

THE 39 STEPS

Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Licensed by ITV Global Entertainment Limited

From an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

Directed by John Atkin

SETTING: Various Locations in London & Scotland

TIME: August, 1935

Running Time: This production includes one fifteen-minute intermission.

This production contains some minimal adult language and the sound of gunshots.

THE CAST

(In order of appearance)

Richard Hannay-----Jason Fogarty
Clown 1-----Daniel Mann
Clown 2-----Kevin Arthur
Annabella Schmidt / Pamela / Margaret-----Dana DiCerto

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager-----Henry Wright
Assistant Stage Manager-----Andrea Cornelius
Producer-----Pia Haas
Lighting Design-----Anthony Santora
Projections-----Chris Rudy
Lightboard Operator-----Carlie Zucker
Projector Operator-----Zach Hefler
Sound Design/ Soundboard Operator-----Dan Scherer
Design/Construction-----Lou Simmons
Costumes-----Marlu Costumes, Pia Haas
Wigs-----Beth Brandon, Carlie Zucker
Properties Masters-----Phyllis Padow-Sederbaum, Vivien Cord
Props Assistance-----Laura Groven, Ed McClure, Maureen Britt
Backstage Crew-----Angie Joachim, Andrea Cornelius, Kristina Knoeppel

Graphics-----Richard and Janet Ferrante
Program-----Pia Haas, Ron Aaronson
Front of House-----Susan Geffen, Ed McClure, Rodd Berro, Stephanie Klatsky

THANK YOU

The Armonk Players would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their support for *The 39 Steps*:

Maureen Britt, Nancy DeLorenzo, Hazel and John Goldstein of Marlu Costumes, Karen Heck, Chris Jamison, Donna Joyce, Donald LeBlanc, Carol Morris, Robby Morris, Geri Munnick, Chris Rudy and Caryn Stern.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Kevin Arthur (Clown) is delighted to be performing again with The Armonk Players having previously appeared in *The Liar* and *Date Night*. He has worked with numerous theatrical groups throughout Westchester including Actors Conservatory Theatre, The Harrison Players, Bedford Community Theatre, Chill Bucket Productions, the SOUP to NUTS Short Play Festival and Phoenix Theatre & Arts Company. Kevin is dedicating his performance to his late mother, Eleanor, who rarely missed any of his shows.



Dana DiCerto (Annabella, Pamela, Margaret) is thrilled to make her debut with The Armonk Players in *The 39 Steps*!. She recently appeared as Jessie in *Sweat* at The Brookfield Theater for the Arts. Favorite roles include Prudence in *Beyond Therapy* (Ridgefield Theater Barn & Curtain Call), Felicia in *I Hate Hamlet* (Curtain Call), Paulette in *Legally Blonde* (Downtown Cabaret Theatre), Tatiana Racon in *A Comedy of Tenors* (Curtain Call), Billie Dawn in *Born Yesterday*, (Town Players of New Canaan), Lorraine Sheldon in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Curtain Call), The Girl in *Hot'L Baltimore* (Curtain Call), and Teresa in *Italian American Reconciliation* (Wilton Playshop). Thank you, John and team, for the opportunity to be a part of this production!



Jason Fogarty (Richard Hannay) Jason is thrilled to be returning to perform with The Armonk Players. Some of Jason's previous credits include *The Baker (Into the Woods)*, *The Scarecrow (The Wizard of Oz)*, *Bobby (Company)*, *Bobby (The Boyfriend)*, *Tony Kirby (You Can't Take It with You)*, *King Triton (The Little Mermaid)* and *Freddy (Noises Off)*. Jason would like to thank his wife, Melissa, for supporting him throughout this process and being by his side while playing his most rewarding roles as Husband and Father!



Daniel Mann (Clown) Daniel is a professionally trained local actor from Greenwich, CT. This is his first performance with The Armonk Players. He recently played Simon in TPNC's *Hay Fever*, David in Curtain Call's *The Viewing Room*. Thank you, John Atkin and the production crew.

John Atkin (Director) John is thrilled to be directing here at The Armonk Players, and a heartfelt thanks to Jason, Dana, Kevin and Daniel for working tirelessly to bring this wild ride to life! John's previous directing credits include the Arthur Miller classics *All My Sons*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *The Price*; the iconic *West Side Story*; *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*; classics *On Golden Pond*, *The Heiress*, *Beyond Therapy*; and numerous others. John has also performed extensively around the region, is an avid traveler and is a former state Senator. His sincerest thanks to Henry, the entire production team, and of course to Pia and Chris for asking him to direct this gem of a show.

Henry Wright (Stage Manager) Is grateful to be making his debut as a stage manager with The Armonk Players. He has previously been seen on stage in NYC and in Westchester, most recently as Finbar in *The Weir* and as the Man in *Veronica's Room* with the Iona College Theatre Ensemble.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Welcome to our performance of *The 39 Steps*! From a book to the big screen to Broadway, this piece has proven itself as a work that will not be confined to one medium nor the constraints of typical storytelling. When *The 39 Steps* first opened in New York, it was not expected to run for more than a few weeks. It didn't feature massive sets, large production numbers or headline stars that have become the draw of current Broadway shows. This show deviated from the large-scale gloss and glamour of the "new" Broadway and capitalized on the simpler magic of the old Vaudeville shows. To the surprise and delight of everyone involved, it was a hit!

