

ARNOLD RIDLEY'S

THE GHOST TRAIN

DIRECTED BY CLIFF FRANCIS

*Climb aboard for the best
theatrical thrill ride ever.*

 **BARN THEATRE**

SEASON 2022-2023 | £1

WELCOME

It's always lovely to welcome you to our theatre – but especially exciting when it's the first play of a brand new season. Autumn has always been a favourite season of mine, and as the evenings draw in, what better time to settle in to watch this classic play?

Brought to us by the ever-busy Cliff Francis, this is a much-loved piece of theatre written, as I'm sure you all know, by Arnold Ridley of *Dad's Army* fame.

Ridley's story of a group of travellers stranded for the night in a remote Cornish station was inspired by his own experience of a missed connection, while employed as an actor with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company. In his autobiography, he recalled an uncomfortable night spent at Mangotsfield Junction, near Bristol: "It was just about as lonely and gloomy a dump as one could imagine ... I was awoken by a Bristol-Birmingham express rip-roaring by with a flash of lights and a scream of whistle." It gave him an idea: "Passengers stranded on a lonely station haunted by the shades of other passengers killed in a smash. Why not the ghost of the train itself?"

Why not indeed? Written almost 100 years ago, it has been performed thousands of times and is rightly considered a classic. I can't think of better way to start our season, so sit back, and get ready to ride *The Ghost Train*...

Simon Parr | Chairman, Barn Theatre Club

FROM THE DIRECTOR, CLIFF FRANCIS

Welcome one and all to *The Ghost Train*. I very much hope you enjoy the ride.

There's always an added pressure with the first play of the new season, not just to entertain you tonight but to spark your interest in the varied other shows to follow in the season.

The Ghost Train was written by Arnold Ridley (known to those of us at a certain minimum age as Private Godfrey from *Dad's Army*) almost 100 years ago in 1923. It remains though a genre-defining classic and still rated, by persons far more knowledgeable than me, as one of the very best ghost stories ever staged.

It's a much-loved and often-staged play, one that many of you will likely have seen before. Briefly it tells the story of a group of strangers, stranded at a remote station in Cornwall on a cold, wet and spooky night. The group are informed that the station is haunted, and that local legend has it that a ghost train runs on the line and is due tonight!

Please be careful with any drinks, buckle up and enjoy the ride.

Cliff Francis | Director

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

SAUL HODGKIN	Barry Grossman
RICHARD WINTHROP	David Smith
ELSIE WINTHROP	Stephanie Cotter
CHARLES MURDOCK	Alfie Hart
PEGGY MURDOCK	Lauren Ryan
MISS BOURNE	Sarah Haverson
TEDDIE DEAKIN	Sarah Gennoe
JULIA PRICE	Jessica Drucker
HERBERT PRICE	Tallan Cameron
JOHN STERLING	Keith MacDougall
JACKSON	Keith Thompson
SMITH	Stephen Kahn

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Fiona Carter, Sharon Francis
STAGE MANAGER	Nigel Rive
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Stephen Kahn
SET DESIGN	Rosemary Bianchi
SET DRESSING	Kris Moore, Peter Moore
LIGHTING	Nick Mogg, Clifton Hoyle
SOUND	James Rowles, Devi Smart
WARDROBE	Anne Mawer, Yvonne Bartlett
PROPERTIES	Sheila Grimmant, Lesley Payne
REHEARSAL PROMPT	Fiona Carter
ARMOURER	Nigel Rive
PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY	John Davies, Simon Wallace
POSTER & PROGRAMME	John Cook, Clive Weatherley



COMING UP AT THE BARN



22nd – 25th October at 8pm

A hilarious but sinister suburban showdown in darkest Hertfordshire.

Demolition expert Ned lives in a nice new house on a nice new estate on the edge of the English countryside. He loves his job, he loves barbecues, he loves car boot sales. Outwardly his life is entirely unremarkable. Not unlike his friend and neighbour Dale.

So why has he not slept a wink in six months? Why is he so terrified of his attractive wife Joy? And why is it every time he leaves on business, something else goes missing from his home?

28th Oct – 5th Nov at 8pm

You want two volunteers for Operation Certain Death? Yes, I think I have just the fellows.

Blackadder Goes Forth is the last series, the best written and best known. There are six episodes set in World War I and we will be choosing four of them.

The situation comedy is ridiculous, the dialogue outstanding, and the characters overdrawn and challenging.

**BLACKADDER
GOES FORTH**



PLEASE TRY AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FRIENDS



1st - 5th November at 7.30pm

Green Room Productions in Potters Bar present *Young Frankenstein*, the monster musical comedy from the creators of *The Producers*.

www.greenroomproductions.co.uk

WWW.BARNTHEATRE.CO.UK