

# DEATH BY DESIGN

**by Rob Urbinati**

**Directed by Craig Russell**

**20 – 25 November 2023**

**7:30pm (Sat. Matinee 2:30pm)**

## Chair's Welcome



Welcome to the Studio Theatre for the first production of the 2023-24 season. Our production today of *Death by Design* has been great to be involved in, and I'm sure you will enjoy the show. You will likely be engaged and entertained, so welcome to both regular visitors and first timers to the Studio Theatre.

To bring our productions to life takes a lot of hard work by a committed bunch of enthusiasts. If you are interested in joining this vibrant group of people passionate about drama, please drop in on a Tuesday club night. There is a vast array of roles available. For information visit our website **[www.wbds.co.uk](http://www.wbds.co.uk)** or speak to a member of the Front of House team. We have been fortunate to have a bunch of new members this year, some involved in this production. Welcome to them all.

Our plays for the rest of the season are:

Di and Viv and Rose - 20 to 24 February 2024

Twelfth Night - 14 to 18 May 2024

Eight - 10 to 13 July 2024.

Check website for details.

**Rob Dixon/Chair**

## Director's Blurb



As director may I welcome you all to WBDS for our production of *Death By Design* (DBD).

The first production of our season is a challenge, as we want to deliver a play that will entertain you, and make you laugh, during these dark winter months.

After researching plays, DBD jumped out to me as a play that could deliver our ambitions. A script is just that, a script, but a production is the culmination of the efforts of many WBDS members, whose combined desires and ambitions are to deliver the very best production they can. I believe we have done just that and I thank the entire cast and crew for what they have helped me deliver. We have regular help from non members and I pass on my sincere thanks to Owen Wardman and Isi Dixon for their help with the costumes for Sorel and Jack.

In any WBDS team we have occasions when a team member gets transferred to pursue another path within a different team. With that in mind I dedicate this production to our dear friend and much loved member, Penny Lewin. May your fellow Angel Team members enjoy your smile, your generosity of spirit, your banter, and your wicked sense of humour as much as we did. We miss you now and always.

To our audience, we hope you enjoy our show.

**Craig Russell**

## Cast

Victoria - Emily Martin

Sorel - Kristina Russell

Edward - Tim Farrow

Eric - Calum Sharp

Jack - Adrian Bacon

Bridget - Amanda Harris

Walter - Craig Russell

Alice - Katie Minns

The action takes place in a country house in 1932, and is continuous.

There will be two acts, with a 20 minute interval, where drinks and ice cream will be served.

Warning—gun shot sounds, fruity language and bad puns.

This amateur production of *Death by Design* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

## Crew

Director	Craig Russell
Assistant Director	Alex Cotterill
Production Manager	Rob Dixon
Stage Manager	Rosie Farrow
Assistant Stage Manager	Lynn Burges
Lighting Design	Jerome Foley
Sound Design	Arran Mackay
Lighting Operation	Dom Gaskell
Sound Operation	Jem Wooley
Props	Charlie Willcox
Costumes	Carol O'Connor and Adrian Bacon
Front of House Manager	Caroline Todd
Box Office	Jacky Tivers
Set Construction	Andy Bakewell, Ali Bakewell, Rob Dixon, Jem Wooley, Charlie Willcox, Steve Herring

## About the Play and Director (source: Wikipedia and Concord Theatricals)

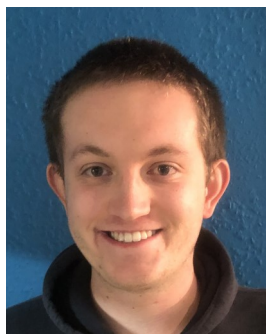


**Rob Urbinati** is a freelance playwright, screenwriter, book author and theatre director based in New York City. He is also director of new play development at Queens Theatre.

Rob was born in Framingham, Massachusetts and currently resides in New York City. He received a BA from the University of Massachusetts, an MA from the University of Nebraska Omaha and in 1994 was awarded a PhD in theatre arts from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences. Plays written by Rob Urbinati include an adaptation of August Strindberg's 1888 play *Miss Julie*, *Miss Julie in Hollywood* (1993), and *Hazelwood Jr. High* (1996).

*Death by Design* was written in 2010 and first performed in Houston Family Arts Center, and is currently being performed or planned across the US and UK including Manchester, Washington, Oregon and Montana. And of course West Bridgford!

