

# THE SETTLEMENT PLAYERS

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

Hello everyone and welcome to another newsletter.

As I write this I can see a grey cloudy sky outside the window. Summer is over and autumn is upon us. This may be depressing for some but not for us. The Settlement is a very busy place at the moment.

We recently had a brilliant Opening Night to our new season. We're in between two very successful murder mystery evenings. Everyone is working very hard to bring our November production together. Preparations are already being made for our Spring production next year, auditions will be coming up soon.

Yes, the Settlement is a very busy place at the moment with many of us making drama to entertain our audiences.

Hopefully, see you there soon.

Jim Anderson

### **One act plays**

Every year we try to send at least one play to the local drama festivals. We have done well with this in the past, winning many awards. We also perform these one act plays for our home audience on an evening in April. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to do this because people were tied up with other things and nobody wanted to do anything. This was a huge shame.

As well as winning prizes, which is nice, festivals give us the opportunity to hear unbiased reviews of our work and to see how we compare with other groups. Although nerve-racking it is a very rewarding process.

We would very much like to send something to the festivals next year and be able to put on a one act play night in April. So, we are looking for directors with ideas.

It doesn't really matter if you've directed before. We are looking for enthusiasm and interesting ideas. We will give you whatever help you need. All you must do is convince us that you can do it.

Of course, more experienced directors are very welcome to submit ideas as well.

So, come on, let's not miss the festivals again next year. Let's hear those ideas.

# *Brontë by Polly Teale*

*16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November 2017*



**Curtain up 7.45pm  
The Little Theatre,  
Letchworth Settlement,  
Nevels Road,  
Letchworth SG6 4UB**

**Tickets £8 available from David's Music,  
Eastcheap, Letchworth or  
online at [www.settlement-players.co.uk/box-office](http://www.settlement-players.co.uk/box-office)**





I just wanted to share a rehearsal update from Brontë. We are just under eight weeks from the show and all the pieces are starting to come together, although I am finding there is always something that needs doing yesterday.

John has designed a set that achieves the abstract and minimalist concept that I gave him. Thanks John. Set flats are up and we just need to paint them and build a few pieces of furniture to go with the table John found in a pub garden.

The cast have been working hard, initially in workshops to develop their characters and work through challenging parts of the script, and now on stage with some fun props.

I am very fortunate to have an excellent cast, who have immersed themselves in both the script and the life and works of the Brontë's, which are referenced throughout the production.

You will also notice our show poster which features four of the cast on location on what was a far colder, wetter and windier Sunday afternoon than it looks.

You will also find on the Settlement Players YouTube Channel, search

Settlement Players, that we have produced a trailer for the show. The filming and editing was performed by a new player, Kara, so many thanks Kara.

Margaret is starting to put the props together and Pat will shortly have the unenviable task of meeting my costume requirements. Thanks to them both and the rest of the backstage team which is assembling.

So why this play? Well, it is an excellent modern script written in a way that allows the ensemble cast to develop the production as a shared group experience rather than explicitly dictating what the cast should do or how it should be set. This also creates a lot of interesting challenges, but challenges that I am really enjoying.

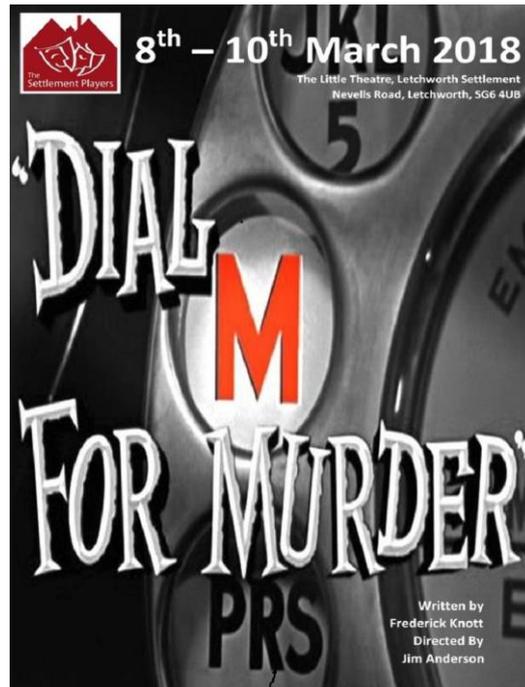
Stephen Charles

Director

Some of the Bronte cast on Location....



