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FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS



GASLIGHT

by Patrick Hamilton

16-19 November 2022



The David Evans Court Theatre,
Station Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5QY

www.courttheatre.co.uk

Director's notes

Patrick Hamilton (1904-1962) was born in West Sussex, England. His father was a bullying alcoholic comedian and historical novelist; his mother, a sometime singer. After his mother withdrew him from Westminster School at the age of fifteen, Hamilton worked in the theatre and then took up writing, publishing his first novel when he was nineteen and rapidly making a name for himself as an up-and-coming author. In 1927 Hamilton fell unhappily in love with a prostitute—an experience which was to inspire one of his masterpieces, the trilogy *Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky*. In 1932, he was badly injured and permanently disfigured after being hit by a car.

His breakthrough came in 1929 with the play, *Rope*, which Alfred Hitchcock later made into a film with James Stewart. The play *Gaslight* was written in 1938 and made into two films: *Angel Street* in

1940 and *Gaslight* in 1944 with Ingrid Bergman.

Hamilton died of cirrhosis of the liver and kidney failure after a lifetime of heavy drinking.

The phrase “Gaslighting” has become part of the English language to describe: a form of psychological manipulation in which the abuser attempts to sow self-doubt and confusion in their victim’s mind. Typically, gaslighters are seeking to gain power and control over the other person, by distorting reality and forcing them to question their own judgment and intuition.

The play is set in late Victorian period when £12,000 would be worth approximately £2 million in today’s money. At the time of writing the play, a terraced house in London would have been worth about £395 with average earnings at about £165 per year.

Cast list

Emma Loveday	Mrs Manningham
Jim Aldcroft	Mr Manningham
Dan Clucas	Rough
Regina Dobbs	Elizabeth
Lily Elborn	Nancy
Alex Mildon	Policeman
James Grout	Policeman

Production team

Director	Dan Clucas
Producer	Sarah Amsden
Stage Manager	Joyce Miller
Lighting	Chris and Angela Cooper
Stage	Simon Ruck
Box Office	David Wells
Graphic Design	Simon Blanchard

Thanks to The King’s Arms, Naomi Glasser, Rob Farrow, Matthew Homes, Anne Chatterley, Jon Loveday, Tanya Aldcroft and everyone who helped build and dress the set.



Emma Loveday
Mrs Manningham

Emma is excited to be back at the Court Theatre performing in Gaslight. Most recently, she played the role of Lauren in MASH Productions 'Kinky Boots', and Jennifer in 'Nativity! The Musical!' at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre for the Florence Nightingale Hospice charity. She has also played Alice Tinker in Tring Theatre Company's A Vicar of Dibley Christmas for which she received a NODA award for best comedy performance. Emma is also a choreographer, having choreographed the NODA award winning productions of 'Hairspray! The Musical' and 'Calendar Girls The Musical'. She will soon be taking on the role of Calamity Jane for Vale Musical Society in May 2023. Emma wants to thank her husband Jon for his love and support (and help with line learning!).



Jim Aldcroft:
Mr Manningham

Jim is more accustomed to treading the boards on the sets of musicals than plays, having recently played Captain Von Trapp in the VMS' 'Sound of Music' and Rod in TTC's 'Calendar Girls', for which he received a NODA Best Actor award. Before the pandemic he played CK Dexter Haven in VMS' 'High Society' and Ali Hakim in 'Oklahoma!'.

Gaslight presents a new challenge and an opportunity for Jim to stretch his acting muscles in a different way, with dark content, psychological tension and a lot more spoken lines to learn!

He dedicates his performance to his long-suffering wife and hopes he doesn't treat her quite as severely as Mr Manningham might.



Dan Clucas
Rough

Dan has played many parts at the Court Theatre including Lawrence in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and Francis Henshall in One Man Two Guvnors. His most recent role has been Sergeant Wilson in Dad's Army III. He played Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof at the Theatre Royal Windsor and has performed at the Pendley Shakespeare Festival. He has directed many shows including Accrington Pals and Mojo. He has co-written panto for the Limelight Theatre and devised shows such as "Hang On A Minute Lads I Got A Great Idea".



Regina Dobbs

Elizabeth

Regina has been a Frayed Knot member for a very long time and has been part of numerous shows. Her favourite show to be part of was 'Dirty Dusting'.

She is looking forward to the run of this show, acting alongside greatly talented people.



Lily Elborn

Nancy

Lily is very excited to be working again with Frayed Knot. After joining the team for Jerusalem when she was only 15, she has returned a couple of times to rekindle the relationship in Brighton Beach Memoirs and now Gaslight. Lily has performed in several other plays outside of Frayed Knot including DNA and Victim, Sidekick, Boyfriend, Me. She has also appeared in several musicals including Vi in Footloose, Patrice in 13 The musical and Audrey in Little Shop Of Horrors. After a few years away from performing, Lily is thrilled to get back to it with such a fab and familiar team.



Sarah Amsden

Producer

Sarah joined Frayed Knot with a terrifying three lines in The Full Monty. Realising she was happier behind the scenes she has stage-managed or produced many shows working with lakes on stage to rickety houses; with WW1 dugouts, disco bars, Scottish castles and dystopian futures in between. She has enjoyed the challenges of Gaslight and is delighted to work with old and new friends.



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