

A close-up photograph of a hand turning a wooden door handle. The hand is light-skinned and is positioned on the right side of the frame, gripping a round, turned wooden knob. The door is made of vertical-grained wood. The background is a bright, out-of-focus light source, creating a warm, golden glow. The entire image is framed by a white border that appears to be peeling away from the top right corner.

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD

Marvin's Room

By Scott McPherson

Directed by Eirin Compton

Sun 15 Sept – Sat 21 Sept 2019

£1.50



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 🏠 For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.
- 🏠 Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.
- 🏠 All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.
- 🏠 The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.
- 🏠 An infra-red hearing assistance system is available in the auditorium but not in the Coward Room. Personal systems with a T-switch will require an additional unit available in the foyer. 'In ear' headsets are also available.
- 🏠 Wheelchair positions are available in both stalls and the balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.
- 🏠 TTC Ltd, as managers of the theatre, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

Directors Notes

The script for *Marvin's Room* ended up in my hands three years ago and has now finally made it to the stage. I remember seeing the film as a teenager and the story of the two opposite sisters struck a chord. It came back to me as I started my own journey as a mother of two sisters who from very early on, I could tell would be very different.

As my two daughters have grown in the last three years to be the best of friends and worst of enemies, I started my quest to bring the daughters of Marvin to the stage.

Sisters and family coming together in times of need is a running thread through the script and coming together was certainly what happened at rehearsals. Getting *Marvin's Room* to the point it is now could not have been done without the help of the cast and crew. They have worked tirelessly to find missing members of Marvin's family. There were times we did not think we would make it. But we did and this play is a testament to being there for one another, helping where you can and supporting each other.

That is what family do.

Special thanks

There are many people I would like to thank, but none more so than those who worked so hard to get this play onstage. You all know who you are. Also, Lottie and Alana for their support and Trine who taught me how to be a sister and a friend. And of course, my own set of sisters, Idun and Freya who are teaching me new things every day and my husband Bill whom I cannot be without.

Eirin Compton

Scott McPherson

Scott McPherson, renowned playwright and actor, was one of the first openly gay, HIV-positive American artists and spoke eloquently, both in his writing and in interviews, of the personal and familial ravages of chronic illness and the need for loving support and connection with lovers, family and friends.

McPherson was born in Columbus Ohio in 1959, and raised along with seven siblings in a devout Roman Catholic home. He acquired his great love for literature in his youth. He began acting in high school and attended Ohio University where he majored in theatre and dance. An early one-act version of his first play *'Til the Fat Lady Sings* was first produced at Ohio University. *Fat Lady* was later produced in Chicago by Lifeline Theatre under the direction of Eric Simonson. Ohio University named a new theatre space in McPherson's honour.

McPherson moved to Chicago in 1981 and was cast regularly in local theatrical productions, commercials and industrial films. His work as an actor included performances in *The Shrew*, *Butler County*, *Gentrification*, *Expectations*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Normal Heart* and many others.

Three of McPherson's plays were produced in Chicago: *'Til the Fat Lady Sings*, *Scraped* and most notably, *Marvin's Room*. *Marvin's Room*, first produced by the Goodman Theatre in 1990, was also produced at Hartford Stage in Hartford, Connecticut, Playwrights Horizon and Minetta Lane Theatre in New York City, and at Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The play received the Drama Desk Award, the Oppenheimer Award, the Obie Drama Award, the John Whiting Foundation Award for Writing, and the Outer Critics Circle Award. It was later made into a major film starring Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, and Hume Cronyn.

In spite of variable and increasingly failing health, and the illness and recent death of his lover, Daniel Sotomayor, McPherson had completed two commissioned screenplays and was working on a new play until shortly before his death. He died of AIDS complications in Chicago on 7th November 1992 at the age of 33.



“How could one sister be so good and the other so bad?”

