

THE GRANGE PLAYHOUSE

2025/26
SEASON



Join us for our 74th Season
www.grangeplayers.co.uk



Join us for our 78th Season
www.fellowship-players.co.uk

WELCOME BACK!



Hello wonderful theatre lovers!

I can't tell you how thrilled I am to welcome you to our 74th season here at The Grange Playhouse! What an incredible milestone—and one we're marking with more of the magic you've come to expect from us: award-winning theatre packed with laughter, thrills, and heart.

We've got a fantastic line-up ahead—bursting with energy, passion, and fresh creativity. I'm especially excited to welcome some new directors, as well as old favourites, into the spotlight, each bringing their unique flair and vision to our stage.

As always, you—our amazing audience—are at the heart of everything we do. Your cheers, your feedback, your support... it means the world. We can't wait to share these stories with you!

Loving what we do? Then come join the fun! Whether you're a natural performer or prefer the buzz backstage, there's a place for everyone with The Grange Players. We're more than just a theatre group—we're a family, and we'd love you to be part of it.

Don't Dream It...Be It

Rod Bissett

Chair - Grange Players



Members of the
Little Theatre Guild
of Great Britain

**ALL PERFORMANCE
TIMES: 7.30pm**

**TICKET PRICES
FROM £12.00**

**By purchasing a ticket,
you are agreeing to the terms
and conditions of sale.**

The ticket holder is responsible for considering whether an event is suitable based on the suggested guidelines indicated by the Theatre in our events programme and on our website.

The Theatre reserves the right to change, reschedule or cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances and to offer promotions, offers and discounts on tickets where it is in the theatre's best interests.

GRANGE PLAYHOUSE

Broadway North, Walsall WS1 2QB

Tel: 01922 625100

Box Office: 07909 036 835

(Theatre phone only manned during runs of play)

www.grangeplayers.co.uk

2025-26 RUNNING ORDER

Flat Spin - The Grange Players

September 11th - 20th 2025

Night at the Musicals - Sandy Smith

September 26th 2025

Spirit Level - The Fellowship Players

October 9th - 18th 2025

The Monkey's Paw & The Ghost of Jerry Bundler - The Clockwork Donkey Theatre

October 25th 2025

Mindgame - The Grange Players

November 13th - 22nd 2025

Peter Pan Jr. - Thespian Arts

December 6th & 7th 2025

A Christmas Carol - Christopher Commander

December 12th 2025

Jeeves and Wooster in 'Perfect Nonsense' - The Grange Players

January 8th - 17th 2026

How to be Happy - The Fellowship Players

February 12th - 21st 2026

The Mirror Crack'd - The Grange Players

March 12th - 21st 2026

Lucky Me - The Fellowship Players

April 16th - 25th 2026

The Odd Couple (Female Version) - The Grange Players

May 13th - 22nd 2026

Quiz - The Fellowship Players

June 18th - 27th 2026

Love... Or Best Offer - The Grange Players

July 16th - 25th 2026

THE GRANGE PLAYERS 2024-25 REVIEWS



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

The set design was simplistic in every one of the sixteen scenes, with minimal furnishings and a dark and moody ambience. Stan Vigurs and Sam Evans deserve high praise for their technical expertise, skill, and insight. Their clever design, in collaboration with Dawn's precise direction, is commendable, one of the most professional operations for an amateur stage I have seen. Congratulations to the cast and crew for a marvelous performance. It was an excellent interpretation of the play, with meticulous pacing and details, thanks to the director's vision and innovative lighting effects.



THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

This was amateur theatre at its very best. This was a remarkable bit of theatre, a talented trio of actors who performed to a professional standard. The entire production was a 'howling success,' and congratulations go to Rod as director and to every member of the cast and crew.



