

That Good Night

By NJ Crisp

A wry, thought provoking drama.

4-8 Nov 2025



Chair's Welcome - Lynn Burges

A very warm welcome to The Studio Theatre for our season opener, *That Good Night*. 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. In February, Calum Sharp will be directing a thought provoking family drama, *Wedding Story*. For those of you who love a good comedy, the May slot sees the return of Craig Russell directing *The Game's Afoot*. Our Play Reading Group are currently working with Arran Mackay and Jeff Tullin to find a couple of interesting one act plays for them to direct in the July slot.

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.

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

Director's Notes - Tony Vokes

May I extend a very warm welcome to our production of 'That Good Night', a play written by N. J. Crisp.

Some months ago a parliamentary bill, with certain caveats, in respect of legalising assisted dying was narrowly passed. At the time of writing, this bill is awaiting presentation to The House of Lords.

It is therefore quite ironic that we should have chosen 'That Good Night' as our opening production for the 2025/2026 season. Little did we realise that an important content of the play would become such a relevant part of the nation's life.

As the director of the play I would like to impress on you that this is not a documentary type drama on the rights and wrongs of assisted dying. It is a brave and profound play, mixing comedy and philosophy. It's thought provoking and doesn't settle for any soft options and which shows a master storyteller, at the pinnacle of his powers. Thus the title 'That Good Night' from Dylan Thomas's famous poem "Do not go gentle into that good night" is aptly quoted. The poem is known for its powerful message about aging, death, and the human struggle to resist mortality. Compassionate in its expression of filial and marital love, it is not a play about euthanasia, but about the nature and meaning of life and in its way a kind of tragic love story.

Norman James Crisp was born on the 11th December 1923 in Southampton. He was known as a writer, only by his initials and surname.....**N. J. CRISP.**

In the 1960's he wrote scripts for the BBC series including 'Compact', 'Dixon of Dock Green', 'Dr. Finley's Casebook', 'Colditz' and 'Secret Army'. He also collaborated with producer Gerard Glaister in creating a serial called 'The Expert', which was about a forensic scientist. Four years later the pair repeated their roles with the boardroom drama, 'The Brothers'.

In 1987 he wrote the psychological thriller 'Dangerous Obsession' which our society presented in 1988.

His last play 'That Good Night', which is our current production, was written in 1999.

N.J. Crisp was married to Marguerite Lowe. They had three sons and one daughter, and five grandchildren.

N. J. Crisp died in Southampton on June 14th 2005 at the age of 81.

I hope you enjoy our presentation.

About the Director - Tony Vokes

Tony is a true West Bridgfordian and has lived all his life in the area. He is proud of his long standing association with WBDS and has, at the last count directed twenty two plays for us, including *Veronica's Room* in 2022. He hopes you enjoy very much this production of *That Good Night*.



Cast

Anna— Lynn Burges
Michael - Calum Sharp
Debbie - Emily Martin
Ralph - Richard Young
The Visitor - Malcolm Todd

The action takes place in the Umbrian Hills, Italy.

ACT I Scene 1 An afternoon in midsummer
 Scene 2 Evening of the same day
 Scene 3 The following Sunday morning
ACT II Scene 1 Later the same morning
 Scene 2 The following afternoon
 Scene 3 Later the same day

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.

Thanks to Angela Harriss for growing and presenting the beautiful geraniums for the set

Creative Team

Director	Tony Vokes
Production Manager	Barbara Seymour
Stage Manager	Rosie Farrow
Assistant Stage Manager	Barbara Seymour
Set Design Team	Ali & Andy Bakewell
Set Construction Team	Andy Bakewell & Society members
Props	Charlie Willcox
Costumes	Vic Carr & Eleanor Roberts
Lighting Design	Alex Wardle
Lighting Operator	Jeff Tullin
Sound Design	Ritchie Sharpe
Sound Operator	Jem Woolley
Poster Designer	Annie Haley
Rehearsal Prompt	Sue Scrimshaw
Front of House Manager	Rob Dixon
Box Office Manager	Calum Sharp
FOH Staff	Society members
Publicity	Society Publicity Group

The Cast



Lynn Burges

In addition to being the Chair of WBDS and part of the publicity group, I sometimes get the chance to act. After 13 years in the Society it's still a thrill to be part of a great production, whether on or off the stage. Line learning is definitely getting harder as I'm getting older but it's great to find myself married to Richard again. Some of you may remember us from *Colder than Here* in 2017.



Emily Martin

I have been with WBDS for 3 years now and this is my sixth time on stage. I play an active role on committee, play reading group and the publicity group. This production has been so much fun, working with such a lovely team. I have really enjoyed playing Debbie, especially the challenge of speaking French and German!



