



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

A Murder Mystery by Chris Martin
Directed and Produced by Dave Barnett

Friday 30 September 2022, 7:30pm

Saturday 1 October 2022, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath

PROGRAMME

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Howdy! Welcome to our 90th production, our fifth murder mystery evening and our first ever western-themed play.

If you have been to one of our previous murder mystery evenings (*Barbecues R Murder*, *Murder At The New Vicarage*, *Murder Backstage* and *Its Never Too Late*), you will notice a few differences this time. Our previous productions, written by Claire Jones, included much action and often a subtle change of prop or line to enable a different culprit at each performance. This is our first production by Chris Martin, who has prepared a script with a very different structure and presentation style, with several references to popular culture (albeit anachronistic, for comic effect) and *two* guilty persons to spot, as you shall see.



Since the age of 10, Director Dave has watched western films, so he has a good idea of how our performance should look, from the costumes, to swinging saloon doors to glasses sliding along the bar (although getting real firearms can prove difficult!) A minimalist approach has been taken, on the advice of the writer, to avoid creating too many distractions and ensure you have the best chance to spot the clues and solve the mystery.

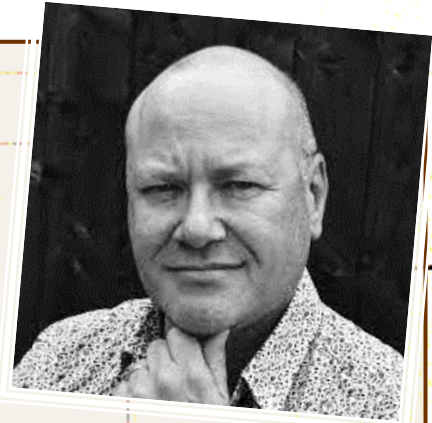
In this production, you will also see some members of the group on stage for their first play in several years, whether due to lockdown, directing the production, preferring smaller panto roles or being a stalwart backstage (and continuing to demonstrate their expertise alongside their current roles). We also welcome Sydney to her first play, having made her debut in our pantomime earlier this year.

We hope y'all enjoy the play, wish you luck in working out whodunnit, and we look forward to seeing you at our pantomime next year.



THE WRITER AND THE PLAY

Born in 1967, **Chris Martin** worked as a drama teacher for over twenty years. Towards the end of his career, he wrote his first mystery play, *Who Killed The Headmaster* for a PTA fundraiser: this proved so popular, he was then asked to write another. Over the years that followed, he wrote fourteen similar plays, plus several shorter mysteries and books about *Inky Stevens, the Great School Detective*.



Chris found that the cast reading from their scripts on stage enabled inexperienced actors to characterise their roles with confidence and ensure that audiences had the best chance to solve the mystery, therefore continues to suggest this technique to prospective directors. Since 2005, thousands of pounds have been raised for good causes at Chris Martin productions.

On the recommendation of the writer, this production will be performed 'script in hand', to ensure that no clues are missed. We will perform the script in the style of a radio play.

It is April 1850. You are seated in Jed Hemlock's barn, Paltry TN. You have been invited to hear a reading of the news of the day from two news anchors – Hannah Buckwheat and Daisy-May Knott.

From here, you will join the action at The Silver Dollar Saloon, Tumbleweed Gulch CO. See the action unfold as you see and hear the events leading to the murder of Sheriff John-Boy Roscoe. Then watch as his wife Dolores (also his Deputy) tries to figure out what happened.

The play comprises three acts; there will be a short interval between each act. Please hand in your answer papers during the second interval. Prizes for the winning team will be presented at the end of the play.



If you would like to take advantage of our hearing induction loop system, please adjust your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.

THE SMALL PRINT... Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

THE CAST



DARYL O'SULLIVAN as Hannah Buckwheat

Daryl has been involved with the group on-and-off since its beginnings, appearing as *Wonderwoman* in our first pantomime. While her last on-stage appearance was as a pub regular in *Free And Easy*, she continues to prompt and stage-manage, assist front-of-house, and has directed some productions, including *It's Never Too Late*, our last murder mystery evening, which was performed at three different venues.

SYDNEY BAKER as Daisy-May Knott

Sydney is our youngest member and has so far only appeared in our most recent pantomime. While rehearsing, she proved that she could step into any role if a performer had to miss a rehearsal and ended up playing a wide range of parts in the final production – from villager, to ballroom guest, to spider, and plenty more! In her first play with the group, she joins Daryl as one of the news anchors presenting the story to the audience.



