

JOHN BUCHAN'S

THE 39 STEPS

DIRECTED BY CLIFF FRANCIS

SPIES, BLONDE AND A GUY GO
NORTH BY NORTHWEST



SEASON 2019 - 2020 £1.50

Cast

Richard Hannay	Jon Brown
Annabella / Margaret / Pamela	Grace Maynard
Clown 1	Paul Russell
Clown 2	Keith Swainston
Radio Announcer	David Thompson
Singer	Darcie White

The action takes place over two acts and 33 scenes in a multitude of locations: the Forth Bridge in Scotland, inside a big hoose, a West End theatre (London Palladium no less!), on board The Flying Scotsman – yes, the train – and even on the Scottish moors!

Running time:

Approximately 2 hours – including a 20-minute interval.

WARNING

The play has one instance of smoking, smoke effects, flashing lights (NOT strobe), loud bangs and scenes intended to cause laughter!



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— AT THE —
BARN

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On the first Sunday of **EVERY** month **Singers at the Barn** present a wonderful evening of live musical entertainment – from musical theatre and the classics to rock and jazz. Everyone is welcome, the bar is open and you can even get up and sing yourself if you want to.

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From the Chairman

Welcome to the Barn Theatre for the second production of our 50th anniversary season – *The 39 Steps*.

It's tricky to think of a piece that offers a greater contrast with the tension and drama of our opening play this season, and I'm delighted that we continue to offer such a great variety.

Many of us will remember reading the original adventure novel by the Scottish author John Buchan. It first appeared as a serial in *Blackwood's Magazine* in August and September 1915 before being published in book form in October that year. It was, of course, also made into a film in 1935 by Alfred Hitchcock, and has been popular ever since.

However, anyone expecting a faithful representation of that book is in for a bit of a surprise – this is a parody version, with just four actors playing upwards of 100 roles!

Landing a comedy of this nature, of course, requires a skilful directorial hand and in this we are lucky to have the experienced Cliff Francis giving us his first play on the Barn stage. The acting talent is there too, and I know you're going to enjoy this fast, funny, skilful, feel-good homage to both Buchan and Hitchcock.

As a community of volunteers, we're always looking for new faces to get involved, even if it's only in a small way. If acting's not for you there are lots of backstage roles where you can become part of the team and enjoy putting together a production for everyone. We don't expect anyone to walk straight in as a stage manager – we'll ease you in, with lots of opportunities to learn the ropes and try a few things out and see what you enjoy. If the idea appeals to you, have a chat to one of the Barn members helping out this evening, and they'll put you in touch with someone to find out more.

I hope you enjoy this lovely production. I know the cast and crew have had great fun getting it ready, and are looking forward to getting the audiences laughing. Grab an ice cream, put on your best spy disguises, and strap in!

Simon

Simon Parr
Chairman, Barn Theatre Club





Jon Brown

RICHARD HANNAY

Jon has enjoyed a diverse acting and directing career. Stage credits include *Twelve Angry Men*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Mojo*, *All My Sons*, *Cabaret*, *The Darling Buds of May*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Art*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Elephant Man*, *Closer*, *My Romantic History*, *Fawlty Towers*,

Brassed Off and *The God of Carnage*.

Directing credits include *84 Charing Cross Road*, *The Graduate*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Jerusalem*, *Frankenstein*, *Journey's End* and *The Thrill of Love*. Most recently Jon's production of *Dinner* at the Barn won Best Play at Hertford Theatre Week, 2019. Jon is delighted to be returning to the Barn stage in the role of Hannay.



Grace Maynard

ANNABELLA, MARGARET, PAMELA

Grace joined the Barn last season, playing roles in *The Priory* and *Boudica*. Notable performances with other companies include *The*

Children's Hour, *Proof*, *Stags and Hens*, *Rope* and *Twelfth Night*. She is delighted to be a part of *The 39 Steps* which is one of her all-time favourite plays, having performed it previously with the Massive Grūta theatre company. Later this season she will be co-directing the Christmas show *The Railway Children* at the Barn. In real life, Grace is a teacher, which allows her to use her acting skills daily such as designing creative lessons, story-telling and feigning an interest in 'show and tell'.

John Buchan

John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, was a Scottish novelist, historian and politician. He served as Governor General of Canada, signing Canada's declaration of war in WW2. After a brief spell as a barrister he simultaneously began his writing, political and diplomatic careers, initially as a private secretary in South Africa. He wrote for the British war effort's propaganda in WW1.



He was elected as an MP in 1927 but still found time famous being *The 39 Steps*. He thought Hitchcock's was raised to the peerage, when he was appointed his death in 1940, when he was given a state funeral.

Paul Russell

CLOWN 1

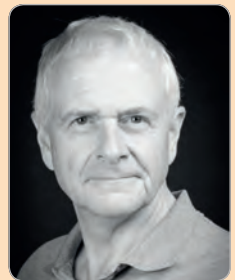
Since appearing in *Breathing Corpses* in the Studio in 2017 Paul's stage credits include *Good Things*, *Handbagged*, *Nell Gwynn* and *Honk!* as well as the award-winning production of *Dinner*. Paul has recently successfully completed the Bedford Half-marathon in preparation for the physical demands of *The 39 Steps*!



Keith Swainston

CLOWN 2

This is Keith's second appearance at the Barn, having played the role of David in *Good Things* in 2017. Further theatre credits include Ben in *Eisteddfod* (HighTide / Latitude Festival); *F E Young* (Market Theatre, Hitchin); Rooster in *Jerusalem*; Cromwell in *Anne Boleyn*; Tom in *Skylight*; and Robert in *Blue/Orange* (all at Queen Mother, Hitchin). Directing credits include, *Vanilla* (Tristan Bates); *Liberate* (Etcetera / White Bear); *Hang* and *One Man, Two Guvnors* (both for Queen Mother).



