THE GRANGE PLAYHOUSE

2026/27 SEASON

THE GRANGE PLAYERS

Join us for our 75th Season

www.grangeplayers.co.uk

THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS EST. 1947

Join us for our 79th Season

www.fellowship-players.co.uk

WELCOME TO OUR 75TH SEASON

Seventy-five seasons ago, a group of enthusiastic theatre lovers gathered with big dreams, a few borrowed props, and a shared belief that stories are best told together. None of them could have imagined the remarkable journey that would follow.

Over the years, our stage has been filled with laughter, drama, music, mishaps, standing ovations, forgotten lines, last-minute costume repairs, and countless unforgettable memories. Generations of performers, directors, backstage crews, front-of-house volunteers, set builders, costume makers, and loyal audiences have all played their part in shaping the theatre we celebrate today.

This season, we look back with affection and gratitude. The productions you will see have been carefully chosen from across our history; plays that made us laugh, moved us deeply, challenged us creatively, or simply remind us of the wonderful people who brought them to life. Each performance is a celebration not only of the stories themselves, but of everyone who has stood beneath these lights and helped keep the curtain rising year after year.

As we honour the past, we are also looking ahead. Community theatre has always depended on the generosity, enthusiasm, and slightly heroic willingness of volunteers. Whether backstage, front of house, painting scenery, serving refreshments, sewing costumes, selling tickets, or stepping into the spotlight, there is always room for new faces and helping hands. So if you have ever wondered what happens behind the curtain, or if you would like to help ensure this theatre continues to thrive for the next 75 years, we would love to welcome you into the cast of characters that keeps our theatre alive.

Here's to the memories we cherish, the friendships we've made, and the many more opening nights still to come.

Don't Dream It...Be It

Rod Bissett
Chair – The Grange Players

NODA For every stage

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.

THE GRANGE PLAYERS

GRANGE PLAYHOUSE
Broadway North, Walsall WS1 2QB

Tel: 01922 625100
Grange Players Box Office:
07909 036 835
(Theatre phone only manned during runs of play)

www.grangeplayers.co.uk

2026-27 RUNNING ORDER

84 Charing Cross Road - The Grange Players
September 10th - 19th 2026

The Haunting of Hill House - The Fellowship Players
October 8th - 17th 2026

The Haunting of Gibside Folly. A Ghost Story in 2 Acts by A.A Birch - Clockwork Donkey Theatre
October 22nd - 24th 2026

The House by the Lake - The Grange Players
November 12th - 21st 2026

Matilda Jr. The Musical - Thespian Arts
December 5th & 6th 2026

The Secretary Bird - The Grange Players
January 7th - 16th 2027

James and the Giant Peach - The Fellowship Players
February 11th - 20th 2027

Deadline - The Grange Players
March 11th - 20th 2027

Blithe Spirit - The Fellowship Players
April 15th - 24th 2027

Imaginary Lines - The Grange Players
May 20th - 29th 2027

Pressure - The Fellowship Players
June 17th - 26th 2027

Castle in the Air - The Grange Players
July 15th - 24th 2027

THE GRANGE PLAYERS 2025-26 REVIEWS

FLATSPIN

Excerpts from NODA review

Lucy Talbot made her directorial debut with this production, supported by an outstanding cast in principal roles and a competent backstage crew, resulting in a production that showed considerable promise. Well done to Lucy for a successful production, it was pacey and engaging and congratulations to all the cast and crew.

★★★★

awarded by Behind The Arras

MINDGAME

Excerpt from Bfame Birmingham District Theatre Guild Review

Anthony Horowitz's psychological thriller Mindgame is a play that relies heavily on tension, misdirection, and the ability of its cast to sustain an atmosphere of unease. In The Grange Players' production, those elements were brought to life very successfully. Light and shade, pace and pauses were all very much employed to keep the audience guessing. Talking to some of the audience after the show highlighted just how successful this production was: most hadn't guessed the play's many twists and turns, and all agreed it was a memorable night.

