

MURDERED TO DEATH

By Peter Gordon



QUADS
QUARNDON AMATEUR
DRAMATIC SOCIETY

13th - 16th November 2024

Quarndon Village Hall | quarndonquads.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International on behalf of Josef Weinberger Ltd.
www.mtishows.co.uk | www.josef-weinberger.com

CHAIR'S WELCOME



Good evening everyone and thank you for coming along and supporting QUADS in our production of the hilarious comedy *Murdered To Death*. I am delighted this time to welcome Paul Makinson in his directorial debut for QUADS, ably assisted by Sue Harrison. Those of you who are regular audience members will remember Paul's highly entertaining performances on stage in our last two productions. Tonight he takes you into classic Agatha Christie territory in this 1930s country house murder mystery where we are very happy to see four new QUADS members in the cast as well as some other perhaps more familiar faces.

So sit back, relax and I will leave you in the very "capable" hands of Inspector Pratt! Enjoy the show.

Debs Simpson

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



When the committee asked me if I would direct the next QUADS play, 2 thoughts struck me. Was I actually capable of directing a play? And what play would I direct? Anyway, once I'd got over myself and others had suggested I could do it, I set about finding a play. I tell you, it's not that easy! I narrowed it down to 2 and decided neither of them would work – either cast too small or parts too big. Then I had a brainwave. Why not direct a play I'd already been in? And so, I picked "Murdered To Death". I played Bunting 11 years ago with the Little Eaton Players and I'd really enjoyed it.

So off we set on the road to what culminated in what you see before you tonight – the auditions, the casting, the set, the props, the costume, the sound, the lights, the front of house, the flyers, the programme, the tickets, the website, the social media, the rehearsals, the tantrums (mainly mine), the laughs, the cries (not very often), the highs, the lows, the music, the venue, the price and the pain. Oh, the pain we suffer for our art. Ha! Ha!

And I would not have made it without the help, commitment, time, effort, blood, sweat and tears of so many people. I would especially like to thank my assistant director, Sue Harrison. Without Sue, there wouldn't be a show. She is a diamond. Thank you, Sue.

I hope you enjoy the show. If you do, my name is Paul Makinson, otherwise it's Kenneth Branagh!

Paul Makinson





This hilarious spoof of the best of the Agatha Christie traditions is set in a country manor house in the glorious 1930s, with an assembled cast of characters guaranteed to delight - Bunting the Butler; an English colonel with a stiff upper lip; a shady French art dealer and his moll; the bumbling inspector and the well-meaning local sleuth who seems to attract murder wherever she goes - they're all here, and all caught up in the mysterious death of the house's owner. It soon becomes clear that the murderer is not finished yet, but will the murderer be unmasked before everyone else has met their doom or will the audience die laughing first?

All the action takes place in the lounge of a country manor house in the 1930s:

Act 1 Scene 1: Late afternoon, autumn

Act 1 Scene 2: The following morning

Interval - cash bar: wine, beer, soft drinks

Act 2 Scene 1: Two hours later

Act 2 Scene 2: One hour later

THE AUTHOR



With around 2,000 professional and amateur productions world-wide, Peter Gordon is one of the UK's most popular playwrights. To date, he has written thirteen comedies, a psychological thriller and a one act comedy. Eleven of these have been published and are available for performance through the play catalogue of Josef Weinberger Plays.

The 'Inspector Pratt' trilogy - spoofs of the Agatha Christie genre of whodunnits - have been described as "deliciously wicked" and "hilarious and very clever". Collectively, 'Murdered to Death', 'Secondary Cause of Death' and 'Death by Fatal Murder' have had over 1,300 professional and amateur tours/productions in the UK and overseas, including USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. 'Murdered to Death' has also been translated into German and Dutch.



This production is entered for
the Eagles Awards

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mildred Bagshot - Angela Plant

Dorothy Foxton - Chloe Finneran

Bunting - Terry Stevenson

Margaret Craddock - Mags Hutt

Colonel Charles Craddock - Max Roberts

Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington - Emily Johansson

Pierre Marceau - Andrew Barlow

Joan Maple - Sonia Hardy

Constable Thomkins - Emily Turner

Inspector Pratt - Connor White



THE CREW

Director - Paul Makinson

Assistant Director - Sue Harrison

Stage Manager – Jo Attenborough

Prompt – Kirsty Williams

Sound & Light - Rob Snell

Costume – Sarah Pitt, Lily Gornall and team QUADS

Social media - Sue Harrison

Props - Lily Gornall and team QUADS

Front Of House Manager - Rachel Nichols

Box office – Sue Harrison

Special Thanks to.....

Captive Audience for lending of costumes

Emma Duder for poster, flyer and programme design

Mark Zawada for set design and build

Sonia (Sonet) Hardy for her remarkable copies of Monet (as seen on stage)

Quarndon Parish Council for use of the Village Hall

Front of House and Backstage crew for everything else



THE QUADS ACTORS IN FRONT OF YOU TONIGHT

ANGELA PLANT (Mildred)



Angela has been acting, singing and dancing in shows in Derbyshire for almost 40 years. In addition to numerous chorus performances, she has played several principal roles including Lady Penelope in *Charlie Girl* (twice), Lois Lane/Bianca in *Kiss Me Kate*, Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, Gladys in *Copacabana*, Solange La Fitte in *Follies* and most recently Edith in 'Allo 'Allo. She is enjoying her foray into comedy acting, but she is not ready to hang up her dancing shoes just yet!