THE GRANGE PLAYERS 2024-25 REVIEWS



EDUCATING RITA

Carl Horton and Helen Freebury, who played Dr Frank Bryant and Susan 'Rita' White respectively, absolutely nailed the challenging task of carrying the entire two Act play. Carl Horton brought a real pathos to the role of Frank, his overall performance as Dr Frank Bryant was magnificent. Helen Freebury brought Rita to life in a way that was entirely her own. Her portrayal of the outspoken hairdresser was brilliant in its exhaustive energy. Congratulations to the director, Sara Bissett, for this was a play that was impressive in every respect, the ideal cast, direction and setting. This was reflected in the well-deserved applause from the audience in recognition of a drama done exceptionally well.



CLASS

Sam Allan has every reason to be very proud of the outcome of her tenacious efforts for this play had a huge sense of realism. The stage setting was every bit a primary school classroom, with 'busy' walls, displaying phonics; key words; a flow diagram of a lifecycle, artistic wall displays and a white board. Tony Orbell's performance as the well-meaning, precise, idealistic middle-class teacher, Mr McCafferty was outstanding. Damien Dickens played the very demanding role of Brian, a very complex character, to perfection. Emily Brownhill was confident and self-assured on stage, a natural performer, her ability to multi role was impressive. Many congratulations to director, Sam Allan and the very talented actors who gave a flawless, solid performance of a play which explored issues surrounding the class system, learning difficulties and family dynamics.



FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS 2024-25 REVIEWS



TRAP FOR A LONELY MAN

Fabulous night really kept us guessing ... I was thoroughly impressed with this. Once again, the Players don't disappoint! Another excellent show.



SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

We are speechless....the yarn, the acting, the sets and how the theatre became a part of the story and the production team and director all deserve awards. Off Pies for a while now!



THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE

It was incredible! An extremely talented cast who performed the story so well. A huge well done to all involved! It's a wonderful play, so well written and performed. Prepare to have your gut wrenched. Still had tears in my eyes on the way home.



THE GOOD LIFE

Saw it last night. Such a funny show. I think it was better than the original. Really enjoyed it. Well done to the cast, director & set designer.

JOIN US!

We welcome new interested members from age 16 years upwards, to learn theatre skills.

Annually we hold several social events, play readings, front of house training, wardrobe, sound, lighting, stage make up, back stage work, props, speech training, acting, directing, set building and painting, in fact just about every aspect of theatre performance.

Contact via email: arts.director@grangeplayers.co.uk, or contact the theatre on **07909 036 835** and leave a message and someone will be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you and our Arts Director, Sara Bissett, looks forward to meeting you!



FlatSpin

WRITTEN BY
ALAN AYCKBORN

DIRECTED BY
LUCY TALBOT

11TH - 20TH
SEPT 2025

This amateur production of "FlatSpin" is presented
by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel
French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



FLAT SPIN

11 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2025

WRITTEN BY ALAN AYCKBORN // DIRECTED BY LUCY TALBOT

A night of romance in her luxurious riverside apartment with the good-looking stranger from next door. How can Joanna possibly go wrong? Except the flat isn't hers, her name isn't Joanna, it's Rosie (she's an actress), and heaven knows what the good-looking stranger is really after. Instead of romance comes considerable danger ... Rosie's only way out is to play the role to the end.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 2nd August 2025