★★★★

awarded by Behind The Arras

THE GRANGE PLAYERS 2025-26 REVIEWS

JEEVES & WOOSTER

An excerpt from Bfame Birmingham District Theatre Guild Review

Directed with confidence and a clear sense of fun by Sara Bissett, the Grange Players' production of Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense delivered a thoroughly enjoyable celebration of classic British comedy. This clever adaptation of P.G. Wodehouse's much-loved characters demands pace, precision, and an easy rapport with the audience – all of which were achieved with flair and enthusiasm.

★★★★

awarded by Behind The Arras

THE MIRROR CRACK'D

An excerpt from NODA

The cast delivered powerful performances, and the captivating plot delved into themes such as obsession, illusion, and the enduring effects of past trauma. These elements were thoughtfully revealed through Miss Marple's keen observations. Congratulations to all the cast and crew

★★★★

awarded by Behind The Arras

FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS 2025-26 REVIEWS

ABSENT FRIENDS

A sharply observed Ayckbourn comedy delivered with detailed period design and confident direction. The set created an instantly recognisable retro domestic world perfectly, grounding the rising tensions of the play. The ensemble handled the shifting moods with a strong sense of timing, subtlety, balancing humour with emotional undercurrents. A well-crafted production that drew the audience into the awkward, brittle world of these characters. A well-paced, engaging production that drew the audience into its wonderfully awkward tea party.

SPIRIT LEVEL

A polished, warm-hearted comedy delivered with sharp timing and a beautifully detailed set. The ensemble's chemistry and invisible-ghost staging were handled with real finesse and kept the audience laughing. A funny, touching production that showcased confident performances and thoughtful direction.

HOW TO BE HAPPY

A first-class, naturalistic production with a cast who felt utterly at ease in their roles. The shared-set concept was executed with clarity, precision, and impressive discipline. Strong performances from everyone with Sam and Rebecca grounding the story's chaos. A warm, well-paced piece of theatre, directed with care and meticulous attention to detail.

LUCKY ME

A quirky, heartfelt comedy brought to life with inventive staging and sharp technical choices. The set captured Sara's chaotic world beautifully, supported by well-judged lighting and sound. The cast delivered warm, engaging performances that balanced humour with emotional depth. A charming, offbeat production that left audiences smiling and fully invested in the story.

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!

