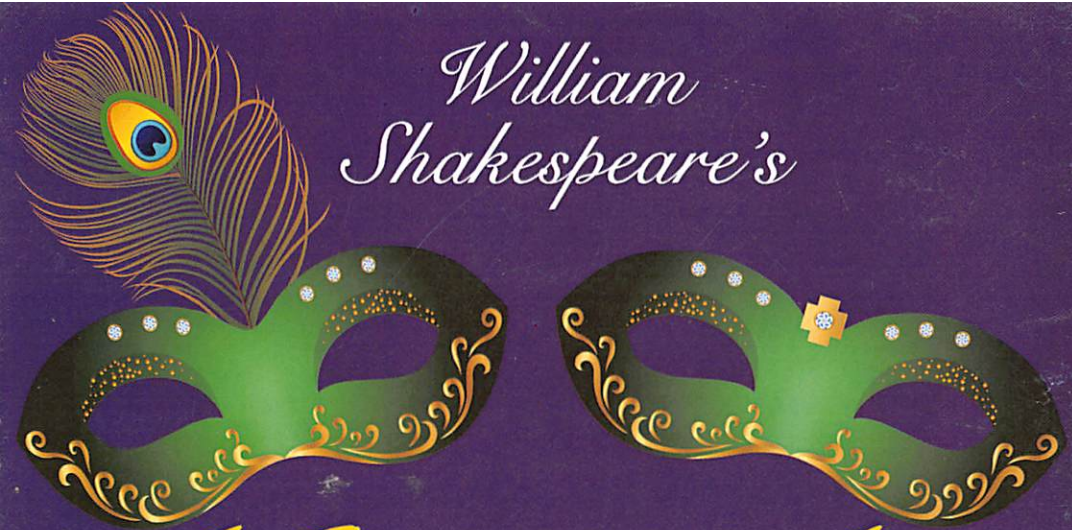


William Shakespeare's



*Much Ado
About
Nothing*

OPEN AIR PRODUCTION IN THE GROUNDS
OF DEANS COURT WIMBORNE

THUR 6th, FRI 7th &
SAT 8th JULY 2017 at 7pm
SUN 9th JULY 2017 at 5pm

Tickets £13 from
Tivoli Theatre Box Office
01202 885566
or book online:
www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk

WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Grounds open for picnics 60 minutes before performance starts. Free parking.
Licensed bar. Bring your own chairs or rugs. Ts & Cs at www.WimborneDrama.co.uk

WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

**THE
GHOST TRAIN**

**A COMEDY THRILLER
BY ARNOLD RIDLEY**



**16-18 FEBRUARY 2017
TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE**

Director's Notes

Welcome to our production of *The Ghost Train* by Arnold Ridley. I must confess I knew little of this play until it was suggested to me by a colleague who thought it might be interesting to perform. Written and set in the 1920s, at first glance there would appear to be little to recommend it. However, as it has been performed almost continuously since it was written, I thought there must be something in it.

Today I hope you will agree that this play has the necessary ingredients to keep you both amused and in suspense, with the occasional twist. Some of the language used is obviously very dated, but I think that adds to its charm. The original play was performed as a straight drama, but with the passage of time it would seem appropriate to add in a bit more comedy, as has been the case in most recent productions. Hopefully you will think this works well.

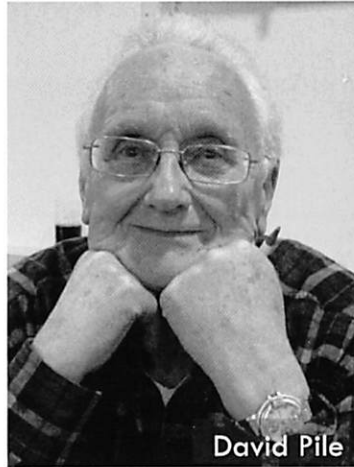
When this play was first performed in 1925 it needed a team of ten men to provide the effects of a steam train, using such equipment as a garden roller, a galvanised iron tank, air cylinders, padded mallets, a thunder sheet, drums and whistles, plus several other items. Today, with modern equipment, it is much easier and I hope more realistic.