MINDGAME

13 - 22 NOVEMBER 2025

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ // DIRECTED BY ROD BISSETT

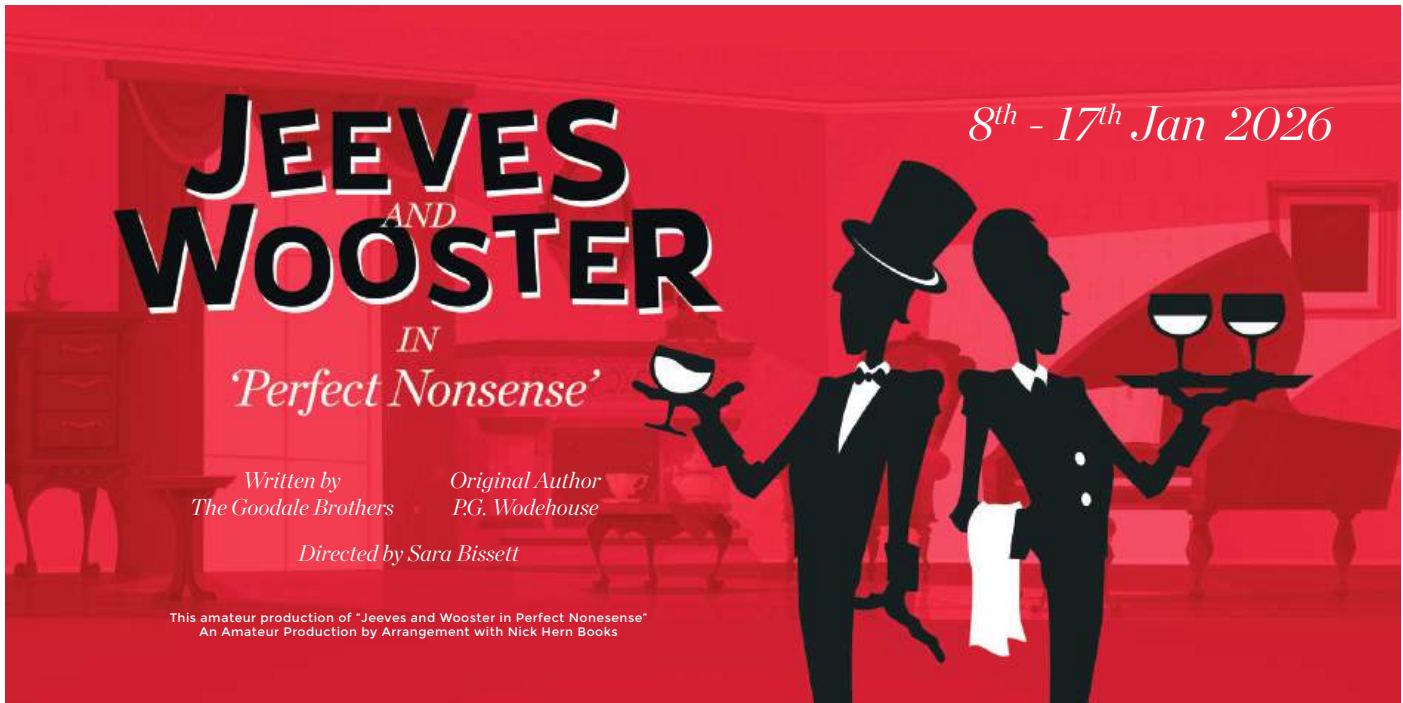


A prominent author of novels and “true crime” stories enters a secluded mental institution to interview a serial killer who has been confined there for thirty years. The superintendent of the institution does not want the interview to take place and is hostile. In an effort to make the writer understand what it means to be insane, he restrains him in a strait jacket; then he pulls out a scalpel! The inmates have taken over the asylum and killed all of the staff except for ‘Nurse Plimpton’. Actually, a doctor, she tries to intervene and is gruesomely dispatched or is she? Mindgame was a riveting hit in London’s West End and later Off-Broadway, starring Keith Carradine directed by Ken Russell.

‘A truly gripping thriller [that] keeps you guessing and marvelling from its deceptively normal opening to its fearful climax.’ - The Stage

‘Probes the terror of madness...while exhibiting roguish love of the macabre.’ - London Evening Standard

Tickets on sale from Saturday 4th October 2025



JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN 'PERFECT NONSENSE'

8 - 17 JANUARY 2026

WRITTEN BY THE GOODALE BROTHERS ORIGINAL AUTHOR P.G. WODEHOUSE

DIRECTED BY SARA BISSETT



An inventive, fast-paced comedy featuring P.G. Wodehouse's iconic double act. Winner of the 2014 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. When a country house weekend takes a turn for the worse, Bertie Wooster is unwittingly called on to play matchmaker - reconciling the affections of his host's drippy daughter Madeline Bassett with his new-fancying acquaintance Gussie Fink-Nottle. If Bertie, ably assisted by the ever-dependable Jeeves, can't pull off the wedding of the season he'll be forced to abandon his cherished bachelor status and marry the ghastly girl himself! Based on P.G. Wodehouse's delightfully bonkers stories, especially The Code of the Woosters, the Goodale Brothers' dramatisation premiered at the Duke of York's Theatre, West End, in November 2013, prior to a UK tour.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 29th November 2025



