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### **THANKS TO THE ABOVE FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT**

Patronage entitles you to attend social events plus the annual patrons' evening at which you are entitled to vote in the selection of one of the plays for the following season.

At a minimum of £1.50 p/m (£18 p/a), patronage is for up to two people, so those of you signing up individually are welcome to bring a guest to social events and to the patrons' evening.

If you would like to become a patron, please get in touch with Martin Smith on 01902 651828 or [studio61martin@gmail.com](mailto:studio61martin@gmail.com)



# **THE CHILDREN**

## **BY LUCY KIRKWOOD**

**22ND - 24TH MARCH 2024**

**STUDIO61.ORG.UK**

**NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE**

**NEWHAMPTONARTSCENTRE.CO.UK**

**This amateur production of "The Children" is presented  
by special arrangement with Nick Hern Books**

# BACKGROUND

On 11th March 2011, the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan struck off the country's eastern coast triggering a tsunami which swept over Japan's main island of Honshu, killing more than 18,000 people and wiping entire towns off the map.

Waves over 14 metres high surged over coastal defences and flooded the reactors at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, sparking a major disaster. Authorities set up an exclusion zone which grew larger and larger as radiation leaked from the plant, forcing more than 150,000 people to evacuate from the area.

Lucy Kirkwood's play draws on this disaster, imagining the aftermath of a similar event in the UK. Hazel and Robin's organised world comes crashing down as Rose, a friend from the past, confronts them with a moral dilemma. The play deals with issues of guilt, morality and responsibility and brings into sharp focus the topic of climate change.

With the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events, Hazel's "we shouldn't have to deal with this shit" is the cry of a society which stands by, wringing its hands while carrying on business as usual.

When the play opened at The Royal Court in 2016, Kirkwood said "We have a finite planet so the play was always a bit about the battle between wanting more and looking at what you can actually have."

In the play, Hazel says how frightened she is about what's happening, but she doesn't know 'how to want less'. Something we can all identify with but also something we need to address – before it's too late.

**"WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO FEEL THE  
IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAST  
GENERATION THAT CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT."**

**BARACK OBAMA**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It was Jane Fosbrook who first lent me a copy of *The Children* during lockdown. It's such a funny, moving and thought-provoking play I was blown away by the writing and determined to direct it one day. That day has arrived and I'm so grateful to this committed and talented cast for giving me the opportunity to realise my vision. This is very much a team effort and, as with all Studio 61 productions, the backstage crew have all been an integral part of the production from day one. A huge thank you to Andy Cox for constructing the set and for his calm "I'll see what I can do" answer to everything I've thrown at him.

Rehearsals have been a joy – lots of discussion and great fun. Hope you enjoy the result.

Jane A



*Ron Cook, Deborah Findlay and Francesca Annis in the original production of "The Children".  
Photograph: Joan Marcus*



## **SUZANNE SMITH as ROSE**

Suzanne has been working with Studio 61 for the best part of 20 years now and has performed in and directed many different styles of production from Shakespeare to Pinter, Webster to Stoppard. She is particularly excited by this piece as, although sustainable energy and environmental issues are very much in the forefront of everyone's mind these days as a global problem, it is interesting to explore how individuals react when their lives are directly impacted by those issues and how they cope with their contribution to the problems and their responsibilities to the world around them.



## **JANE FOSBROOK as HAZEL**

Jane has been acting and directing with local drama groups for over 40 years and has been with Studio 61 for 20 of those. Having started by being persuaded into doing the odd song and sketch in Music Halls and revues she gradually moved on to the more 'serious' side of drama. Roles have included Joanna in "Present Laughter", the Empress of China and the good fairy in some fun pantomimes, Barbara in "Pack of Lies" and several lovely funny yet poignant Ayckbourn roles. Directorial duties include "The School for Scandal", "The Village Fête" and "Arcadia" and she is directing the next production, "An Experiment with an Air Pump".

She cannot quite understand the complaints that there are no good parts for older women. Her favourite roles up to now have been the almost demented Cissy in Stafford Players' production of "Quartet" and HRH Elizabeth II in Studio 61's "Handbagged", and she considers this part to be a cracker!



## **RICHARD CORSER as ROBIN**

Richard is looking forward to acting in this challenging play in the role of Robin a retired nuclear engineer/farmer. It is a role he was born for (not) with his major scientific achievement being an 'O' level in biology. Farming is however a different matter with him having worked on a dairy farm in his 20's and he has vast experience with animals gained from a stint as a zookeeper at Dudley Zoo.

He has appeared in a few Studio 61 productions including "Handbagged", "Gormenghast" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Richard also directed "Nigel Slater's Toast" for us in March 2023. Richard has acted and directed with a number of groups over the years, in West Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Midlands, Essex and London. He is also a member of Wombourne Players; one of our affiliate groups.