We have a very talented pool of actors and this week's cast contains some fairly new to the company and those who have been with us for a long time, all of whom are a pleasure to work with and I believe will give you great pleasure watching. I must mention the "backstage" crew without whom it would be impossible to put on a production, in particular my Stage Manager Phyllis Spencer who puts in many hours of hard work behind the scenes, and Colin Pile who not only designed the set but also the sound plot. Many other people put in a lot of hard work to get this show on and are mentioned in the programme.

Thanks are also due to the Tivoli staff who are without fail helpful, cheerful and full of good advice.

So it just remains for me to thank you, the audience, for coming, and to say relax and enjoy!

David Pile - Director



WIMBORNE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

6th, 7th & 8th July 2017 at 7pm

9th July 2017 at 5pm

OPEN AIR PRODUCTION
IN THE GROUNDS OF
DEANS COURT WIMBORNE

Tickets £13 on sale now from the
Tivoli Theatre Box Office
01202 885566
TivoliWimborne.co.uk

Bring a picnic and something to sit on,
and relax in the stunning grounds of
Deans Court as you watch
Shakespeare's sparkling romantic
comedy – a perfect escape for summer.
Directed by Tracey Nicholls.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT

From the novel by Graham Greene
Adapted by Giles Havergal
19th - 21st October 2017
TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

Retired bank manager Henry Pulling
meets his eccentric Aunt Augusta at what
he supposes to be his mother's funeral.
She persuades him to abandon his dull life
and to embark on a series of
unexpected and hilarious adventures.
Directed by Phyllis Spencer.

**President of
Wimborne Drama Productions**

Malcolm Angel

**Patrons of
Wimborne Drama Productions**

Frances Alton

Ron Bignell

Roger Billings

Robin Cook (H)

Susan Cook (H)

John Dickson

Maureen Dickson

Dorothy Dodman

George Dodman

Michael Evans

Roy Hudd (H)

Val Jolliffe

Roy Joseph (H)

Diann March

Mayor of Wimborne (H)

Michael Medwin (H)

Carol Neal

Peter Neal

Tina Nicholls

Anthony Oliver (H)

Christine Oliver

Anthony Pawley

Linda Pawley

Diana Prestige

Pamela Wood

H signifies honorary



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The Shillingstone Railway Project, run by the North Dorset Railway Trust, a registered charity, aims to restore the station at Shillingstone, which closed in 1966 when the last passenger train passed through, to how it looked in the 1950s.

Overlooked by the ancient hill-fort of Hambledon Hill, with the River Stour meandering by in the foreground, Shillingstone was probably the most picturesque station on the former Somerset and Dorset Railway.

The station is situated on the North Dorset Trailway and it has a shop and cafe. For further information visit: www.shillingstone-railway-project.org.uk



Some of the cast at Shillingstone Station

Arnold Ridley

Arnold Ridley, most famous for playing the frail Private Godfrey in TV sitcom *Dad's Army*, was also a modestly successful playwright, writing nearly 30 plays.

He was born in Bath in 1896, the son of William, a gym instructor, and his wife Rosa, whose father had a shoe shop in the city. He was educated at Bath City Secondary School, not an altogether happy experience, made worse for young Ridley by the fact that his father taught gym there, and the headmaster felt he had to address him by his Christian name.

The other boys were not impressed, and the actor recalled: "I felt obliged to prove my integrity by neglecting every task so successfully that for four years I occupied one of the bottom places in every class, at the same time appointing myself a ringleader of general loutishness."

On his 17th birthday, hopes of a Civil Service career scuppered by his poor school record, he became a student teacher at East Twerton School and then was selected to study at Bristol University's education department. There, theatre became his great love. While still at university he made his professional stage debut – at £1 a week – in the Arthurian fantasy *Prunella* at the city's Theatre Royal, in 1914.

But his stage career was put on hold with the advent of the Great War. He had originally volunteered in 1914 at the age of 18, but was turned down as he had sustained a broken toe playing rugby.



