

Huntingdon Drama Club presents

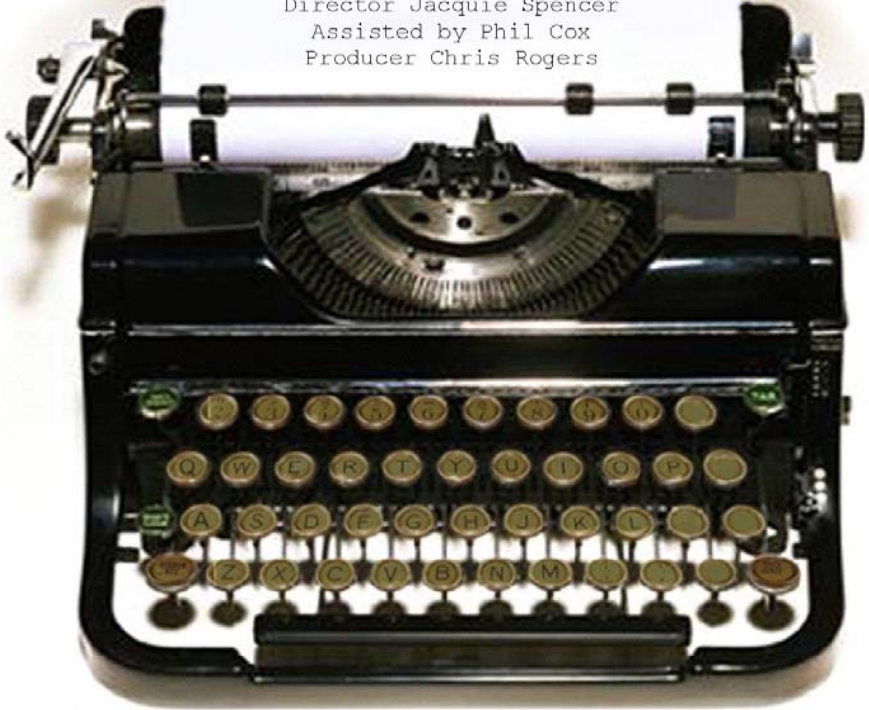
# **GHOST WRITER**

By David Tristram

Director Jacquie Spencer

Assisted by Phil Cox

Producer Chris Rogers



## **Programme £1**

31 October and 1 November 2008, 7.30 pm  
Brampton Park Theatre

6 – 8 November 2008, 7.30 pm  
Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon





Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Huntingdon Drama Club presents an amateur performance of

# ***Ghost***

## ***Writer***

a haunting comedy by **David Tristram**

directed by Jacquie Spencer, assisted by Phil Cox

produced by Chris Rogers

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Samuel French Ltd.*

31 October and 1 November 2008, at 7.30 pm, Brampton Park Theatre  
(by arrangement with Brampton Park Theatre Club)

6 – 8 November 2008, at 7.30 pm, Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon

## Cast in order of appearance

Edward .....	<b>Chris Topham</b>
Alex .....	<b>Bob Pugh</b>
Ruby .....	<b>Caroline Harbord</b>
Glenda .....	<b>Kat Sexton</b>
Frances .....	<b>Christine Marriott</b>
Hedley .....	<b>Michael Black</b>

## The Action

The action takes place in Edward's scruffy bedsit, an attic room within Alex's flat.

Time: the present

There will be a 20-minute interval between Acts 1 and 2, during which refreshments may be obtained in the foyer

### **Director's notes**

What a great play this has been to direct. I have been so lucky to have a great cast and crew. My most sincere thanks go to Phil Cox, who has contributed so much, and Chris Rogers and his crew for the special effects, Mel Pugsley for lighting effects, and of course Mike Dawson on sound.

We have enjoyed rehearsing and hope you enjoy the results.