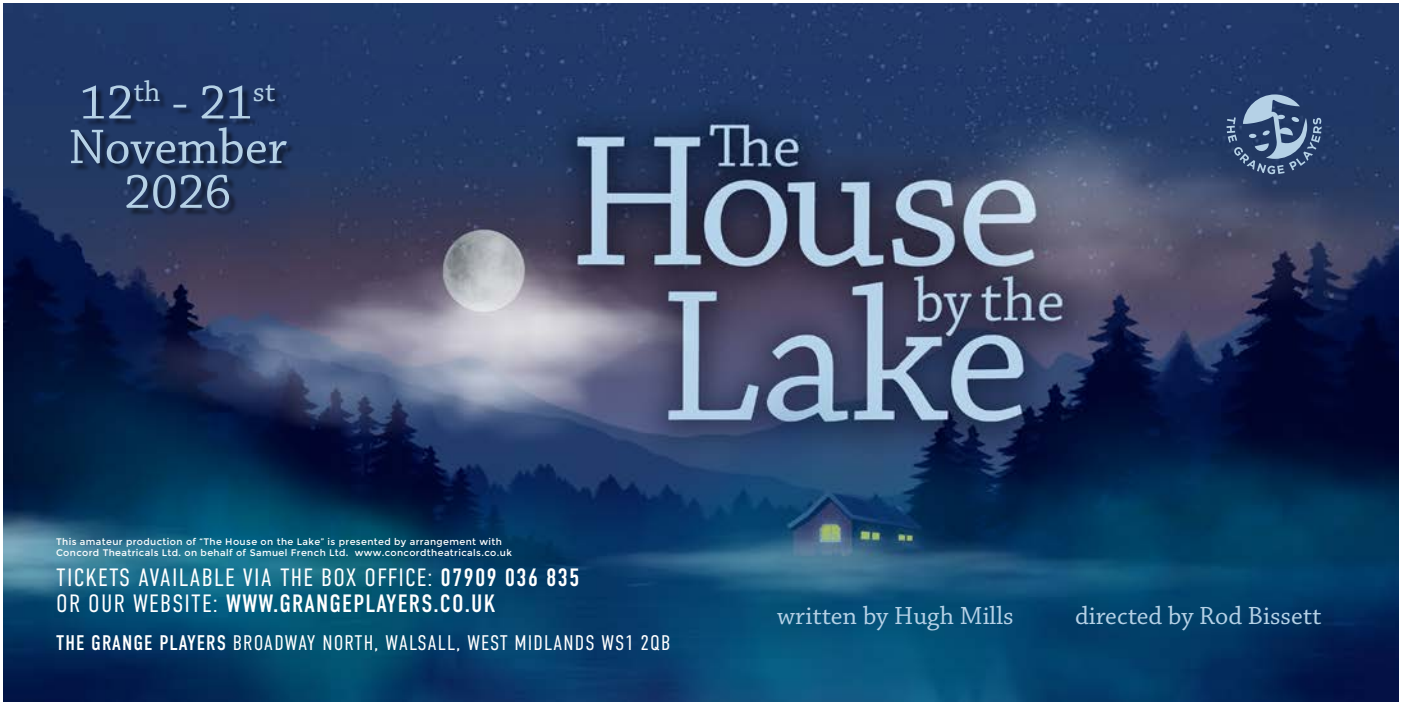
84 CHARING CROSS ROAD

10 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

ADAPTED BY JAMES ROOSE EVANS FROM THE BOOK BY HELENE HANFF // DIRECTED BY SARA BISSETT

The play takes place over a twenty year period, beginning in 1949 when Helene Hanff (played on Broadway by Ellen Burstyn) first writes Marks & Co. and ends in 1969 with the death of Frank Doel, the delightfully dusty supplier of so many old volumes to Helen who has shown her gratitude through the years by sending "care packages" to the staff of Marks & Co.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 1st August 2026



THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE

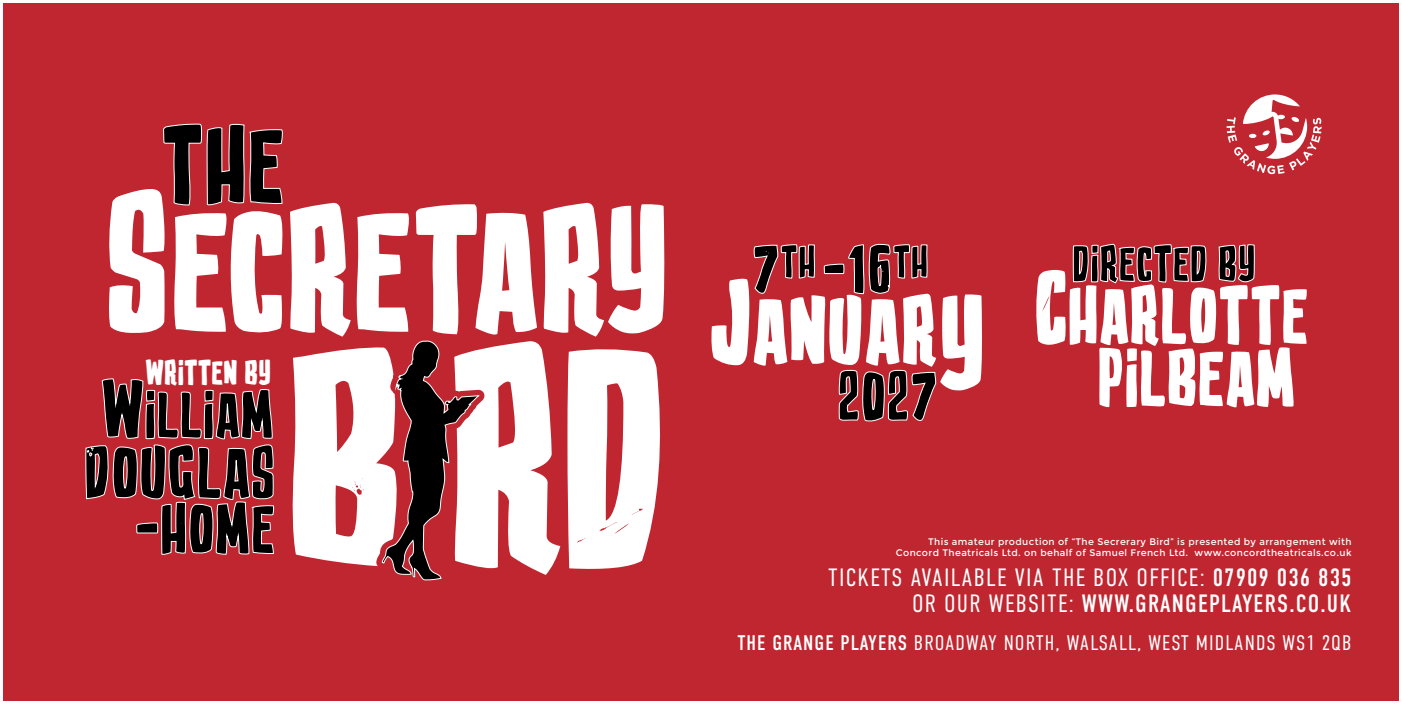
12 - 21 NOVEMBER 2026

WRITTEN BY HUGH MILLS // DIRECTED BY ROD BISSETT

Maurice plans to eliminate his half-brother Colin, but Colin's unhappy wife is also prompted to murder him. When the body is found the question arises: who is responsible?

Meanwhile, Maurice regards his neurotic wife, Janet, as an impediment to his plans and uses his hypnotic influence to compel her to kill herself. Fortunately for Janet, Colin's shady business activities had already attracted official attention as the play races towards a thrilling and unusual climax.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 3rd October 2026



