



**The**  
**Female**  
**the**  
**Species**  
**of**

By Joanna Murray Smith

Directed by Don Hirst

*“Wickedly Clever.... Deadly Funny”*

A Registered Charity.



21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.45pm

## CAST

Margot Mason

Janan Chopra

Molly Rivers

Elaine Caulfield

Tess Thornton

Sian Weedon

Bryan Thornton

Charlie Gobbett

Frank

Michael Esgate

Theo Reynolds

David Bryan

The play is set in the country home of Margot Mason, a feminist author, suffering from writer's block.

There will be a 20 minute interval during the performance.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched **OFF**, and not on silent.

Photography is not permitted as it contravenes the terms of our performing licence.

There is no re-admittance to the auditorium during the performance.



With special thanks to Oxfam,  
Nantwich for the loan of the books.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Director                      | Don Hirst  |
| Stage Manager                 | Sandie Laughlin  |
| Assistant Stage Manager       | Judy Gratton   |
| Properties                    | Judy Gratton, Don Hirst  |
| Costumes                      | Bethany Froud  |
| Wigs and Make-up              | Pauline Brennan  |
| Lighting Design and Operation | Chris Fisher   |
| Sound Design and Operation    | Tony Hoy   |
| Set Design and Construction   | Don Hirst  |
| Set Painting                  | Val Adams, Clarice Doyle,<br>Jenny Doyle, Carol Lindsay,<br>Judith Merrin, John Powell<br>Colin Laughlin and Members |
| Bar                           | John Powell and Members  |
| Front of House                | Bethany Froud and Members  |
| Publicity                     | Hilary Cummings  |
| Ticket Secretary              | Bethany Froud and<br>Dean Colvin of Willow<br>Productions  |
| Poster Design                 |  |

Nantwich Players are one of the beneficiaries of a Community Raffle for a first prize of £1000 being organised by three local Rotary clubs. We have tickets for sale at £2 each, or a book of 5 for £10. Clare Hoy is organising this on our behalf. The more she sells, the more money for us...NP keeps at least 80% of the takings. Clare hopes to be at the theatre most nights during the run of *Female of the Species*. Tickets can be bought from her for cash, via card machine at the bar or by contacting [clare.hoy@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.hoy@btinternet.com) to pay by BACS. The draw is in November. Good luck!

## Note from the Director

First I would like to welcome you all to the first Nantwich Players production for what seems forever!

When we first decided that *The Female of the Species* would be a great play for us it was in the calm of the Pre COVID -19 in early 2019.

It was a really funny play and had something of an interesting back story. The play contained an Authors note which sounded far too interesting to ignore. "*The Female of the Species* was inspired by a single image: a feminist of a certain age in the study of her country house, at the end of a long driveway, taken hostage by an angry young woman. While the scenario of this play was inspired by the true-life incident, reported in the world press, involving Germaine Greer and a young student, the characters and story of my play are entirely imagined."

So inspired by laughter and this intriguing story I was looking forward to starting auditions earlier this year and as Christmas was out of the way it was something to look forward to. Then we all got locked down again and we weren't even able to audition in the theatre. That was where we moved the theatre to 21st Century technology and did our initial read through via Zoom. For those not in the know that involves that Internet thingy!

With actors queuing up to get involved, as they had not had their regular injection of theatre adrenalin for so long, the reading was well attended. Then it was a waiting game until we could get together to audition. So as soon as the government advised that we could get back to socially distanced and bubbled rehearsing we got the date in the diary. The auditions went ahead with interested parties signing in, rubbing in gel, donning masks and standing at the other side of the room from me and Artistic Director Garth Jones. Two characters at once, distanced from each other, were auditioned in pairs across two nights and of

course we could have no audience.

Then it was rehearsals with bubbles of a maximum of 6 people, so the cast of six and a further bubble of me and the back stage crew, all signing in and keeping a distance – no theatrical luvvie activity allowed!

Then it was set building, which was a challenge as our regular builders were not able to work during the High Risk Covid days – so crack on anyway!

The joy then began as we were allowed to rehearse full steam ahead. The play then lifted us all and often had us in socially distanced fits of laughter. We all loved getting back to doing what we love.

The challenge was when could an audience see it? That was easy, the government had advised a June end to lockdown, so off we go. Until ..... Yes .... the lockdown was extended and everything had to be put back. With cast additional pre-booked commitments we then had to rearrange the strange performance schedule you see now of Wednesday – Friday followed by Monday – Friday – all thanks to that COVID thing!

But we made it, we're being cautious for your safety, selling limited tickets, but we will be delivering completely unlimited entertaining theatre and laughter.

Along the way my cast and crew have been amazing, flexible, fun and of course distanced and my sincere thanks go out to them for helping me get this to the stage as one of the first amateur productions in the area.

It's been a long haul, but we're back and loving it. I hope you will too.

Don Hirst - Director

# WAIT UNTIL DARK



“Scared of the Dark?  
You will be!”

by Frederick Knott  
Directed by Garth Jones

**17th - 25th Sept 2021**  
at 7.45pm

Tickets £9 from Nantwich Tourist Office  
Telephone bookings: 01270 600727  
On line: [www.nantwichplayers.com](http://www.nantwichplayers.com)  
(£1 per ticket NTC booking fee applies for internet bookings)

**Available from 17th Aug 2021**

The Players Theatre, One Love Lane, Nantwich CW5 5BH 01270 624556

A Registered Charity:



This is an amateur production by special arrangement with Samuel French