Roles that Richard has particularly enjoyed playing include the Doctor in Tennessee Williams play "Suddenly Last Summer", multiple roles in "Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell" including Lester Piggott and Leonato in "Much Ado About Nothing".



# THE CHILDREN

BY LUCY KIRKWOOD



## CAST

**ROSE** Suzanne Smith

**HAZEL** Jane Fosbrook

**ROBIN** Richard Corser

A small cottage somewhere on the east coast  
An evening in early summer

The total running time will be  
approximately 120 minutes.

This will include an interval of 20  
minutes.

Please ensure that all mobile  
phones are turned off during the  
performance.

In the event of an emergency the  
front of house staff will guide you  
to the emergency exit.

## CREW

**DIRECTOR** Jane Alsop

**STAGE MANAGER** Maggie Smith

**ASM/PROPERTIES** Anna Wright

**SET CONSTRUCTION** Andy Cox

**LIGHTING AND SOUND** Benjamin Savage

**PROMPT** Kevin Porter

**FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER** David Bickley

**FRONT OF HOUSE** Members of the society

**POSTER AND PROGRAMME** Sarah Carter

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Steve Cox

Josh and the staff at NAC

The staff at Bradmore Arms

The Church At Perton



## Himley Cricket Club is proud to sponsor S61

Clubhouse hire – parties; christenings; wakes; corporate events  
Junior cricket for boys and girls aged 5 to 15  
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[www.himleycc.co.uk](http://www.himleycc.co.uk)

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## BECOME A SPONSOR OF STUDIO 61

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor of Studio 61 and having an advertisement in our programmes? For more information, please contact Anna Wright at [annakwright10@outlook.com](mailto:annakwright10@outlook.com).

## JOIN STUDIO 61: UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY ON AND OFF THE STAGE!

Discover the world of theatre and find your place at Studio 61. Whether you're interested in acting or working backstage, our inclusive community welcomes individuals of all levels of experience and backgrounds. Join us in exploring the exciting realms of artistic expression and teamwork.

At Studio 61, we hold rehearsals twice a week on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Bradmore Arms pub on Trysull Rd, Wolverhampton. Our supportive and engaging environment offers a space to develop acting skills and immerse yourself in storytelling. If you prefer working behind the scenes, we have opportunities in stage management, set design, costume creation, lighting, sound, and more.

Membership at Studio 61 starts at just £3 per month, ensuring accessibility for all. We encourage anyone interested to attend our rehearsals without obligation, getting to know the company and finding out if we're the right fit for you. We produce three productions each year at Newhampton Arts Centre, entertaining audiences in the Spring, Summer, and Winter.

In addition to our performances, Studio 61 hosts various social events, including the Patrons' Evening. Connect with us on our website at [www.studio61.org.uk](http://www.studio61.org.uk) or through our social media handles: Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, and TikTok (@studio61drama) for updates, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and more.

Join Studio 61 today and become part of a vibrant community where passion meets creativity. We look forward to welcoming you!



## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS FROM STUDIO 61



### SUMMER PRODUCTION

**An Experiment with an Air Pump**  
by Shelagh Stephenson

26th - 28th June 2024

1799 - On the eve of a new century, the house buzzes with scientific experiment, furtive romance and farcical amateur dramatics.

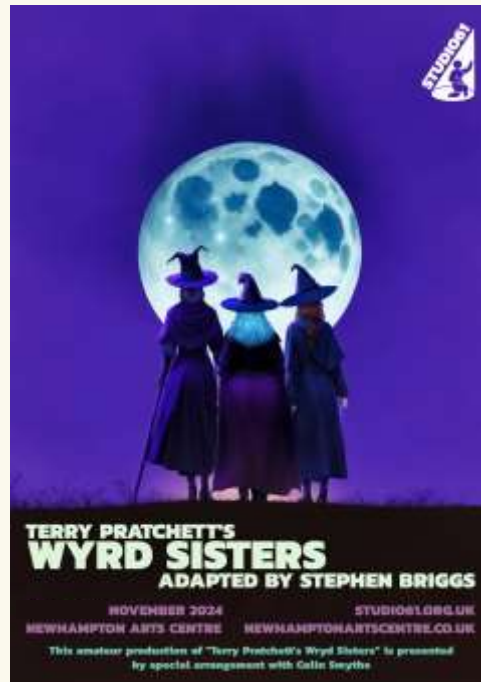
1999 - In a world of scientific chaos, cloning and genetic engineering, the cellar of the same house reveals a dark secret buried for 200 years.

### WINTER PRODUCTION

**Terry Pratchett's Wyrd Sisters**  
adapted by Stephen Briggs

November 2024

A wicked duke and duchess, the ghost of the murdered king, dim soldiers, strolling players, a land in peril. And who stands between the Kingdom and destruction? Three witches. Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick.