THE SECRETARY BIRD

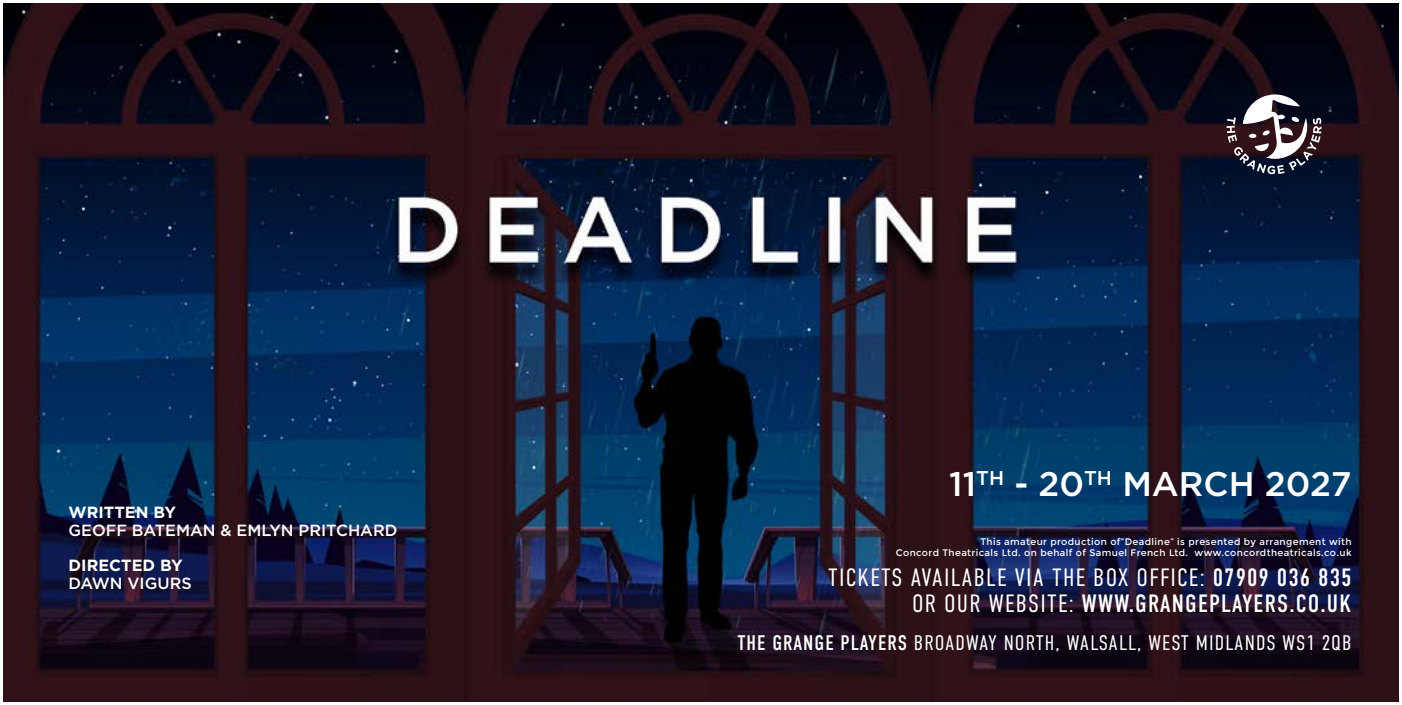
7 - 16 JANUARY 2027

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM DOUGLASS-HOME // DIRECTED BY CHARLOTTE PILBEAM

The Secretary Bird is one of the best examples of British comedy. When writer Hugh Walford finds that his wife, Liz, is about to leave him for another man, he takes the unusual step of inviting his rival to stay with them for the weekend, with uproarious consequences.

Hugh's battle to keep his wife, fought out in a deceptively urbane and good humoured atmosphere, is in fact a skillful and ruthless campaign planned right down to the last detail. He is indeed the 'puppet-master' and all of the other characters dance at his bidding.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 28th November 2026



DEADLINE

11 - 20 MARCH 2027

WRITTEN BY GEOFF BATEMAN & EMLYN PRITCHARD // DIRECTED BY DAWN VIGURS

Alex Conrad, an avid collector of detective novels, has devised a brilliant plan to cheat his ex-wife, Dinah, out of her share of the proceeds from his partner Tony's new invention: to stage Dinah's "accidental" murder of Tony.

With his girlfriend Cathy there as a witness and a gun full of blanks, what could go wrong? Many twists and shocks follow before we come to the denouement of this ingenious thriller.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 30th January 2027

IMAGINARY LINES

20 - 29 MAY 2027

WRITTEN BY REGGIE OLIVER // DIRECTED BY CHRIS WATERS

The imaginary lines are the things we wish we could say, or had said usually to the opposite sex. Here, they are asides in the dialogue which provide amusing counterpoints to what the characters are really saying to each other.

Will Sir Michael get Wanda to go off with him for a weekend frolic? Will Wanda decide who she wants? Will Howard win Wanda or get stuck with Carol? Will Mrs. Burlap ever find a copy of Snowed Up with a Duchess by Mrs. Arnold Frogmore? This witty, literate, romantic comedy is sure to delight and amuse.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 3rd April 2027

CASTLE IN THE AIR

15 - 24 JULY 2027

WRITTEN BY ALAN MELVILLE // DIRECTED BY SARAH MASON

Step back into the charm of 1950s Scotland with Castle in the Air, a sparkling comedy of manners, mischief, and Highland magic!

The Earl of Locharne has a magnificent ancestral castle, a legendary family ghost, and absolutely no money. When a rigid government bureaucrat arrives to seize the castle for the State, the Earl must launch a hilarious scheme to save his home.

Tickets on sale from Saturday 5th June 2027

FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE

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

Thespian Arts

www.thespian-arts.co.uk

The Fellowship Players Est. 1947

www.fellowship-players.co.uk

The Clockwork Donkey Theatre

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.

