



MAITLAND  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE

# Strictly Murder

**A Thriller by Brian Clemens**

**Director - Steve Ryan**

Assistant Director - Col Kirkman



# PROGRAM

An Amateur Production BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORiGiN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

# Cast

## Suzy Hinchcliffe

(Annalie Hamilton)

Annalie Hamilton has been performing and working in the arts industry for over ten years. She has appeared in various productions including *The Importance of being Earnest*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and at Maitland Repertory Theatre *Caught in the Villain's Web* and *The Hollow*. Annalie has completed a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, and quite recently a Cert III in Childcare. She has experience in various film projects, music and dance gigs and hopes to continue pursuing a career in the industry.



## Peter Meredith

(James McCaffrey)

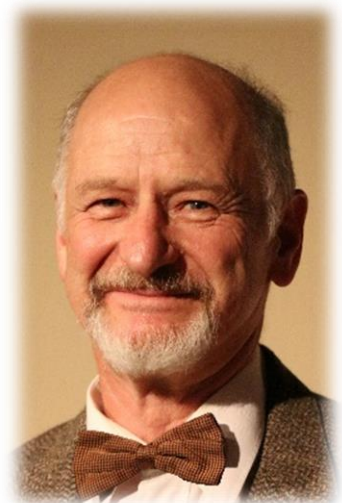
James has been performing with Maitland Repertory Theatre for 8 years, his first performance was in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. James has been involved in 17 productions to date including *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Wizard of Oz*. James was excited to accept the role of Peter and has enjoyed the challenge. This is his first play with Director Steve Ryan and it won't be his last.



## Ross

(Ian Robinson)

Ian started on stage in a couple of Gilbert and Sullivan musicals at Maitland Town Hall in the early 1990s and was in his first play in 2000. Since then he has played a wide range of characters across all genres in about 30 plays at Maitland Repertory Theatre. The Ross character in *Strictly Murder* has been one of his more challenging roles.



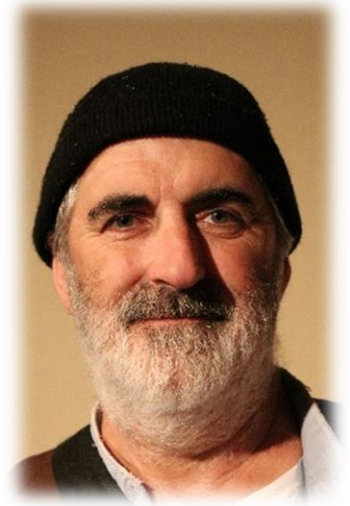
## Josef

(Paul Sansom)

Paul has performed in numerous and varied Newcastle based productions since he commenced acting in 2005 .

Most recently he performed in Newcastle Theatre Company's *Noises Off* and *Inherit The Wind* as well as Knock and Run Theatre's production of *Grace* at the Civic Playhouse.

He is thrilled to bring Josef to life and also to reunite with Director Steve Ryan who directed Paul in the sinister role of Roat in *Wait Until Dark* at DAPA in 2009.



## Miriam Miller

(Dimity Eveleens)

Dimity has been with Maitland Repertory Theatre since she was 18, and has acted in many productions.

While she prefers comedies, lately she has had a few more serious roles, and this role in *Strictly Murder* is one of them.

Miriam is quite a severe, authoritative character that Dimity is enjoying playing.



# The Playwright

The playwright, Brian Clemens, was a British screenwriter and television producer, possibly best known to audiences for his work on television's *The Avengers* and *The Professionals* series. In addition to his prolific and successful television career, Clemens had a long connection with the theatre, starting with a stage play of *The Avengers* in 1971. He later penned 15 more plays, ranging from comedies to thrillers, including *Strictly Murder*, in 2006.

## About the Play

April 1939. An English couple, Peter and Suzy, are living in Provence in idyllic isolation. Far, it seems, from the rumblings of the coming war. When Scotland Yard detectives arrive their peace is shattered from within when Suzy discovers she has been betrayed: Peter is not the man he claims to be. Suzy's life is thrown into turmoil as the possibility arises that Peter may in fact be a ruthless killer on the run. In a world where the Third Reich is emerging as a dangerous regime, deceit, lies and subterfuge make this fast paced thriller a dark and nail-biting rollercoaster.

## Setting

The action of the play takes place in a rustic cottage in a valley in Provence, France in 1939.