## Audition Notice.



I am directing the Spring production next March, *Dial M for Murder* by Frederick Knott. Those of you that know me, know that I get my inspiration from TV and the movies and this time is no different. This play was turned into one of Alfred Hitchcock's best thrillers.

Auditions will be held at the Settlement at 8.00pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 10.30am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **The characters**

Sheila Wendice – A glamorous but vulnerable heiress.

Tony Wendice – Her charming but duplicitous husband.

Max Holliday – An American thriller writer who is in love with Sheila.

Captain Lesgate – A totally amoral criminal caught up in the plot.

Inspector Hubbard – A 1950's style pipe-smoking sleuth who just won't let go.

Thompson – A detective constable.

This is not a comedy and all the actors will need to be able to show a wide range of emotion. Each role is challenging in its own way.

I am also looking for people to help me on the technical side as there is a lot that I would like to do. If you need any more information then please contact me on

[james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)

Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you at one of the auditions.

I'll send out a reminder nearer the time.

**Jim Anderson**

## The Settlement Players Christmas party 2017

You are cordially invited to the Settlement Players Christmas party at the Settlement at 8.00pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.



Bring something to drink and a plate of nibbles.

Guests are very welcome.

The highlight of the evening will be some *Whose line is it anyway?* type improv' games, organised and led by Jo Roskilly, (very much in the spirit of Clive Anderson). Anyone can join in but no-one will be forced to. It promises to be a great deal of fun for performers and audience alike.

RSVP [james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)



## Members evenings

The October members evening will be at 8.00pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Helen Faulkner will be leading a reading of *Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams.

The November members evening will be at 8.00pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Pat Baskerville will be leading a reading of *Hayfever* by Noel Coward.

Both very good plays, I'm sure you'll agree.

I hope to see you at at least one of these evenings.

### The Settlement Players Murder Mystery

On Saturday 23rd September, the Settlement Players performed their first Murder Mystery of 2017 at Howgills. We were commissioned by the Letchworth Inner Wheel for this charitable event.



The evening was a huge success and everyone involved had a great time.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, we shall be performing our second murder Mystery. This time, at the Settlement. As I write this, there are still a few tickets left so if you want to come and see if you can solve our mystery, get your tickets now.



There will be a few cast changes for our second mystery but I can promise you a bevy of femmes fatales.



There will also be more than a few dubious gents with interesting pasts.

The one thing that I think I am at liberty to tell you is that even if you know who the murderer was at Howgills, it won't help you solve our mystery at the Settlement. The guilty party will absolutely not be the same person.

## **Committee report 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The committee met on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September. We discussed the following:

We had a discussion about our Treasury. Jeni Gosling is now our Treasurer but Rob Evans hasn't finished handing everything over to her yet. We can function perfectly well though with help from Rob when we need it. Jeni Gosling has been confirmed as a signatory for our cheques. Cheques for less than £300 need to be signed by one signatory, cheques for more need two.

We talked about our September Opening Night. At the first meeting, we made all the preparations that we needed to make. We learned that the Settlement had been successful in its appeal for a license to sell alcohol. This is very good news for us and it meant that we could have a licensed bar at the Opening Night as well as the other events we have planned for the year. The evening went very well. The play was excellent. We had a big audience and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Some of you paid your subscriptions and we also sold some tickets for Bronte and for the murder mystery evening.

We discussed our November production. The set is taking shape and rehearsals are progressing well. Stephen has been busy shooting promotional videos and taking photos. These will be used to promote the production across a range of social media. Stephen is putting his production crew together now.

