

7:45pm

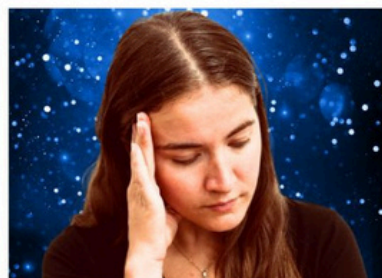
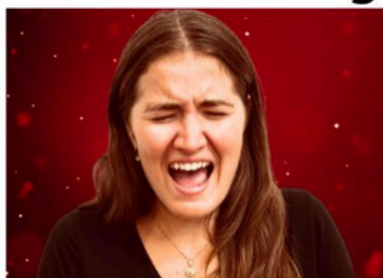
13-15 NOVEMBER 2025

The Little Theatre, Letchworth **Settlement**



RULES for living

The smash hit comedy from **Sam Holcroft**



FREE PROGRAMME

Printed at **FERO**



Rules for Living Director's Notes

The Settlement Players is building a rather nice tradition of showing Christmas-themed plays in the run-up to the season of goodwill. That said, there's not much goodwill on display here, as a pair of brothers return to the family home for a **Christmas lunch** nobody is looking forward to. It's a familiar theme, and a reminder that, when we find ourselves in **social situations we can't control**, we may not be the only person thinking that way.

In Sam Holcroft's hands, what's different here is the lengths the characters go to, to try and protect themselves from the emotions of the situation. The idea of **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy** appears to be new to most of the characters, and the different reactions to the whole concept show a clear generational divide.

But as we learn more about 16-year-old Emma's fragile emotional state, it's clear that her adult relatives have their own foibles and have formed their own coping mechanisms, giving themselves permission to behave selfishly or inappropriately if the right conditions are met – their **"Rules for Living"**. As the cliché goes "hilarity ensues", although some may find the humour is a little close to home, particularly through the card game the family endure in Act 2, where the instruction to **"Let the Bedlam Begin!"** is taken rather too literally.

The actors have had enormous fun building their characters and working through the intricacies of their character's "Rules". They've also worked incredibly hard to bring their characters to life, to the point where they feel like **"real people"** – either people we know (Edith) or people we have more in common with than we'd like. This is a complex play – it's character-led, but so many other elements, including the physicality of the way the "Rules" manifest themselves, a complex dialogue structure and **a lot** of props.

I'm grateful to The Settlement Players for supporting me in taking this on, and for helping me bring all its elements together. This production is a showcase of a lot of **talent**, both onstage and backstage, and is only possible because of the hard work, commitment and conscientiousness of everyone involved, who, once again, have outdone themselves.

I hope you find the play to be as sharp, hilarious, poignant, cringe-inducing and infuriating as I have!



James Barnard
Director
November 2025

Rules for Living Behind the Scenes

Director – James Barnard

Assistant Director - Hamish Robb

Prompt - Beth Moore

Stage Manager – Tracy Rudeforth

ASM – Lewis Muir

Properties - Jo Roskilly

Lighting – Sadie Sadt and Rob Evans

Sound - Phil Ross

Set Construction - Ivor Davies, Rob Evans, Graham Frost, Kevin Hudson, Samantha Powell, Jo Roskilly, Phil Ross

With thanks to

Letchworth Settlement for their ongoing support
www.letchworthsettlement.org.uk

David's Music for running our box office
www.davids-music.co.uk

Am Dram Thank You Ma'am - Herts and Beds

The Facebook group for local theatre in North Herts and South Beds



There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act I and Act II

The bar will be open at the back of the hall
and tea and coffee is available in the main building.



Rules for Living CAST



IVAN PHILLIPS - MATTHEW

Ivan has appeared with the Players in more than 25 productions since 2002, including performances as Septimus Hodge in Arcadia (2011), Alan Turing in Breaking the Code (2013), Branwell in Brontë (2017), the title character in Dracula (2019) and Orsino in Twelfth Night (2024). He was delighted to discover that there might be some rules for living, although he still has his doubts...



JESS LANDY - CARRIE

Since joining the Settlement Players in 2018, Jess has performed in a number of roles, including Gabriel in Flint Street, Megan in Girl On A Train, and, most recently, Olivia in the one-act play Drive. Jess has really enjoyed the challenge of playing Carrie, the would-be comedian, and has benefited from her 2-year-old goddaughter as a sounding board for her jokes (the more appropriate ones!)



MEAGHAN MUNRO - SHEENA

Meaghan is returning to the world of theatre for the first time in 10 years in her debut Settlement Players production. Her previous theatre credits cover a variety of roles in productions such as Sound of Music, Our Town and Miss Saigon. Meaghan is thrilled to have been welcomed into the Settlement Players family, one far less dysfunctional than the family she gets to play in this production of Rules for Living.



STEPHEN CHARLES - ADAM

Stephen joined the Players in 2010 and has contributed as an actor, director, and committee member over the years. His recent performances include Malvolio in Twelfth Night, Tim in The Flint Street Nativity, and Victor in Drive. He's particularly relieved that this production doesn't involve any complex singing - or yellow cross-gartered stockings paired with gold lamé hot pants.



DIANE MORRAD - EDITH

Diane has enjoyed playing a diverse range of characters during her time with the Settlement Players. These have included Ruth Condomine in Blithe Spirit, Mrs Prentice in What the Butler Saw and Celia in Calendar Girls. Playing the family matriarch, Edith, in Rules for Living she feels she may be the most functional member of her dysfunctional family.