Arnold Ridley, as a young actor

But the following year he was accepted by the Somerset Light Infantry and was stationed in Plymouth.

Years later, in an interview with the BBC, he admitted to being horribly homesick, having to cope with a “sadistic” regimental sergeant major and facing the prospect he might never survive the horrors of trench warfare.

He said: “I thought I was doing my duty for my country. I didn’t know I was going to be treated like a convict. Did it make better soldiers of the callow youths we were then? I doubt it.”

Private Ridley arrived in Arras in March 1916. Within days of arriving he was hit in the back by shrapnel and shot through the thigh.

He had recovered by July 1916, and returned to the Western Front in time to take part in the Battle of the Somme. In August he was injured again, this time by a German bayonet which cut the tendons in his left hand, leaving him permanently maimed. He was discharged from the army in August 1917.

In 1919 Ridley resumed his stage career, joining the Repertory Theatre in Birmingham, where he appeared in more than 40 productions.

But they were not always good times – his wartime experiences led him to have nightmares. He said: “I would wake up drenched in sweat. Sometimes I was afraid I would black out when I was on stage.”

In 1923 he wrote *The Ghost Train*, the most successful of his plays.

Ridley was inspired to write the play after becoming stranded overnight at Mangotsfield railway station near Bristol, now a disused station on the defunct Midland Railway Company’s main line.

The deserted station’s atmosphere – combined with hearing the non-stop Bath to Gloucester express train using an adjacent main line to by-pass Mangotsfield, which created the illusion of a train approaching, passing through and departing, but not being seen – impressed itself upon Ridley’s senses.

The play took him only a week to write. After a premiere in Brighton, it transferred to London’s St Martin’s Theatre, where it went on to play to sell-out audiences for more than a year.

Barry Baynton

Everyone at Wimborne Drama Productions was deeply saddened by the news earlier this month that Barry Baynton had passed away, aged 72.

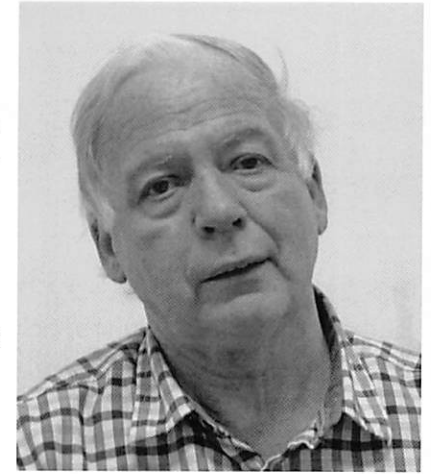
Although he had not been in the best of health in recent times, Barry’s passing was still so unexpected and a massive shock to everyone who knew him.

Barry joined the group in 1993 and he appeared in our first production at the newly re-opened Tivoli Theatre (*Bedroom Farce*, 1994). Over the following 23 years he had occasional acting roles, his most memorable, and one of his personal favourites, being the lascivious whip-wielding coachman in *On the Razzle* in 2002.

Barry’s main contribution to WDP was as a director of more than 10 plays at the Tivoli, including very successful productions of *Run For Your Wife*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Forty Years On*, *Loot* and *An Inspector Calls*. Last year Barry achieved his life’s ambition of directing *Shadowlands*, the moving play about CS Lewis and Joy Gresham, which was very well received.

Barry always brought the best out of people, and was very encouraging and supportive, especially towards younger actors. He was a popular figure on the local drama scene, happy to help out in any capacity, and was heavily involved with St Luke’s Players in Bournemouth, Broadstone Players, Wimborne Musical Theatre and many other local groups. He also volunteered at the Tivoli and once memorably played the dame in one of their pantos.

Barry had a very dry sense of humour, and could make some wonderfully sarcastic comments – typically followed by a trademark chortle. He was a good friend, thoughtful and kind. He was just such good company and he will be sorely missed.



Linda in *Death of a Salesman* with the Tower Theatre in London.