THE MIRROR CRACK'D

12 - 21 MARCH 2026

WRITTEN BY AGATHA CHRISTIE ADAPTED BY RACHEL WAGSTAFF // DIRECTED BY CHRIS WATERS



In 1960s England, a wind of change is blowing through the land. It has even reached the sleepy village of St Mary Mead. There's a new housing estate to make the villagers curious and fearful, and now the village has been thrown into a frenzy by the news that a glamorous American film star has bought the Manor House. Miss Jane Marple, confined to a chair after an accident, is wondering if life has passed her by. Then there is a vicious murder, and Miss Marple must unravel a web of lies, tragedy and danger. This adaptation of Agatha Christie's famous novel brings real emotional depth and psychological insight to a thrilling story of revenge and dark secrets.

"A fun puzzle... playwright Rachel Wagstaff does a fine job of preserving the key elements of the 1962 novel."
- British Theatre Guide

"A satisfying blend of wit, drama and intrigue... a modern take on a crime classic... contemporary and fresh despite its setting." - Birmingham Live

Tickets on sale from Saturday 31st January 2026



THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION)

13 - 22 MAY 2026

WRITTEN BY NEIL SIMON // DIRECTED BY DAWN VIGURS



Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, *The Odd Couple*, sees the lead characters transformed into Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate. However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities. Where Olive is messy, untidy, and unconcerned about the state of her apartment, Florence is obsessively clean, tidy, and obsessed with hygiene. Olive's easy-going outlook on life soon clashes with Florence's highly-strung neurotic tendencies, testing their friendship to the limit. When Olive organises a double-date with the Costazuela brothers, their differences come to a head and sparks fly.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 4th April 2026



LOVE...OR BEST OFFER

16 - 25 JULY 2026

WRITTEN BY PHIL OLSEN // DIRECTED BY SAM ALLAN



Love...or Best Offer is a romantic comedy about the trials and tribulations, mostly trials, of online dating in the 'over 50' generation. Cheryl is a widow of two years, Stan is newly divorced. After failed blind dates, their best friends, Lori and Dave, convince them to try online dating with the new dating website, 'Friends, Love or Whatever.' With the worst dating advice in the world from their friends, Cheryl and Stan set out to find happiness and true love, online. All the struggles of online dating come to the forefront, including overcoming heartbreak and rejection, all in an effort to find love, or best offer.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 6th June 2026

FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE

We are lucky to share our playhouse with **The Fellowship Players**, **Thespian Arts** and, more recently, **The Clockwork Donkey Theatre**.



www.thespian-arts.co.uk



www.fellowship-players.co.uk



THEATRE AVAILABILITY

With The Grange Players and The Fellowship Players performing 10 productions of 9 nights each year between them, there is limited availability to let the theatre out to other groups. However, we are always happy to receive enquiries and, when possible, we will hire out the theatre to suitable users. For example, we continue to play host to a number of groups researching supernatural activity and also visiting performers who stage productions for one or two nights.

Thespian Arts, a youth theatre, have performed here for 3 years now and we are always happy to welcome them back.

If you are interested in hiring the theatre or foyer please contact:

Dawn Vigurs 07469 947186
or company.secretary@grangeplayers.co.uk

with the dates and the activity and we will see if we are able to accommodate you.

PETER PAN JR.

6 - 7 DECEMBER 2025

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score by Morris 'Moose' Charlap and Jule Styne with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Peter Pan is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favourites of all time.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travellers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, the fierce Brave Girls, a band of bungling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook. Thespian Arts bring to The Grange Playhouse: Peter Pan JR.; the perfect show for the child in all of us... who dreamed of soaring high and never growing up.

Thespian Arts

PETER PAN JR.

