

THE NETHER



jennifer haley

Contains adult sexual themes, parental guidance advised

Directed by
Sharon Laws and Rick Thompsett



Supporting





The White Hart, Chipstead



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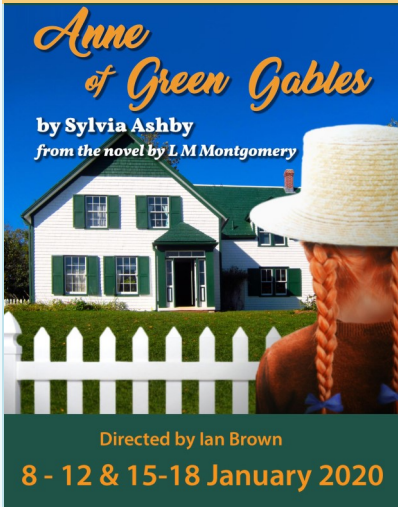
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Reiki is not intended to be a replacement for conventional medicine

Future Productions at The Courtyard



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Warm-hearted Matthew and his stern sister Marilla hoped to adopt a boy to work on their farm, by the orphanage sends a loquacious little girl by mistake. She causes chaos at Green Gables and in the village but her warmth and wit delight everyone around her - even, eventually, the cold Marilla. This stage adaptation of LM Montgomery's first book in her 'Avonlea' series brings all the characters to life in a warm, funny and poignant way. It's an endearing story of the joys and traumas, both small and large, of growing up.

The Hothouse by Harold Pinter

24-29 February 2020

Our Day Out by Willy Russell

21-25 April 2020

The Last of The Haussmans by Stephen Beresford 1-6 June 2020

Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon

20-25 July 2020

Book online at www.chipsteadplayers.org

or at the Box Office

on Saturday mornings 10:00 to 11:00

The Courtyard Theatre, Hazelwood Lane, Chipstead, CR5 3QU.

answerphone: 01737 555680

email: enquiries@chipsteadplayers.org



The Courtyard Theatre Chipstead

Twitter.com/ChipsteadDrama



The Chipstead Players, registered charity number: 263596

**Thank you for visiting our theatre.
We hope you enjoy this performance of**



The Chipstead Players present seven productions each season, covering the full range of drama, comedy, musical theatre and pantomime. We have an excellent reputation for the quality of our shows and with a loyal group of supporters we are able to make the most of the wonderful facility which is The Courtyard Theatre.



We are sponsoring the work of Breck Foundation during the run of *The Nether*. This charity has relevance to this play as it exists for the purpose of providing education services to parents, schools and businesses on the subjects of internet safety and potential threats to young people online, offering ways to help manage online risks and teach digital resilience. The charity was founded by Lorin LaFave following the tragic loss of her 14-year-old son, Breck Bednar, through online grooming.

Please give generously after the show, to help Breck Foundation continue their very important work in this field.

Thank you.

Play Synopsis:

The Nether Realm is a futuristic vision of the Internet. Deeply embedded within is a virtual wonderland called 'The Hideaway'. The site is being investigated by a special police unit. During the investigation, the female detective raises many questions with regard to how the content of the Hideaway can be policed, and indeed, should it be.

The action takes place in an interrogation room and in the Hideaway, which is a domain where subscribers can act out their fantasies.



Please order your interval drinks at the bar before the performance commences.

The bar will close 30 minutes after the final curtain.

A hearing loop is installed in the auditorium.

To make use of it, please turn hearing aids to the 'T' position.



IMPORTANT—SAFETY AT THE COURTYARD THEATRE

All gangways, passageways and staircases shall be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction, and no person shall be allowed to sit or stand during any performance or entertainment in such gangways, passageways and staircases. The public shall be permitted to leave by all exits and entrance doors after each performance or entertainment.