SAM MOULTON

Sam has been a very active member of WDP since joining in 2011 and is the company's chairman. He has appeared in all three of our recent Noël Coward plays, *Hay Fever*, *Present Laughter* and *Relative Values*. A talented musician, he played Fabian in *Twelfth Night* at Deans Court in 2012 and wrote the original music used in the production. His favourite roles, however, have been the dramatic ones: Sir Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons* and CS Lewis in *Shadowlands*.

RICHARD NEAL

Richard has appeared in more than twenty productions at the Tivoli, most recently playing Inspector Colqhoun in *The Hollow*, Professor Marcus in *The Ladykillers* and Arthur Birling in *An Inspector Calls*. Other plays include *And Then There Were None*, *Pack of Lies*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Rebecca*, *Loot*, *David Copperfield*, *Habeas Corpus* and *Forty Years On*. Richard has also directed a number of plays including *Hay Fever*, *Present Laughter*, *Relative Values*, *On the Razzle* and *The Madness of George III*.

TRACEY NICHOLLS

Tracey joined the company in 2001 and has starred in a number of roles here at the Tivoli including Mrs de

Winter in *Rebecca*, Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, Laura Warwick in *The Unexpected Guest*, Sheila Birling in *An Inspector Calls*, Joanna Lyppiatt in *Present Laughter*, Joy Gresham in *Shadowlands* and Miranda Frayle in *Relative Values*. At Deans Court Tracey has played Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* and also appeared in *Twelfth Night* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and this summer she will direct *Much Ado About Nothing*. In 2014 she directed *A Man For All Seasons* at the Tivoli.

GARY PAINE

Gary played The Hon. Peter Ingleton in *Relative Values*, Rev. Harry Harrington in *Shadowlands*, and Mr. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, one of his favourite roles.

JAN STEVENSON

Jan has been with WDP for more than 30 years. Last year she played Lady Cynthia Hayling in *Relative Values* at the Tiv and in 2015 Lady Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice* at Deans Court. Other recent appearances include Ouiser Boudreaux in *Steel Magnolias*, Mrs Rogers in *And Then There Were None* and Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Among her favourite roles is Madam Arcarti in *Blithe Spirit*.

Other successes included an adaptation of the Agatha Christie novel *Peril at End House*, which premiered in the West End in 1940.

His 1951 play *Beggar My Neighbour* was adapted into the Ealing comedy film *Meet Mr. Lucifer* (1953).

The outbreak of World War Two saw Ridley join the British Expeditionary Force as an intelligence officer.

Now a major, he was sent to France in 1939. He later admitted: "Within hours of setting foot on the quay at Cherbourg in September 1939, I was suffering from acute shell shock again. It is quite possible that outwardly I showed little, if any, of it.

"It took the form of mental suffering that at best could be described as an inverted nightmare."

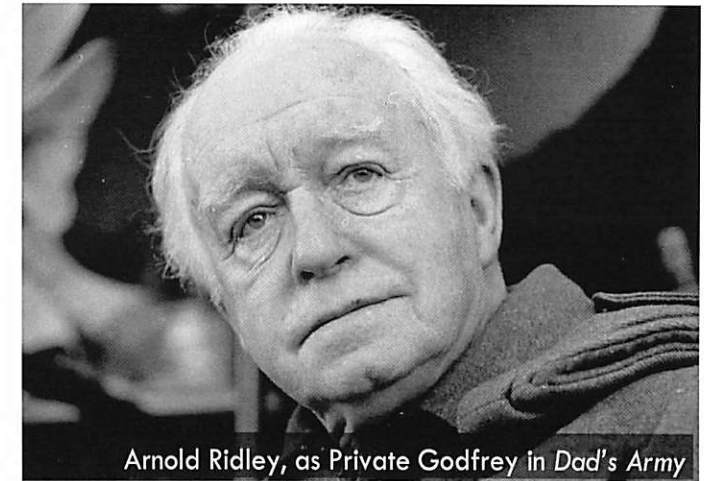
Ridley was evacuated from Dunkirk in May 1940 and, aged 44, was demobilised from the Army. He joined the Local Defence Volunteers - the organisation that later became the Home Guard - before touring bases entertaining the troops.

