

Agatha Christie's
**AND
THEN
THERE
WERE**

NONE



13th - 15th October 2011
TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE
A Wimborne Drama Production



WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the Tivoli Theatre for this performance of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*.

This is the third Agatha Christie play I have directed in the past few years, so it might seem as if I am in a bit of a rut, but I enjoy her plays with all their twists and turns, and it's a pleasure to see my talented cast bring the characters to life. I hope we will keep you guessing to the very end.

Agatha Christie wrote the book on which the play is based in 1939 and adapted the story for the stage in 1943 with a reworked ending. Many of you will have read the book, seen the play or watched a film version, and for those who haven't, there should be enough twists and turns to keep you guessing to the end. As to which version this is.... well that would be telling.

As usual with a Christie work, some of the language used could be considered quaint or has a different meaning nowadays, and some is most definitely politically incorrect. However I think wherever possible one should stick to the words written by the author more than seventy years ago.

Before you settle back in your seat, I would like to thank some of the people who have made this production possible. First the actors who unfailingly put their hearts and souls into learning their parts and becoming their characters; my stage manager Phyllis Spencer, whose fearless dedication has been invaluable, and my son Colin who designed both the set and the sound, without both of whose help I could not have managed; and also to my wife Trish for putting up with the days and weeks of boredom waiting for all this to go away, and especially for making the chair and cushion covers for this production. And of course thank you to the Tivoli staff and volunteers who are always so helpful; and the company backstage staff who put many hours into ensuring props and costumes are provided and are in the right place at the right time. Finally thanks to you - the audience - for buying a ticket. So welcome to Soldier Island and enjoy the show.

David Pile
Director

QUEEN OF CRIME

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born in Torquay on 15th September 1890, the third child of a prosperous, outgoing American father, Frederick, and a shy English mother, Clara, whom Agatha later described as a person who saw life and people "in shades that were slightly at variance with reality".

Her childhood was a joyful one and she was educated at home by her mother or the occasional governess. Agatha taught herself to read at the age of four and amused herself by inventing games and stories.

When Agatha was eleven her father died and her mother began to travel, often taking Agatha with her. With these early trips began Agatha's lifelong love of adventure.

In 1912 Agatha met Archie Christie, a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps. After a tempestuous romance, they married on Christmas Eve 1914, by special licence, with Archie returning to the war in France on Boxing Day.

Agatha was not idle during the war. She became a nurse at the Red Cross Hospital in Torquay and worked in the dispensary. Surrounded by poisons, she was inspired to take up her sister's challenge to write a detective story.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles, with murder by poison and the first appearance of that great fictional detective, Hercule Poirot, was finished in 1915 and published in 1920.

The book sold only 2,000 copies, however, and it was *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, published in 1926, with an audacious twist to its tail, that truly launched her career.

A few months after its publication, a real life mystery occurred when Agatha Christie disappeared for eleven days before being found in a hotel in Harrogate. She never gave any explanation for her behaviour, but the recent death of her mother and her husband's infidelity may have caused a



nervous breakdown; or it may have been a rather elaborate publicity stunt.

Agatha subsequently obtained a divorce and returned to writing. Soon after she booked a passage on the Orient Express and travelled to Iraq to explore the recent archaeological excavations there. On a second visit in 1930 she met the archaeologist Max Mallowan. They were married the same year. Although he was fourteen years her junior, their lives together were incredibly happy. Agatha accompanied him on his annual archaeological expeditions for nearly 30 years.

And Then There Were None was published as a novel in 1939. In her autobiography Agatha Christie said:

"I wrote the book after a tremendous amount of planning, and I was pleased with what I had made of it. It was clear, straightforward, baffling, and yet had a perfectly reasonable explanation."

The critics loved it – one of the "most genuinely bewildering Christies yet written" said *The Observer* – and so too her readers. It is Agatha Christie's best-selling novel with more than 100 million sales to date, making it the world's best-selling mystery ever, and one of the best-selling books of all time.

Encouraged by the positive response to the book, Agatha adapted the story for the stage. Directed by Irene Hentschel, it opened with a short run at the Wimbledon Theatre before transferring to St James's Theatre in the West End in November 1943. The following June it opened in New York and ran for 421 performances.

In 1945 the first film version appeared, directed by Rene Clair, and starring Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Huston and Louis Hayward. Several more film versions have followed.