**CAMERAS, MOBILE PHONES OR OTHER FILMING OR RECORDING DEVICES
MAY NOT BE USED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**

THE NETHER

by jennifer haley

ACT 1

Scene 1	The Interrogation Room
Scene 2	The Interrogation Room
Scene 3	The Interrogation Room
Scene 4	The Hideaway Foyer
Scene 5	The Interrogation Room
Scene 6	Iris' Bedroom
Scene 7	The Interrogation Room

Interval of 20 minutes

ACT 2

Scene 8	Iris' Bedroom
Scene 9	The Interrogation Room
Scene 10	A Sunny Spot
Scene 11	The Interrogation Room
Scene 12	The Hideaway Foyer
Scene 13	Iris' Bedroom
Scene 14	The Interrogation Room
Scene 15	Iris' Bedroom
Scene 16	The Interrogation Room
Epilogue	A Sunny Spot

Cast

Sims/Papa

Mike Strong

Morris

Kirsty Cunnington

Doyle

John Shepherd

Iris

Rowan Brown

Woodnut

Michael Rahman

Directors

Sharon Laws



Rick Thompsett



Sharon and Rick are collaborating again for the fourth time, with their previous successes being *Dinner*, *Blood Brothers* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. They have enjoyed working together again to bring this powerful modern play to the Courtyard stage and have once more been blessed with a wonderful cast, who have approached the subject matter with intelligence and sensitivity. They would like to thank the cast and all those behind the scenes, who have worked extremely hard to bring this challenging, thought provoking play to life.

Crew

Directors	Sharon Laws Rick Thompson
Production Assistant	Jon Laws
Set Designer	Linda Hornzee-Jones
Construction Manager	David Franks
Stage Manager	Marie Ricôt
Lighting Designer	Brian List
Lighting Operator	Alan Magrath
Sound Designer/Operator	Ian Grayson
Projection	Brian List Linda Hornzee-Jones
Properties Manager	Mags Alexander
Wardrobe Mistress	Rosie Bottomley
Furniture	Marie Ricôt
Prompt	Neil Black
Stage Crew	Geoff Dunstan Lewis Gonyou Connor Simmons Jack Leahy Andy Mills
Photography	Scott Latham
Programme	Anne Thorn

Original waltz music composed and played by Gemma Bottomley

CAST NOTES

Mike Strong - Sims / Papa

Mike has been a member of The Chipstead Players pretty much since the Courtyard Theatre officially opened back in 1995, first appearing as Neville in *Season's Greetings*. Since then he has played numerous diverse roles such as (in no particular order) Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Marvin Michaels (William Warren) in *California Suite*, Captain Stanhope in *Journey's End*, Gordon in *Neville's Island*, Yvan in *Art*, Henry in *The Real Thing*, Ben in *The Dumb Waiter*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, Stalin in *Collaborators*, and Mr Dussel in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. His most recent appearance was as Major Courtney in *The Ladykillers*.



Kirsty Cunningham - Morris

Kirsty was last seen on the Courtyard stage as Mrs Darling in *Wendy and Peter Pan*, and before that as Micheleine in *Splendour*. This play presents a new challenge for Kirsty, and she has taken the research for her role as detective very seriously by watching endless repeats of *Prime Suspect* starring Helen Mirren, and *Broadchurch* starring Olivia Coleman! Kirsty loves the way *The Nether* explores what technology is becoming and challenges what we believe to be real. She invites you to come and see the play more than once, to see if you can work out what on earth is going on!



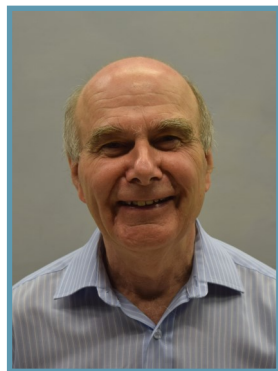
Rowan Brown - Iris

Rowan is fourteen years old and this is her eighth show with The Chipstead Players; last May she had the honour of working alongside Sharon and Rick in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and has loved being directed by them again! Rowan has found playing "Iris" in *The Nether* a very moving experience, working on such a sensitive theme alongside such brilliant actors, tackling themes that are so crucial in the modern society. It has been an honour to work alongside such an amazing cast and crew and Rowan wants to thank them all for working so hard and making this play come to life.



John Shepherd - Doyle

John is making his third appearance at The Courtyard, having previously had parts in *Collaborators* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He says he found this play particularly interesting as, being an 'old fogey', he enjoys personal contact and is saddened with its increasing replacement by electronic contact. Perhaps that is why he enjoys playing the pantomime dame, so will be donning the dresses for the 27th time in Sanderstead Dramatic Club's production of *Sinbad the Sailor* in January. In July he returns to The Courtyard in the director's chair for our production of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. A complete contrast to what has gone before!



