

CLUBHOUSE PERFORMANCES 20th AND 21st FEBRUARY 2025

THE

FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE 24TH FEBRUARY -1ST MARCH 2025

"MITRE» Players

ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN

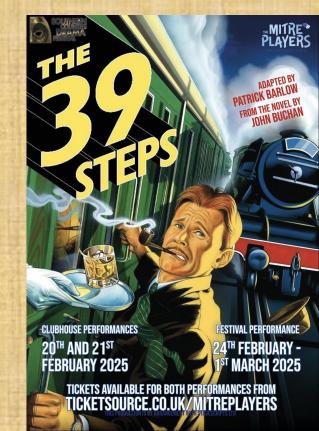
TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH PERFORMANCES FROM TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MITREPLAYERS

Jerri-Lee McManus - Director



Louise Gauntlett- Production Manager/props





TECHNICAL TEAM



Ziggi Szafranski – Lighting

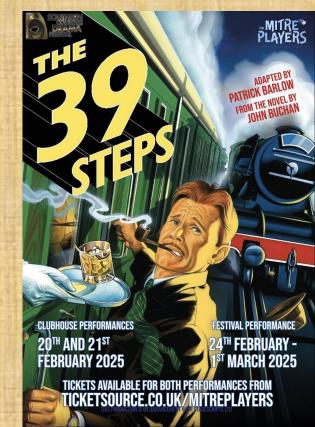


Del Lee – Stage Manager



Jon Lee - Sound





Southern County Drama

Southern county drama festival is a one-act play competition, held at the barn theatre in Oxted.

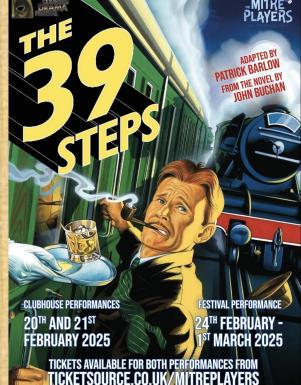
Over the week beginning 24th February there are adjudicated performance. After all performances on the night, an adjudication is given to all plays from that night in front of the whole audience.

As we won the the best adult play last year we know that our performance will be held on Saturday 1st March. After the performance this evening there is an awards ceremony held.

- The fun of the festival is only having a 30 min slot to plot the lights in, no tech run at The Barn and only 10 mins to completely set your stage and then just 5 mins to clear at the end. Running over timings can loose you points.

- If Mitres win best Adult play of the Southern Counties round (like Heavens Above earlier this year), there will then be a further performance for the semi final round (this is usually a Saturday sometime in May). Further rehearsals would then be scheduled to keep the play ticking over and any adjustments made before performing again. Anyone auditioning should bear this in mind for their availability.





Play History

The 39 Steps is quite well know because it has a long history that includes a novel, a movie, a West End production, and a Broadway run:

Novel

Scottish author John Buchan's 1915 adventure novel The 39 Steps inspired the plot for the movie and the stage adaptation.

•Movie

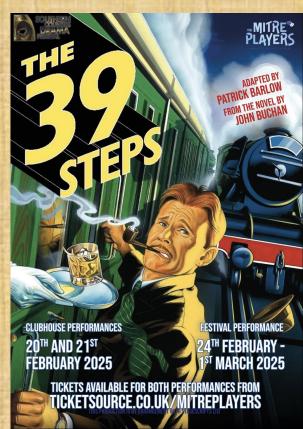
Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film adaptation of The 39 Steps is considered a classic and one of the best British films ever made. The movie stars Robert Donat as Richard Hannay, a Canadian civilian in London who tries to stop a spy organization from stealing British military secrets.

West End production

The West End production of The 39 Steps was a hit and moved to Broadway, where it won two Tony Awards and other awards.

Stage adaptation

Patrick Barlow's stage adaptation of The 39 Steps is a fast-paced whodunit that some say is a lot of fun. The play features the same spy plot, romance. 45 mins long.



The 39 Steps: The even more abridged version

It is a fast paced comedic adaptation of the original. A classic spy thriller that condenses the story line of the original even further.

The plot centres on Richard Hannay, an ordinary man drawn into the world of espionage after a chance encounter with a mysterious woman who has is later murdered in his apartment. On the run , Hannay must evade both the police and enemy agents as he uncovers a dangerous spy ring known as "The 39 Steps".

Along the way, he meets an array of quirky characters including Pamela, his love interest, in his quest to clear his name and foil the spies' sinister

SYNOPSIS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5WpVzKW_qY





CHARACTERS

Written for 4 actors.