He appeared in numerous radio and TV shows throughout the 1950s and 60s, including *The Archers* and *Crossroads*, until he was cast, aged 72, in *Dad's Army* in 1968. He played the role of the gentle medic Private Charles Godfrey until the series finished in 1977.

He was manager of the Leas Pavilion Theatre in Folkestone in the 1970s, writing, directing and producing a number of plays for the rep company based there.

He was appointed an OBE in 1982. He married three times and had one child, Nicolas.

Arnold Ridley died aged 88 in 1984.



Arnold Ridley, as Private Godfrey in *Dad's Army*

The 10 Most Haunted Railway Stations in the UK

1 Moulsecoomb, Sussex

Hauntings by a “hell hound” reportedly date back more than thirty years.

A ghostly canine has been said to follow lone travellers late at night, although its victims have only ever heard its panting.

2 Carlisle, Cumbria

There are a number of reported ghosts who walk through this Grade II* listed station.



Carlisle Station

and the Big Orange Chicken in *Jack & the Beanstalk*, and Patricia in *Crazy for You* with Wimborne Musical Theatre. At Stage Wise she played the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*.

ROB CORDING-COOK

Rob has appeared in several productions here at the Tivoli. He is also a regular in our summer plays at Deans Court, appearing as Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* in 2015. His favourite parts have been Simon Bliss in Noël Coward's *Hay Fever* and Lord Arthur in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. He has also appeared in *Relative Values*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Great Expectations* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*.

PAUL DODMAN

Paul has been with WDP for 20 years and loves acting in thrillers! He has been in all of WDP's recent Agatha Christie productions – *The Hollow*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *And Then There Were None*, *Spider's Web* and *The Unexpected Guest*. He particularly enjoyed playing the nasty Leonard Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution*. Other plays include *Present Laughter*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Journey's End*. Paul has also directed a number of plays including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *Great Expectations* and *Rebecca*.

CHRIS DURHAM

Since joining WDP in 2013, Chris has played Crestwell in *Relative Values*, Warnie Lewis in *Shadowlands* and the Duke of Norfolk in *A Man for All Seasons*, three of his favourite roles alongside Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* for Blandford Camp Drama Club. He has also designed and built sets for *Pride and Prejudice*, *Cash On Delivery* and *Relative Values*.

RUSS GUILLAUME

Russ joined WDP way back in 1962. His most recent appearances have included Forbright in *Cash On Delivery*, Narracott in *And Then There Were None* and Colonel Julyan in *Rebecca*. Other plays at the Tivoli include *The Hollow* (the 2003 production), *On the Razzle*, *An Inspector Calls* (the 2002 production) and *David Copperfield*. One of his favourite roles was Peter Winter in *The White Sheep of the Family* in 1964.

CALUM HEARNE

Calum played Dennis Wicksteed in *Habeas Corpus* in October. Other plays for WDP include *Present Laughter*, *A Man For All Seasons* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

ANN MCCOLGAN-CLARK

This is Ann's third outing for WDP. She played Gerda Cristow in *The Hollow* in 2015 and took two roles in *Shadowlands* last year. Originally from Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, her favourite roles include Mrs Manningham in *Gaslight* with the Southbank Players in Belfast and

Cast Biographies

DAVID BEDDARD

David played Mr Shanks in WDP's *Habeas Corpus* last year, and has also appeared in *An Inspector Calls* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

CAROL BRUTON

Carol has been with the company for 10 years and usually works behind the scenes. She appeared in *The Government Inspector* and was assistant director on *Twelfth Night*.

JOHN BRUTON

John has appeared in *A Man For All Seasons*, *Twelfth Night*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Dial M for Murder* and *The Government Inspector*. He also provided 'The Voice' in *And Then There Were None*.

