

# Stage Whispers

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May/June 2023

[www.whipstheatre.org](http://www.whipstheatre.org)



## PLAY READINGS

- *We are, resuming our play reading events after last months successful evening ! The next one will be at 7.30 on Thurs July 6th at Pat Davis's House, Summerhill, Chalk Lane EH KT246TJ tel 281990 where we will read The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley .*



If anyone has a suitable set of plays that could be read for future play-readings, or have a willingness to host such events please contact [jackgriffith6@gmail.com](mailto:jackgriffith6@gmail.com)  
It really would be great to resurrect this popular arm of the Whips especially as, according to NewSPAL, we can look at a catalogue, & order play sets now thro' the post. The Whips will sub the postage costs with perhaps a charge of £1 per play  
Any Volunteers to run this with different hosts or venues?.(strangely none at present!)

## COMMITTEE NOTES

The committee meeting on 15th May was attended only by Fran, Chris Kate and me but I made the following note of our discussion.

AGM This will go ahead on 21 June .

Secretary Kate would be willing to stand as secretary if Julia would like to concentrate on the Whippets

Chairman Tony would like to stand down . He would ask Barbara Firth whether she would be willing to stand ( she will not consider this but she would consider taking over as Treasurer if Fran were to stand as Chairman . Fran will confirm whether she would take on chairmanship – if this happens Tony would be willing to stand as vice-chairman)

Extra committee member We should ask Jill Davis whether she would join the committee unless we have more external volunteers

Autumn Production The Stranger by Agatha Christie had been enjoyed at the play reading and Fran will go ahead with a production on 16 to 18 November . She is hoping that the fathers of two Whippets will be willing to take parts of Gerald and Dick . She will hold a casting meeting on Thursday 15 June in the Hall

Whippets Julia's report on Shrek was noted and she was congratulated on an artistic and financial success

Lights Chris advised that the lights need to be PAT tested and that we should organise a work party to sort out the lights , clean those we want

Coach House Peter Davis has been sorting and clearing unwanted items . Peter and Fran will organise a skip Help is needed to sort costumes . There is a heap of surplus wood that members could take.

Next Committee meeting Tuesday 11 July.



# **AUTUMN PRODUCTION**

**The Stranger by Agatha Christie directed by Fran King**  
**16-18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023**

**Casting Meeting Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 @ 8pm in the WH**  
**village Hall**

*The Stranger* is the 1932 adaptation of by Agatha Christie of her 1924 short story *Philomel Cottage* however it was not published at the time. In 1936 a different adaptation by Christie and Frank Vosper entitled *Love From A Stranger* was produced for the London stage opening at the New Theatre (now Noel Coward); it was also on Broadway for a short run.

In was reworked twice as a film; in 1937 starring Ann Harding and Basil Rathbone and a remake in 1947 released in the UK as *A Stranger Walked In*. The play has also been televised twice by the BBC, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1938 and 25<sup>th</sup> May 1947, both as live performances. Most recently it was broadcast as a radio play in 2002 and an adaptation by Louise Page was produced at *The Mill at Sonning* as part of their 2010 season. A 30 minute radio version of the short story *Philomel Cottage* can be listened to on You tube starring Orson Welles.

The play *The Stranger* has a cast of 6, 4f and 2m as follows:

Doris West mid 30's

Mrs Huggins middle aged

Enid Bradshaw mid 30's

Gerald Strange could be mid 40's

Dick Lane could be mid 40's

Mrs Birch mid 30's to middle aged

It does say that Doris West or Mrs Huggins may double with Mrs Birch so ages are a bit flexible.

3 of the women only appear in one act, 2of them in Act 1 and 1 in Act 2.

It's more a psychological play than a murder story.

We read this at our last play reading and found it to be an intriguing play with many twist & turns.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Casting Meeting	
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	AGM	WHVH
July 6 <sup>th</sup> @7.30	..play reading at Pat Davis's house	
Nov 16-18 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Production	WHVH

## **CONTACTS**

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**THE WHIPS**  
Reg Charity 299657

*The Stranger*  
A Psychological Murder mystery play

By *Agatha Christie*  
Play by permission of Samuel French Ltd Directed by Francis King

**Thur 16-Sat 18th November**  
**West Horsley Village Hall @ 8pm**  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram)  
Or: Wills & Smerdon, Estate Agents East Horsley. 01483 28 4141



## AGM

Don't forget the Whips AGM at the WHV hall, Wed 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30PM where cups will be presented, committee changes made and any other Whips issues discussed

*and finally*



Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America, and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and housework. He said that it took a couple of days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmie had married a woman from France. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married an English girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal.

He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and call a landscaper.



*This has been a tiny publication as I had so little to put into it!*



