


WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Agatha Christie's

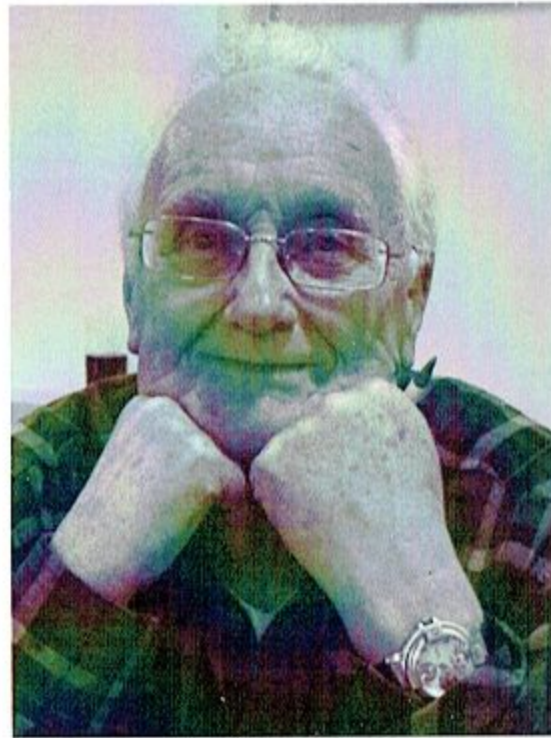
THE
HOLLOW



15 - 17 OCTOBER 2015
TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

Welcome

WELCOME to our production of *The Hollow* by Agatha Christie. Many of you will know that 2015 is the 125th anniversary year of Christie's birth, so it seemed appropriate to produce one of her classic plays. I believe they are also a good antidote for a possible wet or cold autumn evening, with suspense, some humour, red herrings and even in this case a lobster.



The Hollow was originally published in the United States in 1946 under a different title and contained the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. In deciding to adapt the book for the stage, Christie was adamant that it would lose the character of Poirot, whose appearance in the book she thought had "ruined it", and despite the opposition of her daughter, Rosalind Hicks, who Christie affectionately described as having "had the valuable role in life of eternally trying to discourage me without success".

From my point of view this was a good thing as I feel it would have been very difficult to cast a believable Hercule Poirot, following the success of David Suchet playing the role on TV for many years and making it his own.

The play was first performed in England in 1951 and I have kept this setting. It was described by one reviewer as "ingenious entertainment" although admitting that there was "no very high polish in the performance of the actors". I hope you will find that our talented team of actors have the necessary polish and that you will have a very enjoyable experience from our performance.

Thank you to all the Tivoli staff for their help, as always, and to the many other members of Wimborne Drama Productions mentioned elsewhere in this programme for their assistance and many hours hard work, without which no production can be successful.

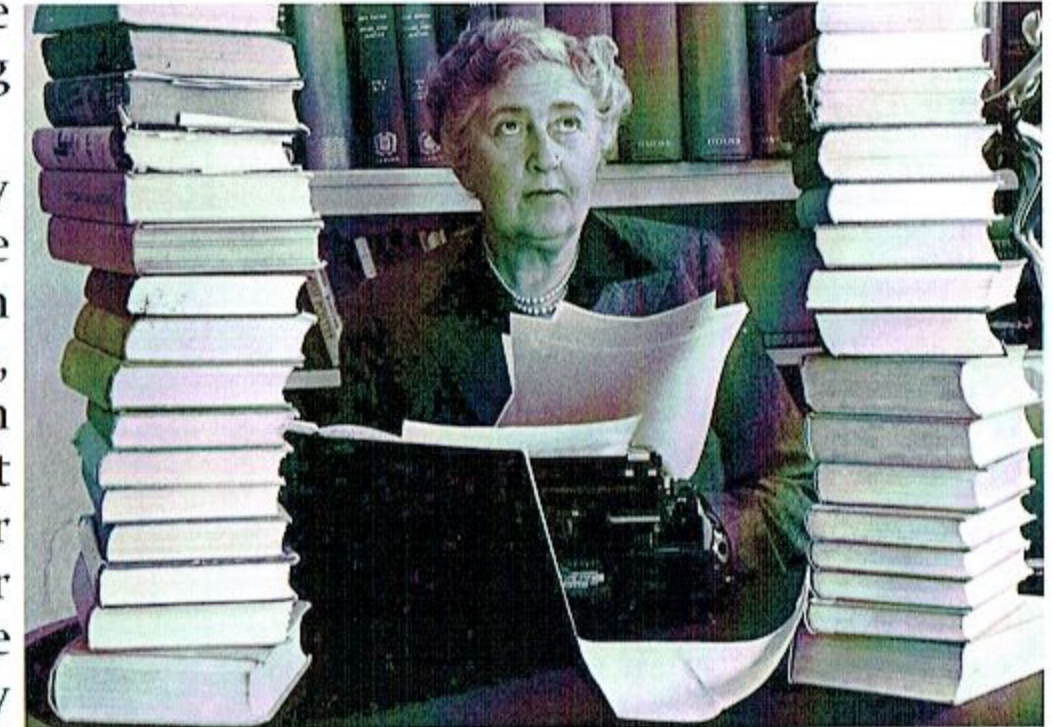
Enjoy the show!