Marvin's Room

Bessie, a strong-willed woman, takes care of her bedridden father and eccentric Aunt Ruth. After Bessie is diagnosed with leukaemia, her estranged sister Lee comes to visit and to be tested as a possible bone marrow donor for her sister. The reunion between the sisters is initially uncomfortable, aggravated by the difficult behaviour of Lee's two sons. The two women eventually confront their shortcomings as sisters, reach out to each other, and arrive at an understanding about the importance of family.

The play is based upon McPherson's experiences with older relatives who lived in Florida. McPherson cared for his partner, the cartoonist and activist Daniel Sotomayor, who died from AIDS. His experiences living in the darkest days of the AIDS epidemic influenced his writing.

Cast

Bessie	Linda Hansell
Lee	Susan Gerlach
Ruth	Michelle Hood
Hank	Alex Rand
Charlie	Ben Jeffrey
Dr Wally	Daniel Baldock
Dr Charlotte / Bob	Lucy Allan
Retirement Director	Enid Gayle

Production Team

Director	Eirin Compton
Production Manager	Alana Wren
Stage Manager	Kelly-Marie Tuthill
Lighting	John Hart
Sound	John Pyle
Wardrobe	Maggie Revis
Wigs	Junis Olmscheid

Scene List

There will be an interval of 20 minutes

Warning: Contains some swearing

Act I

Scene 1	Doctor's office
Scene 2	Bessie's home
Scene 3	Doctor's office
Scene 4	Psychiatric ward
Scene 5	Hospital ward
Scene 6	Bessie's home
Scene 7	Bessie's back yard

Act II

Scene 1	Retirement Home
Scene 2	Doctor's waiting room
Scene 3	Bessie's home
Scene 4	Disney World
Scene 5	Disney World
Scene 6	Bessie's home
Scene 7	Bessie's home

Cast Biographies



Linda Hansell

Bessie

Linda has been a member of TTC for over 20 years, her first role as a rather nasally social worker in the late Heather Godley's *Asylum*. She has since played many roles for both TTC and RSS including Marie in *Calendar Girls*, Helga in 'Allo 'Allo, Sylvie in *The Odd Couple*, Lucy in *Mill on the Floss*, Winter Fairy in the Panto *Sleeping Beauty*, Linda Fawsett in Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem* and many roles in *Under Milk Wood* her most enjoyable to date. Linda has also successfully directed for both groups, winning best production Swans for both Amanda Whittington's *Be My Baby* for TTC and Dermot Bolger's *From These Green Heights* for RSS. Her most recent directing collaborations were *Ladies in Waiting* and *Lilies on the Land* for TTC. She is now returning to the stage as Bessie in *Marvin's Room* in her biggest role to date!

Susan seems to specialise in playing thirty-something Americans at TTC, starting many years ago as an actress visiting post-war London (and distributing stockings) in *84 Charing Cross Road*, returning as the uptight Mrs Goodman trapped on a yacht with Charlie Chaplin and Marion Davies in *The Cat's Meow*, continuing as tragic housewife Beatrice in *A View from the Bridge*, and, most recently, as waitress Frankie having an unexpectedly serious one-night-stand in *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. Now she's playing mother/sister/daughter-from-hell Lee! In between the Americans she's played an uptight WI townswoman in *The Ruling Class*, the wench Mopsa in *The Winter's Tale* and various roles at the Richmond Shakespeare Society, including the Abbess of Carlyle in *Richard II*, Corin in *As You Like It*, a homicidal undertaker in *Leonardo's Last Supper* and Emilia in *Othello*.



Susan Gerlach

Lee



Michelle Hood
Ruth

Michelle has been a member of TTC for over 20 years. She is active both as a director (*Private Lives, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Wizard of Oz, After Mrs Rochester, We Happy Few* and *The Secret Garden* to name a few) and as an actor (*Voyage Round My Father, Albert Nobbs, The Seal Wife, Women of Troy, The Chalk Garden, Hay Fever, Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and *After Electra*). Michelle trained at the Guilford School of Drama and worked as a professional actress for many years. She now teaches drama and musical theatre and has previously been Artistic Director at TTC.

