



*ttc*

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LIMITED

# Brimstone and Treacle

By Dennis Potter

Directed by Chloe Jones

Sun 2 Mar – Sat 8 Mar 2014

£1.50



Hampton Hill Playhouse

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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 induction loop system is installed in the Main Auditorium to assist those who use hearing aids with the relevant setting.

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 Playhouse, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

## About the play...



Banned for over 10 years by the BBC, this searing drama is one of Dennis Potter's most controversial works. Set in the 1970s, it centres on a middle-aged suburban couple and their troubled daughter Pattie, who was left severely disabled from a car accident two years previously. Out of nowhere a mysterious stranger arrives – a polite, clean-cut but disturbing young man who changes their lives forever.

Brimstone and Treacle was originally written by Potter as a television play, commissioned, paid for and recorded in 1976 by the BBC, for their Play for Today slot. It was withdrawn shortly before its scheduled transmission, as listed in the Radio Times, because then Director of Television Programmes Alasdair Milne found it "nauseating" though "brilliantly made".

Brimstone and Treacle was finally shown in 1987. The cast were Denholm Elliott (Mr. Bates), Michael Kitchen (Martin), Patricia Lawrence (Mrs. Bates) and Michelle Newell (Pattie); plus minor characters.

Rewritten by Potter for the stage, the play premiered on 11 October 1977 at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. Directed by David Leland with the following cast Christopher Hancock (Bates), Anne Windsor (Mrs. Bates), Adrienne Byrne (Pattie) and Sean Scanlan (Martin). The play was subsequently staged at the Open Space Theatre, London on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1979.

A film version directed by Richard Loncraine and starring Denholm Elliott (Bates), Joan Plowright (Mrs. Bates), Suzanna Hamilton (Pattie) and Sting (Martin) was released in 1982.



## About the Playwright...



Dennis Potter (May 17, 1935 – June 7, 1994) was a controversial English dramatist with a large canon of work. Beginning with contributions to BBC television's *The Wednesday Play* anthology series from 1965, he peaked with *The Singing Detective* (1986), a BBC TV serial for which he is best remembered. This work and many of his other widely acclaimed television dramas mixed fantasy and reality, the personal and the social and often used themes and images from popular culture. A sufferer from psoriatic arthropathy for most of his adult life, Potter made regular public pronouncements on issues dear to him.

## Potter on Brimstone and Treacle...

In 1978, Potter said:

*“I had written Brimstone and Treacle in difficult personal circumstances. Years of acute psoriatic arthropathy —unpleasantly affecting skin and joints — had not only taken their toll in physical damage but had also, and perhaps inevitably, mediated my view of the world and the people in it. I recall writing (and the words now make me shudder) that the only meaningful sacrament left to human beings was for them to gather in the streets in order to be sick together, splashing vomit on the paving stones as the final and most eloquent plea to an apparently deaf, dumb and blind God. [...] I was engaged in an extremely severe struggle not so much against the dull grind of a painful and debilitating illness but with unresolved, almost unacknowledged, ‘spiritual’ questions.”*

## Could Pattie's illness be Conversion Disorder...?

When actress Matti Houghton (The Arcola's 2012 production of *Brimstone and Treacle*) was asked what she thought Pattie's condition was, she noted:

*“The neurologist said that he thought it was a conversion disorder, which is this really extraordinary thing where it's basically psychosomatic – so it's completely real – whatever is happening to her is completely real but medically there is absolutely nothing wrong with her and it's about the body's way of dealing with stress.”*

Conversion disorder causes patients to suffer from neurological symptoms, such as numbness, blindness, paralysis, or fits without a definable organic cause. It is thought that symptoms arise in response to stressful situations affecting a patient's mental health. Conversion disorder is considered a psychiatric disorder.



# Cast

(In order of appearance)

<b>Pattie</b>	<i>Sophie Hardie</i>
<b>Mrs Bates</b>	<i>Jane Marcus</i>
<b>Mr Bates</b>	<i>Stephen Taylor</i>
<b>Martin</b>	<i>Dane Hardie</i>

The play is set in the living-room of the Bates' house,  
in a North London suburb.

Time – 1976

<b>Act I</b>	<i>A late September evening</i>
<b>Act II</b>	<i>The next morning</i>
<b>Act III</b>	<i>Four hours later</i>
<b>Act IV</b>	<i>Later that evening</i>

There will be a 20-minute interval.