David Pile, Director

How to crack Christie's cases

SCIENTISTS who have studied some of Agatha Christie's best-selling crime novels claim that they can be solved with a simple formula, based on the language she uses, the murder weapon, the setting and even the type of vehicle being driven.

The panel, led by Dr Dominique Jeannerod from Queens University, identified certain plot structures that could help the reader identify the killer some time before he or she is dramatically revealed:



- The culprit is always introduced within the first half of the story, and is likely to be emotionally involved with the victim, most being spouses or blood relatives.
- If there are several land vehicles in the story, the killer is likely to be female.
- A prevalence of nautical vehicles suggests they are more likely to be male.
- If the victim is strangled, the perpetrator is more likely to be male.
- If the setting is a country house, there is a 75 per cent chance the killer will be female.
- Christie's language tends to be more negative when concerned with female killers, who are normally discovered due to a domestic item.
- Men are normally caught using information or logic.

The research was commissioned by UKTV channel Drama to mark the 125th anniversary of Christie's birth.

So now you know the Queen of Crime's formula, use it to crack the murder mystery in *The Hollow*.

How well do you know Agatha Christie?

Test your little grey cells with this quick quiz

1. What was the title of Agatha Christie's first novel?
 - a) *Death on the Nile*
 - b) *The ABC Murders*
 - c) *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*
2. In which novel did Tommy and Tuppence Beresford first appear?
 - a) *The Secret Adversary*
 - b) *N or M?*
 - c) *Partners in Crime*
3. What animal was carved on the head of Poirot's cane?
 - a) A swan
 - b) A duck
 - c) A badger
4. According to a recent poll, what is the world's favourite Agatha Christie novel?
 - a) *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - b) *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*
 - c) *And Then There Were None*
5. As a teenager, Christie wanted to follow what career path?
 - a) She wanted to paint
 - b) She wanted to be a professional pianist
 - c) She wanted to be a teacher
6. Why did Christie start writing detective stories?
 - a) To relieve the monotony of her pharmacy job during the Great War
 - b) She needed the money
 - c) She was responding to a bet from her sister
7. Where did Miss Marple live?
 - a) Runnymede
 - b) St Mary Mead
 - c) Ottery St Mary
8. In the poem *Ten Little Soldier Boys*, how did the fifth soldier die?
 - a) Hugged by a bear
 - b) Stung by a bee
 - c) Frizzled by the sun

Answers after *The Cast in Conversation*

Sex and sensation every Sunday

“Just think, we'll be in the *News of the World* next week” (Lady Angkatell)

THE *News of the World* was at its peak in the 1950s, regularly sell more than eight million copies every Sunday. Its winning formula of fast, titillating news, with an emphasis on sensation and, as often as not, sex, had propelled it to staggering commercial success.

Even when it closed in 2011, in the wake of the phone hacking scandal, it was still the biggest-selling Sunday newspaper in the English-speaking world.

From its very first edition on 1 October 1843, the paper founded by John Browne Bell was clear about who its readers were, and what they wanted to read about: crime, sensation, vice.

The paper had a wide-reaching appeal because, as the paper's motto put it, “All human life is there”.

“Each Sunday morning,” noted an article in *Time* magazine in May 1941, “to more than a third of Britain's

11 million homes, goes a juicy dish of the week's doings in divorce, scandal, abduction, assault, murder and sport.

“Downstairs, rapt scullery maids devour its spicy morsels; so, upstairs, does many a lady of the house. Farmers, labourers and millworkers cherish its sinful revelations; so also do royalty, cabinet ministers, tycoons.

“Without *News of the World*, Sunday morning in Britain would lack something as familiar as church bells.”



