

THE MITRE
PLAYERS

THE GHOST TRAIN

BY ARNOLD RIDLEY



8TH - 11TH APRIL 2026

THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE, SANDERSTEAD

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



The TSSSC, Lime Meadow Avenue
Sanderstead CR2 9AS

President **Alasdair Kennedy**

Past Presidents **Mark Bishop**
Chris Tarrant
Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents **Julia Ascott**
Alan Bishop
Ian Brown
Alan Collins
Julia Gibbs
Di Jones
Warwick Jones
Derek Lee
Peter Stockwell
Andy Thompson
Martin Tyrrell
Anna Warnock
Colin Warnock
Jill Wilson

Chairman **Ziggi Szafranski**

Treasurer **Louise Gauntlett**

Secretary **Jo Morrison**

Committee Members **Megan Brown**
Ros Broyd
Marcus Edwards
Jon Lee
Kate Slingerland

Patrons **Chrissy Bright**
Berry Butler
Mark Fleming
Anna Frost
Gill Frost
Martin Godber
Helen Cox
Carol Inge
David Lane
Carole Lane
Colin Marshall
Clare Martin Reed
Ian McLeod
Alison Naish
Andrew Naish
Andrew Rapps
Trevor Rowlan
Paul Smith
Chester Stern
Niccola Swan

If you would like to hear more about us or join our mailing list, please visit our website or use the QR code to sign up online

www.mitreplayers.org.uk



The Ghost Train

by Arnold Ridley

adapted by Jocelyn and Nicholas Ridley

Cast

Saul Hodgkin **Marcus Edwards**
Richard Winthrop **Warwick Jones**
Elsie Winthrop **Julia Gibbs**
Charles Murdock **Simon Long**
Peggy Murdock **Imogen Broyd**
Miss Bourne **Julia Ascott**
Teddie Deakin **Livvee-Rae Turner**
Julia Price **Penelope Brown**
John Sterling **Paul Bowles**
Jackson **Mark Hardy**

Production Team

Director **Ros Broyd**
Stage Manager **Alan Collins**
Assistant Stage Manager **Derek Lee**
Sound **James McLeod**
Lighting **Alan Bishop**
Set Construction **Carolyn Backway**
Liz Dolman
Jon Lee
Ray Locke
Ziggi Szafranski
Andy Thompson
Scenic Art **Paul Bowles**
Jill Wilson
Wardrobe **Anna Warnock**
Props **Marcus Edwards**
Jo Morrison
Publicity **Jerri-Lee McManus**
Production Manager **Kate Slingerland**
Front of House Manager **Louise Gauntlett**
Photography and Programme **Ziggi Szafranski**

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the first and second halves when the bar will be open for drinks

This amateur production of "The Ghost Train (Revised)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

ROS BROYD DIRECTOR

It must have been a year ago that the seed was sown by some wit on the committee that I might leave the land of youth theatre and direct something for The Mitres. A show for "grown-ups"? Challenge accepted and play reading began!

It didn't take long before I was completely captivated by the plot of *The Ghost Train*. A period piece with a small cast, single set, and roles with a wide variety of ages and characters, it seemed an ideal choice for The Mitres at the Clubhouse.



Watching the black and white film with Arthur Askey in the role of Teddie, I nearly gave up in despair and to this day I haven't managed to endure it to the end. It did, however, suggest to me the concept of presenting the play as a black and white film, highlighted with touches of colour in props and costumes. It was an idea which was not met with unmitigated joy by the design team, but one which I hope you think is interesting and which I think has been executed quite brilliantly.

Whilst The Mitre Players acting members deservedly receive many accolades for their performances, the back-stage stalwarts are an incredibly talented and dedicated bunch. Their skills ensure sets, sound and lighting effects are truly amazing and lift shows to professional standards. They are keen to train up more recruits, pass on their skills and ensure the continuation of the company. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in getting involved then please do reach out!

The talented cast of this show have been a delight to direct and I feel privileged to have worked with them. The seemingly random cries and exclamations have not been easy to learn, many dependent on sound and light cues, but they have worked incredibly hard to produce a performance which we hope you thoroughly enjoy.

Please note the videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of United Kingdom Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and an actionable offence.

Please remember to switch off all mobile phones.