Calum Sharp

I have been with WBDS for 5 years, but this is my first time on the stage since *Orlando* last November. I've appeared in shows from *And Then There Were None* to *Relatively Speaking*. I love being on the stage whether it's classic thrillers, slapstick comedy or surreal histories, but also get involved in tech and back stage roles a lot.

I'm looking forward to bringing my Michael to you in this play, and I hope you all have a very Good Night.



Malcolm Todd

I joined WBDS in 2009, for my first play ever (if you don't count primary school Christmas plays) – Ibsen's *Master Builder*. Now in my 17th year as a member, this is my 17th appearance on The Studio's small but perfectly formed and endlessly adaptable stage. I've long since lost count of how many members I've shared the stage with; but Richard was the titular master builder of that first play and it's a joy to be acting with him again, still.

In this theatre, I've been a diffident draughtsman, a psychopath, a policeman, a deranged cook and several types of drunk. I try to find the different in every role, and am looking forward to hearing what the audience think of *The Visitor*.

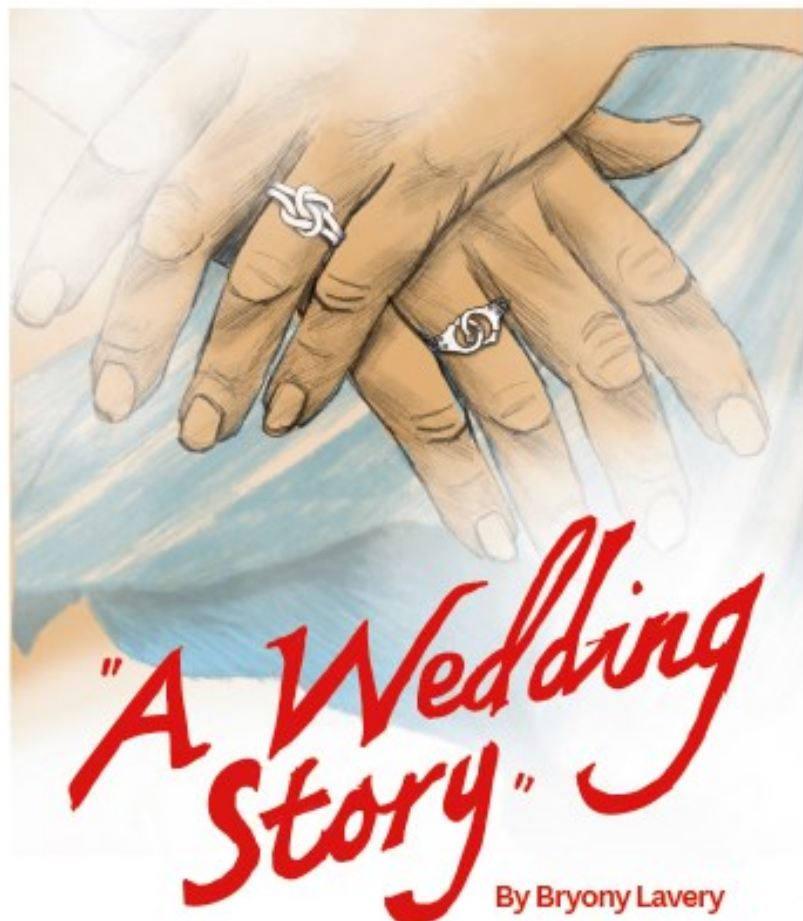


Richard Young

I first performed with WBDS in *Anyone for Breakfast* back in 2007. Other plays that I've been in include: *Colder than Here*, *The Edge of Darkness*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Master Builder*, *Allo, Allo* and *Night Must Fall*. My most recent performance was in *Twelfth Night* as Valentine, Priest and First Officer. I've operated light and sound multiple times and staged managed once (only!)

Playing a grumpy, old git has been a tremendous stretch for me as an actor, but having researched such individuals extensively, at the time of writing, I remain hopeful of achieving the arduous transformation.

West Bridgford Dramatic Society
The Studio Theatre, Stamford Rd, NG2 6LS



3-7 Feb 2026



WDBS.co.uk
07942352982



This amateur production of "A Wedding Story" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. On behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Coming up...

This is the information we are sure you're all eagerly anticipating.....

February 2026 *Wedding Story* by Bryony Lavery, directed by Calum Sharp.

May 2026 *The Game's Afoot* by Ken Ludwig, directed by Craig Russell.

May 2026 will be an evening of one act plays, still to be decided with new directors to WBDS, Arran Mackay and Jeff Tullin.

November 2026 Accrington Pals, directed by award winning Barbara Seymour.

For ticket information and further updates please check our website.

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



WDBS.co.uk
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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

Team That Good Night

