

**West Bridgford Dramatic Society**

**The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS**

Ken Ludwig's

The  
Game's  
Afoot

Danger and Hilarity are Non Stop  
in this Comedy Murder Thriller

Holmes for the Holidays

**12-16 May 2026**



**WBDS.co.uk**

**07942352982**



This amateur production of "The Game's Afoot" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. On behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



## Chair's Welcome - Lynn Burges

A very warm welcome to The Studio Theatre for our May production, *The Game's Afoot*. An enormous amount of hard work has gone into bringing this play to life and I hope that you have an enjoyable evening. If you do, please tell family and friends where we are and what we do.

This programme contains details of the rest of the season. Arran Mackay and Jeff Tullin will be making their directorial debuts for WBDS in July, with a varied selection of short stories. This is a slightly shorter run, from Thursday to Saturday, so be sure to get on the website to purchase tickets before they sell out!

Our award winning director, Barbara Seymour, is opening our 2026-27 season with *Accrington Pals*. You may have seen some of her previous work: *Pyramus & Thisbe*, *Mother Courage* and *Orlando*. If you have, you'll know it will be an evening not to be missed.

If you are interested in joining our merry band, or have suggestions for improvements, or feedback on something we are doing well, please speak to one of our Front of House team or contact us through the website or on Facebook. It would be really interesting to know if there are any plays in particular you'd like to see us put on. We are increasingly active on social media, so give us a follow on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok. This is the very best way to keep an eye out for upcoming productions and Tuesday night social activities.

All that is left for me to say is "I hope you enjoy this evenings' entertainment and don't forget to switch your phone off!"

## Director's Notes - Craig Russell.



I first read this play about 3 years ago and as soon as I had, I knew I wanted to bring it to life at WBDS.

A significant challenge was adapting our limited stage space into a workable set and I spent a lot of time designing the set before presenting it the WBDS Committee for consideration. Thankfully the play was approved for production.

I have been blessed with a fantastic cast who have worked tirelessly to bring the play to life and we have had many laughs during our rehearsals. My sincere thanks go to the crew who, whilst mainly in the background, are a vital part of the team bringing us, set, sounds, lights, costumes, Front of House, and so much more. It has been a joy for me to bring this play to you and I hope you enjoy watching it as much I have enjoyed bringing to life with the cast and crew.

## About the Director - Craig Russell

Craig has been with WBDS since 2012, and has appeared in many productions since then, including *Ghost Writer* and *Dial M For Murder*. He has directed both one acts and full productions, *My Friend Miss Flint* and *Death by Design*, and finds directing both demanding and extremely fulfilling. He is delighted with the team he has assembled for this production and hopes you enjoy watching it as much as he has directing it.

## Cast

William Gillette - Bertie Black  
Martha Gillette - Amanda Harris  
Felix Geisel - Dave Cochrane  
Madge Geisel - Alison Scotney  
Simon Bright – Joshua Plank  
Aggie Wheeler - Emily Martin  
Inspector Goring - Sam Bassi  
Daria Chase - Kristina Russell  
Radio announcer - Conway Fitzgerald

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**There is one interval of 20 minutes when drinks and ice cream will be available.**

Please remember to switch off mobile phones during the performance - even a screen can be distracting to cast and other members of the audience.

## Creative Team

Director	Craig Russell
Production Manager	Rob Dixon
Stage Manager	Rob Dixon
Assistant Stage Manager	Jerome Foley
Set Design	Craig Russell
Set Construction Team	Jeff Tullin & Society members
Set Dressing	Craig & Kristina Russell
Costumes	Kristina Russell, Jo Sharpe and Adrian Bacon
Props	Kristina Russell
Lighting Design	Sav Dixon
Lighting Operator	Malcolm Todd
Sound Design	Jeff Tullin
Sound Operator	Jem Woolley
Poster Designer	Annie Haley
Rehearsal Prompt	Sue Scrimshaw
Front of House Manager	Calum Sharp
Box Office Manager	Calum Sharp
FOH Staff	Society members
Publicity	Society Publicity Group

# The Cast



Sam Bassi

I've been a police inspector for over twenty years having trained in London, England, and I can safely say no case is ever quite as simple as it first appears. I thrive on the unexpected, piecing together clues, characters, and just a little chaos along the way. I have a habit of letting people underestimate me, which makes things far more interesting, and I've learned that the most unlikely individuals often have the most to reveal. There's a certain enjoyment in watching everything unfold, especially when it all finally clicks into place. Calm, observant, and quietly persistent, I specialise in creating "order from chaos!", even when things seem completely beyond control. After all, as I like to say, "I do catch all the criminals in the end!"



