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Secretary Di Jones
Treasurer Alan Bishop
Additional Members Julia Ascott, Chris Backway
Megan Brown, Mike Lilley, Charles Marriott, Jo Morrison

Additional Contacts

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock
Membership Secretary Julia Ascott
Box Office Number 07914 763422
Costume Hire Anna Warnock 07966 183328

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting three or four productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to

remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the TSSSC Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

If you would like more information, please contact our Membership Secretary, Julia Ascott on: 020 8239 1010 or visit our website at www.mitreplayers.org.uk

The Mitre Players present

Ira Levin's

DEATH TRAP



April 2019

Director's Notes

Deathtrap was written in 1978 and enjoyed a four-year run on Broadway when it first opened, receiving rave reviews. It successfully transferred to London where it ran from 1978 to 1981 and in 2010, the play was revived in the West End, starring Simon Russell Beale and Claire Skinner. *Deathtrap* is not only a thriller: it is also a meta-play which comments on and pays tribute to the murder mysteries of the time in which it was written. The genre no longer dominates the stage as it once did, except perhaps in the am dram world: watching it is rather like watching a classic movie from the 1970s.

When it was first published, the preface described it as "something so evil that it infects all who touch it". In *Deathtrap*, Levin has taken the basic components of thrillers and horror stories - murder, deceit, innocent dialogue with hidden sinister meanings, plot reversals and unexpected turns of events - and repeatedly twisted and rearranged the pieces. It has been described as a postmodern thriller which wants to mislead us at every turn, confound all our expectations, and provide at least one moment when, according

to one critic, "we levitate from our seats and come down screaming".

In 1982, *Deathtrap* was adapted into a film of the same name, starring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve and a romantic kiss between the two male leads was featured. In 2012, however, the author's estate denied the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Centre permission to revive its production of the play as they wanted to emphasise this aspect and, according to one film critic, "It is a gay relationship, but it's a tacit one".

A hugely popular stage and screen success, this ingeniously-constructed play offers a rare and skilful blending of two priceless theatrical ingredients - gasp-inducing thrills and spontaneous laughter. Unknown dramatist Clifford Anderson has sent his new thriller to award-winning Broadway author Sidney for comment. Without a success to his credit for some years, Sidney plots with his wife Myra about how best to plagiarise *Deathtrap* and when Clifford turns up to discuss the play, events take a sinister turn.

Julie Cumbo

Director

Patrons of The Mitre Players 2019

Chrissy Amer, Lesley Bates, John Benstead, Katherine Bottomley, Chrissy Bright, Tony Britten, Ros Broyd, Berry Butler, Carolyn Chenery, Julian Chenery, Barbara Cobbett, Bill Cobbett, Derek Cooper, Di Copas, Marie Davies, Diana England, Mike Fleet, Mike Fleming, Mark Fleming, Anna Frost, Gill Frost, Geoff Gear, Sue Gear, Enid Ghent, Martin Godber, Hilary Goldsmith, Helen Harries-Rees, Jackie Harris, Carole Lane, David Lane, Colin Marshall, Ian Mcleod, Alison Naish, Andrew Naish, Clare Parsons, Ray Payne, Andrew Rapps, Bernie Regan, Trevor Rowlan, Rosemary Saw, Kate Sheehan, Paul Smith, Chester Stern, Michael Street, Mary Street, Nic Swan, Barry Widger, Robin Wilson

If you would like to become a Patron of The Mitre Players please log on to:
www.mitreplayers.org.uk

**Our Summer tour:
Apollo Theatre, Newport, Isle of Wight**

Bugsy Malone

With Grown Ups

**TSSSC Clubhouse
16th—19th July 2019**

**Tickets from:
ticketsource.co.uk/mitreplayers
(from 1st May)**

Behind The Scenes

Director

Julie Cumbo

Set Design & Construction Manager

Alan Collins

Stage Manager

Julia Ascott

Costumes

Anna Warnock

Lighting

Alan Bishop

Sound

James McLeod

Props

Elizabeth Lee & Sue Long

Scenic Artist

Jill Wilson

Set Construction/Backstage Assistance

Robert Critchett, Liz Dolman
Julia Gibbs, Derek Lee, Jon Lee
Charles Marriott, Andy Thompson
Denver Watkins, Vicky Watkins

Prompter

Jo Morrison

Photography

Charles Marriott

Production Manager

Jo Morrison

Programme

Alan Bishop & Anna Warnock

Box Office

Di Jones

Front of House

Megan Brown and
Friends of The Mitre Players

Our Autumn Production

Presentation Evening: April 28th

Auditions: June 13th

Performances: The Mitre Theatre: w/c Oct. 20th

Email bigfish@mitreplayers.org.uk if you would like further info

Big Fish

A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

The Mitre Players

Present

DEATHTRAP

By Ira Levin

Directed by Julie Cumbo

16th to 19th April 2019

The TSSSC Clubhouse, Sanderstead
South Croydon

The Mitre Players would like to thank everyone at the TMWA/TSSSC Clubhouse for their help and understanding during our rehearsal period.