A lurid headline about serial killer John Christie from 1953



Clockwise from bottom left: Michael J. Smith, Paul Dodman, Bethany Barfoot, Kimberley Scott, Richard Neal and Judy Garrett



Clockwise from bottom right: Tony Parkinson, Simon Jackson, Jan Bursby, Colin Pile, Ann McColgan-Clark and Kristy Dixon



The Cast

in order of appearance

Henrietta Angkatell	KRISTY DIXON
Sir Henry Angkatell	MICHAEL J. SMITH
Lady Angkatell	JUDY GARRETT
Midge Harvey	KIMBERLEY SCOTT
Gudgeon	SIMON JACKSON
Edward Angkatell	COLIN PILE
Doris	BETHANY BARFOOT
Gerda Cristow	ANN MCCOLGAN-CLARK
John Cristow	PAUL DODMAN
Veronica Craye	JAN BURSBY
Inspector Colquhoun	RICHARD NEAL
Det Sgt Penny	TONY PARKINSON

Period and Setting

September 1951. The play is set in the garden room of Sir Henry Angkatell's country house, The Hollow, about 18 miles from London

Act 1 A Friday afternoon

Act 2 Scene 1 Saturday morning
Scene 2 Later the same day

Act 3 The following Monday morning. The lights are lowered during the act to denote the passing of one hour

Running Time: Approx 2 hours 40 minutes including a 20-minute interval

Agatha Christie's THE HOLLOW

Director
Company Stage Manager
Tivoli Stage Manager
ASMs

Continuity
Armourer & Special Effects
Set Design
Set Construction

Sound Design
Sound Realisation
Lighting
Costume Assistants

The Creative Team

DAVID PILE
TRACEY NICHOLLS
KYLE BEST
VAL MANTLE
MOIRA HAWAY
CAROL BRUTON
PHYLLIS SPENCER
COLIN PILE
COLIN PILE
TRISH PILE
MARK ELLEN

& members of the company

DAVID PILE
SAM MOULTON
KIERAN HENSHAW-RAY
CHRISSIE NEAL
LIZZIE PETERS

Production Acknowledgements

Hierarchy Costumes, Boscombe, for hire of costumes
Scenechange Scenery, Isle of Wight, for hire of backcloth
History in the Making, Waterlooville, for hire of guns

We also acknowledge the help and support of:
Daisy Graphic, Gullivers Bookshop, Royal British Legion Wimborne,
The Tivoli Theatre and Wimborne Garden Centre



The Cast in Conversation

BETHANY BARFOOT (Doris)

Place of birth: I was born in Poole and have lived in Dorset and Hampshire for most of my life.

Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays: I have never performed in any thriller yet my daily life is quite a thrill!

Favourite role: The favourite role I've played is the famous Lady Macbeth which I performed as a student. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Sherlock Holmes. For me he has to be the most incredible detective, his mind is astonishing.

Historic house where you would be quite happy to live: If I was lucky enough to live in an historic house I would choose Avebury Manor for its quaintness and beauty.

Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life? When my exciting life story becomes a movie, I would cast Emma Watson to portray me, coming to theatres near you!

Your character in a News of the World headline: DORIS THE NOISY AND CLUMSY MAID DROPS THE NEWSPAPERS YET AGAIN!

JAN BURSBY (Veronica Craye)

Place of birth: Born in Farnborough, Kent. Moved to Dorset in 2001 from Farnham, Surrey.

Previous appearances in

Agatha Christie plays: I have appeared in many thrillers but amazingly never an Agatha Christie, so two firsts for me - appearing in an AG and playing an actress!

Favourite role: I have a few, however with Wimborne Drama Productions I did enjoy the role of Lotty in *Enchanted April*. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** DI Humphrey Goodman played by Kris Marshall in *Death In Paradise* because he's fun and it's set in the gorgeous Caribbean! **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** There's an English Heritage House I watched being boarded up near Winchester years ago. I don't know the name unfortunately, but the setting was just perfect! **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** I really have no idea but my other half would like to see Margot Robbie in the role!!! **Your character in a News of the World headline:** HOLLYWOOD FILM STAR SPOTTED IN SLEEPY VILLAGE

KRISTY DIXON (Henrietta Angkatell)

Place of birth: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Moved to Dorset in October 2010. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** This is my first Agatha