Jacquie Spencer  
Director, *Ghost Writer*

## The Production Team

Director .....	Jacquie Spencer
Assistant director .....	Phil Cox
Producer .....	Chris Rogers
Stage Manager .....	Chris Hunnam
Lighting .....	Mel Pugsley
Sound.....	Mike Dawson
Scenery design .....	Kelly Whitworth
Make-up .....	Carol Wadey and Sarah Ward
Wig.....	Carol Wadey
Properties.....	Richard Meredith
Prompter .....	Caryl Jones
Front of House .....	John Morgan and Club members
Photos, poster and programme cover.....	John Morgan
Programme .....	Michael Black
Publicity.....	Kat Sexton and Club members
Tickets.....	Ann Monk

assisted by other Club members

***Many thanks to everyone who has helped us put on this production, especially***

Brampton Park Theatre Club  
Marshalls  
Huntingdon Leisure Centre  
The Card Gallery  
Spotlight Productions  
Callum Pitt

**Caroline Harbord (Ruby)**

Another leading role for Caroline, who sprang to fame (locally, at any rate) in *Silhouette*, in 2006. She has been in most of the Club's productions since then – most recently as Flora Poste in *Cold Comfort Farm* last April. She has also performed with Brampton Park Theatre, and this year she took part in Shakespeare at the George for the first time, as Hermione, the wronged queen in *The Winter's Tale*. Caroline recently set up her own marketing consultancy, so the Club is grateful that she doesn't charge for writing our excellent press releases!

**Chris Topham (Edward)**

Chris has performed at Brampton for many years, and first joined Huntingdon Drama Club as assistant director on *Silhouette*. He's since acted in several of our productions, most memorably, perhaps as Caroline Harbord's put-upon husband in *Move over Mrs Markham*. As Edward, Chris has had more lines to learn than in any other play, but he's still managed to fit in a bit of work for the RAF.

**Kat Sexton (Glenda)**

After playing a very pregnant Mary Ingram and Miss Abbot in *Jane Eyre*, last autumn's production, Kat is now able to take part in *Ghost Writer*. She's been involved in the theatre since the age of nine, in numerous school plays and amateur clubs, and studied drama at university. With maternity leave drawing to a close, Kat is about to return to her job as an IT specialist for Huntingdonshire District Council.

**Christine Marriott (Frances)**

Christine has never acted on stage before, but has taken to it like a drunkard to gin. She joined Huntingdon Drama Club for *Hay Fever*, our production in July this year, when she helped with props. But the limelight proved irresistible. Having impaired hearing has proved to be no hindrance at all to Christine or the rest of the cast. She works for Cambridgeshire County Council as a Care Manager in the Sensory Team.

**Bob Pugh (Alex)**

Bob has been a Club member for a quarter of a century, and has been involved in numerous productions – as stage manager and general backstage boy, as well as actor. His recent performances with the Club range from Mr Rochester, the hero of *Jane Eyre*, to Rudi Scherz in *A Murder is Announced*, where he had one line (with a Swiss German

accent) before being shot dead. Bob has also performed with other local companies, including One Act Road Show, Panto '89 and Shakespeare at the George. During the day he's a forensic scientist.

**Michael Black** (Hedley)

Michael has acted in many of the Club's productions over the last 28 years. Earlier this year he was the 90-year-old farmhand Adam Lambsbreath in *Cold Comfort Farm*, then the writer David Bliss in *Hay Fever*. He has also directed several plays, including Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*, Noël Coward's comedy *Fallen Angels*, the farce *Move over Mrs Markham* and – in autumn 2007 – *Jane Eyre*. Michael is a self-employed trainer, exams consultant and writer, whose books are enjoying worldwide sales.

**Jacquie Spencer** (Director)

Jacquie has directed a number of plays for Brampton Park Theatre, including *Sleuth* and *Blithe Spirit*, and *Silhouette* for Huntingdon Drama Club, and been involved in several Shakespeare at the George productions, usually as assistant director. She has also appeared on stage, recent parts including Grace Poole in *Jane Eyre*, and Mrs Swettenham in *A Murder is Announced*. It's strongly suspected by some Club members that Jacquie's liking for thrillers is not unconnected with her job – she's a solicitor by trade.

