

### Thanks

Whitman Estate Agents for printing this programme

### 2022 Programme

12-15 Oct  
6-10 Dec

Animal Farm (Peter Hall)  
Rapunzel (Ben Crocker)

### Still room for more

We perform four shows each year including our world-famous panto; hold regular social events, eg play readings, BBQ, pub social, annual dinner etc.

If you think this sounds like the sort of thing you'd fancy,  
give us a try.

contact our chair: [alastair.dewar@cgi.com](mailto:alastair.dewar@cgi.com)

### Really social media

May we suggest you like and follow us on Facebook (StMichaelsPlayersW4)  
Instagram (@smpchiswick) & Twitter @StMsPlayers

Can we please ask for your reviews and pictures to these pages?  
Thank you so much.

### And if in doubt

For our history, our plans and all things St Michael's Players  
plus bookings, find us at:  
[www.stmichaelsplayers.org](http://www.stmichaelsplayers.org)



## The CAST

Diane	Arabella Harcourt-Cooze
Nat	Neil Dickins
Julia	Georgina Parren
Tierney	David Burles

## The CREW

Director	Paul Smith
Assistant Director	Allison DeFrees
Stage Manager	Christine Lee
Props	Susan Johnson
Lighting	Ian Trowbridge
Sound and Original Compositions	Harry Doyle
Foley Sounds	Rachel Fay and David Burles
Set Building	Chris Hulatt
Make Up	Teena Heer
Producer	Chris Hulatt
Publicity	Lucy Dargahi
Photography and Artwork	Ian Trowbridge
Front of House	Members & Friends of St Michael's Players

## The SHOW

The play is set in a country house in rural Britain sometime in the near future. The action spans a couple of months.

The play is presented as a continuous show and there is no interval

## Director's Notes

"Welcome to our production of *The Birds*. This is a version of the famous tale that many will not know, Alfred Hitchcock's film straying much further from the source material, Daphne du Maurier's 1952 short story, than Conor McPherson's play. Like that story, our play is a tense psychodrama that focuses on the people at the centre of our world — you will undoubtedly notice that the one thing missing from cast list are actual birds.

And yet du Maurier and McPherson (*The Girl from The North Country*, *The Weir*) have constructed a world that is at once horrifying and yet all-too possible.

Indeed, how much more real has it become since we first started work on this in late 2019, shortly after returning from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival? Flushed with our success there, we decided to go back the following year in 2020, but...

And today, our play, which in 2019 spoke primarily to the overarching issue of climate change, is now an urgent warning about something we have all experienced: nature turning on humans. More than that it asks how we treat each other in the direst of circumstances, a question we may need to answer sooner rather than later.

Paul Smith

