

Director's Notes

Thriller playwright Sydney Bruhl hasn't had a success to his credit for years. So when a script arrives from an unknown dramatist he fumes with jealousy, much to the consternation of his wife, Myra. How far would he go to achieve another hit? In a plot that twists and turns with more surprises than an audience may bargain for, we invite you to sit back and decide who or what is true or false?"

When choosing a play for Wychwood Players to perform there are numerous considerations. 'What can we cast with our membership?' 'What can we stage?' 'What can we afford?' etc. And this time I added to these 'Where can we find a good thriller?' Not thinking that this would be a difficult task I scoured the shelves of theatrical publishers and the regional library to no avail. In truth good thrillers that an amateur company can stage are hard to come by. Ask yourself how many you have seen over the years? We are spoilt with good drama on TV and film but where are the good plays? I lost count of the scripts which I read and rejected for being too weak or too obvious a plot. And then a long standing member of the players asked if I had looked at Ira Levin. Thanks to him, I found Deathtrap and couldn't put it down.

Our rehearsals have been full of laughter as we picked our way through the various action sequences whilst keeping the cast intact. Every set of rehearsals comes with its own challenges. This time we had the added novelty of a leading man based in Hong Kong but prepared to clock up the miles, for which we are most appreciative. Then there was the need to acquire certain props that needed as much authenticity as possible. So that's how I ended up in an Ann Summers store and got to know a lot more about weaponry. I am quite certain that if the powers that be do monitor private emails, some of us will be on government watch lists by now!

Do join the Wychwood Players – you never know what you might experience?!

If you enjoy Deathtrap as much as I did in that first read through it will all have been worth it...

Julie Downing

Our next production (yet to be decided!) will be
on 22nd, 23rd and 24th November 2018

For further information please visit:

www.wychwoodplayers.com

WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

Ira Levin's

Deathtrap

A thriller



26th, 27th & 28th April 2018

7:30 pm

PROGRAMME

For which a donation would be very much
appreciated. Thank you.

Deathtrap

A thriller by Ira Levin

Directed and Produced by Julie Downing

CAST (in order of appearance)

Sidney Bruhl
Myra Bruhl
Clifford Anderson
Helga Ten Dorp
Porter Milgrim

Aram Gregory
Joanna McKerlie
Richard J Hartley
Candida Richards
Ralph Wears

CREW

Set Construction & Finishing

Ben Curran
Members of the Players

Stage Manager Props

Richard S Hartley
Vanessa Stich
Amanda Keighley

Lighting Sound Effects Costumes

Frank O'Neill
Simon Aldridge
Sue Mellerick
The Cast

Front of House

Phillip Croxson
Rose Hartley
Sally Elderfield
Sharon Light

Box Office

Charlotte Humphreys
Ralph Wears
Members of the Players
Rachel Read
Sally Lewis

Posters/Programme Cover Publicity

Programme Prompt

Thanks to Stow Town Coffee for the loan of a vintage typewriter.

Act I

Scene 1 - An afternoon in late Autumn

Scene 2 - That evening

Scene 3 - Two hours later

Act II

Scene 1- A morning, two weeks later

Scene 2 - A night, a week later

Scene 3 - An afternoon, a week later

The action takes place in Sidney Bruhl's study at his home in Westport, Connecticut.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes.

None of our productions would be possible without an array of volunteers who master a myriad of tasks just to get the show on the road.

The **WYCHWOOD PLAYERS** have been a local institution for decades and there is always a warm welcome to any new members, especially those with relevant practical skills. Why not find out more?

Thank you in anticipation!