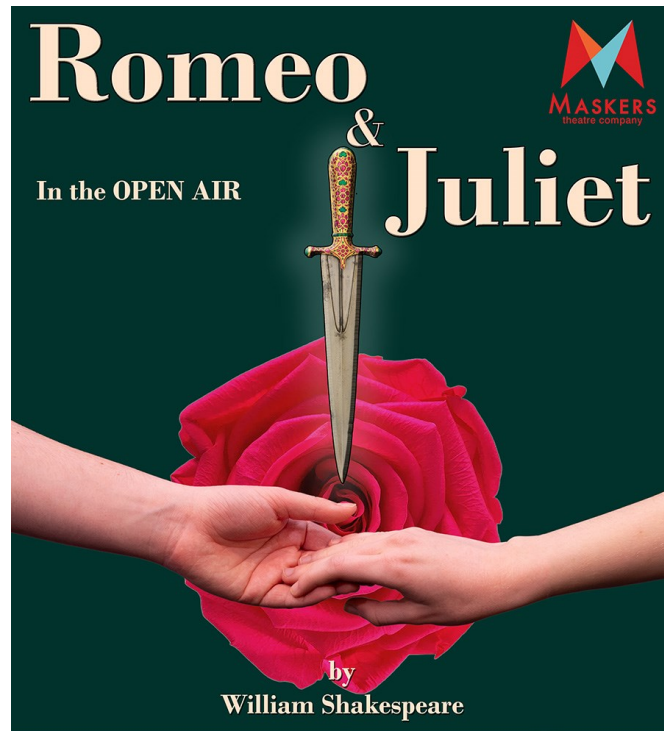


Forthcoming Production



In the beautiful grounds of Townhill Park House

Early bird tickets are available from £14 . Hurry — offer available until 31 May

18 — 27 July 2024

**BOOKING: Via link on our website  
maskers.org.uk or 0333 666 3366**

**For the Maskers** Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; Lighting Consultant:- Clive Weeks; Sound Consultant:- Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior; Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Rachel Di Nucci; Business Development Manager:- Chrissy Way; Front of House and Box Office Manager:- Chris Baker; Photography:- Clive Weeks; Bar Manager:- Meri Mackney

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Registered charity no.900067

Agatha Christie's

# Murder in the Studio



3 Radio plays

Programme

20th — 25th May 2024

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

## Directors' Notes

***Murder in the Studio*** by Agatha Christie is a testament to what Maskers can do within a short time frame, with dedication, passion, and talent. Although a very late addition to our 2024 program, we have had incredible contributions from both new and established members of Maskers and have been able to put together an enthralling and atmospheric experience for our audience.

The original spark of inspiration was the brainchild of our Sound Designer, Jamie McCarthy, who had suggested we look at radio plays to occupy our available window in May. With this recommendation in mind, a collection of 3 short radio plays stood out and immediately resonated with the committee. ***Murder in the Studio*** by Agatha Christie had all the elements we were looking for, including a wonderful variety of characters in each play (***Personal Call***, ***Yellow Iris***, and ***Butter in a Lordly Dish***), a diverse soundscape that could be achieved with both prerecorded sound and foley, and captivating storytelling.

We were very keen to keep the radio play aspect intact, giving us the opportunity to experiment with alternative performance techniques. Whilst rehearsing I would often find myself closing my eyes and just listening to the story unfold and be just as entertained.

Each play has its own unique charm, taking us on a journey through mystery, vengeance, and murder. Audiences can expect everything they love from great Agatha Christie stories and still be thrilled by the dynamic performances our full cast has to offer.

We welcome you all to the live performance of ***Murder in the Studio*** and hope you have a night to remember!

Quiet on set.

On air in 3, 2, 1....

*Anna and Jenni*



### Directed by Anna Hussey and Jenni Prior —

Anna joined Maskers in 2018 and has been involved both on and off stage. Debuting in ***Wyrd Sisters*** as part of the ensemble, Anna has since played Beatrice in ***Much Ado About Nothing*** and originated the role of Vicki in ***Yards Apart***. In 2023, Anna first directed for Maskers with ***Gormenghast*** and has now taken up the role of Productions Director.



Jenni joined Maskers in November 2023 for ***Almost Maine***, and has a long history of acting, directing and backstage roles before Maskers. Her favourite things to direct are murder mystery comedies, so ***Murder in the Studio*** is a bit of a departure from the norm but she has enjoyed the opportunity to do something different this time.



