

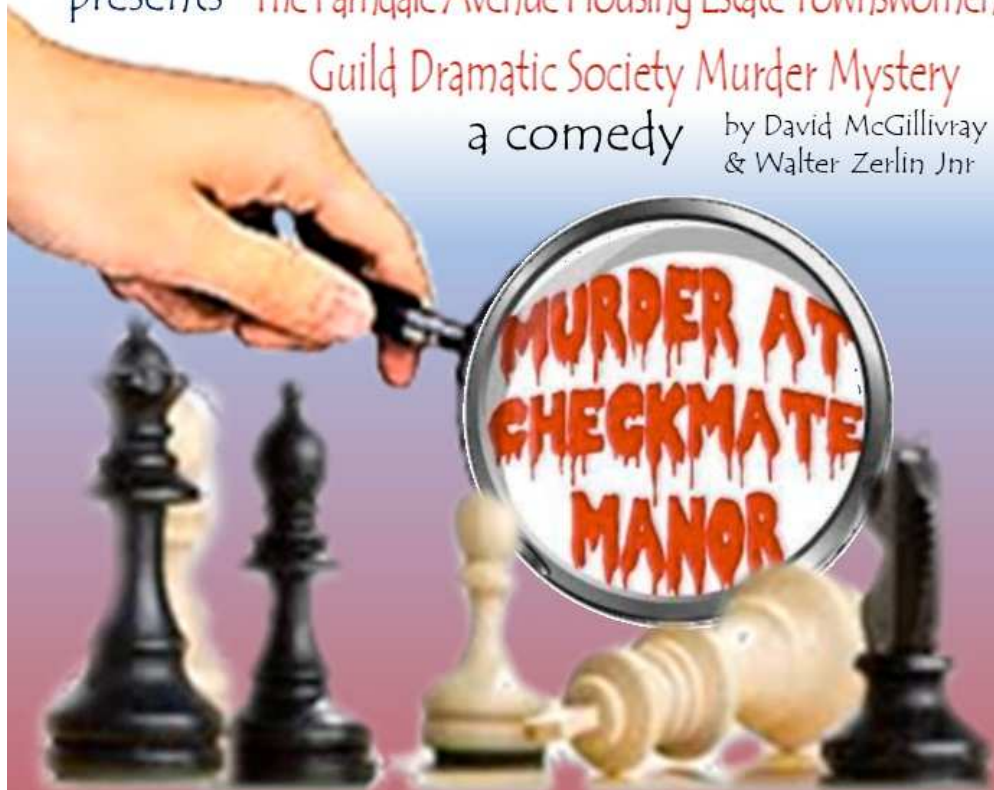
Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's*

Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

a comedy

by David McGillivray
& Walter Zerlin Jnr



Faringdon Junior School

Thur 8th Nov 2018

Fri 9th Nov 2018

Sat 10th Nov 2018

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

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curtain

7.30 pm



Affiliated
to NODA

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

A comedy by

David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

The redoubtable Mrs Reece and the ladies of the Guild (plus Gordon) are presenting their latest production 'Murder at Checkmate Manor'. The hapless cast of five under Mrs Reece's direction are faced with the task of playing fifteen wildly different characters between them but remembering who they are and where they should be at any given time may be a challenge too far for the cast. The situation is not helped by having a backstage crew almost as incompetent as themselves, but we are sure of one thing, nothing goes according to plan.

Every drama group has experienced the horrors of what can go wrong on opening night, and the ladies of the F.A.H.E.T.G. Dramatic Society are no different, with the possible exception that almost everything that could happen does! The scenery collapses, cues are missed, lines forgotten, and the sound effects take on a strange note at times, as the ladies present their ambitious evening's entertainment with the cunning whodunit, "Murder At Checkmate Manor."

Can they pull it off? Will the fiendish murderer be revealed?

The action takes place in the second floor drawing room of Checkmate Manor, Lady Doreen Bishop's ancestral home.

