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# DIAL M FOR MURDER

By Frederick Knott

4th-8th February 2025

**West Bridgford Dramatic Society**

The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS

**WBDS.co.uk**



## Chair's Welcome - Lynn Burges

A very warm welcome to The Studio Theatre and our second production of the season, *Dial M for Murder*.

An enormous amount of hard work has gone into bringing this play to life and I hope that you have an enjoyable evening. If you do, please tell family and friends where we are and what we do. This programme contains details of the remaining productions of the season including our May offering, *Communicating Doors*.

In addition to performing four plays a year, we are always looking at ways to improve the theatre experience for our members and patrons. We are in the middle of a rolling programme to update our lighting system, the kitchen will be getting a facelift this year and you may have noticed the solar panels on the roof, making our energy consumption more efficient. The committee is currently looking at a variety of ways to improve our carpark. These projects are funded from the profit we make on tickets sales and the sale of consumables, so enjoy a glass of wine or an ice cream in the interval and you will be helping in a small way!

If you are interested in joining our merry band, or have suggestions for improvements, or feedback on something we are doing well, please complete the short questionnaire on your seat. This information will help us structure future seasons and better understand what our audience might like. All that is left for me to say is "I hope you enjoy this evenings entertainment and don't forget to switch your phone off!"

## Director's Notes - Rob Dixon



It has been an absolute pleasure to direct *Dial M for Murder*. I asked our talented and hard-working play reading group for a thriller/whodunnit to direct - my last excursion as director was the comedy *A Bunch of Amateurs* two years ago. They gave me a long list of plays including *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Dial M for Murder*. I went to see the former at The National Justice Museum and *Dial M for Murder* at Leicester Little Theatre. We held a play reading of about 12 months ago, and I then proposed it for our February slot.

Many of you will be familiar with the Hitchcock movie of the same name. Our challenge has been setting something that, 70 years ago when Hitchcock made his Hollywood version, would have been a contemporary piece. I am particularly delighted with the set which I hope you feel takes you back to a different era and style. But the themes of the play - love, passion, jealousy, money, and thinking you can get away with things - are themes that work as well today as any time. I have seen quite a few murder mystery thriller comedies recently i.e. everything in one. This is not that – it's not a comedy, and it's not really a whodunnit - you see the murder take place (no spoilers please). But it is suspenseful and it is intriguing and engaging.

This play - like almost every play - is about the players so thanks to my very talented cast. Everything they get right is to their credit - all mistakes are mine. But I am always aware that to put on a show requires even more people: to build and design sets, create sound and lighting, stage manage, props, costume, front of house, publicity etc. So thanks to the veritable army of supporters for this production.

## Ice cream temptations

It may not be your typical ice cream weather, but we're hoping to tempt you with our new ice creams, supplied by Bluebells Dairy.



You can choose from Biscoff, an irresistible caramelized flavour, Devilishly Chocolate, an indulgently smooth and chocolatey treat, or Honeycomb Crunch for a crunchy and gooey interval delight. For those who don't do dairy we have plant-based Caramel Cookie Dough Ice Cream, featuring rich caramel and chunks of chewy, delicious, vegan cookie dough, crafted entirely from premium, dairy-free ingredients.

The farm that is now Bluebells was started by Grandpa Brown in 1953, and the family diversified into ice cream in 2008. Every drop of the rich, creamy milk from 15 pampered princesses (as Bluebells calls them) on the farm in Derby goes into the luxurious dairy ice cream. And each batch of ice cream is handcrafted using only the finest ingredients.



Bluebells also prides itself on living up to its environmental responsibilities. The food miles that go into the ice cream are minimised thanks to the majority of the cows' food and all of their bedding is grown on the farm. In 2024, Bluebells installed an acre of solar panels, allowing them to produce 80% of their energy needs and reduce their CO2 emissions by 47 tonnes annually.

Our expertly picked panel were impressed by Bluebells' sustainability credentials, the family farm ethos and most of all the fabulous taste of the ice creams. Try them and see if you agree!

*(Pictures courtesy of Bluebells Dairy)*

## Drink & ice cream prices

Wine red/white 175ml	£4.00
Gin & Tonic (can)	£4.00
Beer/Lager (can)	£4.00
Coca Cola Regular/diet (can)	£1.00
Lemonade Regular/diet (can)	£1.00

### Complimentary

Tea

Coffee

Squash

Water

Ice cream tubs, including plant based

Various flavours	£3.00
Magnums	£3.00

## Cast

Charles Andrews - Max Halliday

Tim Farrow - Tony Wendice

Nik Hedges - Inspector Hubbard

Kristina Russell - Sheila Wendice

Craig Russell - Captain Lesgate

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The action takes place in Maida Vale, London.