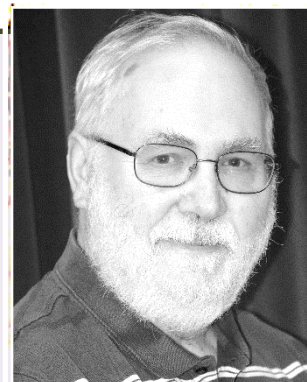
RAE CALNAN as Clementine Gilmore

Rae has been with us since 1995 and was last seen as the Fairy Godmother, then Director of our last production (originally scheduled for 2020). She takes a leading role in organising our make-up and social media activities and pioneered the use of *Zoom* for our lockdown rehearsals. Rae is the only member of the group to appear in all five of our murder mystery evenings, but will she be the guilty one this time?



RICHARD PERCIVAL as Randy Gilmore

Richard has appeared regularly on our stage since 1999. Since the Players returned earlier this year, he has played Baron Hardup (where he tried to navigate the panto horse around the scenery) and an undertaker (where he tried to manoeuvre a body around the set). This time, he has had to acquire a new skill: sliding glasses of whisky along the bar – with the wrong hand. We hope he doesn't spill any drinks, but will he spill the Sheriff's blood?



THE CAST



BARRY GAVIN as The Man With No Name

Barry first appeared as a baby in a pram in the 1995 panto, and last appeared in *Agatha Crusty* in 2019 – though he also directed our last two pantomimes. Over the years, he has constructed many key features for our stage, from various *Cinderella* coaches to the saloon doors and his scruffy beard for this production. Please be warned – he has a couple of lines to sing this time!

STEVE MORLEY as Sheriff John-Boy Roscoe

Steve is now appearing in his 40th production, once again playing his favourite type of role – the bad guy! His last appearance was a short cameo as one of the Dwarves in *Cinderella* (they gate-crashed the ball), where his single line had such impact, is still being chanted by the Cubs next door! When not on stage, Steve produces our programmes and has directed four of our thrillers – with another one planned for next autumn...



JAMES BELSHAM as Ol' Duke Hazzard

First appearing in *Toad Of Toad Hall* at 11 years of age, James has gradually taken on bigger roles and hopes to direct his first production next year. Most recently, he played Buttons, but is probably best noted for his portrayal of Dr Frankenstein, in which he had to learn at least a third of the lines – delivered perfectly, even if his gun wouldn't fire! This time, his role is much smaller, but we are aging him by several decades...



JULIE EXELL as Fletch Bonanza

Another member joining the group from in the early 1990s, Julie has made numerous on-stage appearances over the years, and has regularly appeared in musical plays and pantomimes, playing Dandini in *Cinderella* earlier this year. Julie is no stranger to playing reasonably large roles while simultaneously working on costumes – we like to keep her busy!



THE CAST



MONICA CANE as Sister Gloria Excelsis

Like several other cast members, Monica has been with the group since the early 1990s. Her main expertise is dealing with costumes – she is regularly found backstage with Julie dressing panto dames! She has mostly appeared in smaller roles and chorus groups: in recent times, she played one of the Dwarves in *Cinderella* (who had a habit of pinching another dwarf’s bottom) and stepped in as the Producer of our last play.

STEPHEN BRODY as Chip Handpin

Stephen has now appeared in every production since joining us for our 2020 pantomime (albeit with a two-year gap before the next show!). Most recently, he appeared as the elderly Uncle George in *Cash On Delivery*, where he was smacked in the face by a door, before his unconscious body had to be bundled in and out of a chest and pushed around in a wheelchair – thankfully fewer bruises are expected this time..



LINDSEY CLAYTON as Deputy Sheriff Dolores Roscoe

Lindsey has made regular appearances since 2016 and is always ready to step into a role at short notice, or lend a hand backstage to keep the show on track. Since the start of this year, she has played Prince Charming and a tearful fiancée – but will she be as sad when her spouse is murdered in this production?



Make-Up

RAE CALNAN

Front Of House

SUE ADAMS

LINDSEY CLAYTON

MARION BIRAM

Set Construction

“THE USUAL COWBOYS”

VAL COATES

Lighting & Sound

DAVID BATCHELOR

Refreshments

VICTORIA WHITEHEAD et al

CHRIS SUGGITT

Poster & Programme

DAVE BARNETT

Box Office

DAVE BARNETT

STEVE MORLEY

DETECTIVE NOTES



NEWS FROM THE PLAYERS

At our recent AGM, we were sorry to hear that our Richard and Wendy, our Chairman and Secretary, had decided to stand down from their roles. We would like to thank them both for the hard work they have done in leading the group over many years – especially Wendy, for providing the best drinks, biscuits and nibbles at rehearsals! We now welcome Rae as our new Chair and Martin as our new Secretary, wishing them all the best with their new responsibilities (Dave remains as our Treasurer – he still enjoys counting the money!)