## STUDIO 61'S AFFILIATES

Discover a wealth of outstanding amateur theatre in our local area. Treat yourself to a show presented by one of our affiliated groups.

### Pattingham Drama Group

#### Heroes

by Gerald Sibleyras, translated by Tom Stoppard

Spring 2024

Box Office: 01902 700748

[www.pattinghamdramagroup.co.uk](http://www.pattinghamdramagroup.co.uk)



### Wombourne Players

#### Entertaining Angels

by Richard Everett

15th - 18th May 2024

Box Office: 01902 881184

[www.wombourneplayers.org.uk](http://www.wombourneplayers.org.uk)



### Dudley Little Theatre

#### Abigail's Party

by Mike Leigh

16th - 19th May 2024

Box Office: 07954 424555

[www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org)



### Stafford Players

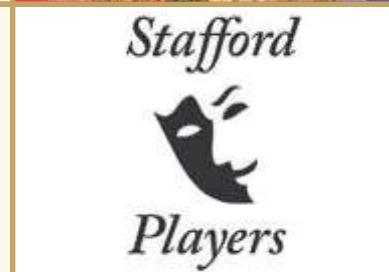
#### The Last of The Haussmans

by Stephen Beresford

July 2024

Box Office: 01785 619080

[www.gatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.gatehousetheatre.co.uk)



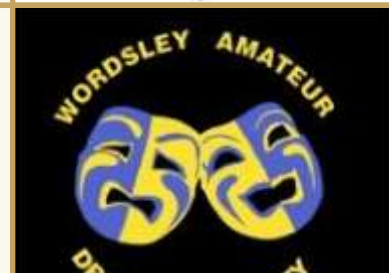
### Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society

#### To Be Announced

Crestwood School, Hagley Community Centre  
2024

Box Office: 01902 700748

[www.wordsleyamdram.co.uk](http://www.wordsleyamdram.co.uk)



# STUDIO 61 PATRONS' CALENDAR 2024

Thank you for your invaluable support of Studio 61! Throughout the year, we host a variety of special events exclusively for our valued patrons. Enjoy a sneak peek at the exciting calendar we have planned for you, and mark those dates in your diary! See the back page for information on becoming a patron.

## CHARITY FUNDRAISER EVENING

**Heroes and Villains**

in aid of Mind ([www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk))

*Thursday 25th April 2024 at Himley Cricket Club*

Join us for a night of heroic entertainment and villainous fun! Our talented members will be reading poems, sharing side-splitting stories, performing dramatic scenes, and bringing musical mayhem. Be sure to unleash your inner hero (or villain) for a fantastic cause.



## ESCAPE ROOM

**The Magician's Studio**

written by Escape This Podcast

*Wednesday 7th August 2024 at Bradmore Arms*

You're an amateur magician going backstage to meet your magical idol, but you soon find yourself trapped in a door-less room filled with tricks, traps and torment. Can you escape your magical prison before the curtain falls and what secrets will you uncover in the process?



## PLAY READING

**Bleak Expectations**

by Mark Evans

*Wednesday 24th July 2024 at Bradmore Arms*

The story Charles Dickens might have written after drinking too much gin... Follow half-orphan Pip's extraordinary exploits with sisters Pippa and Poppy and best friend Harry Biscuit, as they attempt to escape the calculating clutches of the dastardly Mr Gently Benevolent.



## PATRONS' EVENING

**2025 Season Announcement**

*Thursday 15th August 2024 at Himley Cricket Club*

Mark your calendars for the unveiling of Studio 61's exciting 2025 season at our exclusive Patrons' Evening! This special evening will not only reveal the upcoming theatrical delights but also empower you, our esteemed patrons, to choose the Patrons' Choice Production from three captivating excerpts performed live on stage.



## QUIZ NIGHT

**Trivial Pursuit**

*Wednesday 31st July 2024 at Bradmore Arms*

Assemble your brainiest squad and prepare to conquer every category at our Trivial Pursuit Quiz Night! This epic battle of wits features rounds dedicated to each iconic Trivial Pursuit wedge, testing your knowledge across diverse fields like history, entertainment, and more. Unleash your inner know-it-all and work together with your team to claim trivia glory!



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Open Mic Night**

*Thursday 12th December 2024 at Himley Cricket Club*

Ho ho ho! Celebrate the season at our Christmas Open Mic Night! Unleash your inner bard and share your holiday spirit with heartwarming stories, jolly poems, or merry musical ditties. Feeling shy? No worries! Just soak in the festive atmosphere. Dust off your Santa hats and join us for a heartwarming evening of community, creativity, and Christmas joy!

