



Bournemouth
Little Theatre News



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To Open Our New Season We Present at Jameson Road

The Thriller

BLACK COFFEE

by Agatha Christie

Starring
Hercule Poirot
The Renowned Belgian Detective

Directed by
Tony Orman



*FOR SIX EVENINGS, MONDAY TO SATURDAY
6TH TO 11TH SEPTEMBER 2004
AT 7.45 PM*

For bookings and more about the show, see page 2

More about **BLACK COFFEE** by Agatha Christie

Poirot is summoned to a formula for a new detective arrives at Amory's Christie's usual suspects — Abbot's Cleve, the country explosive and has reason to believe that a member of his household has stolen it. But by the time the Belgian missing and his host is dead. The cast of characters includes a number of a mysterious foreigner, an exotic young woman, a reserved secretary and an ageing spinster.

And your performers are



Clifford Page



Kathryn Leech



Tommy Egerton



Mike Satchell



Sam Courtney



Hugh Norris



Don Gent



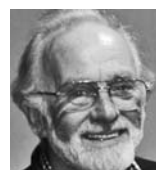
Scott Sullivan



Noel Davenport



Denise Nippard



Peter Dawson



Jack Snell

Agatha Christie made her debut as a crime novelist in 1920 with *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* in which she introduced her Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. By 1930, Poirot had appeared in four more novels and several short stories.

The first theatrical performance of a Christie mystery occurred at the Prince of Wales Theatre in 1928. *Alibi* was an adaptation by Michael Morton of Christie's 1926 novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and it also marked the first stage appearance of Hercule Poirot, played by the young Charles Laughton.

Disappointed by this production, Christie shortly thereafter made her own fledgling effort. *Black Coffee* opened successfully in London on December 8, 1930 at the Embassy Theatre in Swiss Cottage, with film star Francis L. Sullivan playing

Poirot. In April 1931 the play was transferred to St Martin's Theatre in London's West End where it enjoyed a profitable run.

Miss Christie went on to write 16 plays herself during her long career, and has provided inspiration for many other playwrights over the years.

However, as she reflected on the success of *Black Coffee*, Miss Christie felt that her great detective's personality was too overpowering for the theatre, and deleted him from her future adaptations.

We, however, have no hesitation in bringing this "overpowering" detective once more to the stage. We believe our patrons will find great entertainment from watching the super-sleuth exercising his "little grey cells".

Please don't tell anyone how it ends!



Director
Tony Orman



Playwright
Agatha Christie

Please note new phone booking number: 01202 417484

Advanced ticket bookings

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is: **BLTC Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG**

Tickets £7.50 (with concessions) Members £2

1. **WRITE** enclosing cheque and S.A.E. to BLTC Box Office (address above)

OR

2. **PHONE** to book by calling Sue **ONLY** between **7.30 pm and 9.00 pm** on her home phone number **01202 417484**

EITHER Monday 18 August to Friday 22 August

OR Monday 25 August to Friday 29 August

Tickets booked and paid for, and a S.A.E. supplied, will be issued two weeks before the show in the order in which the booking forms were received. If you have **any problems** after receiving your tickets, **phone Sue** between the dates and times set out in 2 above. During the run of the show, telephone enquiries should be made direct to the theatre on 01202 513361 **between 7.00 - 7.45 p.m. only**. Also during the run of the show, the Box Office is open at the theatre for callers in person. **At all other times bookings must be made by post or by telephone as set out above.**

A final plea — if you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend the performance, please let Box Office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

How often do you see a website address as a headline? Not often. But in the case of *this* headline, the reason is so that we can announce that we have finally launched a website that works, albeit crudely. We are grateful for the assistance of Linsey O'Neill, who indicated which buttons we should press on our authoring application (Microsoft FrontPage), and we have produced a simple site on which you can see currently advertised

our coming season's shows, colour posters for the first two shows, a potted history of the Club and a hyperlink to be able to send us emails.