We always welcome new members (over 18s, with opportunities for young people to join our pantomime chorus): whether you want to tread the boards or help backstage, we'd love to hear from you. Just come along to one of our rehearsals (Friday evenings in the Church Hall) or contact us online – we look forward to hearing from you!



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

27-28 January 2023

3-4 February 2023

‘A PANTOMIME’

(TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Please look out for announcements on our Facebook page to learn more about our auditions / readings and the arrangements for our performances.

www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk



Like us on
Facebook

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the interval; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.



Greenwich Carers Centre

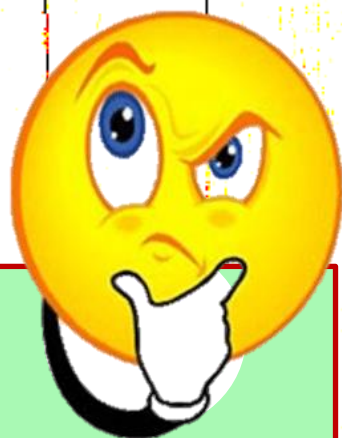
The Greenwich Carers Centre, based at The Stables, Charlton, is dedicated to improving the lives of unpaid carers in the Royal Borough of Greenwich and beyond. Greenwich Carers recognises the challenges of being a carer and provides a haven where carers can relax and spend time with others with similar experiences. The centre is committed to supporting the wellbeing of carers by organising social activities, events and workshops and therapeutic sessions; they also work with other charities to provide advice and drop-in sessions at their café. In 2017, we performed our last murder mystery evening, *It's Never Too Late*, in the café at The Stables, and we are pleased to support the charity once again.

www.greenwichcarers.org

Registered Charity No. 1033718



COMING SOON...



St Martin's Church

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 15 October

Doors open 6:30pm,
for a 7:00pm start

£6 per person

Max. 8 players per table

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles;
tea and coffee will be available

To book, contact:

Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road

fundraising.stmartins@gmail.com

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS

1991

**Sleeping Beauty
See How They Run!**

1992

**Snow White And The Seven Dwarves
Virtue Triumphant**

1993

**Cinderella
Continental Quilt
Surprise Package**

1994

**Aladdin
Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami
Post Horn Gallop**

1995

**Babes In The Wood
Keeping Down With The Joneses
Play On!**

1996

**Dick Whittington
When We Are Married
The Roses Of Eyam**

1997

**Jack And The Beanstalk
Pardon Me! Prime Minister
Murder In Company**

1998

**Puss In Boots
Pull The Other One
Blithe Spirit**

1999

**Mother Goose
Bedroom Farce**

**Pride And Joy
Last Tango In Barnehurst**

2000

**Peter Pan
See How They Run!
My Friend Miss Flint**

2001

**Treasure Island
Shock Tactics
Outside Edge**

2002

**Cinderella
The Murder Room
Running Riot**

2003

**King Arthur
Party Piece
No Time For Fig Leaves**

2004

**The Sleeping Beauty
Kindly Keep It Covered
The End Of The Pier Show**

2005

**Bluebeard
A Murder Is Announced**

2006

**Aladdin
How The Other Half Loves
Noah's Animals**

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS

2007

The Three Musketeers
Murder Weekend
Out Of Focus

2008

Little Red Riding Hood
Murder In Play
Toad Of Toad Hall

2009

Jack And The Beanstalk
The Day God Died
Barbecues 'R' Murder
Lady Lollipop
Jekyll And Hyde

2010

Dick Whittington
And Then There Were None
Over My Dead Body

2011

Snow White
Alice In Wonderland
Murder At The New Vicarage

2012

Cinderella
Panic Stations

2013

Robin Hood
Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals
The Ghost Train

2014

Mother Goose
Henry The Tudor Dude
Murder Backstage

2015

Sleeping Beauty
The Wizard Of Oz
See How They Run!

2016

Aladdin
Key For Two
Hound Of The Baskervilles

2017

Beauty And The Beast
I'll Get My Man
It's Never Too Late

2018

Rapunzel
Free And Easy
Love Begins At Fifty

2019

Treasure Island
Agatha Crusty And The Murder Mystery Dinner
Frankenstein

2020

Jack And The Beanstalk

2022

Cinderella
Cash On Delivery

WANTED



RINGO JACKSON

a.k.a. ONE-EYED JACK

a.k.a. JACK THE KNIFE

IF SPOTTED, DO NOT APPROACH:
REPORT TO SHERIFF ROSCOE, TUMBLEWEED GULCH