**Phil Cox** (Assistant director)

This is Phil's first outing with Huntingdon Drama Club, and his first attempt at directing. He takes every opportunity to leap onto stage to show the cast how to move or deliver a line, but since he's a plumber, the cast have to be polite to him. As an actor and singer, Phil has made his mark in comic parts from Autolycus in *The Winter's Tale* at the George last July, to Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner in *The Mikado*, Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and the King in *The King and I* for SIMADS.

**Chris Rogers** (Producer)

Chris played Sandy Tyrell in *Hay Fever* in July, and previously appeared in Club productions of *Jane Eyre* and, as Edmund Swettenham, *A Murder is Announced*. He's also done a lot of backstage work. This is the first time he's produced a play for the Club, and probably wouldn't have agreed to do it if he'd realised what it involved! However, one advantage of producing is that he can fit it around his shift work as a maintenance engineer at Marshalls – not so easy when he's acting.

## ***Ghost Writer and Hamlet***

The ghost of Hamlet's father comes back to announce he was murdered by his brother, Claudius, who has since married his widow, Gertrude, and had himself crowned king of Denmark. Ruby's ghost returns to tell her husband, Edward, she was murdered during a last night party after a production of *Hamlet*. The actor and actress who played Claudius and Gertrude are among the three suspects.

Hamlet uses a company of travelling actors to re-enact the murder, in a play he calls *The Mousetrap*, as a way of trapping Claudius. This, incidentally, was the inspiration for the title of Agatha Christie's famous play. Ruby writes Act I of a play about her murder, also to reveal the culprit.

*Hamlet* ends with the chief characters poisoned. You'll have to wait to see the end of *Ghost Writer*!

The characters of *Ghost Writer* quote – or misquote – a number of lines from *Hamlet*, many of them very well known. They include:

- *To be or not to be, that is the question*
- *When we have shuffled off this mortal coil*
- *I am thy father's spirit, doomed for a certain term to walk the night.*
- *Murder most foul*
- *Remember me*
- *There's something rotten in the state of Denmark.*
- *The play's the thing, wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.*
- *The lady doth protest too much, methinks.*
- *Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue.*
- *Frailty, thy name is woman.*
- *Get thee to a nunnery.*
- *He hath borne me on his back a thousand times.*
- *A hit, a very palpable hit*
- *O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!*
- *I die, Horatio. The potent poison quite o'er-crows my spirit.*
- *Wretched queen, adieu.*
- *The rest is silence.*

By the way, Edward lives at 2B Elsinore Gardens.



## Huntingdon Drama Club

The Club has produced at least two shows a year since 1944. We'd be delighted to welcome you as a new member, whether you've got experience of amateur dramatics or are entirely new to it.

We need people to work on lighting, costumes, set-building, front-of-house, properties, special effects and publicity, just as much as we need actors.

If you're interested, please contact us:

- Visit our website, [www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk](http://www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk)
- Email [info@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk](mailto:info@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk)
- Phone Michael Black and John Morgan on 01480-454486, or
- Contact any other Club member.

**Our spring production**

# ***Separate Tables***

by Terence Rattigan

directed by Marie Huggins

**26-28 March 2009, at the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon**

If you would like to be involved, please contact us (details above).

## **Summer production**

To be chosen early next year

Performances: Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon, 16 – 18 July 2009

## Our recent productions

- 2003    The Real Inspector Hound  
          Wedding of the Year
- 2004    May-Hem  
          Bobby Dazzler
- 2005    Fallen Angels  
          From Mafeking to the Millennium
- 2006    Silhouette  
          Move over Mrs Markham
- 2007    Joking Apart  
          A Murder is Announced  
          Jane Eyre
- 2008    Cold Comfort Farm  
          Hay Fever

**The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA)** was founded in 1899 and has a membership of approximately 2,500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK.

NODA House, 58/60 Lincoln Rd, Peterborough PE1 2RZ

Tel : 0870 770 2480 Fax : 0870 770 2490

E-mail : [everyone@noda.org.uk](mailto:everyone@noda.org.uk) Web : <http://www.noda.org.uk/>

**Special thanks from the producer to:**



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