Colonel, Colonel! Are you there?





COLONEL (*offstage*) Yes, here I am, Pawn.

PAWN (*offstage*) I think the others are waiting for you, Colonel.

COLONEL (*offstage*) Well, I'm just going in. Won't be another minute.

PAWN (*offstage*) I hear you've been washing your hands, Colonel.

COLONEL (*offstage*) Yes, that's right, Pawn. Washed me hands. And I had a bath as well. And a sauna. And that's why I've been so long. But now I'm going back in. So it's been nice talking to you.

		MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION													
Surname		Forename(s)													
Address															
e-mail															
 Home	 Work	 Mobile													
<p>Membership Group (please tick / circle) and cost of membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members (except Associates) are entitled to audition and perform / assist in shows performed by Wick Theatre Company • Wick Theatre Company insurance may not cover you for certain activities if you are over 80, please speak with membership secretary for further details • if under 18, we may require your DOB for Child Protection Procedures necessary during rehearsals / productions • All information provided will be stored securely under Data Protection Procedures <table border="1"> <tr> <td>* Youth (under 14) : £5</td> <td></td> <td>* Student : £15</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult : £25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate (non-acting) : £15</td> <td></td> <td>Concessionary (over 60) : £15</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				* Youth (under 14) : £5		* Student : £15		Adult : £25				Associate (non-acting) : £15		Concessionary (over 60) : £15	
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<p>Which other theatre organisation/s are you – or have you - been involved with? Please tell us about your experience (roles played / shows directed) with those companies and why would you wish to join Wick Theatre Company? Please indicate your particular area/s of interest (ie Acting – Directing – Technical – Wardrobe – Music – Dance – Design – Social – Stage Management). Thank you.</p>															

Please mention any other relevant details – for example; interests/skills/hobbies, that might be relevant to the theatre and social group

DECLARATION

please complete the following declaration – *delete as necessary*

- I hereby apply to be accepted as a member of the Wick Theatre Company
- I undertake to observe the Constitution and Rules of the Wick Theatre Company – these may be found on www.wicktheatre.co.uk
- I understand that the Wick Theatre Company insurance, in addition to normal public liability cover, also provides members with limited cover for personal accidents (up to £10,000) and normal personal possessions (up to £500), whilst set-building, rehearsing or presenting stage plays which I am actively involved with, provided I can demonstrate due diligence.
- I understand that under Data Protection Act 1998 the personal information provided on this form will only be accessed for the purposes of company business such as sending me newsletters, contacting me about auditions and social events.
- I give permission for the following data to be circulated to company members – *delete as necessary* - and should any of my details change I will inform the Membership Secretary.

Name	yes - no	Telephone	yes - no
Address	yes - no	Email	yes - no

I enclose my subscription fee of £ ____ (which will be refunded if application is not accepted).

Signed by applicant dated

*If applicant under 16 years :

Signed by applicant's parent or guardian dated

Thank you for your application which will be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting. Formal acceptance will follow.

Please send your completed application to :

Membership Secretary, Wick Theatre Company
c/o Southwick Community Centre, Southwick Street, Southwick BN42 4TE

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