JULIA ASCOTT MISS BOURNE

Julia was very surprised to be cast as a grumpy old lady in this production so is having to draw on her many years of experience at the Mitre Training School! She has been seen recently in Lloyd Park trying to catch a parakeet to be a companion for Joey. She has mostly enjoyed rehearsing the second half of the play where her lines seem to be easier to remember...



PAUL BOWLES JOHN STERLING

Towed out of the sidings, dusty, leaky and lacking power, Paul has been put back on the tracks again. No bells or whistles, I'm afraid, but hopefully a little steam!

It is definitely time for his retirement but, if we can fire him up again, he hopes to do a Sterling job...



PENELOPE BROWN JULIA PRICE

Penelope auditioned for *The Ghost Train* at 41 weeks pregnant, and popped out her little miracle two days later. Now 12 weeks postpartum, she balances rehearsals with nappies, lines with lullabies, and curtain calls with caffeine.

She is delighted to be here, sleep-deprived, and powered largely by snacks and applause!



IMOGEN BROYD PEGGY MURDOCK

Imogen has loved being part of this show. It's been a great chance to see how many different worried facial expressions can be managed within 2 hours!

This is the second time Imogen has performed as an adult, including *The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night-Time*; maybe something light-hearted next time?



MARCUS EDWARDS SAUL HODGKIN

From Props to Performer, Marcus has dived into the deep end once more with *The Ghost Train*.

A dishevelled, ageing Stationmaster was not on his bucket list of roles in all honesty, but he's thoroughly enjoyed throwing himself into the part. His last character was a gormless Goblin, so maybe the Universe is trying to tell him something!



JULIA GIBBS ELSIE WINTHROP

Julia has been 'loving it all!' as a Mitre Player since school, was last seen as the studio production assistant, Gloria, in *The Sunshine Boys*, and before that collating and creating a mountain of props for *The Thirty-Nine Steps* last year.

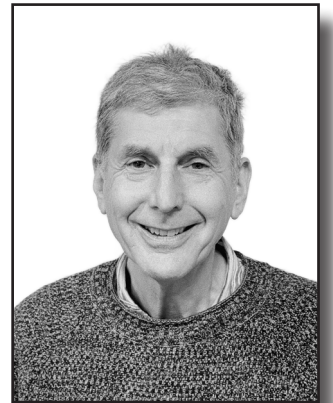
It has been very confusing during rehearsals for *The Ghost Train* with three 'Julia's!



MARK HARDY JACKSON

Mark is very happy to be joining The Mitre Players for the first time. Having previously played Sir Walter Elliot in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* at the Miller Centre, he is pleased to be joining this rather more modern 'classic'.

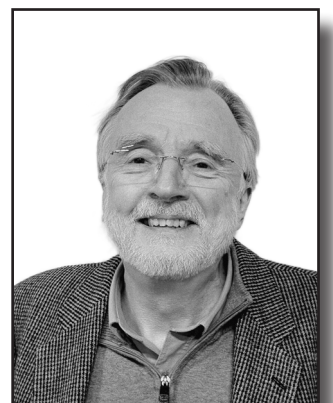
As a railway enthusiast and a lover of ghost stories, *The Ghost Train* is a wonderful fit and he is thrilled to be part of the team.



WARWICK JONES RICHARD WINTHROP

The psychological and supernatural themes dealt with in *The Ghost Train* have made Warwick think deeply about life's mysteries. It has also made the rest of the cast reflect on the deepest mystery of all - why he hasn't retired.

As ever, he promises to do so after the show.



SIMON LONG CHARLES MURDOCK

Simon is thrilled to appear as Charles Murdock in *The Ghost Train*, reworked with a cheerful Cockney twist. He has embraced the chaos, sharpened his reactions, and occasionally even found his cues! Previous appearances include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and Franz in *Rock of Ages*.

Simon hopes you enjoy the performance.



LIVVEE-RAE TURNER TEDDIE DEAKIN

Although Livvee-Rae was not alive in the 1920s, they have tried their best to adapt themselves into the lovable, somewhat respectable joker, Teddie, and has loved every step of the way.

With this being Liv's first serious play with The Mitre Players, they are grateful to be given the opportunity and are hoping that it is the first of many.