BARRY WOOLHEAD - FRANCIS

Barry has performed with the Settlement Players in 2024 as Sir Toby Belch in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. In September 2025 he played Dave in the one act play Drive. Before joining the Settlement Players he was a member of the Lytton Players in Stevenage for 8 years. From 1995 to 2015 he trod the boards in Singapore with The Stage Club, appearing in over 30 productions.



CHARLOTTE BARBER - EMMA

Charlotte has been a member of the players since Fake or Fortune in 2023. She has really enjoyed watching the hard work of everyone transform absolute madness into (slightly) more organised chaos!



DRAMA | WED 26th -
SAT 29th NOV | 7:45PM

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

At The **Lytton**
Theatre

Tickets: £14/£12

**BOOK
NOW**



6'4"
6'2"
6'0"
5'10"
5'8"
5'6"
5'4"
5'2"
5'0"
4'10"
4'8"
4'6"
4'4"
4'2"

*Accidental Death of an
Anarchist*

26-29 November

*Stevenage Lytton
Players*

www.lyttonplayers.co.u

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**Coming up in November
from other groups in the North Herts Drama Network**

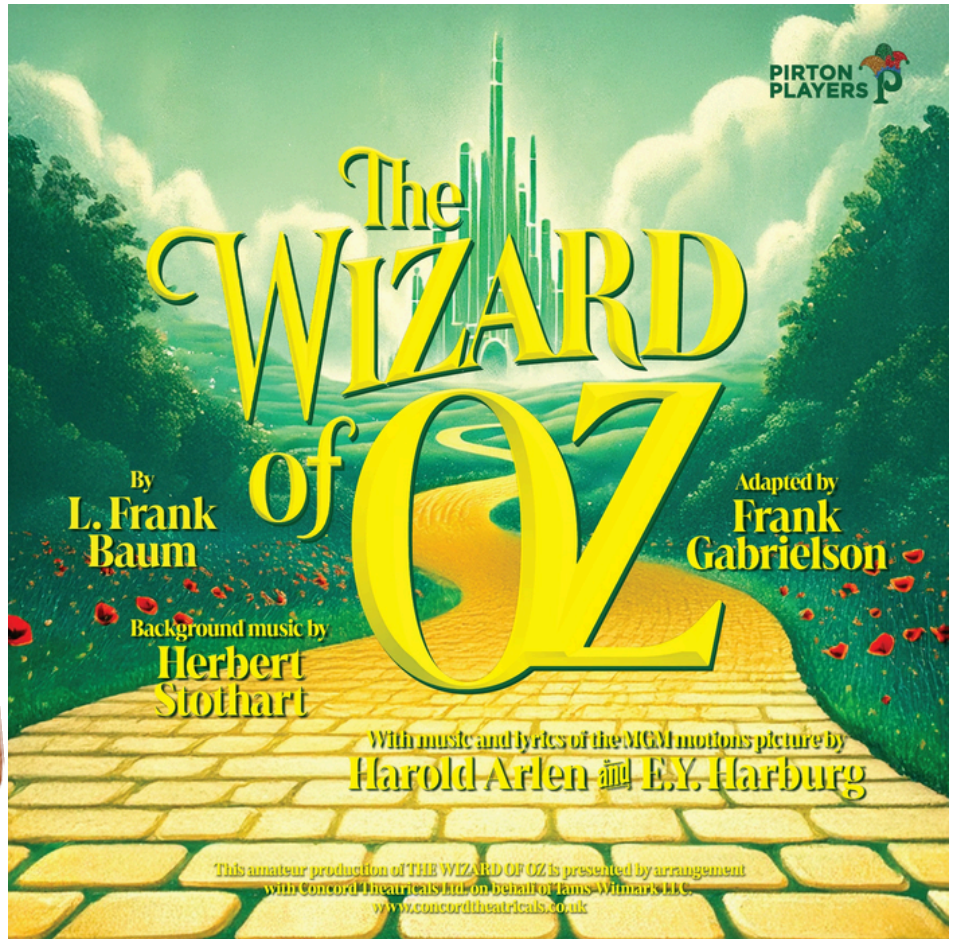


The Wizard of Oz

26-29 November

Pirton Players

www.pirton-players.org



PIRTON PLAYERS

The WIZARD of OZ

By
**L. Frank
Baum**

Adapted by
**Frank
Gabrielson**

Background music by
**Herbert
Stohart**

With music and lyrics of the MGM motions picture by
Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

This amateur production of THE WIZARD OF OZ is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of M.M.S. Wilmart's LLC.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



The Settlement Players



Honorary President - Pat Baskerville

Founded in 1923, the Settlement Players have been entertaining audiences in Letchworth and North Herts for over 100 years. Our aim is to provide a memorable theatrical experience in a local theatre at a reasonable price.

We currently stage three main productions a year in March, June and November. We also showcase one-act plays and the diverse talents of our members at our Opening Night in September.

We always look forward to welcoming new members both on stage and behind the scenes. If you would like more information, please contact us:

contactplayers@settlement-players.org.uk

www.settlement-players.co.uk

or find us on social media

Our next show!

12-14 March 2026
Letchworth Settlement

Agatha Christie

And then
there were **NONE**

Ten strangers. Ten guilty secrets.
One killer.



**Free
Entry!**



CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Friday 28th November
2-7pm**

**Craft Stalls, Raffle,
Cakes, Mulled Wine
& More !**

**Everyone
is
welcome!**

WWW.LETCHWORTHSETTLEMENT.ORG.UK

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