There will be an interval after Act I when refreshments will be served and the Raffle will be drawn

Cast:

Mrs Reece <i>(playing Clarissa Rook, Regine, Patricia Bishop, Letitia Bishop, Mr Goodbody.)</i>	Debbie Lock
Felicity <i>(playing Pawn, Mrs Castle, Colonel King)</i>	Sandra Keen
Audrey <i>(playing Lady Doreen Bishop, Violet Bishop, Mrs King, Joan Bishop)</i>	Sarah Couzens
Thelma <i>(playing Daphne Bishop, Rose Bishop)</i>	Katie Dyet
Gordon <i>(playing Inspector O'Reilly)</i>	Martin Waymark

Directed by Jo Webster

Production Team

Producer	Gary Field
Set design	Jo Webster
Set construction	Peter Webster, Alan Merrick, Jeff Barry
Stage manager	Derek Crowdson
Props	Jan and Derek Crowdson
Lighting	Ian Chandler, Steve Greening
Sound	Gary Bates
Wardrobe	Joan Lee
Backstage team	Jan Crowdson, Derek Crowdson, Peter Webster, Joan Lee
Continuity	Carole Tappenden
Publicity	Adrian Wells
Programme	Dave Headey
Front of house manager	Helen Thrower
Front of house team	Denise Monk, Shela Rowan, Alan & Carolyn Taylor, Jeni Summerfield, Sarah Varnom

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* THE FARNDALE AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE *

* TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY *

* PRESENT *

* MURDER AT CHEKCMATE MANOR *

* By DAVID McGILLIRVAY and WALTER ZERLIN Jnr *

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ON 8th, 9th AND 10th NOVEMBER

IN FARNDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

ACT 1

THE DRAWING ROOM AT CHECKMATE MANOR

~~ENT'RACTE~~ ENTR' ACTE

ACT 2

THE DRAWLING ROOM AT CHECKMATE MANOR

BETWEEN THE ACTS THE LADIES OF THE TOWNSWOMEN'S
GUILD WILL BE ON HAND TO SERVE YOU REFRESHEMNTS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A RAFFLE. PLEASE BUY YOUR
TICKET FROM THE LADY WHO IS SELLING THEM. THEY ARE
£1 FOR A STRIP. GENTLEMEN PLEASE REFRAIN FROM
MAKING JOKES ABOUT THIS. IT'S NOT FUNNY ANY MORE.

THE RAFFLE PRIZES ARE AT THE FRONT OF THE
HALL. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY OF THEM BEFORE THE
NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DRAWN. ESPECIALLY THE BOTTLES.
THIS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST. THANK YOU.

CAST NEARLY IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

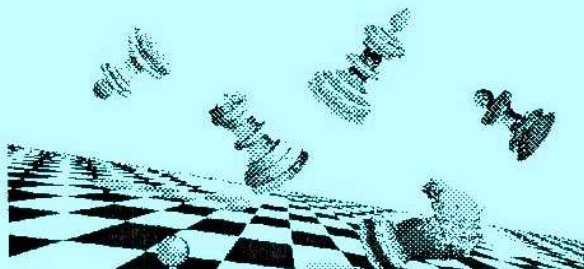
Clarissa Rook (Lady Bishop's sister)	Phoebe Reece
Lady Doreen Bishop	Audrey Douglas
Pawn (the butler)	Felicity Atkins
Daphne Bishop	Thelma Greenwood
Regine (the French maid)	Phoebe Reece
Inspector O'Reilly	Gordon Pugh
Joan Bishop	Audrey Douglas
Mrs Castle (the cook)	Felicity Atkins
Violet Bishop (Audrey Douglas
Rose Bishop	Thelma Greenwood
Patricia Bishop	Phoebe Reece
Colonel King	Felicity Atkins
Mrs. King) Aubrey Douglas
Letitia Bishop	Phoebe Reece
Mr Goodbody (a solicitor)	Phoebe Reece

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

OUR WARDROBE CONSUNTEENTS JOANNE GLEE AND PENNY
MUDDYFIELD FOR THE LOAN OF THE SAFETY PINS

MR AND MRS LOBSTER FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THEY HAVE
PUT INTO THE SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. WE
DIDN'T MEAN WHAT WE MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT THE NOISE
DURING REHEARSALS.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST YOUNG ~~XXXXXX~~ MR BATES FOR
SORTING OUT ALL THE ELECTRICTY, SOUND AND LIGHTS
FOR US. WE'RE SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE
LADDER AND HOPE HE IS OUT OF HOSPITAL SOON.