Bertie Black

Good day and greetings, my name is William Gillette, renowned theatre actor and playwright, known the world over for my role being only Holmes of course. Often surrounded by an accompanying cast of thespians, of varying skill levels, I have allowed them to feed off, and indeed benefit from my worldwide success. My charity knows no bounds and I am always ready, and indeed happy, to assist those less talented than myself. Just ask my Mother!



Dave Cochrane

Greetings and Salutations! Felix Geisel here, and what a treat you're in for! I sincerely hope you enjoy this wonderful play, starring my great friend, William Gillette. I've known him for many, many years, and of course he has won worldwide acclaim for his performances as Sherlock Holmes. The fact we both started out at the same time, and he has enjoyed enormous success is of course a source of great...happiness for me. You will also see my wonderful wife Madge, giving yet another stellar performance, and I can assure you, our married life has just as many fireworks.



### Amanda Harris

How do you do? I am Martha Gillette, mother to my only child, the famous actor William Gillette. He has been inspired by me as I did tread the boards myself in younger years and am most proud of my performance as Mrs Bennett in Pride and Prejudice, pushing the characters dottiness to the limit. I have slowed down a bit since then, but do not underestimate me. I now fill my days looking after my dog Portia, who can be a bit unruly at times, just like my son William. I also enjoy a bit of knitting , and my home made peach preserve is legendary amongst the thespian community.



### Emily Martin

Why hello there! Aggie Wheeler here, it's simply a joy to be part of this delightful little play. I'm an actress (still learning, I'm sure), but I do love the magic of the stage and telling a good story. I try to bring as much heart to my roles as I can... perhaps sometimes a little too much. I am, I must admit, quite a hopeless romantic, which does make everything feel rather more exciting, albeit distracting! Still, I believe in the very best of things, especially love. And really, what harm is there in that?



### Joshua Plank

Hello everyone, Simon Bright here, one of the newest and most talented actors on the New York Thespian scene. Some suggest I am ill equipped for the roles I haven taken, but let me assure you, I am one of the biggest and brightest stars around. A huge talent, not to be missed in any costume drama on any stage.



Kristina Russell

My name is Daria Chase, and having come from a rather humble background, I am now the leading columnist in New York. With my pen I can make or break actors' careers and I will not hesitate to say it how I see it with wit and a wicked sense of humour. Not everyone appreciates my articles of course but what do they know about truth and beauty. I love all the divine party invitations and mingling with the rising stars of stage and screen as well as the has-beens.



Alison Scotney

Hello there, I'm Madge Geisel, an actress emboldened with infinite patience, charm, wit and the required feistiness to deal with the inevitable smugness and demands of the Thespian Set. My husband and best friend Felix and me, form a formidable partnership Despite our bickering, the love and adoration we have for each other shines through as it has done since we first met as young, ambitious and aspiring actors in New York. We have been on many journeys together and here we go again!



presents

THE **CURIOUS**  
INCIDENT OF THE DOG  
IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Adapted by

**SIMON STEPHENS**

Based on the novel by

**MARK HADDON**

**21-22-23 MAY 2026**

West Bridgford Dramatic Society  
The Studio Theatre

Starts 19:00

General Admission £15 / Concessions £10



BOOK  
YOUR  
TICKETS:



This amateur production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.  
[www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

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

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# Short Stories



**9-11 July 2026**



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# ACCRINGTON PALS



**West Bridgford Dramatic society**

**10 to 14 November 2026**

**The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS**



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# Team The Game's Afoot