Alex lives in Thames Ditton and, having recently resigned from full time employment to pursue acting as a career, will be auditioning for drama school this year. Since developing his skills and love for acting at secondary school, Alex has recently appeared as Simon Stimson in the production of *Our Town* at the Rose Theatre, Kingston. He has also taken part in various short films. Outside of the theatre, Alex enjoys reading, cycling and watching films.



Alex Rand
Hank



Ben Jeffrey
Charlie

This is Ben's first TTC show in a number of years, with the last one being *Beauty and the Beast* back in 2012. Having taken three years away from acting to go to university, Ben got back into it with YAT and BCP shows like *Oh it's a Lovely War* and *Blue Stockings*. He has been studying a MA at UCL, where he has been in many musicals including the UK return of *From Here to Eternity* at the Bloomsbury Theatre. His first time doing a studio show, he's excited to perform in such an intimate space with such a great show.

Daniel Emilio Baldock was born in Greenwich but moved to Rome with his parents soon after. He is an actor and producer, known for *Letters to Juliet* (2010), *Go Go Tales* (2007) and *Bloody Sin* (2011). Recently he has worked on the TV series *Devils* and several other Italian productions.



Daniel Baldock
Dr Wally



Lucy Allan
Dr Charlotte & Bob

Lucy Allan has been doing theatre since she was in nursery and has a great passion for acting. After taking nearly ten years away from the stage, she has recently returned with a performance in YAT's *Our House* earlier this year, which has stoked the fire anew. She hopes to become more involved in both TTC and YAT and continue her pursuit to become a stand-up comedian and stop handing out the laughs for free.

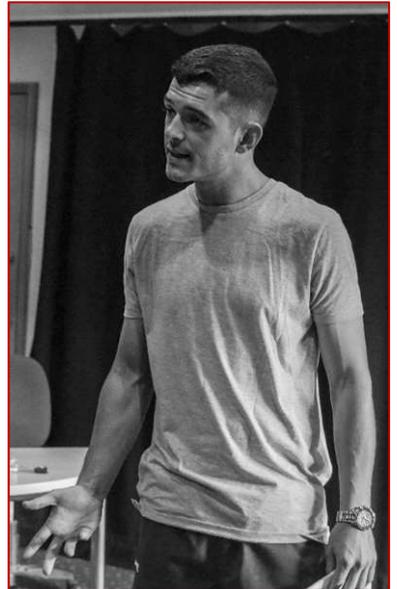
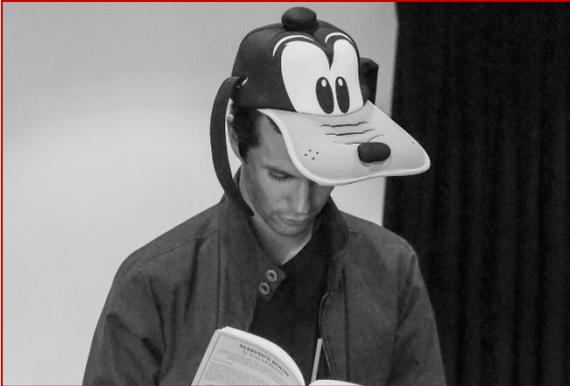
After drama training at Morley College in London, Enid took to acting and directing with gusto. After a long break, Enid appeared in several productions at Runnymede Drama Group, winning Best Supporting Player at Spelthorne Drama Festival for *Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World*. Enid loves Cuban salsa and West African dancing, is learning Senegalese drumming and is an enthusiastic percussive whizz with a shaker!



Enid Gayle
Retirement Director

In Rehearsals

*"I couldn't give a *f**** about Disney World"*



"We call it the loony bin, or the nut house, to show that we've got a sense of humor about it"



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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to Arts Richmond.

This production is entered for the Arts Richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

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Coward Studio



For up-to-date information on TTC and the Theatre, and to book tickets online, please check our website: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.

Telephone enquires open two weeks before each production.

Call: 0845 838 7529 (Open Monday to Saturday 1.00pm to 8.00pm)

To enjoy good theatre locally, join TTC today. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Theatre. To find out more please visit our website

www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you can find in the Foyer.