In 1971 Agatha Christie became a Dame of the British Empire.

At the time of her death, on 12th January 1976, she was the most famous detective story writer in the world. She was a quick worker and reckoned to finish a book in six weeks. She wrote eighty crime novels and short story collections, six romantic novels under the name of Mary Westmacott, nineteen plays and two volumes of autobiography. Her books continue to sell in their millions, whilst screen and stage adaptations keep her image constantly in the public eye. She remains the undisputed Queen of Crime.

TEN LITTLE SOLDIER BOYS

Ten little soldier boys
Went out to dine
One choked his little self
And then there were Nine.

Nine little soldier boys
Sat up very late
One overslept himself
And then there were Eight.

Eight little soldier boys
Travelling in Devon
One get left behind
And then there were Seven.

Seven little soldier boys
Chopping up sticks
One chopped himself in halves
And then there were Six.

Six little soldier boys
Playing with a hive
A bumble bee stung one
And then there were Five.

Five little soldier boys
Going in for law
One got in Chancery
And then there were Four.

Four little soldier boys
Sailing out to sea
A red herring swallowed one
And then there were Three.

Three little soldier boys
Walking in the zoo
A big bear hugged one
And then there were Two.

Two little soldier boys
Sitting in the sun
One got frizzled up
And then there was One.

One little soldier boy
Left all alone
He went and hanged himself
And then there were None.

Agatha Christie's **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**

Cast

Rogers
Narracot
Mrs Rogers
Vera Claythorne
Captain Philip Lombard
Anthony Marston
William Blore
General John Mackenzie
Emily Brent
Sir Lawrence Wargrave
Dr Edward Armstrong

STEVE SYMONDS
RUSS GUILLAUME
JAN STEVENSON
JENN SINGLETON
RICHARD NEAL
ROB CORDING
PAUL DODMAN
SIMON JACKSON
CHRISSIE NEAL
MICHAEL SMITH
ALAN DESTER

With

JOHN BRUTON as The Voice

The action takes place between the 8th and 10th of August 1939
on Soldier Island, a mile off the coast of Devon
There will be one interval of approximately 20 minutes

Creative Team

Director	DAVID PILE
Set & Sound Designer	COLIN PILE
Stage Manager	PHYLLIS SPENCER
Assistant Stage Managers	JUDY GARRETT VAL MANTLE JILL RICHMOND
Continuity	CAROL BRUTON
Costumes	CAROLYN HEWITT
Hair & Make-up	CAROLYN CRUTE
Tivoli Production Manager	KYLE BEST

Production Acknowledgements

This production would not have been possible without the help of the following organisations:

Brian Dryden of Wimborne	Forest FM	RNLI Poole
Daisy Graphic	Gabude	Royal British Legion Wimborne
Doubles	Hierarchy Costumes	Scene Change Isle of Wight
Eclacta Costumes	History in the Making (gun hire)	

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne 13th -15th October 2011 in memory of Joyce Curry

ROB CORDING

Anthony Marston

**ALAN DESTER**

Dr Edward Armstrong

**PAUL DODMAN**

William Blore

**RUSS GUILLAUME**

Narracot

Date joined
Wimborne Drama

2007

2011

1997

1962

Number of
productions

8

1

24

16

Favourite role

*Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest*DCI Taylor in *Murder, She Said* (ITV)

I'll stick my neck out and say this one!

Maurice Mullins in *A Murder Has Been Arranged*

What book are you reading?

The Millionaires by Brad Meltzer*Asagai* by Wilbur Smith*Enter a Murderer* by Ngaio Marsh*Avenger* by Frederick Forsyth

What music are you listening to?

The Essential Dixie Chicks

Folk, pop, rock

Deleted Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor by Caro Emerald*Misty* by Errol Garner

Favourite film

*A toss up between Derailed and Pretty Woman**Bicentennial Man**Psycho* or *Withnail and I**Singin' in the Rain*

Poirot or Miss Marple?

Miss Marple

Poirot

Miss Marple

Poirot

Favourite TV drama

*Life on Mars**Downton Abbey**Spooks**West Wing*

Luxury item on a desert island

My iPhone. I know the signal wouldn't be great but I can't live without it!

Laptop with internet dongle

My sofa (it's on stage now!)