Michael Rahman - Woodnut

Michael is very proud to be involved in this production, knowing the amount of preparation work that has been going on in the background over the last few years. He joined the Players in 2006 and has appeared in comedies and dramas both old and new, like *Proof*, *The Winslow Boy*, *God of Carnage* and *Rules for Living*. He loved directing last season's *The Children*, a play he felt the audience could really sink their teeth into, something fresh and different. He's similarly convinced *The Nether* will linger in the mind and give the audience plenty to chew on.



Directors' Notes

The most important question for The Chipstead Players with regard to this play, was the duty of care we had to the actors. Regarding the adults we felt there were no real concerns: our priority was always with the young girl. We have both always been acutely aware of the sensitivity of this play, in respect of the child who would be playing Iris. Although no graphic scenes take place, the dialogue implies that sexual acts occur involving the young girl. With that in mind, this is the process that we followed:

Audition Process

From the outset, the audition notice for the group warned parents of the sexual content of the play. For all girls wishing to audition for the role of Iris, the parents were advised to read the script, preferably with their daughters, and be aware of its contents. Parents were also encouraged to attend the read through with their daughters. When any girl requested a script, the parents and the child were asked if they were aware that the play implies paedophilic activity and were asked to read the script and attend the read through before making their decision. The read through was attended by the Artistic Director and the group's Chair. Both directors spoke with the girls at the break and at the end, checking they were comfortable, also speaking with parents. During auditions we also checked the girls were happy. The girl we chose, Rowan Brown, has just been accepted to Guildford School of Acting, on a weekend scholarship and is looking to make acting her profession. She said from the start that she is excited to be given an opportunity to explore a 'darker side' in her acting within this play. She and her parents are keen for her to be able to develop her acting skills for her future career. Rowan has already acted closely with two of the other actors in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which meant she already felt a degree of comfort with them.

Rehearsals and Production days

During rehearsals, initially we blocked and rehearsed Iris's scenes separately from the interrogation scenes. As the process continued and we ran the play, obviously she was present for the other scenes, which make clear what is happening in 'The Nether'. However, as she was fully aware of the whole play's content, this was not an issue. To safeguard further we spoke to her mum, asking if she wished to attend rehearsals with Rowan. With two directors, one of us always made opportunities to check in with Rowan during and at the end of each rehearsal, at appropriate times. In production week Rowan will be chaperoned and her mum was asked to cover as many of the performances as possible. Regular check-ins will also happen in this week and she is sharing a dressing room with her fellow female actor, who is very supportive, being herself the mother of two teenage girls.

BRECK FOUNDATION

Recipients of two High Sheriff Awards

**play
virtual,
live
real**

Our mission is to educate and empower the digital generation to keep safe online as they play virtual, live real

**who
we are**

The Breck Foundation is a charity founded by Lorin LaFave after the tragic loss of her 14-year-old son, Breck Bednar, through online grooming.

Breck was groomed online whilst enjoying his passion for computing and gaming. We want to ensure that no child is brought to harm through grooming and exploitation whilst enjoying their time on the internet. Prevention through education is essential.

**take
action,
follow
the Breck
principles**

The Breck Foundation is raising awareness for playing safe whilst using the internet.



**be aware
& believe**

Be aware of the real and increasing dangers today's children may face online. Believe that there are people who use the internet to groom, abuse and exploit young people.



R



report it

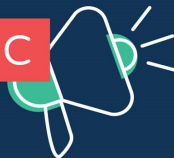
Report any concerns immediately to school, police, Childline, NSPCC or CEOP. Even small pieces of information when put together can make up the bigger picture of what may be happening to a child online.

educate & empower

Educate others on the signs of grooming and exploitation. Be empowered to act on concerns.



C



communicate

Encourage and support young people to communicate concerns about themselves or how their peers are behaving online. Support others by sharing these principles within your community.

**know the signs
& keep safe**

Know the signs of grooming and exploitation. Keeping safe online must be everyone's priority!



For further information visit
breckfoundation.org

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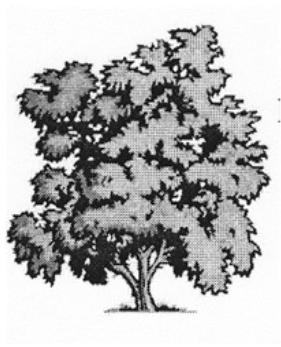


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