**PLEASE NOTE: This production contains scenes of a sexual nature,  
which some audience may find uncomfortable and disturbing.  
Parental guidance is advised.**

**The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means  
whatsoever are strictly prohibited.**

# Crew

<b>Director</b>	Chloe Jones
<b>Assistant Director/Producer</b>	Holly Houchin
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Michelle Hood
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Lizzie Lattimore
<b>Set</b>	Alan Corbett
<b>Sound</b>	John Pyle
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Gary Stevenson
<b>Lighting Operator</b>	Nick Osorio
<b>Wardrobe</b>	Alison Barker
<b>Props Co-ordinator</b>	
<b>&amp; Set Dresser</b>	Alex Wilmott
<b>Photography</b>	Sarah Carter
<b>Leaflet &amp; Flyer Design</b>	Kimberly Scott
<b>Artistic Link</b>	Michelle Hood

With special thanks to the The Old Flower Shop  
(The Greenwood Centre) Hampton Hill.

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## ***The Bar is open after the show....***

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



Please  
Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones

## ***Please don't spoil the performance.....***

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance. Please refrain from texting during the show. Thank you.



# Cast Biographies



## Stephen Taylor – Mr Bates

Steve's adult drama career began in G&S, playing the full canon of Comic Baritones (Ko-Ko, Sir Joseph Porter, John Wellington Wells, Jack Point, Duke of Plaza Toro, Lord Chancellor etc). "Modern" Musicals include *Carousel* (Jigger); *Oklahoma* (Curly & Jud); *Sound of Music* (Rolf & Von Trapp); *South Pacific* (Cable); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye) and many more. Play credits include: *An Inspector Calls* (twice); *Hard Times*; *Interior Designs*; *Albert Make Us Laugh* (twice); *Sylvias Wedding* and many more. Steve has RUTACS Best Actor awards for Siegfried Sassoon in *Not About Heroes* and Leslie/Maureen in *A Different Way Home* by Jimmie Chinn. Directorial credits at HHP include *Chess- RUTACS Best Musical*; *Business of Murder*; *Man of the Moment* and *Straight and Narrow* - RUTACS Best Play.

## Jane Marcus – Mrs Bates

Jane was last seen at The Playhouse as the irrepressible Lady Fidget, in *The Country Wife*, and before that, as Hester in *The Deep Blue Sea* at The Mary Wallace Theatre in Twickenham. Other notable productions include Joyce in *Last Tango in Little Grimley*, Leanne in *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* and as Susan in *Woman in Mind* (OHADS), for which she was delighted to win a Swan Award.



## Sophie Hardie – Pattie

Sophie has been acting, dancing & singing from a very young age! She first started with TTC at the age of 8 playing a field mouse in *The Wind in the Willows*. Since then she has played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Adela in *The House of Bernarda Alba* and most recently Belle in Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*. Sophie is looking forward to making her co-directorial debut with a TTC studio production of *Blackbird* by David Harrower this November.

## Dane Hardie – Martin Taylor

Dane attended The London Centre for Theatre Studies. Credits for TTC include; Chris in *The City*; Gaston in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; Allan Bollards in *My Own Show* and Joseph Rosenbaum in *We Happy Few*. Outside of TTC Dane's credits include Brindsley Miller in *Black Comedy*; Andy Barrow in *Brassed Off* and Branwell Bronte in *Bronte*. As a director credits include; *Bouncers* by John Godber; *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness; *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard and elsewhere *Don't Look*



*Now* by Daphne du Maurier.



## Crew Biographies

### Chloe Jones – Director

Chloe fulfilled a lifelong ambition when she was accepted on a scholarship to Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. The subsequent merger with Central School of Speech & Drama a year later meant dramatic training from two exceptional schools. Since becoming a TTC member in early 2009 Chloe's TTC credits include: *Relative Values*, *After Miss Julie*, *Straight & Narrow*, *Elephant Man* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She was overjoyed to be awarded the Best Supporting Actress Swan for her roles in both *After Miss Julie* and *Straight and Narrow* in 2010. At the Swan Awards a year later she won Best Female Performer in a Musical for her performance in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Having had a break from treading the boards, Chloe is extremely excited to be making her directing debut with this controversial and thought-provoking play. With such a fabulous cast and crew there is no doubt that *Brimstone and Treacle* will be one hell of a production.