Christie, but I did appear in *Strictly Murder* by Brian Clemens for Ferndown Drama. **Favourite role:** Annelle, *Steel Magnolias*, Regina Little Theatre, Regina, Canada. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Nancy Drew, because they were some of the first books I read as a child. Maybe it helped shape my nosy nature. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** A La Ronde in Devon because of its quiriness - it's like a magical story book house! **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** If there were to be a movie of my life, I'd cast myself. If you aren't the lead in your own life story, something's not right! **Your character in a News of the World headline:** STEAMY STUDIO SESSIONS WITH THE SCULPTRESS

PAUL DODMAN (John Cristow)

Place of birth: I used to be quite proud of saying I was born in Chipping Norton, but have been much less reluctant to admit to this since the 2010 election! I've been here since I was a little boy, many years ago. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** I've been in all of WDP's recent Christie productions - *Witness for the Prosecution*, *And Then There Were None*, *Spider's Web* and *The Unexpected Guest*.

They're always great fun and an audience favourite. **Favourite role:** I did enjoy playing Leonard Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution* - now there's a nasty piece of work! **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Dr Gideon Fell - a blatant plug for John Dickson Carr, my favourite and one of the most overlooked and forgotten of the "golden age" detective novelists. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Any that has a sliding bookcase, a secret passage, a priest's hole and a maze in the garden. Otherwise I'm not fussy. **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** I'm not sure there's anyone capable of the depth and complexity needed - apart from myself, obviously. How much do I get paid? **Your character in a News of the World headline:** TOP DOC CROCK SHOCK

JUDY GARRETT (Lady Angkatell)

Place of birth: Born in Poole. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** I was in *Spider's Web* here in 2013. **Favourite role:** There have been several great roles - Karen in *The Anniversary* by Bill MacIlwraith in 2006 for Broadstone Players is a favourite. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Inspector Pratt - a wonderful

comedic part invented by Peter Gordon. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Highclere Castle would suit me fine ('upstairs' of course!) **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** Penelope Wilton or Julie Walters. **Your character in a News of the World headline:** ECCENTRIC LADY GARDENER DEVELOPS CURIOUS REMEDY FOR EXTERMINATING THE EARWIGS

SIMON JACKSON
(Gudgeon)

Place of birth: Born in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Moved to Dorset in 1972. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** I played Gudgeon in WDP's 2003 production of *The Hollow*, and have also appeared in *And Then There Were None* and *Spider's Web*. **Favourite role:** Igor Romanoff, in *Romanoff and Juliet*, a comedy by Peter Ustinov, for Penistone Players in Yorkshire. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Jim Bergerac. I enjoyed watching him drive his little sports car round Jersey. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Royal Pavilion, Brighton. I like the idea of living in a seaside pleasure palace – not too big and very convenient for the shops.

Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life? George Clooney. **Your character in a News of the World headline:** WHAT THE BUTLER SAW AT STATELY HOME WIFE SWAPPING MURDER SCANDAL!

ANN MCCOLGAN-CLARK
(Gerda Cristow)

Place of birth: Born in Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, moved to Dorset permanently in 2013. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** Never appeared in an Agatha Christie, but played Mrs Manningham in *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton with the Southbank Players in Belfast in 1995. **Favourite role:** Linda in *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller with the Tower Theatre in London in 2007. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** My favourite fictional sleuths are Agatha Christie's Tommy and Tuppence. I even called my cat Tuppence! **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Would have to be Coletton Fishacre in Devon as I love anything from the 20s and 30s. **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** Probably my niece Sarah as she is always imitating me. **Your character in a News of the World headline:** IS DALLYING DOC'S WIFE AS DIM AS SHE SEEMS?

RICHARD NEAL
(Inspector Colquhoun)

Place of birth: Born in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. Moved to Dorset more than 20 years ago by way of Northants, Yorks, Lancs and Bucks. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** I was in *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Unexpected Guest* and *And Then There Were None*. **Favourite role:** My two most recent roles, Professor Marcus in *The Ladykillers* and Arthur Birling in *An Inspector Calls*, are among my favourites. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** A few years ago I discovered Erast Fandorin, a dashing Russian Sherlock Holmes created by Boris Akunin. I'd like to read more of his books; they are funny and fast-moving. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** I'll have a suite of rooms in Burgh Island Hotel - art deco interiors and lovely sea views, marvellous. **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** Matthew Macfadyen - he plays the buttoned-up Englishman rather well! **Your character in a News of the World headline:** COLQUHOUN ON THE CASE: SCOTLAND YARD SENDS TOP COP TO SOLVE SHOCKING COUNTRY HOUSE MURDER

TONY PARKINSON (DS Penny)
Place of birth: Chatham in Kent. Moved to Dorset in 1985.

Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays: I played Julian Farrar M.P. in *The Unexpected Guest*. **Favourite role:** I enjoyed playing Mellersh Wilkins, a solicitor, in *Enchanted April*. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Sherlock Holmes, because of the depth of his character. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Any historic house with a pub and moat attached. **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** Daniel Craig. **Your character in a News of the World headline:** DETECTIVE SERGEANT GETS MORE THAN JUST DESSERTS IN KITCHEN AT LOCAL MANOR

COLIN PILE
(Edward Angkatell)

Place of birth: Dorchester. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** *Spider's Web*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Witness For The Prosecution*. **Favourite role:** I enjoyed the challenge of the Welsh accent in *The Unexpected Guest*. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Marcus Didius Falco, a uncomplicated character with Roman history thrown in. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Smedmore House, not too large and with sea views. **Who would**

you cast to play you in a movie of your life? I'll leave that decision to the casting director!
Your character in a News of the World headline: HOME OBSESSED HEIR IN LOVE TRIANGLE

KIMBERLEY SCOTT
(Midge Harvey)

Place of birth: I was born in Poole. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** This is my first Agatha Christie play. I appeared in a thriller a few years ago called *Spygame* with Ferndown Drama Group. **Favourite role:** My favourite role so far has been Alice in *The Vicar of Dibley*, also with Ferndown Drama Group. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** Sherlock Holmes, especially the Benedict Cumberbatch portrayal! **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** Buckingham Palace, because everyone tells me I'm a princess! **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** I would cast Kirsten Dunst to play me in the story of my life. Mainly because people have said I look a bit like her! **Your character in a News of the World headline:** PENNILESS SHOPGIRL IN LOVE TRIANGLE

MICHAEL J. SMITH
(Sir Henry Angkatell)

Place of birth: I started life in Oxford, spent my working life in London, retired to Dorset in 2007. **Previous appearances in Agatha Christie plays:** I have appeared in *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *And Then There Were None*, *Spider's Web* and now *The Hollow* - all for WDP and all directed by David Pile. **Favourite role:** I suppose the favourite role is the one you are working on at the time, but I would like to mention John of Gaunt in *Richard II* at The Richmond Shakespeare Society which was very special as it began a great association with a great director, Claudette Williamson, and I like to think we produced some good work together for a few years. **Favourite fictional sleuth:** It has to be Poirot, such an outrageous character. **Historic house where you would be quite happy to live:** I am happy in my small Wimborne Palace but if I have to move I'll opt for Buckingham Palace - "so beautifully central my dear!" **Who would you cast to play you in a movie of your life?** Dustin Hoffman - about my size! **Your character in a News of the World headline:** DID THE KCB DO IT? MURDER AND SEX SCANDAL AT THE HOLLOW

WIMBORNE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

SHADOWLANDS

by William Nicholson
18th - 20th February 2016
Tivoli Theatre Wimborne

William Nicholson's award winning play about CS Lewis and his tragic love affair with American writer Joy Gresham. A powerful and moving play but also witty and funny too
Directed by Barry Baynton

RELATIVE VALUES

by Noël Coward
26th - 28th May 2016
Tivoli Theatre Wimborne

The glittering world of Hollywood and the stiff upper lip of the English aristocracy clash in uproarious style in this satire on class and snobbery
Directed by Richard Neal

President of
Wimborne Drama
Productions

Anthony Oliver MBE

Patrons of
Wimborne Drama
Productions

Frances Alton
Roger Billings
Robin Cook (H)
John Dickson
Maureen Dickson
Dorothy Dodman
George Dodman
Brian Dryden
Pat Dryden
Michael Evans
Roy Hudd (H)
Val Jolliffe
Roy Joseph (H)
Diann March
Sue Maunder
Michael Medwin (H)

Carol Neal
Peter Neal
Tina Nicholls
Anthony Oliver
Christine Oliver
Anthony Pawley
Linda Pawley
Diana Prestige
Pamela Wood

H signifies honorary



Find us on
Facebook



@WimborneDrama

The tragic love affair of
CS Lewis and Joy Gresham

WIMBORNE
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Shadowlands

by William Nicholson

18 - 20 FEBRUARY 2016

EVENINGS 7.30pm, £12. SAT MATINEE 2.30pm, £10

TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

BOX OFFICE: 01202 885566

ONLINE: TivoliWimborne.co.uk