JEMMA CABLE

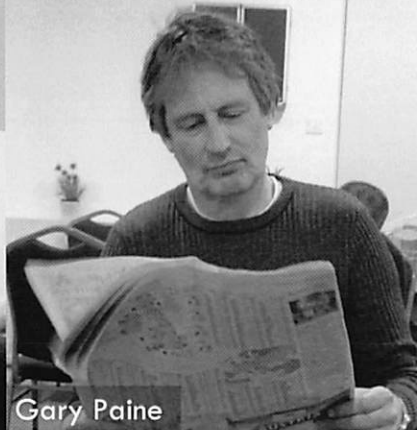
This is just Jemma's second role for WDP, having played Connie in *Habeas Corpus* last year. But she is no stranger to the Tivoli stage where she has played No-Wit the Pirate in *Sinbad*



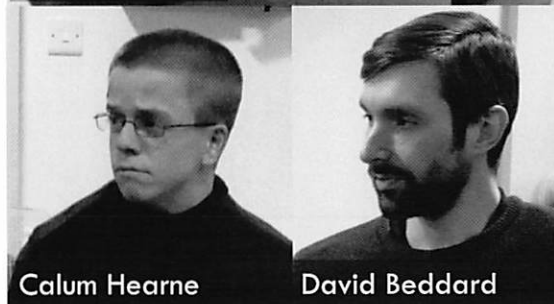
Russ Guillaume



John Bruton



Gary Paine



Calum Hearne

David Beddard

A headless man is said to patrol one of the platforms, while a number of station masters have complained they find themselves feeling deeply uneasy in many of the station's offices.

Virgin Trains even employed a paranormal consultant to investigate the station in 2014.

3 North Road, Darlington, Durham

A disused carriage at the station, which dates back to 1865, is said to be haunted by a young girl dressed in Victorian-era clothing.

In 2008, railway staff reported hearing knocking from the carriage late at night, and on other occasions, a young child's laughter and singing have been heard.

4 Torrington, Devon

Two ghosts, believed to be a former station master and his wife, are said to have visited the Puffing Billy restaurant on the platform of Torrington station.

The current owner claims to have regularly seen the pair drifting up the stairs at night to tuck their children in to bed.



Torrington Station

5 Addiscombe, Greater London

A train driver was killed on the line back in the early 20th century and there have been a number of eerie occurrences since then.

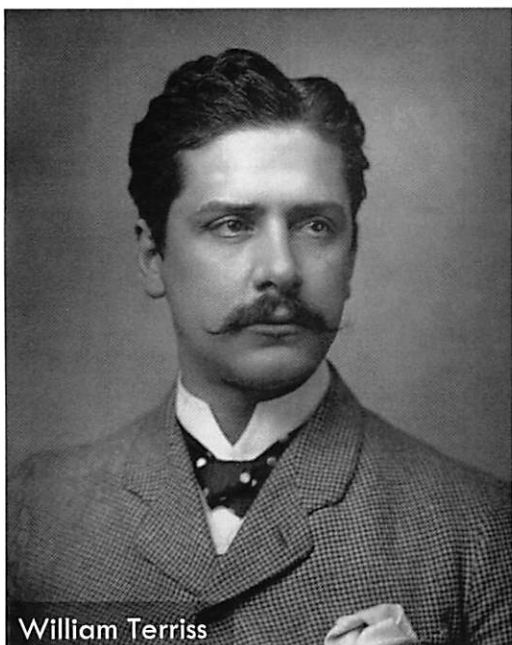
Although the station was demolished in 2001, sightings of a grey, blurry figure continue to be reported in the area.

Many believe this is the ghost of the train driver, trapped forever at the station.

6 Covent Garden, Central London

In 1897, world-renowned actor William Terriss was stabbed to death by a deranged rival actor, Richard Archer Price, at the stage door of the nearby Adelphi Theatre.

His ghost is said to stalk the corridors of the Tube station to this day, plotting how to avenge his death.



William Terriss

7 Birmingham New Street, Birmingham

A number of people have died at the station and the ghosts of four have been sighted over the years.

One of them has been identified as Walter Hartles, a retired train driver who shot himself at the station in 1937.