Richard Hannay – Played by a man throughout

Hapless hero of the play. An ordinary Man who has led a pretty hum-drum existence, finds himself fleeing from the wrongful accusations of murder through a series of improbable adventures.

AnnaBella Schmitt and Pamela – both played by one woman

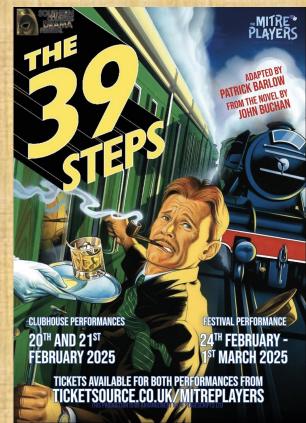
Annabella is is the beautiful mysterious German spy who he met at the London theatre. Pamela is the attractive woman Hannay meets on the train to Scotland as he runs from the police.

Clowns - 2 actors to play several characters (2 men or 1 woman and 1 man)

Compere Mr Memory Heavy I and 2 Business Man I and 2 Paper boy Porter Professor Jordan and Mrs Jordan voices Sheriff Mr and Mrs McGarrigle Mr Dunwoody Mr McQuarrie Super intendant Albright Police man I and 2

Clear differentiation between characters as they will be required to show multiple characters in one scene. Scottish and German accents needed!





VISION

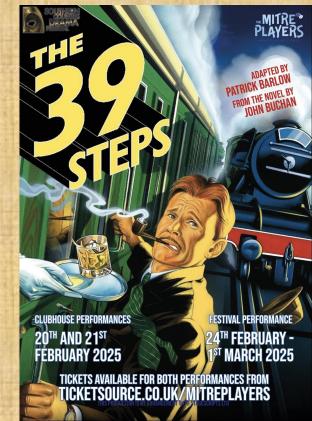
Comedy – So comic timing very important, quick wit, slapstick humour, exaggerated accents. Comedy comes from the speed of the action.

High energy performance – rapid costume changes, speedy action, fast-pace dialogue (even says in the script not to pause, unless it explicitly says)

Minimal set and props – luggage for train seats, moving window frame with blind, rooms gestured with doorways.

The play captures a sense of old-fashioned adventure whilst also poking fun at spy thrillers. The streamlined nature of this adaptation should leave the audience laughing as they follow Hannay through the absurdly over the top whirlwind adventure.





AUDITIONS

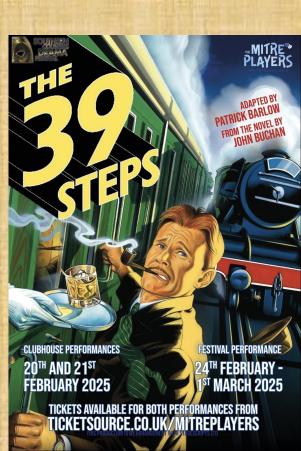
Date: Sunday 24th November Time: 6pm – 9pm

Group audition style depending on how many people attend.

Having people swap in and out of acting with each other.

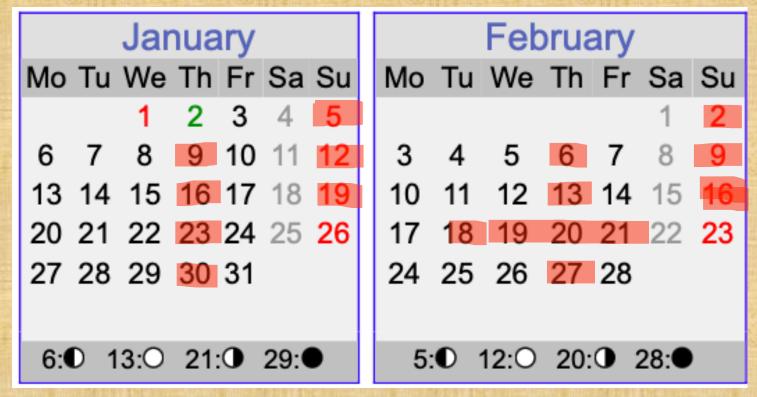
I will be looking for... Comic timing Accents – Scottish and German Relationships between characters

Hannay – Pages 6-7, 22-23, 50-51 Annabella – Pages 6-7 Pamela – Pages 50-51 Clowns: Mr memory and compere – Pages 2-3 Professor – Pages 22-23





REHEARSAL DATES



Rehearsal times: Thurs- 7-10 Sun- 3-6

Festival performance – Saturday Ist March

May need to add more rehearsals nearer the time. These will be on a Tuesday.

NOTE: Membership must be paid if a part is offered. Performance fee - $\pounds 20$