There is one interval of 20 minutes when drinks and ice cream will be available.

Please remember to switch off mobile phones during the performance - even a screen can be distracting to cast and other members of the audience.

## Production & Creative Team

Director	Rob Dixon
Production Manager	Lynn Burges
Stage Manager	Sav Dixon
Assistant Stage Manager	Emily Martin
Set Design Team	Rosie Farrow, Annie Haley & Candice Gush
Set Construction Team	Ritchie Sharpe, Andy Bakewell & Society members
Props/Set Dressing	Barbara Seymour
Costumes	Kristina Russell & Jo Sharpe
Lighting Design	Alex Wardle
Lighting Operator	Calum Sharp
Sound Design	Jem Woolley
Sound Operator	Jem Woolley
Poster Designer	Annie Haley
Rehearsal Prompt	Sue Scrimshaw
Front of House Manager	Caroline Todd & Rosie Farrow
Box Office Manager	Calum Sharp
FOH Staff	Society members

## The Cast



### Charles Andrews

Cited by Empire Magazine as the next Marlon Brando and having played a prosecutor, convict, and victim in past productions, I thought it fitting to complete the murder mystery/crime thriller roster by playing the sole reason for this crime of passion, Max Halliday. This is my second production with WBDS, having taken part in *Eight*, last July.



### Tim Farrow

It will be 30 years in September since I joined WBDS. In that time, I've been a vicar, dame, demon, headmaster, nuclear scientist, Colonel, murderous judge, numerous policemen....oh, and 'Death'. I also act on Murder Weekends up and down the country. Murder seems to be a theme with me.



### Nik Hedges

This is my third play with WBDS; from the Devil in *Eurydice*, to Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and now Inspector Hubbard. I have played many roles on both sides of the law, from a Shakespearean murderer, Sherlock Holmes, Lestrangle, Judge Danforth, and others too many to mention.





### Kristina Russell

Having recently performed in WBDS production of *Orlando* where I enjoyed the challenge of being cast in several male roles, I am looking forward to flipping the coin and portraying the vulnerable woman.... or is she? Victim or villain? Will I live or die? The suspense is killing me. Or maybe someone else.



### Craig Russell

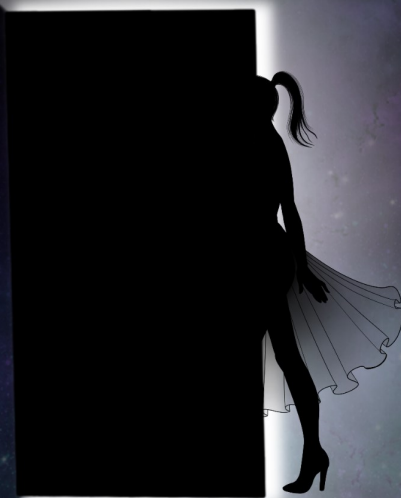
Now in my 13th year of WBDS membership I find myself onstage embroiled in a murder conundrum. This is after my last outing 18 months ago in *Death by Design*, in which I acted and directed. Devious dealings abound, schoolboy memories, detectives detecting, murder writer writing, marital affair afoot. The scissors are out for this backstabbing cutting edge production with a plot full of twists and turns.



WEST BRIDGFORD DRAMATIC SOCIETY

# Communicating Doors

Alan Ayckbourn



## 6-10 May 2025

The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS

WBDS.co.uk 07942352982



This amateur production of Communicating Doors is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. On behalf of Samuel French Ltd. ConcordTheatricals.co.uk



# The Signalman and Tunnel Vision

By Charles Dickens & Sheila Hodgson

10th-13th July 2025

## Coming up...

We are delighted to announce the rest of our **2024/2025** season.

6th -10th May. *Communicating Doors* by Alan Ayckbourn. An intricate, time travelling comic thriller.

10th -13th July. *The Signalman* by Matthew Harper - a ghostly tale based on a short story by Charles Dickens - will be paired with *Tunnel Vision* by Sheila Hodgson, a tense, dramatic play also featuring trains and tunnels.

And our first play of the **2025/2026** season.....

4th-8th Nov. *That Goodnight* by N J Crisp.

### Team Dial M for Murder