Cast Profiles

Debbie Lock (Mrs Reece)

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years – she has appeared in a variety of productions and has directed several plays and pantomimes, most recently **Faringdon Follies** and **Side Effects** at Buscot Park, and **Cider With Rosie** last November. She was last on stage as Sir Veillance in the award-winning panto **Arthur's Adventure** and before that you may have spotted her “mirror image” in the 2016 panto **Happily Ever After**. Another of Debbie's talents is choreography and when she has not been directing a panto has often been responsible for the dance moves.



Katie Dyet (Thelma)

Katie has appeared many times in panto, usually as the “baddie”: wicked wife Phobia in **Dick Whittington**, the Evil Queen in **Happily Ever After** and Jack Frost in **The Snow Queen**. Other plays she has been in include **Candleford** (where she won critical acclaim but didn't utter a word!), **Wife After Death** and last year **My Friend Miss Flint**. She has also appeared with other local theatre groups such as Amegos and Lechlade Players. Katie has been the chair of FDS and has taken numerous roles behind the scenes.

Sandra Keen (Felicity)

Sandra has been acting for eighteen years, starting with a production of **Cinderella**, and has since performed a wide range of rôles including Lady Sneerwell in Sheridan's **School for Scandal**. Here at FDS we last saw Sandra on stage as Sir Reale in the panto **Arthur's Adventure** (2017), and she has also had major parts in the award-winning **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **The Odd Couple**, **Living Together** (2015) and **Wife After Death** (2013).



Sarah Couzens (Audrey)

We last saw Sarah on stage in her first panto role with FDS, the wizard Merlin in **Arthur's Adventure** last year. Before that, Sarah's most recent appearances have been in **Living Together** (2015), **The Odd Couple** and **London Suite** (both in 2011). When she first joined FDS in 2001 Sarah took on the title role in **Daisy Pulls it Off** (where she gave “a very convincing performance”) and also appeared in **Arsenic and Old Lace** (2004).



Martin Waymark (Gordon)

Martin's stage debut came relatively recently, after five years in the orchestra pit at the FDS panto, in **My Friend Miss Flint** at Buscot Park last year. Since then he's been making up for lost time with roles in **Letter To Leonard** and as Sir Bedevere in the AmEgos 2017 production of **Spamalot**. This summer he appeared as a rakish Salvador Dali in **Faringdon Follies**, so it didn't take long (or much persuasion) to get him back as the only male cast member in Farndale.

Jo Webster (Director)

A member of FDS for over 25 years, Jo's director credits also include **Arsenic and Old Lace** and **Cold Comfort Farm**, but we have seen her on stage in in productions ranging from **Steel Magnolias** and **Stepping Out** to **Wind in the Willows** and this year's **Faringdon Follies**. She has also had some lovely character parts in panto: she stole the show as the hen that laid the golden eggs in **Jack and the Beanstalk** (2013). Despite all this her particular forte is visible to all: Jo has been the set designer for more than sixty (yes, that's 60) FDS productions.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Gifted Magpie** for ticket sales.



Faringdon Dramatic Society

Since its formation in 1948 Faringdon Dramatic Society has mounted over 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. We have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'. **The Crucible** (2001) and **Dancing at Lughnasa** (2004) both won best drama production in London and the South East area from NODA.

We have won four of the last five pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama Network. The most recent was for **Arthur's Adventure**, last year's panto.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

Our next production will be the 2019 Panto: **Wishing on a Star** by Helen Thrower and Verity Roberts, a sparkling tale of mischief and magic set in the faraway land of Durocornovium. It will be staged on the last weekend in January and the first in February – see the local press for more details nearer the time.

Thank you for coming to see the show. For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website.

We would really appreciate it if you would write us a review - both good and bad comments will be equally appreciated.

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