Our March production was discussed briefly and dates were set for auditions, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

We talked about our Murder Mystery events. The one that we were commissioned to do by the Letchworth Inner Wheel was an enormous success. Everyone who took part had a wonderful time, as did the audience. We have been asked back to do another one next year. We also discussed our own murder mystery evening on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. We have had many offers of help for the evening. Tickets are selling but there are still a few left. We've made all the technical arrangements that we need to make. We allocated jobs to committee members to be done before the event.

We had a discussion about publicity and social media. Helen and Sarah are going to get login details to be administrators of our Facebook page and we're going to try and make more use of that. Stephen has set up our own Settlement Players YouTube channel. At the moment, it has all of the Bronte promotional videos that he has been making on it. If other directors make use of video then we can upload whatever they do.

We talked about our members evenings. Helen Faulkner is going to lead the one on 4<sup>th</sup> October and Pat Baskerville will be leading on 1<sup>st</sup> November. We decided to use our December members evening for our Christmas party. This will mean that we have the use of the hall from 8.00pm anyway. Following on from a request made earlier in the year from some players who took part in our workshop, we've decided to run some "Whose line is it anyway?" type games. This should be a lot of fun for those taking part as well as watching. Jo Roskilly has volunteered to co-ordinate these games.

There has been a lot of positive feedback about our website. We talked about how the content of the website could be used for the Settlement Players centenary book which we propose to have published to celebrate that event. Alison suggested we approach the Garden City Collection for help from their archivists with that project.

I told the rest of the committee that I would be preparing this newsletter. Tracey asked me to keep the reminder about subscriptions in for another issue. There are quite a few players who haven't yet paid this year. We decided that in future events such as workshops, where we subsidise the cost, will only be subsidised for paid up members in future.

As a result of the Settlement winning its appeal for a drinks license, the rules about smoking at the Settlement have had to be changed. In future, it is only permissible to smoke in the car park at the rear of the building. I said that I would be informing our membership.

We discussed future dates. Our Autumn production 2018 will take be on 15-17<sup>th</sup> November next year. We will be booking slots for our one act play night and Opening night 2018 later. This prompted a discussion about sending plays to the festivals next year. We would like to send Sam Powell's *Three Tables* to the festivals but there is a reluctance to put it on again in April because people will have seen it. We need more plays for April and the festivals.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017. If there is anything that you would like us to discuss then please get in touch with any member of the committee.

The committee is:

**Jim Anderson** - Chair

**Stephen Charles** – Vice Chair

**Jeni Gosling** - Treasurer

**Sarah Rice** - Secretary

**Graeme Bussey**

**Tracy Rudeforth**

**Alison Muir**

**James Barnard**

**Helen Faulkner**

**Pat Baskerville** – Theatre Club Secretary

### **Subscriptions**

It's that time of year again when subscriptions are due. If you haven't already paid them, please pay your subscriptions at your earliest convenience. Your subscriptions enable us to keep doing what we all love to do.

The yearly subscription is still £21 or £16 if you are over 60.

Please pay **Tracy Rudeforth, Jeni Gosling** or directly into our bank.

Our account details are:-

Account Name: Settlement Players

Sort Code: 60 13 08

Account Number: 58834486

Reference: 'Insert your name here'



In this newsletter, we always let you know which Settlement Players productions are coming up. It is a fact, however, that our members are so talented that they often spread themselves and work with other groups. It is very easy to miss these shows if we don't know that they're on and then we miss seeing our friends shine in other arenas. So, I'd like to promote any play that any of our members is involved in in any way in this newsletter. To do this I need your help. If you're reading this, you're a member of the Settlement Players. If you're involved in anything anywhere, please let me know so that I can put it in here.

My e-mail address is [james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)

### **Some dates for your diary:**

Murder Mystery at the Settlement	7 October 2017
November 2017 production	16-18 November 2017 (Bronte)
Christmas Party	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Spring 2018 production	8-10 March 2018 (Dial M for Murder)
Summer 2018 production	14-16 June 2018 (Ghost Train)
Autumn 2018 production	15-17 November 2018

If there is anything that you would like to share with your fellow players in this newsletter, please send it to me at [james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)

The next newsletter will come out on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. If there is anything you want included, please let me have it before then.

I hope to see you soon at the Settlement.

Jim