CHLOE FINNERAN (Dorothy)



Chloe has always wanted to act on stage and not only is this her first time with QUADS, it is her debut performance. It is her love of the theatre, particularly musicals (her favourite being *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*) which has led her here. She is incredibly excited and can't wait to show her portrayal of Dorothy and she is looking forward to more roles to come.

TERRY STEVENSON (Bunting)



This is Terry's first outing with QUADS and he has relished the challenge of exploring what to do with the character of the subversive butler. This is a departure from the roles he has done recently with *Encore* which tend to be very serious. He hopes he can raise a few laughs together with a few grimaces.

MAGS HUTT (Margaret)



Mags began acting as a six-year-old, performing plays she had written, in the back garden. As an adult, she has performed with several amateur dramatic societies, including *Chellaston Players* and *Aston Players*. Mags first appeared with QUADS in *A Chorus of Disapproval* in 2023, and is looking forward to playing Margaret, Charles' long-suffering wife, in this current production.

MAX ROBERTS (Charles)



Max has played many roles from a French Revolutionary via *Sweeney Todd*, Danny the psychopath and Norman in *Alan Ayckbourn's Norman Conquests*, with *Ashbourne Peakland Players*, and several appearances with the *Marlowe Players*. He joined QUADS in the early 1980s and has played many enjoyable parts over the years. He has also directed a number of productions for QUADS. He is really enjoying the role of the old duffer, Colonel Craddock, and the pleasure of working with a wonderful, talented and hardworking cast and crew. Roll on production week!

EMILY JOHANSSON (Elizabeth)



Emily joins QUADS for her acting debut and she is really excited to be cutting her teeth in *Murdered To Death*. She has loved her transformation into Elizabeth and hopes you enjoy her portrayal. She feels she has learnt a lot about the art of acting since being cast in the role back in July and would like to thank everyone who has helped her on her acting journey so far.

ANDREW BARLOW (Pierre)



Andrew has been in four productions with QUADS now, including *Love Begins at Fifty* and *Neighbourhood Watch*. He's also performed with *Belper Players*, *Marde Hen* and *Your Chance Productions*. Andrew is really looking forward to bringing this debonair Frenchman to life in this crazy, chaotic play!

SONIA HARDY (Joan)



Previously a self-confessed shrinking violet, Sonia's love affair with acting started in her later school years. She stood up to 'life getting in the way' and returned to acting 14 years ago and has never looked back. She has been a member of QUADS for the last 10 years and is an active committee member. Having acted in many of their productions, she also gets involved with set design, set build, props and costume. She is 'absolutely delighted' to be taking on the part of Miss Maple in '*Murdered To Death*' and finds it an honour to work with such a talented group of people.

EMILY TURNER (Thomkins)



Having joined QUADS in 2023, from a recommendation from a close friend, Emily played the feisty Bridget in a *Chorus of Disapproval*. She then performed with QUADS again in *Neighbourhood Watch* playing Amy. Emily is thrilled to be joining QUADS again playing Constable Thomkins (or is it Thompson?) a role in which she is very much looking forward to portraying as it's something new and exciting.

CONNOR WHITE (Pratt)



This is Connor's third production with QUADS after rejoining the amateur dramatic world following a break. He's looking forward to playing a role with which, he claims, he has far too much in common!



Why not join QUADS?

Quarndon Amateur Dramatic Society (QUADS) was established in 1941. Since then, we have gone from strength to strength enhancing our reputation in our local community and far beyond for staging high-quality theatre. Several of our members are award-winning and have been nominated for Eagles Awards.

We perform at Quarndon Village Hall producing most play genres including comedy, farce, murder mysteries and period dramas. Although based in Quarndon, our members come from across Derby, Derbyshire and beyond.

We produce two plays a year in May and November. We are always looking for new members who would like to act and/or take a supporting role (stage management, backstage, admin, box office, publicity, social media, costume, wardrobe, front of house, props, scenery, prompting, sound, lighting). We rehearse twice a week - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

Auditions for our next production, which will take place in May 2025, will take place in January 2025. Keep an eye on our website for calls to audition.

We also have an active social programme all year round.

Whether you have experience or want to learn a new skill, we will be delighted to see you. Anyone who's interested in theatre production is very welcome. All you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in so get in touch! Email info@quarndonquads.co.uk or look at our website quarndonquads.co.uk

Derby Arts & Theatre Association Diary

Ensemble Renard

presented by **Music at Duffield.**

St. Alkmund's Church, Duffield on 16 Nov at 7.30pm.

Tickets from musicatduffield.com, 07977 091171 and on the door.

Mozart's Mass in C Minor & Puccini's Messa di Gloria

presented by **Derby Bach Choir.**

Derby Cathedral on 16 Nov at 7.30pm.

Tickets £25 - £10, accompanied u16s free from derbybachchoir.com, livetickets.org, Derby Live Office, choir members or on the door.

Kindly Leave the Stage

presented by **Marlowe Players.**

Darley Abbey Village Hall from 19 - 23 Nov at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 via marlowe-players.co.uk or ticketsource.co.uk or 0333 666 4466.