### Holly Houchin – Assistant Director/Producer

Holly is a well-established TV and film production manager and now turning her hand and expertise to the theatre. As a new member to TTC, she has enjoyed getting to know the club and its people while throwing herself into producing and assisting with the direction of this fantastic play. With an amazing cast and crew she is sure it will be great show and she is looking forward to working on many more productions to come.

### Michelle Hood - Stage Manager

Michelle has been a member of TTC for over 20 years. She is active both as a director (*Wizard of Oz*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Secret Garden*) and as an actor (*The Seal Wife*, *Trojan Women* and *Peter Pan*). Her most recent role was as the Wardrobe in the Christmas production of *Beauty & The Beast*. Previous shows as Stage Manager include *Present Laughter* and *Rat in the Skull*. Michelle is enjoying working on this intriguing and powerful drama.

### Lizzie Lattimore – Stage Manager

Lizzie most recently stage managed last year's panto *Snow White*, and has been back re-treading the boards most recently in *Pravda* (Sylvia Eaton) and *Arcadia* (Lady Croom). She is very happy to be back on the other side of the curtain, in support of this thought-provoking piece.

### Alison Baker – Wardrobe

Alison has been a TTC member for over twenty years, and has been involved in both dressing plays and maintaining the wardrobe's store of costumes. Her last major outing into costume making was 2012's *Beauty and the Beast*.

## John Pyle – Sound

John's a member of several groups locally where as well as singing and acting he enjoys designing/operating sound for shows. In a 50 year+ stage career starting aged 13 with 2 roles at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, he's played most tenor/baritone leads in the G&S repertoire – most recently last March as Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*. He loves making authentic, realistic and timely sound effects for plays/shows and hopes you all enjoy this production.

## Gary Stevenson – Lighting Design

Gary has been a member of TTC since 1997. He has lit many shows for TTC including *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Cabaret*, *Alphabetical Order*, *Stags and Hens*, *Be my Baby*, *Albert Make Us Laugh*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Peter Pan* and *Beauty and the Beast*. More recently he designed the lighting for *Shakers Re-Stirred* and *Pity about Kitty*. He is the chairman of the Backstage and Technical (BAT) team of TTC.

## Nick Osorio – Lighting Operator

Nick Osorio has been involved with TTC for over 30 years but first learnt lighting design at Questors in the late 1960's and has been trying to perfect the technique ever since. His best, from a long list of previous work, are *Amadeus* in the old theatre and much more recently being No2 for the production of *Not about Heroes* in the Studio. However, this is an easy show for Nick as due to other commitments he is only pushing buttons when cues are needed during the run.

## Alan Corbett – Set

Alan has been a member of TTC since 1998 and has been involved with set building from day one at HHP. His first set design was *Blithe Spirit* directed by Richard Hoad and he has been involved in building or designing many of the shows since then. Designed shows include *Peter Pan*, *The Diamond Princess*, *Pravda*, *Tons of Money* and *Man of the Moment* on the main stage and *Love me Slender* and *Be My Baby* (Swan Award) in the Studio.

## Alex Wilmott – Props Co-ordinator & Set Dressing

A graduate from the former London Institute of Art, Alex spent much of her twenties involved in the design and building of sets for The London Film School, The London Film Academy and a number of independent projects before settling down in Hampton. She is a new member to TTC and is looking forward to re-visiting her old skills in props and set design, starting off with *Brimstone & Treacle's* period props challenges!

## Sarah Carter – Photography

Sarah has been a member of TTC for 3 years and had her acting debut in *The Elephant Man*. Her passion for theatre photography has produced promo shots for various shows whilst documenting all the action in dress rehearsals and providing actors with their headshots. Sarah is delighted to be working with Chloe again and to work on such a provocative play with a dark edge. A theatre photographers dream.

# Teddington Theatre Club Ltd

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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 **artsrichmond**.

This production is entered for the **artsrichmond** Swan Award: for Drama and Musicals.

# Coming Soon

at Hampton Hill Playhouse

## The Children's Hour

By Lillian Hellman

Everything changed in the blink of a lie!

Sun 16 Mar – Sat 22 Mar 2014

Main Auditorium

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The Olivier-nominated deliciously black comedy

Sun 11 May – Sat 17 May 2014

Main Auditorium



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Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.

Telephone enquiries open 2 weeks before each production.

Call: 0845 838 7529 (10am - 8pm)

For up-to-date information on TTC and the Playhouse check our website

[www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk)

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Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member. 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 the Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Playhouse. To find out more please visit our website [www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk), call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you will find in the Foyer.