Amusingly, within 24 hours of the site being visible, we received an email from John Tappy, who acts as Webmaster for the Little Theatre Guild, offering us good advice as to how we can improve our product. We do have to agree with him that the photographic nature of the site

means that we have the possibility that some people who use dial-up to go online may find our site somewhat slow to download. We explained to John that we are using the material we actually have in hand at the present time, rather than creating new, HTML-designed product. This means we can put out fairly sophisticated posters and other graphics that were specifically designed to suit our newsletter in ordinary print.

We realise that we have a long way to go before we can improve to the next stage of output more specifically designed for the Internet. But at least we have made a start. We would actually appreciate it if any of our members with any website designing skills would be so kind as to help out with the development and maintenance of this site: we've asked before and no one has responded. Is there anyone out there?

The Studio reborn

Dan Brian originally wrote to us in answer to Chairman Don Gent's article about how BLTC chooses its plays. He had many interesting points to make: but just as this edition was about to go to press, he came up with a new offer — to run a new version of the Studio. It so happened that we had been in the situation of being about to announce that the Studio was being postponed "for technical reasons". So we are very pleased to announce that Dan has agreed to take on the work of creating and running — within the Club — a new **Studio Theatre**. The preliminary details are set out below. We have to say that this story has broken just as we were about to take the newsletter to the printers, so that the fullest details will have to be promulgated later.



Dan Brian

WE ASKED DAN BRIAN to give us a brief glimpse into the way he would be looking at running his new Studio Theatre.

Dan, who is nothing if not direct responded: "The name of the game will be teaching and encouraging actors' professional working methods aimed at expanding their horizons in a way that will really stretch them. That will mean hard work and people putting themselves on the line."

He then told us that the chief aims of the Studio Theatre would be:

1. To operate as a marketing and recruitment tool for BLTC;
2. To recruit new performing talent — specifically in the 20 - 40 age range;
3. To recruit would-be directors;
4. To provide targetted coaching for newcomers and existing members;
5. To provide a performing environment for the inexperienced and those of limited ability.

He went on to say:

"I will be operating the Studio as a series of ensemble coaching classes in which the strengths and weaknesses of the performers will be identified and then worked on, through focused one-to one tuition and group work.

"Basic technique classes will be available for any raw newcomers. Would-be directors will be introduced to the psychology and practicalities of directing through the medium of the group.

"I am considering the possibility of operating occa-

sional Saturday coaching sessions of (say) a four hour duration, when ensemble work can be done, as an additional feature.

"The nature of any Studio 'production' arising from all of this activity would probably undertaken. A lot would depend on the form and function of the 'students' but some kind of 'end of term' showcase would be an obvious aim."

We understand that Dan would wish to use the Club premises on Wednesday evenings throughout the season, with the exception of the Wednesdays before a Club production and, of course, any Wednesday on which the Club was actually performing.

Naturally, the Committee is very pleased at this new development in the life of the Club. Members and Playgoers alike will be aware of Dan's talents. His recent direction at the Club of *Dangerous Corner* brought out the best in a class field of actors. The breadth of his talents is exhibited in the fact that he also designed for the show — and built — an art deco set which totally (and professionally) reflected the brittle world of the 1930s. We reminded everyone of Dan's theatrical and TV career in our May edition, but, in addition, his work locally with ImpAct Theatre has been widely praised.

Anyone in the Club (of *any* age) who would like to participate in the Studio Theatre is asked to contact Dan on **01425 280446** or **07710 969091**.

Our greatest hope is that The Studio Theatre will attract as new members people of an age group who have not been easy to reach in recent years. They in turn will 'fuel' not only the Studio itself, but hopefully our major productions for years to come.



"Okay, you stick to the old method, Dave, but believe me, this is the future."

"And how would you like your steak ... between the ribs, or straight through the sternum? ..."



"It's not the retraining I had hoped for"

NEW WORDS FOR 2004

These are some snappy new definitions from American office workers:

1. **BLAMESTORMING:** Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.
2. **SEAGULL MANAGER:** A manager, who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves.
3. **ASSMOSIS:** The process by which some people seem to absorb success and advancement by kissing up to the boss rather than working hard.
4. **SALMON DAY:** The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end.
6. **MOUSE POTATO:** The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.
7. **SITCOMS:** Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage. What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids.
8. **SWIPEOUT:** A debit or credit card that has been rendered useless because the magnetic strip is worn away from extensive use.
9. **OHNOSECONd:** That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.
10. **GENERICA:** Features of the American landscape that are exactly the same no matter where one is, such as fast food joints, strip malls, and subdivisions.

