

HANG ON A MINUTE LADS I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA

Directors Note

Earlier this year Frayed Knot produced the massively successful "The 39 Steps" (directed brilliantly by Naomi Glasser) to great acclaim here at The Court Theatre. That production was a version of the same show currently wowing audiences in the West End with the prestigious tag of "Comedy of the Year Award". The 39 Steps was a comic take on the classic Hitchcock film produced in the 1930s. The show had a cast of just four actors, playing nearly 100 parts, reproducing planes, trains and automobiles from minimal set and props. After that, the question was asked "What next? How can you top that?" The Italian Job seems to be the obvious choice. The film has matured with age as millions of people now hold it in fond regard as one of the classic British films of the Twentieth Century. It is a celebration of all things British when London was at the heart of the Swinging Sixties. It is the era of British innovation, design and fashion with the mini car and the mini skirt serving as iconic symbols of a new pop culture. The film follows the adventures of a new type of working class hero; Croker's gang take on the threat of global economic competition embodied by the giant Italian Fiat car company with a plan to steal £4 million dollars of gold from the company and from under the noses of the deadly Italian Mafia. There are car chases galore in the film, with crashes and explosions. Vehicles of all kind speed their way through Turin. They fall off cliffs, down ravines, over roof tops, through subways, sewers, shopping centres and rivers. All this will be performed right before your very eyes on The Court Theatre stage this evening.

Somewhat experimental with only a flimsy idea of how this might work on stage we have embarked upon a journey of discovery trying to make things work during rehearsal. We still don't know whether everything will work. We may indeed come across to you as a bunch of nutters who have lost the plot. But whether we live or die – the journey has been fun. So come with us on our journey now. Fasten your seat belt. It might be a bit bumpy. But we hope you have fun.

A big thank you to all the production team on this show. A massive thank you to Rob Farrow for printing images and for his unflinching support. As ever thanks go to Chris and Nick for Lights and Sound beyond the call of duty. Thanks to Steve Berry for fitting us in. And thanks to Tring Arts Trust for their trust and support on this "Experimental" project

Cast – Mike Code, Maxine Reece, Derek Rookley, Olly Gower, Wayne Maclaughlin

Director	Dan Clucas
Costumes	Emma Blyth
Sound	Nick Cooper
Lighting	Chris Cooper
Wigs	Lynne Devonshire
Stage Manager	Sarah Amsden
Assistant Stage Manager	Chris Dearden
Assistant Stage Manager	Kate Blanchard
Printed Props	Rob Farrow
Stolen Gold Bars	Bob Randall
Props/Production Assistant	Naomi Glasser



 **Frayed Knot Theatre Company** presents

Hang On A Minute Lads I've Got A Great Idea !



**A devised comedy adapted in
tribute to the iconic sixties film**

The Italian Job

9th & 10th December at 8.00pm

Grass Roots Court Theatre Pendley, Tring

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM BEECHWOOD FINE FOODS, FROGMORE STREET, TRING

Mike Code – Charlie Croker

Mike has just finished an exhausting but exhilarating run as Ebenezer Scrooge in the TFC production of A Christmas Carol but not to be a man who rests on his laurels he managed to find time to turn his hand to one of the most iconic films of the sixties or any other decade for that matter. "Hang On Lads I've Got A Great Idea" is a marvellous homage to this great film and is a great pre-Christmas show full of laughter, fun and mayhem. Mike is playing Charlie Croker and hopes you're all ready to "blow the bloody doors off".

Maxine Reece – Lorna, Mrs Beckerman and others

Maxine has been treading the boards at the Court theatre since she was 5 with many different theatre companies. She has appeared in many children's show including, Peter Pan, Water Babies and Jungle Book. As a youth appeared in Rockafella and Little Shop of Horrors among others and as an adult she has performed in many plays and musicals including Dream Nights, One Flew over the Cuckoos Nest, A Street Car Named Desire and Steel Magnolias. In recent years she has had a number of Principle roles including Peggy in Hi-de-Hi, Mrs De Winter in Rebecca alongside Dan Clucus and earlier this year she played "Brain dead stick insect" Alice in Vicar of Dibley a show which she felt honoured to be a part of and very much enjoyed. Having only finished appearing on stage 2 weeks ago as The Ghost of Christmas Past in A Christmas Carol she is very much looking forward to being involved in this exciting adaptation of a cult classic.

Derek Rookley – Mr Bridger, Professor Peach and others

Derek has had an interesting couple of weeks going from a fine English gent in Christmas Carol, to a naughty American in last weeks California Suite, where he was required to be seen in his pants...again!! And now he gets the chance to be 3 symbols of what it means to be English; Noel Coward, Benny Hill and Irene Handle. He thinks this has been a wonderful, creative rehearsal process with all cast throwing ideas into the mix and trying to "overcome" the obstacle of adapting such an iconic film for the stage. If you laugh as much during the performance as he has during these rehearsals, then you will be in for a good night. He would like to close by saying "I hope we blow the bloody doors off!!", but the chances are someone else has already said that. Derek would like to dedicate his performance tonight to the memory of his much beloved Nan, who recently passed away. Love you always Nan

Olly Gower – Beckerman , Altabani and others

Olly is delighted to be acting alongside the cast members of ' Hang on a minute lads, I've got a great idea' directed by Dan Clucas. He loves acting and strives to continue to learn.

Wayne Maclaughlin – Camp Freddie and others

This year Wayne has been seen on the Court Theatre stage in Tring Festival Company's production of "Our House" and more recently appeared as Ray Sane in

"The Rise and Fall of Little Voice" for Frayed Knot Theatre Company and Mort in "California Suite" for Pendley Theatre Company.

Dan Clucas - Director

Dan has directed for Frayed Knot: See How They Run, The History Boys, The Titfield Thunderbolt and Damages. Recent roles as an actor include Hannay (The 39 Steps), Yvan (Art), Aston (The Caretaker), Inspector Goole (An Inspector Calls), Alfie (Alfie), R.P McMurphy (One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest), Bob Cratchit (Christmas Carol). In April Dan will be appearing as Captain von Trapp in the Sound of Music at Cheddington.

Nick Cooper - Sound

Nick was first bitten by the theatre bug at 15 when he was taken along to see the shows that his dad and brother did. The problem was that he didn't share their in stage lighting but was more interested in helping with the sound. He must have made the right decision back then as he is now entering his 26th year of doing shows and people still keep asking him! Over the years he has done the sound for many local and not so local groups but now splits his time between The **Boxmoor Playhouse in Hemel** and The Court Theatre here in Tring. Last year Nick did the sound for Frayed Knot's The 39 Steps and is delighted to be doing the sound for The Italian Job – one of his favourite films!

Chris Cooper - Lights

Chris has been involved in the amateur theatre scene since his school days doing both lighting, sound and even trying his hand at Stage Management, but in the end it was lighting that he enjoyed the most. Chris has done lights for many shows in the Harrow and Kings Langley area and still does three shows a year for a drama club in Pinner. Chris moved to Tring in 2002 where he quickly became involved in The Court Theatre, doing lights for such shows as panto, drama and musicals as well as providing assistance to many professional groups who use the theatre. Chris has worked with Frayed Knot for many years and is very pleased to be involved with this production of The Italian Job. He hopes that you have as much enjoyment watching the show as he has had working on it.

Emma Blyth - Wardrobe Mistress

Emma has been busy helping on a variety of shows at The Court Theatre this year from Frayed Knot's production of The 39 Steps and Little Voice, to Tring Festival Company's Our House, Disco Inferno and A Christmas Carol. She hopes you all enjoy this unusual take on a classic film.