FREE ENTRY  All welcome!  
Shirley's own studio theatre opens its doors to everyone!

## OPEN HOUSE

Ever wondered what goes on off-stage at a play?


Maskers is welcoming people into the theatre to see the bits the audience doesn't usually get to see. Come and learn a little about the workshop, the technical department, the costume department and how we go about marketing our shows.

**Or just drop in for a cup of tea and a chat on the first Saturday of every month.**

**Saturday 1st June**

Running from 10am – 1pm.

## SHINING A LIGHT ON SHIRLEY



### YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AT MASKERS theatre company

**Monday, 4:30 - 6:00 (NEW)**  
Shirley Ensemble (12 - 18 yrs)

**Wednesday**  
LAMDA Tuition (7+), times vary depending on grade. Enquire for details.


**Friday, 4:30 - 6:30**  
Mixed Company (7 - 16 yrs), waiting list only

**Coming Soon to the Light UP line-up:**

- Intro to Tech - register your interest
- Junior Company (7-12 yrs) - register your interest
- Musical Theatre Company (7-16yrs) - register your interest

**More classes added due to popular demand**

To get more information or book a free trial visit [www.lightupdrama.org.uk](http://www.lightupdrama.org.uk) or email the team at [info@lightupdrama.org.uk](mailto:info@lightupdrama.org.uk)



## The Action

The three plays making up ***Murder in the Studio*** were first written for the radio and performed on the BBC.

***Personal Call*** is set in the 1950s in the home of newly-weds Pam and James Brent and at the railway station in Newton Abbott.

**Characters:** Fay, James Brent, Pam Brent, Mrs Lamb, Evan Curtis, Mary Curtis, Mr Enderby, Inspector Narracott, Operator, Station Announcer, First Porter, Second Porter, First woman, Second Woman.

***Yellow Iris*** is set in the 1930s in the restaurant of the hotel Jardin des Cygnes.

**Characters:** Hercule Poirot, Pauline Weatherby, Senora Lola Valdez, Barton Russell, Anthony Chappell, Stephen Carter, Waiter, Cloakroom Attendant, Compere.

***Butter in a Lordly Dish*** is set in London in the 1940s in the boarding house of Mrs Petter and the townhouse of Sir Luke Enderby, Paddington Station and Julia Keene's cottage.

**Characters:** Sir Luke Enderby K.C., Lady Enderby, Julia Keene, Susan Warren, Mrs Petter, Florrie Petter, Hayward, Porter.

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## Acknowledgements

Maskers would like to thank :

Everyone who lent us wooden chairs.  
Edwin Dootson at BBC South for the period headset.

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## The Production Team

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Directors</b>          | Anna Hussey, Jenni Prior              |
| <b>Production Manager</b> | Maria Mckay                           |
| <b>Stage Manager</b>      | Donald Coe                            |
| <b>Lighting Designer</b>  | Clive Weeks                           |
| <b>Sound Designer</b>     | Jamie McCarthy                        |
| <b>Lighting Operator</b>  | Donald Coe                            |
| <b>Sound Operators</b>    | Emily Smith, Ashley Martin            |
| <b>Set Design</b>         | Anna Hussey, Jenni Prior, Clive Weeks |
| <b>Set Construction</b>   | Clive Weeks, Donald Coe and team      |
| <b>Set Dressing</b>       | Angela Stansbridge                    |
| <b>Costume</b>            | Clare Britton, Lucy Lockyer           |
| <b>Properties</b>         | Lucy Lockyer, Angela Stansbridge      |
| <b>Poster Design</b>      | Anna Hussey                           |
| <b>Show Photography</b>   | Clive Weeks                           |

## The Cast in order of appearance



**Mrs Lamb/Porter/Compère** played by **Dawn Gatrell** — Dawn performed in pantos at The Bent Brief pub and in ***The Shadow Factory***, which premiered at the Nuffield City Theatre before joining Maskers in August 2022. She has enjoyed playing a variety of different roles since then, most recently, the formidable Ms Cowper in the riotous comedy ***Cash on Delivery***. She is excited to be performing in this unique presentation of radio plays.



**Operator/Announcer** played by **Meri Mackney** — Meri has been a Masker for more years than she cares to remember and has been involved with many shows both on and off-stage. She most recently appeared in ***The Merry Wives of Windsor*** and her last production was ***Jane Eyre***, which she adapted and directed.



