

About Chorlton Players...

We are a community theatre group established in 1963. We put on five productions a season, including our pantomime in the New Year and a comedy revue. Our low-ticket prices reflect the fact that we are a not for profit group. We meet and rehearse at The Spread Eagle every Monday and Wednesday evening and we always welcome new members. You don't need any experience and it is not all about the acting. We are always in need of all the other talents it takes to put on productions: backstage, costumes, front of house, set building, audio-visuals, make-up, advertising etc.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US? If you are interested in joining Chorlton Players just go to our website: www.chorltonplayers.co.uk and email our membership secretary for further information at enquiries@chorltonplayers.com, come along to one of our rehearsals, or come and chat to us after this performance.

Keep in touch with us via our e-Newsletter...

To subscribe, just go to www.chorltonplayers.com and add your details to the Subscription Section on the right hand side. You can unsubscribe instantly any time. We promise to send you our newsletter packed with info worth announcing (no spam here!) and we promise to keep your details confidential... **and keep up with us on Facebook and @chorltonplayers on Twitter and Instagram too!**

Coming soon.....

NOËL COWARD'S
BLITHE SPIRIT

**Chorlton
Players**

**THE
ARSONISTS**

BY MAX FRISCH

9-11 June 2022

Curtain up 7:30pm
St Werburgh's Hall, St Werburgh's Road,
Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 0TL
£7 Adult, £4 Concessions
www.chorltonplayers.com

Citizens of this Town!

Welcome to **The Arsonists!**

Two years ago when I told people I was putting this production together - with its themes of human complacency, performative morality, and the rise and normalisation of fascist rhetoric - everyone told me how **Timely** It was.

Two years and one pandemic later it's still **Timely**
- maybe it always will be.

I hope not.

Max Frisch first wrote the outline for **The Arsonists** (originally titled **Biedermann und die Brandstifter** in its original German) shortly after the end of the Second World War. Reflecting on the events of those years and the compliance of seemingly normal everyday men and women in atrocities that shocked the world.

Frisch was heavily influenced by Bertolt Brecht and does employ some elements of Brecht's Epic Theatre in his work.

He also dabbles strongly in Absurdism (my favourite genre)- a style that heightens the elements of everyday life to the point of ridiculousness - to more clearly show the reality of the human condition.

As a result **The Arsonists** employs stylised elements of Epic Theatre (like the use of chorus and character 'types')- to remove the emotional catharsis of the story, and uses Absurd comedy, to try to teach a lesson.

The style of this kind of production and performance means that we present the play as what it is - a play. We hide nothing. The actors are always actors. The set is braced for safety. This is not naturalism. You can always see the strings.

All of this is intended to create an objective view of the issues portrayed in the play - in the hopes that the message and themes can be engaged with actively.

So rather than allowing you to get lost in another world, we hope you to engage fully in the one we all share.

The Arsonists is a cautionary tale in which apathy, greed and weakness allow evil to flourish. The play is set in a nameless country, in a nameless city, at an unidentified time. It could be and is - now - and it always will be - unless we learn from the lessons of the past.

With love and hope to all of you and my wonderful cast & crew -

Val <3 (director and social miscreant)

CAST

- Biedermann	Rohan Shenoy
- Babette	Frances Lolly Chant
- Schmitz	Cameron Steen
- Eisenring	Charlie De Santis
- Fire Chief	Gerard Devney
- Firefighters	Peter Appleby
	Paul Bluer
	Chris Lenferna
	John Smithe
	Maroulla Anderson
- Anna	
- Police Officer	Tom Brookes
/Doctor of Philosophy	
- Mrs. Knechtling	Himangi Gopal

CREW

- Director	Valiant Lynch-Mathew
- Producer	Louise Derby
- Stage Manager	Alice Meadows
- Set/Firefighter Wrangler	Rob Hall
- Technical Managers	Annie Wallace
- Technical Operator	Anthony Morgan
- Technical programmer	John Smithe
- Prop Manager	Simon Parkin
- Costumes Manager	Jonny King
- Make-up	Ashley Kurtz
- Publicity	Stephen Lewyckyj
- Photography	Michael Johnson
- Poster Design	Maili Lavin
- Front of House	Paul Bluer & helpers

Finally, a big thank you to all the members and friends of Chorlton Players who have helped along the way.

*We do this because we love it
- and we hope you love what we do.*