

THE NODS  
THEATRE  
COMPANY  
PRESENTS:

29th March - 1st April 2023

THE  
GHOST TRAIN

BY ARNOLD RIDLEY



[www.the-nods-theatre-company.co.uk](http://www.the-nods-theatre-company.co.uk)



# Welcome

## From the Chairman

On behalf of the Nods, I extend you a warm welcome to our performance of 'The Ghost Train', by Arnold Ridley.

Once again, our cast and crew have worked hard over these winter months, to bring you this period piece. It is a play that was performed by The Nods some 40 years ago, in the 1980's, albeit with a different cast! You may also recognise the name of the author Arnold Ridley. Wondering where from? Read on to find out.

Of course, the hard work would not be worth it without your loyal support and we are pleased that you are able to be a part of the audience this week. I am sure you will leave having had an enjoyable, if not a somewhat spooky, evening's entertainment.

Our thanks also go to all at The Duchess Theatre, for their help and support.

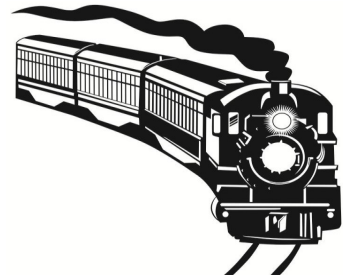
Ian McHugh, Chairman

# THE GHOST TRAIN

Arnold Ridley

## Synopsis

Six passengers get stranded at a small Cornish wayside station. Despite the stationmaster's weird stories of a ghost train, they decide to stay the night in the waiting room. Soon they regret this decision as ghostly and not so ghostly apparitions materialize.



Behind the scenes with the Nods



# The history of The Ghost Train



Arnold Ridley was inspired to write 'The Ghost Train', after he was stranded overnight at the, now long closed, Mangotsfield Train station on the midland railway main line between Bristol and Birmingham. The haunting atmosphere fired his creativity and it took Ridley only a week to complete his script. It was first performed in Brighton in 1923, before transferring to London's St. Martin's Theatre. The success of the play led to versions in Dutch and German, an Opera, books and even film versions starring the likes of Will Hay and Arthur Askey.

The life of **Arnold Ridley** is almost as extraordinary as that of 'The Ghost Train'. Born in 1896 in Bath Somerset, the son of a Gymnastics instructor, his career as a student teacher was interrupted by World War 1. He volunteered and despite having been initially rejected for having hammer toes, served with the Somerset Light Infantry. He was injured during the battle of the Somme. After his medical discharge in 1917, he began an acting career at the Birmingham Rep, and it was during this interwar period that he began writing plays. His first script was 'The Ghost Train'. He went on to write over 30 more. When World War 2 began, he re-enlisted and served as part of the British Expeditionary force. Arnold Ridley had a successful career on stage, radio and screen, including roles in The Archers, Crossroads and Coronation Street, but he is probably best remembered for his role as the platoon medic 'Private Godfrey', in Dad's Army. Ridley was appointed OBE in 1982.



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**Please help us to support our chosen charity!**

THE DUCHESS  CHATSWORTH  
THEATRE ARTS CENTRE

Every year, the Nods donate 10% of their profits to a chosen charity. We also collect donations from our audiences and members.

Over the years, our audiences have helped us to raise vital funds for many charities held close to our hearts and we thank you for your generosity and support.

We want to continue giving something back to the arts. So, once again, our chosen charity for 2023 and our home for this production, is The Duchess Theatre, Chatsworth Arts Centre, Long Eaton.





## Cast List

Saul Hodgkin ..... Jonathan Woolf  
 Elsie Winthrop ..... Victoria Herbert  
 Richard Winthrop ..... Tim Fryzer-Smith  
 Charles Murdock ..... Malachi Reid  
 Peggy Murdock ..... Hazel Whaley  
 Miss Bourne ..... Sue Leahy  
 Teddie Deakin ..... Ray Harrison  
 Julia Price ..... Elaine Sellors  
 Herbert Price ..... Alistair Ruddle  
 John Sterling ..... Owen Anthony  
 Jackson ..... Ian McHugh  
 Smith ..... Tom Ruddle



Directed by ..... Jane Hough  
 Stage Manager ..... Sharon Rutland  
 Prompt ..... Stuart Grocott  
 Lighting ..... Theo Doody  
 Sound ..... Phillip Rutland

**Thank you to our front of house team:** Jane Hough, Pat and Ian McHugh, Liz and David Popple, Liz Davies, David Bloodworth, Margaret and Bryan Clarke, Pam Postans, Lewis Davenport and Chris Grocott.



The Nods first performed *The Ghost Train* in 1981 where our very own President, Brian Meese starred as Teddie Deakin. Well, here we are over forty years later, performing it again, in honour of him and the original cast.



Tony Hardy, Eve Davies, Brian Meese, Malcolm Essex and Beth Meese

The latest production by the New Ockbrook Drama Society is *The Ghost Train* by Arnold Ridley. In a scene from the play from left are: Tony Hardy, Eve Davies, Brian Meese, Malcolm Essex and Beth Meese. The play opens at the Church Hall Little Theatre, Ockbrook, on Friday and is presented on four further nights ending on Saturday, October 24.



Directed by Betty Tyler



Diane Gibbons, Helen Eardley and Eve Davies



Malcolm Essex and Beth Meese



Cliff Sellors



Peter Ellis and Beryl Bloodworth



Beryl, Peter, Diane, Helen, Brian, Malcolm and Beth

Elaine Sellors (Current cast)



Helen Eardley, Peter Ellis  
Cliff Sellors and Diane Gibbons



Brian Meese, Malcolm Essex and Beth Meese



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The Nods Theatre Company wishes to acknowledge East Midlands Airport, for their generous grant, enabling us to obtain new LED theatre lighting. This will considerably reduce our carbon footprint and the coloured washes will enhance our future productions.



# Royal Oak

Green Lane, Ockbrook

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# Patrons



Alice Allen	Alan Hough	Liz Upton
Vanessa Anderson	Michael Lambert	Jean Prince
Tim Bailey	Judy Langworthy	Barbara Rhodes
Craig Berry	Fred Linyard	Catrin Rutland
Vivienne Bloodworth	Beth Meese	Phil Rutland
Lewis Davenport	Susanna Meese-Simpson	Rhoda Salibury
Elizabeth Davis	Michael Murphy	Paul Slater
Andrew Dawkins	Wendy Murphy	Louise Tassell
Kay Eustace	Gwen Murray	Janet Tonks
Sheila Exley	Andy Orpe	Betty Tyler
Eileen Eyres	Vicky Orpe	Maureen Walsh
Laura Gordon	Kath Pearson	Gerald Prince
Chris Grocott	Pam Postans	Peter Upton
Alan Hevey	Anne Hevey	

## **Why not consider becoming a patron?**

Patrons receive 1 free ticket per show  
and priority bookings!

**Further Nods information can be found at:**  
[www.the-nods-theatre-company.co.uk](http://www.the-nods-theatre-company.co.uk)

The Nods Theatre Company presents:



# ESCAPE!

A play by Sarah L. Tunnord



**The Royal Oak**

Green Lane, Ockbrook,  
DE72 3SE

**18th - 21st October 2023**



Tickets: £8

**07891769146**

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