6TH & 7TH DECEMBER 2025

THE GRANGE PLAYHOUSE, WS1 2QB

www.ticketsource.co.uk/thespian-arts

[f](#) @thespianartstheatre [i](#) @thespianarts [v](#) @thespianarts

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

THE MONKEY'S PAW & THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER

25 OCTOBER 2025



THE CLOCKWORK DONKEY THEATRE
Presents

TWO CLASSIC TALES OF TERROR
from W.W. Jacobs

THE MONKEY'S PAW

QR CODE

TICKETS £12

THE GHOST of JERRY BUNDLER

THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER
As guests at a small country inn pass the evening telling ghost stories, they discover that the very inn they are staying in, has its own resident ghost, Jerry Bundler, who is known for strangling his victims while they sleep. Two of the guests proclaim they don't believe in ghosts. One of the other guests, decides to put them to the test by betting that he can scare them before the night is up.

THE MONKEY'S PAW
Mr. and Mrs. White are visited by a friend of Mr White's, who served with the British Army in India. He shows them a mummified monkey's paw and tells them that an old fakir placed a spell on it, so that it would grant three separate men three wishes but with hellish consequences for tampering with fate.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th starts 8.00pm
TICKETS £12 from www.blackcountryhorror.com or scan the QR code above
or call 07798 914 579

SANDY SMITH
FROM LONDON'S WEST END

★★★★★
BRINGING YOU
THE CLASSICS
FROM THE WEST
END &
BROADWAY

BROADWAY
W 40 ST

Night
at the
MUSICALS

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - 7.30 PM

GRANGE PLAYHOUSE, WALSALL
TICKETS £15 AVAILABLE ONLINE: OR PHONE
07808 804390
www.sandzentertainment.co.uk/events

NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Sandy Smith, from London's West End brings you the classics from the Wst End and Brodway for a Night at the Musicals.

Tickets £15 available online:
sandzentertainment.co.uk/events
or phone: 07808 804 390



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

WRITTEN BY CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTED & PERFORMED
BY CHRISTOPHER COMMANDER

12 DECEMBER 2025

Christopher Commander's critically acclaimed one-man performance of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is coming to the Grange Playhouse for one night only! Join us for an enchanting evening as we immerse you in the sights, sounds, and sentiments of the festive season. Faithfully adapted from Dickens' original text, this captivating rendition will transport you back to Victorian London on Christmas Eve. From the haunting visits of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come, to the joyous celebrations of the Cratchit family and Scrooge's heartwarming redemption. Prepare to be taken on an unforgettable journey of compassion, joy, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Tickets: £15

Runtime: 1hr 15min (approx.)



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS

The Fellowship Players amateur drama group was created in 1947, following the merger of St. Matthew's Players and St. Luke's Players, two independent theatre groups based in Walsall. At that time all performances were staged at Blue Coat School.

In 1965 we moved to The Grange Playhouse, putting on two plays per year. The Playhouse has been at the heart of the company's activities ever since. We added a third production to our regular season in 1984 and added a fourth in 2003. Today the company goes from strength to strength and this Autumn we begin our 78th season of plays.

The Fellowship Players is a not-for-profit organisation run by committee. We believe in creating quality theatre in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. We also believe in giving back to the community that supports us and we make regular donations to local charities and organisations when funds allow.

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about the Fellowship Players can:

By phone:

Anne Chamberlain
on **01922 630495**

By email:

fellowshipplayerswalsall@gmail.com

By Messenger:

