

About Chorlton Players...

We are a non-profit making theatre group established in 1963 so we've been going fifty years now. We are a group of about forty members, and we put on five productions per season. Our two mainstays are our pantomime every New Year, and a comedy review in summer. We meet every Monday and Wednesday evening for rehearsals and are always keen to see new members. Even if you don't fancy acting, we are always in need of all the other talents it takes to put productions on: backstage, costumes, front of house, set-building, audio-visuals, make-up, advertising etc. So, if you are interested in taking any part in our shows, please get in touch.

Go to our website: www.chorltonplayers.co.uk and drop us a line at enquiries@chorltonplayers.com. Or come and chat to us after this performance.

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

To subscribe, just email news@chorltonplayers.com headed "Sign me up to the CP e-News Service". You can unsubscribe instantly any time. We promise only to send you our newsletter when we have something worth announcing (no spam here) & we promise to keep your details confidential... and keep up with us on Facebook and @chorltonplayers on Twitter too!

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



Terry Pratchett's

MORT

Adapted By Stephen Briggs

22nd - 24th October 2015



**Chorlton
Players**

Edward Albee's

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?



Fancy
some
fun
and
games?

20th - 22nd August 2015
at 7.30pm

St. Werburgh's Hall
St. Werburgh's Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
M21 0TL

£6 Adults
£4 Concessions
on the door
and online

www.chorltonplayers.com

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Edward Albee's inspiration for the play's title came from some graffiti he saw scrawled in soap on a saloon bar mirror. He explained in an interview how the phrase resonated with him as he was writing the script: *When I started to write the play it cropped up in my mind again. And of course, who's afraid of Virginia Woolf means who's afraid of the big bad wolf... who's afraid of living life without false illusions.*

There is no doubt that this play is about truth and illusion. Albee's intention is to expose the superficiality of the idealised version of the nuclear family of the 1950s and he explores the American Dream, history v. science and the secrets and deceptions hidden in two very different marriages. Albee was born in 1928 and was adopted as a baby by a theatre magnate father and socialite mother. Albee left home for good when he was in his late teens. He admitted: *I never felt comfortable with the adoptive parents. I don't think they knew how to be parents. I probably didn't know how to be a son, either.*

Albee's own description of the play is to see it as a 'grotesque comedy'; it is funny yet it is also powerful and poignant. Directing this play has been a pleasure and I am particularly grateful to the cast for their commitment and hard work over the last few months. It is a great script to work with but also a challenging play to perform and the cast have made the journey from rehearsal room to stage a wonderfully enjoyable one. I feel proud of what they have achieved and I trust you will too. Thanks also go to the production team for all their assistance in bringing this American classic to Chorlton!

Finally, thank you – our audience – for coming along to support us. I hope you enjoy the show.

Simon Parkin
Director

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? won the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. It was also selected for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama but the award's advisory board objected to the play's then-controversial use of profanity and sexual themes; no award was made that year.

The 1966 film adaptation starred Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton (with George Segal and Sandy Dennis). The film was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director for Mike Nichols, and is one of only two films to be nominated in every eligible category. The film won five awards, including a second Academy Award for Best Actress for Elizabeth Taylor and Best Supporting Actress for Sandy Dennis.

Cast

George
Martha
Nick
Honey

Andy O'Brien
Jean Hall
Charles McCoy
Bex Smith

Production Team

Director
Producer
Set Design
Technical Manager
Stage Manager
Lighting/Sound
Props
Costumes
Front of House
Photography

Simon Parkin
Stephen Lewyckyj
Heidi Knight
Annie Wallace
Jonathan King
Adam Ion
Heather Lee
Helen Bowyer
Matron and her helpers
John Beresford

With many thanks to various other members of the Society who have helped along the way.

The action takes place in George and Martha's living-room on the campus of a small university college in New England in 1961.

Act One: *Fun and Games*
Act Two: *Walpurgisnacht**
Act Three: *The Exorcism*

There are two intervals: at the end of Act One and the end of Act Two.

**the festival held the night before May Day when witches are supposed to meet together and create havoc*