## From the Assistant Director's Chair



I'm Alex and I have been a WBDS member since 2019. This is my first time as an Assistant Director. It is such a rewarding experience but also very much a fun role working with Craig and interacting with the cast in this hilarious and entertaining play. The play is perfect for any fan of comedy and murder

# The Cast - biogs



**Emily Martin** - Victoria

I have always known that I exist on a higher artistic and spiritual plane than those around me. My mother tells that I had a paintbrush clutched in my tiny fist from the age of one. Each day I surround myself with beautiful objects and inspirational thoughts and rail at the coarseness of others. I will be sure to tell my psychoanalysts about this weekend and at least it serves as great motivation for my latest dance piece "country air convulsing"



**Kristina Russell** - Sorel

I have been acting from a young age and both Edward and I have been lucky enough to collaborate on many productions including this one.

I have enjoyed playing varied roles and have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to die on stage in the most spectacular manner several times in the same play. I very much long to be cast in one of the great classical roles, something biblical even. My worst fear is to be typecast and be resigned to playing the same role under the guise of different plays. Edward, however, does not sympathise with this sentiment much to my despair. But I'm sure I will prove that I am destined for great achievement.



### **Tim Farrow - Edward**

Being the prolific and successful playwright that I am, you no doubt will have heard of me already. My latest play, *Daphne's Delight*, which opens next Monday, promises to be yet another sellout production. I'm surrounded by people who are simply envious of my creative abilities but being so naturally talented can be a hard cross to bear at times and often results in volatile relationships.



### **Calum Sharp - Eric**

Attending the theatre when the working class struggle to make ends meet? Pure bourgeois indulgence! This is hardly the time for obscure artistic endeavours and silly farces. As a youthful(!) Socialist firebrand, I bemoan the indifference to the plight of the common man, and I'm determined to rouse the masses of West Bridgford with my third performance of the year!







### **Adrian Bacon - Jack**

Since me father died when I was just a boy and me mother not long after, I've been 'working' for the Bennetts. What other way is there to get at such a beautiful motor to charm the ladies with? Although I enjoy a glass of beer and a banter with Bridget, I suspect Mrs B brings nothin' but trouble with her this weekend. Cor blimey, that's all we need guvner!



### **Amanda Harris - Bridget**

What do I look like - a maid? How dare Mr and Mrs B interrupt my routine by arriving without warning and bringing their outrageous guests into my house. The larder's empty and I haven't even had time to read my Tittle Tattle. Don't underestimate me. I love a gory story (as long as it doesn't soil the carpet) and can alphabetise a list of poisons. What's that? You'd like a cup of tea? Not on your life!





### **Craig Russell - Walter**

Yes, it's me again, re-elected with a very small majority apparently!

Swept into the role on a last-minute ticket, courtesy of an anonymous political donor, I am here representing my WBDS constituents on a platform representing their wishes. A political agenda of high entertainment, adopting the moral high ground (despite my own behaviour) using Tax (Ticket) revenue to fund morally acceptable future productions (subject to my entirely justifiable MP Expense claim). I sincerely hope I can count on your support in the future!

Vote Walter.



### **Katie Minns - Alice**

Oh no, Jack, can you write all this down for me? I can't find my glasses! I may look vague and my handbag may be hideous but I always aim to protect those I love. I stumbled into Cookham because of Walter Pearce but stayed for the opportunity to meet Mrs Bennett, as she is ... erm, legendary! That and I can't seem to figure out which door is the exit ...





West Bridgford Dramatic Society

# TWELFTH NIGHT

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Directed by Jane Herring*

**14 - 18 May 2024**

The Studio Theatre, Stamford  
Road West Bridgford NG2 6LS  
Tel. 07942 352982  
[www.wbds.co.uk](http://www.wbds.co.uk)



West Bridgford Dramatic Society

# Di and Viv and Rose



About friends and loss

20 – 24 February 2024

The Studio Theatre, Stamford Road West Bridgford NG2 6LS  
Tel. 07942 352982  
[www.wbds.co.uk](http://www.wbds.co.uk)

Directed by **Jerome Foley**

## **The Company - *Death by Design***



[www.wbds.co.uk](http://www.wbds.co.uk)

[info@wbds.co.uk](mailto:info@wbds.co.uk)