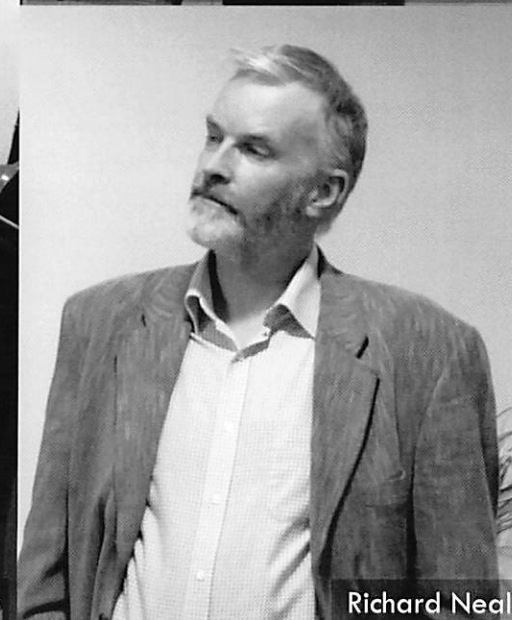
Sam Moulton



Ann McColgan-Clark & Chris Durham



Tracey Nicholls



Richard Neal



Jemma Cable & Rob Cording-Cook



Paul Dodman

Jan Stevenson

8 Ashton Moss, Lancashire

In 1975, a signalman noticed a mysterious figure in one of the signal boxes.

Suddenly he disappeared only to reappear at precisely the same time the next week - this time witnessed by two signalmen.

It has been suggested that the figure was the ghost of someone killed on the line.

9 Bolton Street, Bury, Lancashire

In 2007, a local man named John Philips snapped a photograph of his grandson in the station's waiting room.

But when he developed the film, a shadowy figure had appeared behind him, despite the boy posing completely alone.



Bolton Street Station

10 Entwistle, Lancashire

The ghostly figure of a child has been spotted running through the fields next to the station.

According to locals, a young boy was killed on the tracks during the First World War and so it is thought that he has remained in the area searching for his friends ever since.

THE GHOST TRAIN

BY ARNOLD RIDLEY

The Cast

Saul Hodgkin, the Stationmaster

Richard Winthrop

Elsie Winthrop

Charles Murdock

Peggy Murdock

Miss Bourne

Teddie Deakin

Julia Price

Herbert Price

John Sterling

Jackson

Other parts played by

RUSS GUILLAUME

RICHARD NEAL

TRACEY NICHOLLS

ROB CORDING-COOK

JEMMA CABLE

JAN STEVENSON

SAM MOULTON

ANN MCCOLGAN-CLARK

CHRIS DURHAM

PAUL DODMAN

JOHN BRUTON

DAVID BEDDARD

CAROL BRUTON

CALUM HEARNE

GARY PAINE

The Creative Team

Director

Set and Sound Designer

Set Construction

Company Stage Manager

ASMs

Continuity

Costumes, Hair & Make-up

Backstage Crew

Tivoli Production Manager

Tivoli Lighting Technician

DAVID PILE

COLIN PILE

COLIN PILE

CHRIS DURHAM

and members of the company

PHYLLIS SPENCER

SHEILA DOVE

JUDY GARRETT

HEATHER FLETCHER

CHRISSIE NEAL

DAVID BEDDARD

CALUM HEARNE

GARY PAINE

KYLE BEST

KIERAN HENSHAW-RAY

Production Acknowledgements

Costumes supplied by **Hierarchy**

Guns supplied by **History in the Making**

Additional lighting supplied by **Kieran Henshaw-Ray**

We are also grateful to the following organisations for their assistance: **Daisy Graphic, Dumpton School, Forest FM, Gullivers Bookshop, North Dorset Railway Trust, Royal British Legion Wimborne, Tivoli Theatre and Wimborne Tourist Information Centre**

The setting: Mid 1920s. The Waiting Room in Fal Vale Railway Station, somewhere in the West Country. Time: 10pm

Running time is approximately 2 hours 15 minutes including interval

Produced by Wimborne Drama Productions at the Tivoli Theatre, 16-18 February 2017, by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

In loving memory of Barry Baynton