



Cayman Drama Society
at The Prospect Playhouse

proudly presents live on stage

Agatha Christie™

Radio



Plays



Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7.30 pm
January 29th to February 14th 2009
Dinner Theatre on Saturdays

Patron: Mrs. Mariko Jack

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AGATHA QUOTES

- *Crime is terribly revealing. Try and vary your methods as you will, your tastes, your habits, your attitude of mind, and your soul is revealed by your actions.*
- *Dogs are wise. They crawl away into a quiet corner and lick their wounds and do not rejoin the world until they are whole once more*
- *Every murderer is probably somebody's old friend*
- *Evil is not something superhuman, it's something less than human*
- *Good advice is always certain to be ignored, but that's no reason not to give it*
- *I don't think necessity is the mother of invention. Invention, in my opinion, arises directly from idleness, possibly also from laziness - to save oneself trouble*
- *I specialize in murders of quiet, domestic interest*
- *I've always believed in writing without a collaborator, because where two people are writing the same book, each believes he gets all the worry and only half the royalties.*

Agatha Christie[™]

A message from the Director

This should really say **Directors' Message** as this production is the result of the combined effort of me, my husband Chris, and Penny Phillips who very kindly took over the auditions when we were off Island in December and has provided all kinds of help and advice throughout.

Putting on a live show of radio plays is not as easy as it may first appear. While the cast were delighted at not having to learn the scripts, it soon became apparent that the skill would be in portraying the different characters using only their voices and engaging the imagination of the audience to fill in the blanks and decide what the characters look like and feel the atmosphere of the various settings. Our Foley Artist, Ian Morgan, has had his work cut out creating the various live sound effects. We seemed to find another one for him each time we rehearsed the plays.

There is no “backstage” in this show. You get to see it all! The lighting is controlled by the Stage Manager and incidental sound by the Sound Technician both of whom are part of the cast.

We encourage you to sit back, relax, and imagine that you are sitting listening to the radio in your living room on a dark evening.

Kate Bowring

Thank you!

Agatha Christie Limited—for the performing rights

Cox Lumber—for the wonderful door model used for sound effects

Chuck Quappe and Bob Lankford for microphone stands

Regina Oliver, Valerie Cottier and Wendy Moore for painting the set

Phillips Electical Ltd and Omeria Gordon—Box office and printing

Paul de Freitas—Programme design

Colin Wilson—special sound effects on CD

THE WRITINGS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Christie, one of the best-loved writers of all time, has sold over two billion books worldwide and has been translated into over 45 languages. In a writing career that spanned more than half a century, Agatha Christie wrote eighty novels and short story collections. She also wrote over a dozen plays, including *The Mousetrap*, which is now the longest running play in theatrical history.

Christie's first novel, the *Mysterious Affair at Styles* was the first to feature her eccentric Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. Her last published novel, *Sleeping Murder*, featured her other world-famous sleuth, Miss Jane Marple of St. Mary Mead. The Poirot and Marple novels have been widely dramatized in feature films and television. Agatha Christie also wrote six romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, one non-fiction book *Come Tell Me How you Live*, which describes her archeological travels with her husband Max and two collections of poems, short stories and verses. She also wrote her *Autobiography* which she completed in 1976.



Agatha Christie signature trademark, *Butter in a Lordly Dish* © 1948,
Personal Call © 1954, *Yellow Iris* © 1939 by Agatha Christie Limited
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Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Prospect Playhouse, and our first production of 2009, Agatha Christie's Radio Plays. This is a whole new concept of theatre for the Cayman Drama Society, concentrating as it does on the vocal nuances of the actors rather than their actions. In addition, the Foley Artist recreates sound effects at his desk on stage, whilst the Stage Manager (generally never seen by our audiences) oversees both the Foley Artist and the Sound Operator (also on stage). In rehearsal, it was fascinating to watch the actions of these three whilst listening to the voices of the actors bringing Agatha Christie's written words to life.

We have a full calendar of plays and events for the year ahead, with the enchanting musical Annie hitting the boards in March, followed by the Terrance Rattigan play "Separate Tables" in late May. Our silent auction last year proved so popular we are holding another on 25th April this year, details of which will be announced nearer the time. A further two plays are scheduled to round out 2009 – Moon over Buffalo, and another original script from our very own playwright about the missionary Mary Slessor.

As I mentioned in my Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Society last month, we are hoping to work closely with the schools to get more young people involved in drama in the coming year and, to this end, have appointed one of our committee members, Paul de Freitas, to be our "School's Liaison" to encourage such involvement.

I do hope you enjoy tonight's production as much as the cast and crew have enjoyed putting it together.

Penny Phillips
Chairman 2009

Theatre Manager's Message

We have now completed our latest – and probably the last – extension to the Prospect Playhouse. We now have chair and table storage space on the ground floor, and a general storage/office area on the upper floor.

New loudspeakers have been kindly donated by Mrs. Joan Wilson, and they are in operation for the first time during this production. The speakers we have been using were made by our members for the opening of the Playhouse in 1990.

The Prospect Playhouse Management Committee would ask that interval drinks be ordered from the bar BEFORE the start of the show. Orders will then be set out on the foyer drinks shelves for you. Hopefully, this will eliminate congestion at the bar during the interval and prevent delays in resuming the show.

We hope you enjoy this very different production.

Peter Phillips
Theatre Manager



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THE PLAYS

Personal Call

Personal Call was broadcast on the BBC Radio Light Programme on Monday, May 31, 1954 at 8.30pm. This play re-uses the character of Inspector Narracott from the 1931 novel, *The Sittaford Mystery*.

