

# Blithe Spirit

## By Noël Coward

### Programme



9th to 19th September 2015

This amateur production of “Blithe Spirit” is presented by arrangement with  
SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

# Blithe Spirit

By Noël Coward

Before dinner on a summer evening

Early evening, a few days later

After dinner

After dinner, a few days later

The next morning

Several hours later

Late the following afternoon

Interval

## History

Blithe Spirit was a thought that had been in Noël Coward's head for quite some time. He was eager to write a comedy play about ghosts and his first idea had the play set in an old house in Paris. It featured historical entities with the humour arising from their different attitudes and cultures. But this was not meant to be as he couldn't get the story to work in his mind.

It was while taking a short holiday in Snowdonia, after his London office had been destroyed in the Blitz, that the story finally began to take shape. He discussed the idea with his actress friend, Joyce Carey, for several hours one morning. With the general plot and character names now in his mind, he began writing the following morning. Six days later Blithe Spirit was finished.

The play first opened 16th June 1941 at the Manchester Opera House, just 43 days after the first word had been written. Shortly after, 2nd July 1941, it premiered at the Piccadilly Theatre in the West End. It then had its Broadway premier 5th November 1941. Noël Coward himself has both directed the play and taken on the role of Charles Condomine during its original London run and touring productions.

The play was made into a film in 1945 starring Rex Harrison with a very memorable performance by Margaret Rutherford, reprising her stage role, as Madame Arcati. Noël Coward provided the narration. The film went on to win the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects and is widely regarded as a classic .

# Cast and Crew

Canan Cahit	Ruth	Kevin Jackson, Director
Lara Bundock	Elvira	Blithe Spirit is Kevin's third
Laura Callahan	Edith	outing as director for the DGP.
Matt Medlock	Charles	He has performed with The
Sharon Fenwick	Madame Arcati	DGP on many occasions and is
Steve Peace	Dr Bradman	also part of the Crucible's
Vivienne Mager	Mrs Bradman	Sheffield People's Theatre since
Eleanor Young	Voice of Daphne	its creation.
Annie Herbert	Assistant Director	He is thrilled to be directing
Alison Glentworth	Assistant Director	Blithe Spirit which is a play he
Simon Hanna	Voice Coach	has loved for too many years
Jane Spencer	Stage Manager	than he cares to mention. He is
Harry Rowbotham	Lighting Design and Technical	also the Chair of The Dilys
Phil Claxton	Set Build / Design	Guite Players, devoting many
Barry Worthington	Set Build / Design	voluntary hours to the charity.
Karen Vickers	Set Build	Message from Kevin:
Owen Jones	Set Build	The enthusiasm, energy and
Peter Butler	Set Build	time the cast have brought to
Logan Macdonald	Audio Engineer	this play is incredible. They have
Aileen Westoby	Assistant Stage Manager	been an absolute joy to work
Mica Joynes	Make-up Design	with. Additionally, the crew have
Tim Baron	Promo Film	given over and above anything I
Vivienne Mager	Publicity	could have wished for. I'd like to
		take this opportunity to thank
		them all and I hope they know
		just how much I appreciate all
		they've given to bringing Blithe
		Spirit to the Lantern stage.
		Enjoy the show.

For further information regarding our cast, please visit our website:  
[www.lanterntheatre.org.uk](http://www.lanterntheatre.org.uk) and click on The DGP





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At The Lantern, we look to engage at a local and national level to foster a deep and diverse appreciation of creativity and performance.

The DGP produces up to eleven shows a year, and our annual New Writing Festival is a fantastic opportunity for writers to get their work performed on stage.

The Lantern is passionate about high quality theatre, and is an exciting venue for select local theatre groups and touring companies.

### Volunteering

Volunteers are essential to us. Our wonderful team is made up of both Dilys Guite Players (DGP) and non DGP members.

They take on a variety of roles in the front of house covering bar, box office and house management. In addition, DGP members are able to volunteer on stage and behind the scenes as actors, directors, stage managers and all other aspects of a theatrical production.

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