MATILDA JR. THE MUSICAL

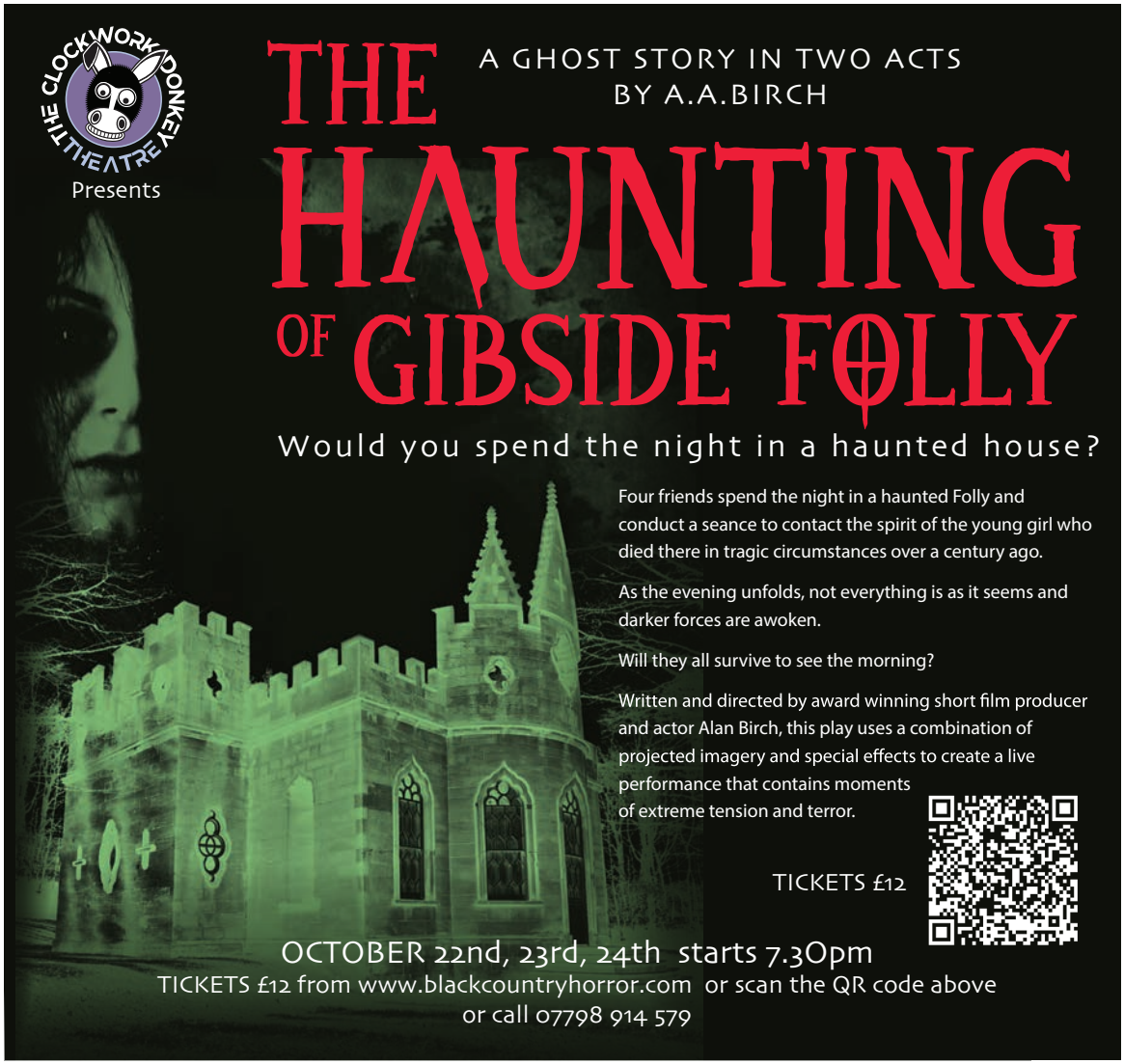
5 & 6 DECEMBER 2026

The children are rising up. Join the revolt in this Broadway Junior adaptation of the Olivier Award-winning hit, performed by Thespian Arts' Pelsall branch!

Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence... and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly lovable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

THE HAUNTING OF GIBSIDE FOLLY
A GHOST STORY IN 2 ACTS BY A.A BIRCH

22 - 24 OCTOBER 2026



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS

Formed in 1947 through the merger of St. Matthew's Players and St. Luke's Players, two well-established Walsall theatre groups, The Fellowship Players has a rich and enduring history. In their early years, productions took place at Blue Coat School, now known as Blue Coat Church of England Academy. The company found a permanent home in 1965 when they moved to The Grange Playhouse.

As our ambitions grew, so did our repertoire, expanding to three annual productions in 1984 and a fourth by 2003. The Fellowship Players remains a vibrant company dedicated to creating quality theatre in a supportive atmosphere as we prepare to celebrate this, our 79th season. We also value giving back to our community, making regular donations to local charities and organisations whenever possible and 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)

THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE

WRITTEN BY F. ANDREW LESLIE

8 - 17 OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to Hill House. A place of dark corridors, whispered secrets, and an unsettling presence that seems to lurk just beyond sight.

When a small group of guests accept an invitation to stay in the infamous mansion, they soon discover that Hill House is far more than an ordinary old house. As strange events begin to unfold and tensions mount, the line between reality and imagination becomes increasingly blurred. Is the house truly haunted, or are its visitors confronting fears of their own making?

Based on Shirley Jackson's legendary gothic novel, this atmospheric stage adaptation weaves suspense, mystery and psychological terror into a chilling theatrical experience. Filled with mounting dread, unexpected shocks and an enduring sense of unease, The Haunting of Hill House remains one of the most celebrated ghost stories ever told.

Some houses are born bad. Hill House is waiting.

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY DAVID WOOD FROM THE BOOK BY ROALD DAHL

11 - 20 FEBRUARY 2027

When young James discovers a mysterious giant peach growing in his garden, his life is transformed in the most extraordinary way imaginable. Climbing inside the enormous fruit, he embarks on a magical adventure with a remarkable group of insect friends, travelling across oceans and encountering wonders beyond his wildest dreams.

Filled with humour, heart and imagination, this delightful stage adaptation brings Roald Dahl's beloved story to life with unforgettable characters, thrilling escapades and plenty of surprises along the way. As James learns the value of friendship, courage and believing in himself, audiences of all ages are invited to share in a truly peachy adventure. A charming and uplifting family favourite packed with laughter, excitement and a touch of magic.

Join James on the adventure of a lifetime—where anything is possible and every journey begins with a little imagination.