Intermission

The Yellow Iris

The Yellow Iris was first broadcast on the BBC National Programme (as it was then called) on Tuesday, November 2, 1937 at 8.00pm. The script was based on the short story, *Yellow Iris* which had been published in issue 559 of the *Strand Magazine* in July of the same year. The short story was later expanded by Agatha Christie into the 1945 full-length novel *Sparkling Cyanide*.

Intermission

(dinner to be served on Saturdays)

Butter in a Lordly Dish

Butter in a Lordly Dish was first performed on the BBC Radio Light Programme on Tuesday January 13, 1948 at 9.30pm in a strand entitled *Mystery Playhouse presents The Detection Club* and is one of Christie's least-known works. The title comes from the Bible: Judges, 5:25 - "He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish". The play was one of a series of six written by members of the Detection Club to raise funds for the organisation.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



Sarah Genereux—Sarah's love affair with the theatre world began at an early age. She has been involved in acting, directing and producing in some way, shape or form since primary school (even if it was only to direct/"boss around" family and friends in the early days). Sarah has had the opportunity to play "Helena" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and "Nancy" in *Oliver Twist* and more recently, direct her fantastic students at Montessori by the Sea in *The Lorax* and *Anansi the Spider*. Sarah is happy to join the cast of the *Agatha Christie Radio Plays* and wishes you a suitably spooky evening.



Wendy Moore—Wendy has been performing with the CDS since she was 17 in pantomimes, musicals and comedies. She has played a variety of roles including Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Guinevere in *Camelot*, 82 year old Phoebe in the British comedy *Haywire* and Annie in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Wendy says performing in a show for radio has presented a whole new set of challenges. "Going completely against our natural instincts we are directed to ignore the other characters on stage – what?!! I found it easier to achieve if I pictured them all as my husband....."



Valerie Cottier—After many years of NOT being on stage (*Jeffrey Bernard* being the last time), Valerie has decided to step down (no pun intended) from the lighting box and join Agatha's cast for this interesting Radio show. The hardest part of course is making you, the audience, be able to distinguish the different characters but the easiest part is...not having to learn lines. Sit back close your eyes and Believe!!!!



Martin Tedd—Martin has played many varying roles in productions at the Prospect Playhouse over the last ten years, but these were all dwarfed by his last role in *Snow White!* In these days of ever more "senior moments" he is enjoying the luxury of not having to learn the Radio Plays script by heart.



Alan Hall—As a member of the CDS for the last 25 years, Alan has performed in 15 different productions and directed another 14. When informed that the actors in this production would be using the scripts on stage, so would not need to learn the lines, he was looking forward to an easy time. Wrong! It has proved to be extremely challenging (also tremendously rewarding and a lot of fun) to have to portray a diverse range of characters using only vocal intonation, without the full range of movement, body language and facial expression on which stage actors normally rely. He was also very relieved not to have to play a steam train!



Gary Cordes—Gary has played a number of lead parts in musical shows in the UK, including *Carousel* and *Oklahoma!* He has sung professionally and had his Cayman debut recently at the Cayman Prep annual fundraiser. The radio plays are new territory for Gary that have reinvigorated his passion for the stage.



Rick Glass—Rick has enjoyed working with the CDS for the past nine years. His first appearance on stage was that of King Richard in *Robin Hood* and most recently he played Death in *Mort*. He has also worked as a stage manager and as part of the backstage crew, most notably on the flying crew for *Peter Pan*. Rick enjoys creating memorable characters and this production of Agatha Christie: Radio Plays gives Rick another chance to do what he loves.



Ian Morgan (Foley Artist) It's been quite a while since Ian was last on stage...actually he can't remember what play it was...it was that long ago. For the last 3 years, the only role he has had is as Scrooge, sitting in a darkened room with only a candle to light him as he pours over the books of the Society (he's the Treasurer!). It's a role that he gets to play again this year after the recent AGM.



Peter Phillips (Stage Manager) Peter has been the Stage Manager for countless Cayman Drama Society productions. Having designed the set for the *Agatha Christie Radio Plays* so that it extended right to the front of the stage meant that there was no curtain for him to hide behind! Peter therefore became part of the cast and you now get the opportunity to see what the Stage Manager really does!



Helen Godfrey (Sound Technician) Over the last few years Helen has been involved in quite a number of productions whether it be Props for *Snow White*, filming *Charlie Brown*, Sound for *Magna Carta* or Producing for *Peter Pan*. This one is going to be her most challenging role yet. Doing sound and being on stage at the same time!!!! Enjoy!!!!



Chris Bowring (Pianist) Chris has been Musical Director for many productions over the years, including *Forever Plaid* and *Side by Side* by Sondheim. Most recently Chris was the accompanist for the Drama Society Singers in *A Night of Broadway*.



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AUDITIONS, AUDITIONS!

When you go to meetings or auditions and you fail to prepare, prepare to fail. It is simple but true. **(Paula Abdul)**



It was a mixed blessing to have famous parents. It was tough to go to auditions and be bad, since I couldn't be anonymous. **(Ben Stiller)**

I have dreams, and sometimes you wonder how far you'll go for those dreams, especially when the boundaries of work are very ill-defined. I walk out of some auditions thinking, 'I can't believe I just did that.' **(Rachel Blanchard)**

COMING UP NEXT



“Please take care of our little darling. Her name is Annie. She was born on October the twenty-eighth. We will be back to get her soon. We have left half of a silver locket around her neck and kept the other half, so that when we come back for her you will know that she's our baby.”

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
12th March—5th April 2009



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