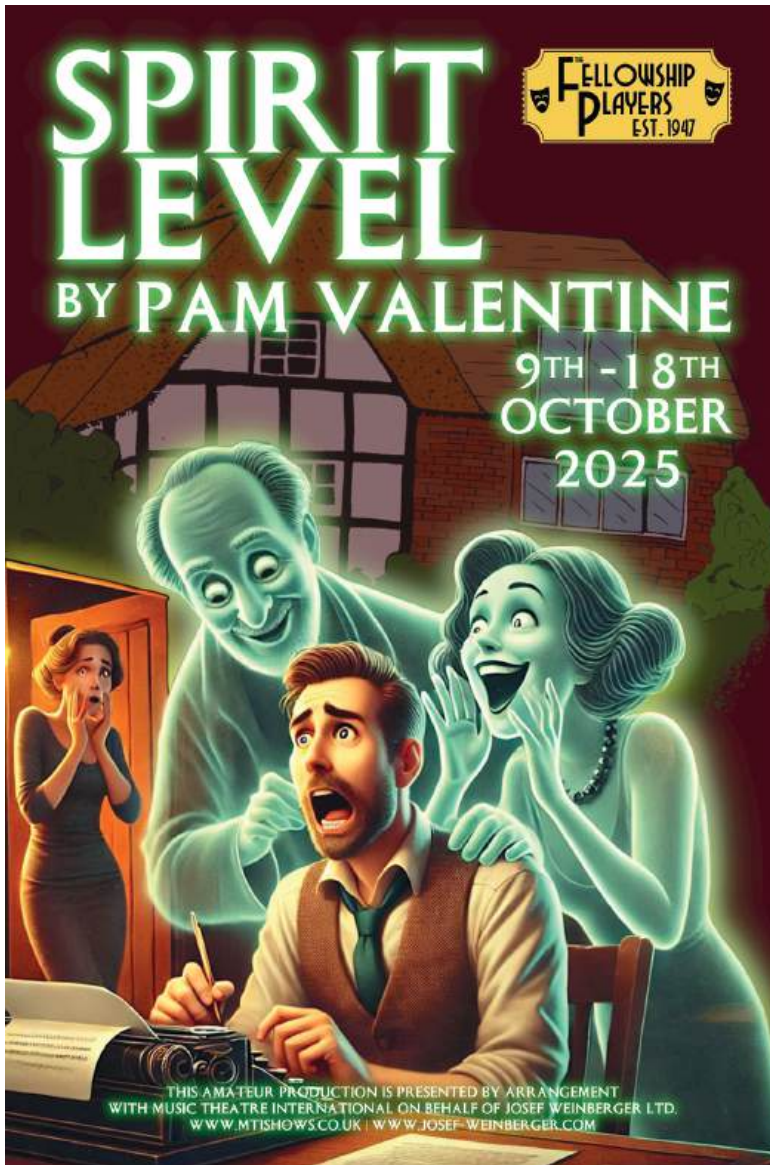
via 'The Fellowship
Players' public
Facebook page

Box Office Number 07721 334203

(Not manned full-time. Please be prepared to leave a message)



www.fellowship-players.co.uk



SPIRIT LEVEL

WRITTEN BY PAM VALENTINE

9 - 18 OCTOBER 2025

When famous crime writer Jack Cameron and his wife Susie drown in a boating accident, they are refused entry into heaven - Jack is a card-carrying atheist - so they return to haunt the country cottage where they lived. Life is dull. Their only pleasure comes from spooking the estate agent and frightening away any would-be tenants. Things change when Susie persuades Jack to allow a young couple, Simon, an aspiring crime writer, and Flic, his pregnant wife, to move in. Inevitably Susie and Jack become drawn into their lives, and whilst Simon has writer's block, Marcia, Flic's monstrous mother, is doing her best to separate them.

With no hope of success, Suzie calls up her Guardian Angel who, when she arrives, is not the angelic figure one would expect. She tells Jack he can help Simon write his book but by an unorthodox method which causes moments of utter confusion. Christmas arrives, so does a snowstorm, and so does the baby. Then comes a moment of crisis and Jack finds himself doing something that no card-carrying atheist would ever admit to. But will it help...?