Sir Alfred Hitchcock

The film director and producer is widely regarded as one of the most influential film-makers in history. Known as the 'master of suspense', he directed over 50 films in a career lasting six decades.

Born in Leytonstone in 1899, he directed his first film *The Pleasure Garden* in 1925. He helped shape the thriller genre in 1929 with *Blackmail*, the first British talkie. He directed *The 39 Steps* in 1935 which, along with *The Lady Vanishes* in 1939, is widely ranked among the greatest British films of the 20th century. He moved to Hollywood in 1939 and even greater success. His films made over \$223 million and amassed 46 Oscar nominations, with six wins. He was knighted in December 1979, four months before he died.

for his notable writing career, the most film was better than his book! In 1935 he Governor General of Canada. He served until al.

A note from the Director

Many, many thanks to Clive for the opportunity and thank you to Simon and the rest of the Council for letting me bring a long overdue production of *The 39 Steps* to the Barn stage.

The play, if you don't know, is a loving parody of Hitchcock's 1935 film starring Robert Donat as our eponymous hero Richard Hannay. Virtually all of the dialogue is from the screenplay and every scene is included. It doesn't matter if you've never seen the film as we'll be telling the full story!

As with a lot of things, a play that initially looks so simple is so massively complicated. A huge thank-you to my brilliant production team, who have all worked long and hard to bring this show together. Thank you too to my wonderful cast, who have worked so hard: all, I'm sure, are fitter and lighter than when they started this journey.

The play was originally conceived by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon with a grant of just £1,000 from Yorkshire Arts, premiering in 1995 at the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, West Yorkshire in front of 90 people, before going on a tour of village halls across the north of England.

In 2005 the script was reworked by Patrick Barlow but keeping to the feel and small scale of the piece. It was first performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, before moving to London, initially at the Tricycle Theatre in August 2006, then onto the Criterion from September 2006. It ran for over 9 years, closing in September 2015, along the way winning the Olivier for best new comedy in 2007 and becoming the fifth most successful play in West End history. Answers on a postcard for the top four, one of which has been at the Barn in recent years!

The play has just 4 actors but over 100 characters, numerous locations including the Flying Scotsman and the Forth Bridge, and several interiors including two theatres and the Scottish Highlands. We've got cars, planes and trains, spies and beautiful blondes. There's murder, intrigue and suspense and, we hope, a lot of laughs.

Enjoy the show!



Cliff Francis
Director



Creative Team

Director	Cliff Francis
Production Managers	Sharon Francis, Fiona Carter
Stage Manager	Sharon Francis
Deputy Stage Manager	Andy Barker
Assistant Stage Managers	Darcie White, Rosie Barker
Wardrobe	Anne-Marie Austin, Yvonne Bartlett, Fiona Carter Annette Leishman, Sharon Francis
Properties	Kris Moore, Peter Moore, Nell Moore, Pamela Wallis
Prompt	Fiona Carter
Lighting	Clifton Hoyle, Nick Mogg
Sound	James Rowles
Projections	Cliff Francis, Andy Barker, James Rowles, Clifton Hoyle
Puppet Makers	Peter Moore, Nell Moore
Choreographer	Vikki Myddelton
Set Construction	Ian Bage, Andy Barker, Nigel Rive Pearl Piggott, Bob Cameron, Eddie Washington David Fairhurst, John Sear, Keith Lambert
Production Photography	John Davies, Simon Wallace
Poster and Programme	John Cook, Clive Weatherley

Our sincere thanks go to Company of Players for the loan of props, and additional thanks are extended to Smart Light & Sound and Arms & Archery.

**We wish to extend our huge thanks and appreciation
to our local business supporter.**

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Coming up at the Barn



CONTENT WARNING:
CONTAINS SWEARING AND ADULT THEMES

30TH OCTOBER - 2ND NOVEMBER

SHARPLY COMIC. DELICIOUSLY NASTY

Once close childhood friends, Heather and Carla haven't seen each other since school and their lives have taken very different paths. Carla is leading a hand-to-mouth existence, pregnant with her fifth child. Heather is affluent, successful and childless. But both women are intelligent and resourceful, complicated and damaged. And yet here they are in a café having tea and making awkward conversation. That is, until Heather presents Carla with a bag of cash and an unexpected proposition...



15TH - 23RD NOVEMBER

**A HILARIOUS YET HEARTBREAKING PREVIEW OF THE
DYSFUNCTIONAL ADULTS THEY ARE DESTINED TO BECOME**

A class of seven-year-olds are preparing their nativity play – with the familiar squabbles over parts, diva tantrums and inappropriate on-stage behaviour. The kids are played by adults who later play the kids' parents... Warm, witty, funny, with a smattering of songs sung to carol tunes – an ideally timed slot for a perfect pre-Christmas treat.



13TH - 21ST DECEMBER

**FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THIS CLASSIC CHILDREN'S TALE OF
TRAGEDY, TRIUMPH AND TRAINS!**

From a small cottage in the Yorkshire countryside, three children call upon their kind hearts and vivid imaginations to entertain themselves while their mother is busy working. This entertainment comes in the form of the railway and the collection of eclectic characters that accompany it. Throughout this heart-warming adventure, the children suffer tragedy, celebrate joy, become heroes and are ultimately transformed by the unexpected adventures they encounter.

www.barntheatre.co.uk