### Act 1

*Sc 1* Early morning in April

*Sc 2* Later that day

*Sc 3* Some time later

### Act 2

*Sc 1* Morning. Six months later

*Sc 2* Early evening. Later that day

*Sc 3* That night

## Run Time

The play runs for approximately 2 hours including a 15 minute interval.

# Director's Notes

*Strictly Murder* is a thrilling, entertaining piece of theatre that's not a whodunit, but rather a "what's going on here?" This is because it seems that all the cards are laid out on the table for the audience to see, but suddenly, you're presented with an unexpected plot change and are left to wonder how the story will play out.

Set against the imminent war in Europe, *Strictly Murder* is also a chilling reminder of the impact of war.

I have enjoyed seeing this play take shape over the last three months – a thriller written by an expert script writer who wrote many of the television shows that we grew up watching.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in helping to produce *Strictly Murder*, but particularly Col Kirkman (and her family), Dimity Eveleens, Anne and Ian Robinson.

Enjoy the ride.

*Steve Ryan*

## From the Script

The following are English translations of the German radio announcements heard during the early part of the play:

*Act 1 Scene 1 opening:*

"Chancellor Hitler again promised independence for Slovakia, and discounted that he had any claims to the territory. He asserted again that his only aims were for peace in Europe, but at the same time made it clear that the Reichsland and the rights of the Fatherland were, and would remain, his prime concern.

On the Home Front - the weather today is expected to be ..."

*Act 1 Scene 1 close:*

"Last night the Fuhrer addressed a crowd of more than fifty thousand loyal Germans, to put forward his dream of a better Reichsland ..."

# Behind the Scenes

|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Director                   | ~ | Steve Ryan   |
| Assistant Director         | ~ | Col Kirkman  |
| Stage Manager              | ~ | Alexandra Comber   |
| Production/Props Manager   | ~ | Dimity Eveleens  |
| Lighting/Sound Technicians | ~ | Nic Simpson, Coldan Kirkman,<br>Robert Comber, Darren Kirkman                                  |
| Set Design                 | ~ | Steve Ryan   |
| Set Construction           | ~ | Ian Robinson, Dimity Eveleens,<br>Vic Thompson, Dan Shaunessy<br>and the Saturday morning crew |
| Peter's Stage Artwork      | ~ | Anne Robinson BFA  |
| Costumes                   | ~ | Anne Robinson, Kadisha<br>Patterson and cast   |
| Make Up                    | ~ | Cast   |
| Publicity                  | ~ | Ian Robinson, Leilani Boughton   |
| Catering                   | ~ | Terry Allen and his team   |
| Poster concept             | ~ | Steve Ryan   |
| Poster and program         | ~ | Anne and Ian Robinson  |
| Roster                     | ~ | Alastair Anderberg   |
| BBC Radio Announcer        | ~ | Colin Delaney  |
| German Radio Announcer     | ~ | Konstantin Stockenhuber  |

STRICTLY  
MURDER

February 6 - 24

SNOW  
WHITE

July 12 - 27

ARSENIC  
AND  
OLD LACE

October 9 - 27

GOD  
OF  
CARNAGE

March 22 - 30



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THE TAMING  
OF THE  
SHREW

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LILY, THE  
FELON'S  
DAUGHTER

Nov 29 - Dec 15

## Join Us

*We're always looking for new members. To find out how to join, visit the **Get Involved** page of our website – [www.maitlandreptheatre.org](http://www.maitlandreptheatre.org)*

## Acknowledgements

*Our thanks to A V Chartered Accountants, Custom Audio, Scion Audio, ABC Radio 1233, Ken Longworth (The Newcastle Herald), Donna Sharpe (The Maitland Mercury), Melissah Comber (The Hunter Independent), The Sign Shop, Inkquip, CONDA Judges and also to our audiences for their continued patronage.*

*Patrons: Jenny Aitchison MP, Mayor Loretta Baker, Keith Cockburn, Bob Geoghegan, Margaret Sivyer OAM and Meryl Swanson MP.*

## Donate

*All donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible. To find out how to donate to Maitland Repertory Theatre please visit the **Get Involved** page of our website.*

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Audience members are reminded to please turn off mobile telephones once in the theatre.  
No photographs can be taken inside the theatre.



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**6 to 24 February 2019**

[www.maitlandreptheatre.org](http://www.maitlandreptheatre.org) ABN 21 328 198 522