BLITHE SPIRIT

BY NOEL COWARD

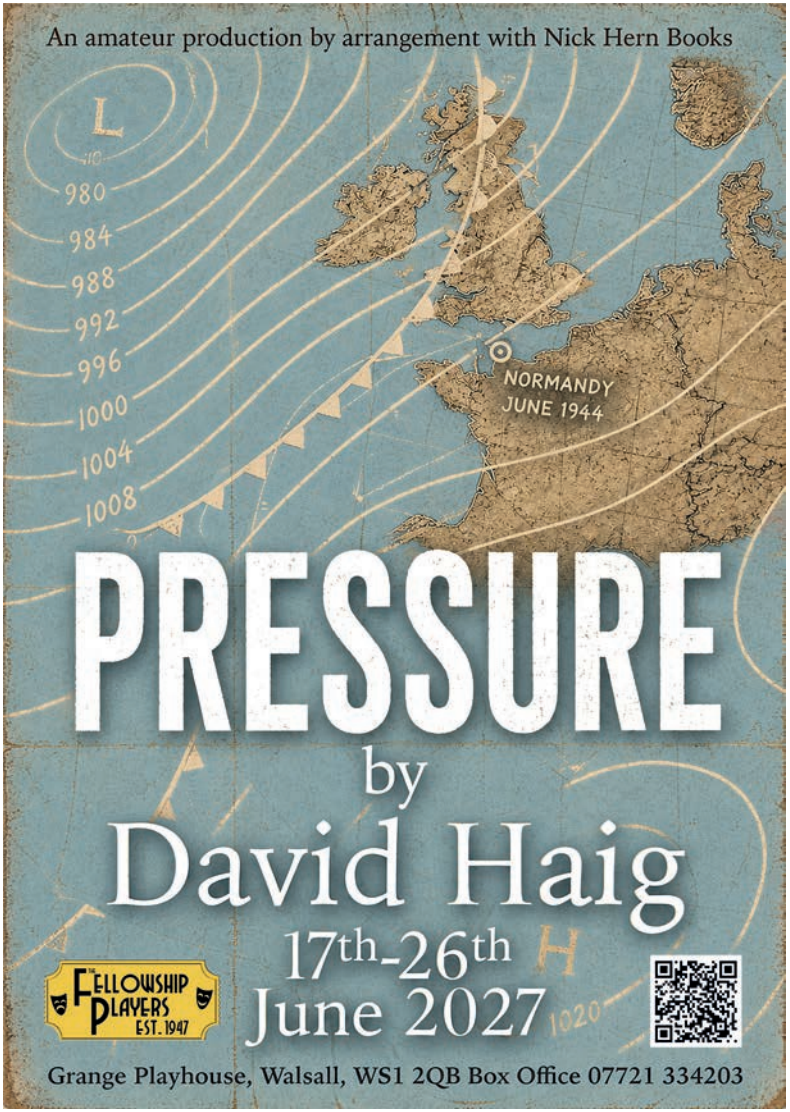
15 - 24 APRIL 2027

What could possibly go wrong when a successful novelist invites an eccentric medium to conduct a séance purely for research purposes? Quite a lot, as it happens.

When the delightfully unconventional Madame Arcati accidentally summons the ghost of Charles Condomine's first wife, the glamorous and thoroughly inconvenient Elvira, domestic life takes a decidedly supernatural turn. Invisible to everyone but Charles, Elvira is determined to reclaim her former husband, much to the alarm of his very-much-alive second wife.

As tempers fray and cocktails are consumed, both the living and the dead compete for the last word. This supernatural comedy serves up a deliciously mischievous evening of marital mayhem. Sparkling with razor-sharp dialogue, unforgettable characters and Coward's trademark wit, Blithe Spirit remains one of the most beloved comedy classics of the twentieth century. A hauntingly humorous tale of love, marriage and the unexpected complications of life after death.

Witty, wicked and wonderfully absurd, Blithe Spirit is proof that death is no obstacle to a truly determined ex-wife.



PRESSURE

BY DAVID HAIG

17 - 26 JUNE 2027

June 1944. The success of the Allied invasion of Normandy hangs in the balance. As thousands of troops stand ready to cross the English Channel, one man faces a decision that could alter the course of history.

Based on remarkable true events, Pressure tells the story of Group Captain James Stagg, the meteorologist tasked with advising General Eisenhower on the weather conditions for D-Day. Battling conflicting forecasts, military pressure, and the weight of unimaginable responsibility, Stagg must determine whether the invasion should proceed or be delayed.

Combining nail-biting suspense with rich human drama, David Haig's acclaimed play offers a fascinating glimpse behind one of the most significant moments of the Second World War. A compelling story of courage, conviction and leadership under extraordinary pressure.

A gripping true story where the fate of a nation depended on a forecast.

THE FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS
EST. 1947

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE STORY

ON STAGE | BACKSTAGE | LIGHTS & SOUND | FRONT OF HOUSE | IN THE AUDIENCE

Everyone Welcome!

FIND OUT MORE

fellowship-players.co.uk

Facebook: The Fellowship Players

07721 334203 (BOX OFFICE)

Scan me!

ACTING 4U

HELD ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH!

ALL WELCOME, MEMBERS OR NOT, DO COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE OCCASION

A SOCIAL EVENING WITH A THEATRICAL "BENT" SIMPLY TO READ SOME PLAYS, AND JUST ENJOY THE EVENING

CAKES, BISCUITS AND REFRESHMENTS

PLENTY OF SECURE PARKING

THE GRANGE PLAYERS

MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MAL SMITH
EMAIL: LIBBYM1@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
MOBILE: 07855 038185

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Broadway North
Walsall WS1 2QB

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www.grangeplayers.co.uk

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