**James/ Chappell** played by **Matthew Meehan** — Matthew is an actor, writer, and director who has performed all over the UK for over 25 years. His other interests include Poe, Lovecraft and motorbikes.



**Fay** played by **Jane Russell** — Jane was last seen playing Linda in ***Cash on Delivery*** and prior to that the eccentric Madame Arcati in ***Blithe Spirit***. Jane is delighted to be back performing at the Maskers Studio in something a little different from the norm: three radio plays, all with karma at the very heart. So just who is Fay and why is she so keen to meet her ex-husband?



**Pam** played by **Maria Head** — Maria has been a member of Maskers for some time and has played a wide variety of roles, including Goneril in ***King Lear***, Mary Plunket in ***A Bunch of Amateurs*** and Mistress Meg Page in ***The Merry Wives of Windsor***.



**Porter/Carter/Hayward** played by **Paul Baker** — Paul has been in over twenty-five shows in the open air for Maskers and rarely ventures indoors. During that time he has played a variety of roles including Weasel Norman in ***Wind in the Willows*** and Thomas Cromwell in ***Anne Boleyn*** and often multiple parts in the same production as evidenced in ***The Three Musketeers***. This is Paul's fourth production in a row inside, following ***Gormenghast***, ***Sorry, Wrong Chimney!***, and, most recently, Uncle George in ***Cash on Delivery***.

## The Cast in order of appearance



**Evan/Poirot** played by **Rob Iliffe** — Rob apologises to any Belgians in the audience for his portrayal of Hercule Poirot. Rob has previously appeared for Maskers in *Almost Maine* and *Jane Eyre*.



**Mary** played by **Rachel Di Nucci** — Rachel joined Maskers a couple of years ago and has been in a number of productions: *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Gormenghast*, *Jane Eyre*. Recently, she branched out into an anthropomorphic role by playing the out of control washing machine in *Cash on Delivery*, for which In Common rated her an 11/10!



**Mr Enderby/Russell/Sir Luke** played by **Duncan Randall** — Duncan started as a character actor at primary school and was involved in various community theatre groups. On moving to the south coast, he joined Titchfield Festival Theatre (TFT), before joining the Maskers for *The Three Musketeers* in 2022 playing Athos, amongst others. Since then, he has appeared in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Gormenghast*, and *Time and Tide*, in which he played King Knut (among others) - typecast again!



**Woman/Senora Valdez** played by **Katusha Curtis** — This is Katusha's debut with Maskers. She has performed previously with RAODS but is delighted to find a theatre group closer to her home.



**Woman/Pauline** played by **Teo Rusu** — Teo is really enjoying this first production with Maskers, and she hopes you will enjoy it, too.



**Inspector Narracott/Waiter** played by **Chris Baker** — Chris Baker has been a member of the company for many years, taking part in a variety of productions, both on and off stage. She manages our box office arrangements and generally assists with the company administration. She last appeared at the Studio as Helen in *Out of Focus* and is happy to be involved in this very different production.



**Marion** played by **Lucy Lockyer** — Lucy joined Maskers in 2023 and has been involved 'behind the scenes', on several plays. She has acted in several amateur theatre companies in the past, in a wide variety of roles and genres. Lucy is delighted to be in her first acting role with The Maskers. As a former hospital radio presenter, she simply couldn't resist the chance to be in this radio play! Lucy is a keen writer, graphic designer and illustrator.



**Julia** played by **Tash Priddle** — Tash joined Maskers earlier this year when she played a mad Brenda Dixon in *Cash on Delivery*. This will be Tash's second role with the company, and she is looking forward to showing a different type of 'mad'. Tash will also be in *Romeo & Juliet* in the summer.



**Susan** played by **Katy de Haviland** — Katy began acting in the Midlands as a child, going on to study Drama and Performing Arts at college before joining her local theatre company. After a 20-year break she joined Maskers last year and played the role of Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*. She is looking forward to playing Susan Warren in *Murder in the Studio*.



**Mrs Petter** played by **Jill Desborough** — Jill has been involved with many shows in a variety of roles, both on and off stage. Acting credits have included: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Sharks in the Custard*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Christmas with the Cratchits*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and most recently, *Almost, Maine*.



**Florrie** played by **Molly McDade** — This is Molly's first Agatha Christie, and the first time acting as a foley artist for a play. Her most recent roles with Maskers Theatre were Prunesquallor in *Gormenghast*, and Martha in *Christmas with the Cratchits*, and she is looking forward to brushing up on her cockney accent once again!

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There will be two intervals of 15 minutes each

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