HOW TO BE HAPPY

WRITTEN BY DAVID LEWIS

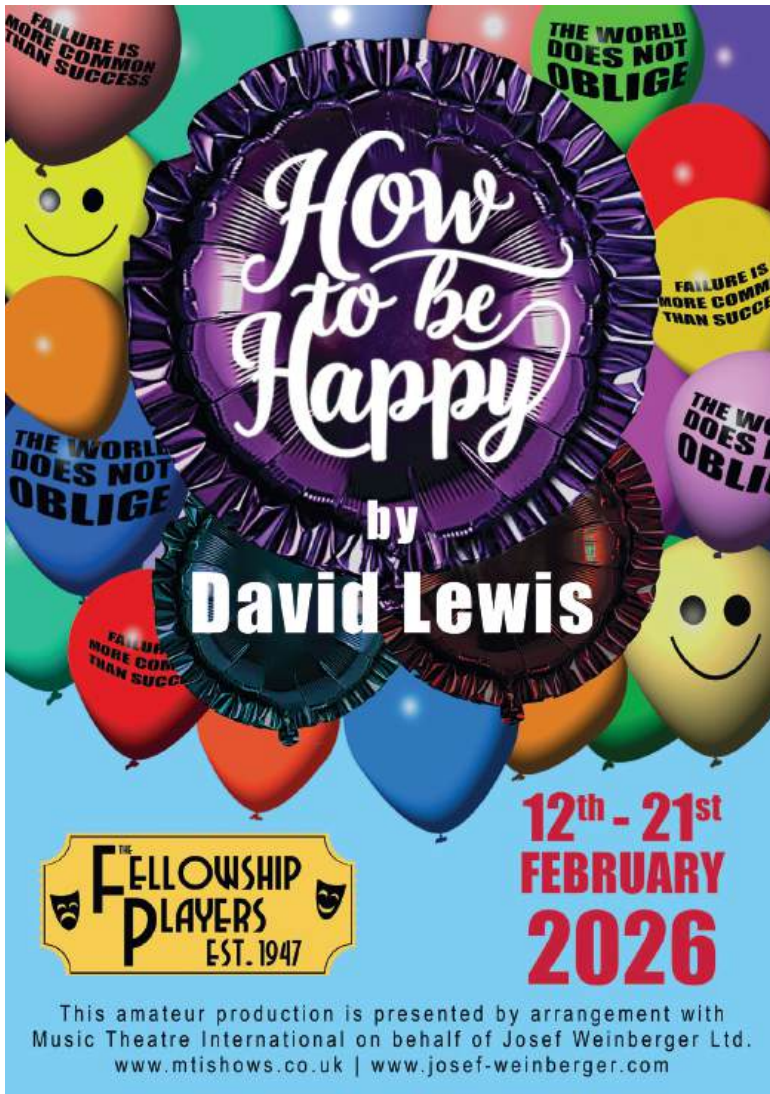
12 - 21 FEBRUARY 2026

We all know what it feels like - but what if it keeps slipping through our fingers? Paul is a former happiness guru. As a young man he wrote self-help books and appeared on television as 'Mr Happy' but now his marriage has failed and his career as a serious novelist is faltering, while his ex-wife has re-married a wealthy advertising executive - to the dismay of their troubled teenage daughter. Paul is now concerned about the state of his health, the size of his mortgage and the monthly payments on his iPhone. Mr Happy is not happy.

But surely if anyone can unlock the secret of perpetual happiness, he must be the man?

Trigger warning:

This play contains some themes surrounding mental health and illness, some strong language and sexual content.





www.fellowship-players.co.uk

LUCKY ME
A ROMANTIC COMEDY
By **Robert Caisley**
16th - 25th April 2026

THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS
EST. 1947

This amateur production of "Lucky Me" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

LUCKY ME

WRITTEN BY ROBERT CAISLEY

16 - 25 APRIL 2026

In this romantic comedy Sara's having a bad week. Really bad! The light bulbs in her apartment keep burning out; there's a leak in the roof; the aquarium is full of dead fish; the cat's gone AWOL, and her father (who chased off her last boyfriend) is suspicious of Tom, their new neighbour, a Transport Security Administration agent who just brought Sara home from the A&E on New Year's Eve.

Trigger warning:

This play contains some themes of loss and dementia.