S	W	T	S	O	H	G	L	U	E	O	N	T	E
A	R	N	O	L	D	M	N	L	E	I	A	C	I
T	S	A	U	L	O	O	C	U	T	H	S	R	D
T	E	E	C	S	T	O	R	M	H	R	A	L	D
R	N	S	D	T	A	R	A	U	R	L	T	T	E
A	R	S	R	I	I	G	E	R	I	A	R	S	T
I	U	T	A	C	L	N	N	D	L	A	U	E	P
N	O	E	H	K	U	I	N	O	L	E	R	L	A
N	B	R	C	E	J	T	L	C	E	E	D	R	R
N	S	L	I	T	U	I	R	K	R	A	O	A	A
T	S	I	R	T	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	H	K
E	I	N	O	M	E	W	H	T	C	L	O	C	E
A	M	G	I	T	O	I	Y	E	L	D	I	R	E
A	O	P	O	R	H	T	N	I	W	A	U	U	T

CHARLES
JACKSON
TICKET
STERLING
WINTHROP
STORM
SAUL
TRAIN
GHOST
THRILLER
RIDLEY
ELSIE
MURDOCK
MISS BOURNE
WAITING ROOM
RICHARD
TEDDIE
HAT
ARNOLD
JULIA
PARAKEET

ABOUT THIS ADAPTATION...

The theatre professionals we've invited to read our adaptation of *The Ghost Train* have asked us what it is we've changed. This is exactly what we were hoping for. It was never our intention to re-write or modernise a play that's been a firm favourite for almost a hundred years. The plot is perfect. The characters are credible and engaging. The dramatic structure is a model for well-made plays of the era. Our aim has been simply to refresh some elements of the dialogue to make the piece easier for a modern cast to perform and a modern audience to enjoy.

It's not been our wish in any way to 'update' the dialogue, but there are expressions and modes of speech in the original that, being unfamiliar, can appear puzzling or unintentionally comic. These can distract the audience, disconcert the actor and disrupt the flow of the play. Wherever we have felt it helpful to make substitutions, we have tried to be true to the language of the period and to retain the rhythm of the original dialogue.

An issue we have tried to address is the relationship between the sexes. The attitudes of men and women in the 1920s were very different from those of today. This doesn't, of course, justify any attempt to disguise or reform such attitudes but the language in which they're expressed may jar. We have therefore re-phrased certain exchanges to make them more readily acceptable to a modern audience.

Would Arnold Ridley approve of the changes we've made? We're confident he would. He was, above all, a man of the theatre. A play for him was what occurred on the stage and much more than what was written on the page. His maxim was always if it works do it. Copies of *The Ghost Train* in his archive show evidence of any number of tweaks and re-writes made to suit the requirements of a particular production.

We hope that our adaptation will bring new life to a play that's given so much enjoyment to so many people for so long.

Jocelyn and Nicolas Ridley

ARNOLD RIDLEY PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Bath - and always a proud West Countryman - Arnold Ridley is best known today for playing the part of Private Godfrey in *Dad's Army*. This came at the end of a long and varied career in the theatre. He was a prolific playwright, a skilled stage and film director and a versatile actor with a wide range of theatre, radio, television and film credits.

In contrast to the gentle Private Godfrey, he fought in both the First and Second World Wars and had the unusual distinction of being invalided out of the British Army on two occasions. After being evacuated from France in 1940, he joined the Local Defence Volunteers which later became the Home Guard.

In addition to *The Ghost Train*, he wrote more than thirty plays and a variety of short stories and newspaper and magazine articles. His plays were described by *The Guardian* as: "tightly plotted, witty, compassionate, often exciting, about ordinary people doing extraordinary things".

Arnold Ridley died in 1984 and his ashes are buried in his parents' grave in Bath Abbey Cemetery.



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES FROM THE MITRE PLAYERS

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL

DIRECTOR: JOHN HARRIES-REES

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: PHILIPPA CALDECOURT

CHOREOGRAPHER: PAUL COHEN

PERFORMANCES: 22ND - 25TH JULY 2026

VENUE: THE MITRE THEATRE, TRINITY SCHOOL

Old Time Music Hall

DIRECTOR: JOHN HARRIES-REES

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: COLIN WARNOCK

PERFORMANCES: 17TH - 19TH DECEMBER 2026

VENUE: THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE

Remember, tickets for all our shows and events
can be found online at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/mitreplayers

Make sure you come along to our AGM on Sunday
7th June, here at 6pm, where we will be electing a
new Committee, celebrating the previous year and
launching our 2026 - 2027 season including our
return to The Minack Theatre in August 2027!