Sony E Reader

Ideal dinner party guests (dead or alive)

Oscar Wilde, Jennifer Aniston and Brian Blessed

Alan Rickman - an awesome actor and very entertaining

George Harrison, Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando - but I can't imagine any of them being very good company

My friends Pilou and Matine. They introduced me to French food and wine and are the best conversationalists

SIMON JACKSON

General Mackenzie

**CHRISIE NEAL**

Emily Brent

**RICHARD NEAL**

Captain Lombard

**JENN SINGLETON**

Vera Claythorne



Date joined Wimborne Drama	1977	1986	1993	2011
Number of productions	28	41	36	2
Favourite role	This one	Mrs Danvers in <i>Rebecca</i>	Mr Stewart in <i>Pack of Lies</i>	Helena in <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> or Cecily in <i>The Importance of Being Earnest... Can I have two??!</i>
What book are you reading?	<i>People Who Changed The World</i> by Rodney Castleden	<i>Maidens' Trip</i> by Emma Smith	<i>May I Have Your Attention, Please?</i> by James Corden	<i>This is Your Brain on Music</i> by Daniel Levitin
What music are you listening to?	<i>Take it Easy</i> by The Eagles	<i>Deleted Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor</i> by Caro Emerald	Whatever Chris Evans is playing on his radio show	World, Folk, Afro-jazz
Favourite film	<i>The Great Escape</i>	<i>The Railway Children</i>	<i>Where Eagles Dare</i>	<i>Stranger Than Fiction</i>
Poirot or Miss Marple?	Poirot	Miss Marple	Miss Marple	Miss Marple
Favourite TV drama	<i>Coronation Street</i>	<i>Waking the Dead</i>	<i>Luther</i>	<i>House</i>
Luxury item on a desert island	Helicopter	Lipstick	Clockwork radio	Paper and pencil
Ideal dinner party guests (dead or alive)	Mother Teresa, Katie Price and Albert Einstein. I'm sure they would have a lot to say to each other!	Chris Evans, Beryl Reid, Liza Minnelli and James Corden. They will provide great entertainment!	Eric Morecambe, Victoria Wood, Stephen Fry and I will gatecrash my wife's party	Stevie Wonder and Bill Bailey for musical genius, hilarity, and good conversation

MICHAEL SMITH
Sir Lawrence Wargrave



JAN STEVENSON
Mrs Rogers



STEVE SYMONDS
Rogers



Date joined Wimborne Drama	2007	1979	2007
Number of productions	6	Lots !!	4
Favourite role	King Lear	Madame Arcati in <i>Bilthe Spirit</i>	This one!
What book are you reading?	<i>The Finkler Question</i> by Howard Jacobson	<i>The Suspicions of Mr Whicher</i> by Kate Summerscale	<i>The Affair</i> by Lee Child
What music are you listening to?	Jazz	Munford & Sons	Coldplay
Favourite film	<i>Les Enfants du Paradis</i>	<i>Calamity Jane</i>	<i>Star Wars</i>
Poirot or Miss Marple?	Poirot	Miss Marple	Miss Marple
Favourite TV drama	<i>Spooks</i>	<i>I Claudius</i>	<i>Inspector Morse</i>
Luxury item on a desert island	Single malt	Solar powered radio	Mobile phone
Ideal dinner party guests (dead or alive)	Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi and Benazir Bhutto. The conversation would be fascinating although heaven knows what we would give them to eat!	Elizabeth I, to find out the truth; Pepys, a wonderful observer; Churchill, such a full life; and Oscar Wilde, for his wit	Stephen Hawkins. I have a million and one questions I'd love to ask him

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Anthony Oliver MBE

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H signifies honorary

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Enchanted April

by Matthew Barber from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd March 2012 at the Tivoli Theatre

When two London housewives decide to rent a villa in Italy for a holiday away from their bleak marriages, they recruit two other, very different English women to share the cost and the experience. During their enchanted month in the Ligurian villa, the ladies fall under the spell of their idyllic, sun-drenched surroundings. There, amid the wisteria blossoms, they rediscover laughter, learn new truths about themselves and find just the romance they need, though perhaps not the romance they expect to find. Set in 1922. This heartwarming comedy was nominated for a Tony Award in 2003.

A heartwarming comedy
about love, friendship & rediscovery

ENCHANTED APRIL



By Matthew Barber
From the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd March 2012

Evening performances at 7.30 pm - Tickets £10
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