Please remember to turn off your mobile phone.

Deathtrap is an amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

Meet the Cast

Julie Cumbo (Director)

Julie has long been involved in local amateur dramatic circles and has been a member of The Mitre Players for many years, having performed in several plays, including *Daisy Pulls it Off* and *Catherine Howard*. A retired teacher, she lives in Reigate and keeps herself busy as a private tutor, a guide at Tate Britain as well as being a member of two other drama groups which are a bit closer to home. A couple of years ago, she directed *Proof* for Mitre Players and is thrilled to be directing here again, especially such a high quality thriller as *Deathtrap*.

Sarah "H" Gordon (Myra Bruhl)

She caught a nasty case of am dram fever back in 2009 and is still 'suffering' a decade later! She has worked with a number of local societies (in a diverse range of plays including Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, Agatha Christie and Mike Leigh), joining The Mitre Players in 2018 to play an Austrian clairvoyant in *White Liars*. She is delighted to return (this time as a highly strung American wife) in the deliciously clever thriller *Deathtrap*, working with two talented friends from the White Liars team, as well as two fabulous 'newbies'.

Paul Grace (Sidney Bruhl)

Despite having been a Mitre for a little over twenty years, Paul would like to highlight that he is still far too young to play this part and that all (most!) of the grey hair and wrinkles have been painted on! Over the years he's taken part in pantos, plays and musicals from here to Cornwall, built set, made tea, driven vans and last year turned his hand to directing. This may be Paul's last stage appearance for a little while as from this summer he will be spending his time entertaining the captive audience of his first child!

Simon Long (Clifford Anderson)

Simon has been a member of the Mitre Players for over eight years and has been performing since the age of five. First appearing with the Mitres in *Catherine Howard*, there followed numerous musicals and plays, including *A Slice of Saturday Night*, *Me & My Girl*, and he was The Ghost of Christmas Present in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* - possibly his favourite part so far. Most recently he played Tolya in *A Question of Attribution*. *Deathtrap* is the first thriller Simon has been in, and he has relished the opportunity to explore this amazing play with a twisted edge. It has been great fun to slowly get to know his character Clifford Anderson who may not be all he appears to be...

Geoff Thorn (Porter Milgrim)

This is Geoff's first appearance with The Mitre Players and he is delighted to have been offered this opportunity.

He has been a member of The Chipstead Players since 2000 and was also privileged to have taken a part in Michael Palin's *The Weekend* for Kingswood Amateur Dance and Dramatic Society (KADDS) last summer.

He has played many comedy characters over the years including Rene in *'Allo, 'Allo* and several dames, notably Widow Twankey. His next outing will be at The Courtyard Theatre, 20 - 25 May, in Nick Dear's *The Dark Earth and the Light Sky* for The Chipstead Players. He hopes you will enjoy this intriguing play and looks forward to entertaining you again soon.

Isobel Warner (Helga Ten Dorp)

Isobel has been working as an actor and creative since graduating from Loughborough University with an English degree in 2016. Her theatre company, Gutter Street Productions, produces dynamic new work with emerging writers and performers. Isobel honed her skills as a director and script developer at The Park Theatre and she is currently training in Screen Acting at MN Academy. Isobel has performed in films, music videos, commercials and plays. Her recent theatre credits include *Nowhere Orange* at Theatre N16 and *The Fall at The Criterion*, which she also co-directed with the support of the National Youth Theatre. Isobel was among the first cohort of girls at Trinity School and is excited to be performing locally again as she makes her Mitre Players debut in *Deathtrap*.

The action takes place in Sidney Bruhl's study in the Bruhl home in West Port, Connecticut

ACT I

Scene 1: An afternoon in October of 1978

Scene 2: That Evening

Scene 3: Two hours later

Interval of 20 minutes - The Bar will be open

ACT II

Scene 1: Two weeks later, morning

Scene 2: A week later, night

Scene 3: A week later, afternoon