In the play, *The 39 Steps*, we see the same world as in the original "thriller" novel: a man on the run from wrongful accusations of murder, charming spies lurking in the Scottish countryside, and suspense around every corner. However, playwright Patrick Barlow executes the world of the "thriller" genre in a completely opposite direction of Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film adaptation. He creates through farce. While doing complete artistic justice to both Buchan's original work and Hitchcock's film, Barlow's farcical take on the material provides us with a true homage to the theatre. He pays tribute to our sentimental vision of the theatre by creating so much with so little. Barlow does this by celebrating the artifice of the theatre and theatricality. We suspend our disbelief when watching theatre as an audience, but farce takes this experience another step further: it draws our attention to the skillful exploitation of a situation, making the highly improbable completely plausible on the stage. The play itself exists within a very civilized world of proper English mannerisms and cultured charms, the very thin "veneer of civilization." But instead of revealing the shadowy underworld of pre-war espionage as the book and movie do, the play shows that within the context of the theatre, this story is ripe for farce and satire.

"Let's all just set ourselves resolutely to make this world a happier place! A decent world! A good world! A world where no nation plots against nation! Where no neighbour plots against neighbour; where there's no persecution or hunting down, where everybody gets a square deal and a sporting chance and where people try to help and not to hinder! A world where suspicion and cruelty and fear have been forever banished! That's the sort of world I want! Is that the sort of world you want?"

Words written in 1935 by one of Alfred Hitchcock's team of writers and are as resonant today as they were then.

THE ARMONK PLAYERS ARE PROUDLY CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN THIS COMMUNITY

Our first production was *84 Charring Cross Road*, which seemed a likely match for a library theater with all the literature associations. In the beginning Hal Simonetti, Susan Geffen and Barbara Simonetti were a team and soon we developed others from Armonk, most especially Pia Haas and Rodd Berro. As our reputation for "*really good*" community theatre grew, we began to find eager talent from all over Westchester and soon we had a board. Several meetings over the year were held in cozy living rooms, where we chose our plays.

At first, we did comedies and dramas and later added musicals to our season. Readings labeled "Simply Theatre!" were also a great way to feature newer talent and plays. Our initial audiences were from the local area, but our growing reputation and word-of-mouth soon had us drawing patrons from all over the New York metropolitan area.

There are always hilarious moments to remember. The blackout after a storm and performing with flashlights. The actor running down the aisle and losing his pants in the process. Xmas ornaments falling off the tree and breaking in a scene change. Thankfully we have had fabulous people who have contributed their time and talent on stage and most importantly back stage and in the booth in all aspects of getting a show up and running.

What distinguishes The Armonk Players from other similar groups is that, in addition to bringing outstanding theatre into the community - quality plays, musicals and readings - we offer our members the full theatre experience as well. Anyone from Armonk or the surrounding communities wishing to act, sing, direct, design sets, build and paint them, find props, do lighting and sound, sell tickets or count cash - can come on board, exercise their interests, and have fun and friendship at the same time.

When Barbara Simonetti and Susan Geffen started The Armonk Players, there was one big risk - we had no idea how much interest we would find - theatrical talent/interest and behind-the-scene workers willing to come in. But, from the start, they came from all directions - people pursuing unrelated careers by day, but loving theatre, and wanting to actually do it as well as see it. They found a ready outlet for their creative energies through the Players. Not to be too dramatic about it, (and no one could see it when this thing began), but a door was opened to enriching the lives of many people with friendship and creative work - quite a few of them in from the start, years ago, still going. We need you to join us and bring fresh energy and new insight. Come Play with us!

THE ARMONK PLAYERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NORTH CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ARMONK OUTDOOR ART SHOW SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

Diamond Sponsor



Art of Storytelling Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Media Partners



PAST MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

2021: *Barrymore*
2019: *Date Night*
2019: *Baby*
2018: *The Foreigner*
2018: *Next To Normal*
2017: *The Liar*
2017: *Our Town*
2016: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*
2015: *Mothers and Sons*
2015: *Time Stands Still*
2014: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
2014: *Play On!*
2013: *Something's Afoot*
2013: *Parallel Lives*
2012: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*
2012: *Fools*
2011: *The Drowsy Chaperone*
2011: *K-Pax*
2010: *It Happened One Christmas Eve*
2010: *Ah, Wilderness!*
2009: *A Flea in Her Ear*
2009: *The Pirates of Penzance*
2008: *Lend Me a Tenor*
2008: *A Little Night Music*
2007: *Anatomy of a Murder*
2007: *Steel Magnolias*
2006: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
2005: *Prelude to a Kiss*
2005: *The Musical Comedy of Murders of 1940*
2004: *Dearly Departed*
2004: *The Spitfire Grill*
2003: *Rumors*
2003: *Amadeus*
2002: *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*
2002: *Over the River and Through the Woods*
2001: *I Never Sang for My Father*
2001: *Lost in Yonkers*
2000: *God's Favorite*
2000: *The Octet Bridge Club*

1999: *The Dining Room*

1999: *Fools*

1998: *Crimes of the Heart*

1998: *Lovers and Other Strangers*

1997: *84 Charring Cross Road*

Visit our website www.ArmonkPlayers.org for upcoming information on future readings & productions and for opportunities to join our group.