QUIZ

WRITTEN BY JAMES GRAHAM

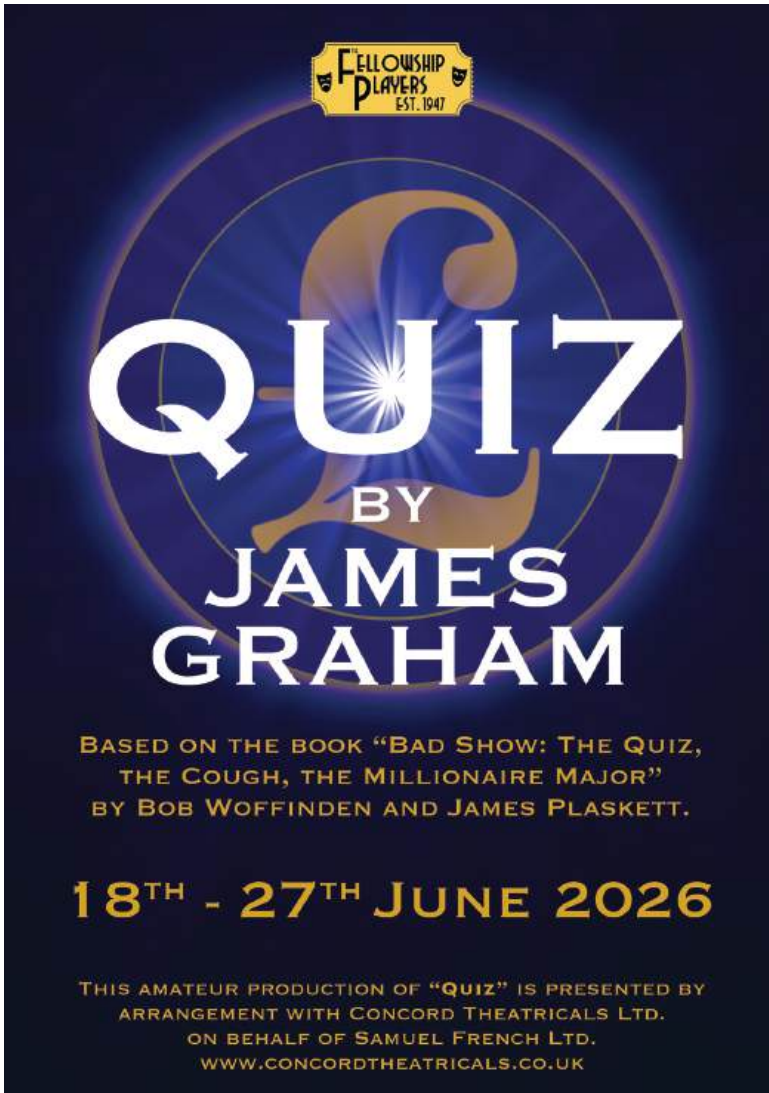
18 - 27 JUNE 2026

From the writer of The Vote and Channel 4's 2023 mini-series Brian and Maggie comes Quiz, which centers on the true story of Charles Ingram, a British Army major, and his wife Diana, who were accused of cheating on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' by using a coded system of coughs to signal answers, leading to a high-profile court trial. Quiz was commissioned by William Village. First produced by Chichester Festival Theatre in 2017, by arrangement with William Village, and subsequently in the West End of London at the Noël Coward Theatre by William Village and Playful Productions and Chichester Festival Theatre.

Quiz is a fictional imagination based on real events which took place in 2001 following an episode of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? It is not in any way connected with the makers of the programme or any of the individuals portrayed. The television programme 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' is produced by 2waytraffic.

Trigger warning:

This play contains graphic details of harassment and pet loss.

A promotional poster for the play 'Quiz'. The background is dark blue with a large, glowing circular graphic in the center. Inside the circle is a stylized, golden silhouette of a man's head and shoulders, facing right, with a prominent mustache. The word 'QUIZ' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the circle. Below it, 'BY JAMES GRAHAM' is written in smaller white capital letters. At the top of the circle is a small yellow logo that says 'FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS EST. 1947'. Below the circle, the text 'BASED ON THE BOOK "BAD SHOW: THE QUIZ, THE COUGH, THE MILLIONAIRE MAJOR" BY BOB WOFFINDEN AND JAMES PLASKETT.' is written in yellow. Below that, '18TH - 27TH JUNE 2026' is written in large yellow letters. At the bottom, in smaller white text, it says 'THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF "QUIZ" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH LTD. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK'.



Grange Playhouse

Broadway North
Walsall WS1 2QB

Tel: 01922 625100

Box Office: 07909 036 835

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