Competition result

The caption competition in our June edition was won by Mrs Monica Dorey with the caption:



"I'll show 'er indoors who's in the driving seat!"
Mrs Dorey (who has won before) will be entitled to four free tickets to our shows during the current season.

Audition

Dan Brian is holding an audition for the Comedy
Present Laughter

by

Noël Coward

at the theatre, 11 Jameson Road, Winton,
on Friday 20 August 2004.

This will be preceded by a reading of the play at the theatre
on Wednesday 18 August 2004.

Both events start at 7.30 pm

Noël Coward's classic farce is a frothy mixture of innuendo and sophisticated repartée. Set in post-war London, aging matinee idol and hedonist Garry juggles his wife, partners, servants and friends as he flits in and out of frenzied predicaments, and misinterpreted relationships. Garry has surrounded himself with a glittering compliment of eccentric friends and finds himself

caught in many a tumultuous trap with star-struck debutantes, obsessive young writers, and a friend's licentious wife. The fun comes in watching him wriggle free with his melodramatic monologues and petulant put-ons. As effervescent as champagne, this audacious comedy of "bad manners" sparkles with Noël Coward's dazzling wit and restrained sophistication.

There are 5 male and 6 female roles.

Ages range roughly from 23 to 55

If you want to know more about the play you can reach
Dan Brian on 01425 280446 or 07710 969091

Curtain Call Awards

The *Daily Echo* has announced that tickets for the Curtain Call Awards Dinner and Show will cost £20 each. Furthermore there is no advance booking as such. Tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis when payment has been received.

We have purchased and paid for 15 tickets at present.

But we did tell you in the last newsletter to rush your order to Chairman Don Gent on 01202 389725. As this is being typed, not one of you has called him, save for some of those who went last year.

Don would like to swiftly order and pay for additional tickets, but he will not do this unless you contact Don, with a cheque for the number of tickets you want! the final date for paid bookings to be received by the *Daily Echo* is Friday 27 August.

The Entertainment is on Saturday, 9 October 2004 at the Pavilion from about 6.30 pm onwards. Dress is evening wear or formal suit for men.

Each year we hear from people who "would like to have come" but called too late.

You have been warned!



"Would you mind if the magic went out of our relationship?"

AGM

AS WE SAID IN OUR JUNE EDITION, WE are giving everyone full notice that the Annual General Meeting of the members of BLTC will take place on Sunday, 19th September 2004 at 7.30 pm at the theatre in Jameson Road.

In accordance with well established precedent, the wildly popular affair will be followed by drinks at the bar, the first of which will be on the house.

Please note that in order to vote at this meeting, members should either have fully paid their subscriptions in advance, or be life members, so please see to it that you have paid before the date of the meeting.

Reminders

Wed 18 August 2004

An audition for the Comedy *Present Laughter* at the Club at 7.30 pm

Mon-Sat, 6-11 September 2004

Performances of *Black Coffee* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Fri 17 September 2004. Studio starts at the Club at 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7.00 pm)

Sun 19 September 2004. Annual General Meeting of BLTC at the Club at 7.30 pm

Sat 9 October 2004 Curtain Call Awards Presentation at the Pavilion

Mon-Sat, 25-30 October 2004 Performances of *Redemption* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Thurs-Sat, 4-6 November 2004

Performances of *Waiting For Godot* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sat, 13-18 December 2004

Performances of *Present Laughter* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sat, 14-19 February 2005

Performances of *The River Line* At the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sat, 18-23 April 2005

Performances of *The Heiress* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sat, 6-11 June 2005

Performances of *Tons of Money* at the Club at 7.45 pm

The Committee

Chairman Don Gent 389725
Secretary Hugh Norris 761400
Treasurer/
Bar Manager Noel Davenport 766690
Membership Secretary
/Newsletter Tony Orman 603709
Advertising Manager/Derek Hyder 424640
Wardrobe Hilary Jefferys 775715
House Director Clifford Page 874795
Properties Ginnie Waters 718290