

St. Michael's Players  
Presents

# Night Must Fall

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A Thriller by  
Emlyn Williams

Be careful who you  
let into your Heart...  
...and your House!

St. Michael's Centre.

25th - 28th Oct 2000

Programme

SOP.

# THE CAST

*In order of speaking*

Mrs. Bramson	Jane Atkinson
Olivia Grayne, her niece by marriage	Kathy Davey
Nurse Libby	Kay Cable
Hubert Laurie	Jeffery Smith
Mrs. Terence, the Cook	Fran Fox
Dora Parkoe, the Maid	Rachael Naylor
Inspector Belsize	Peter Woods
Dan	Philip Lye

The play is set in the sitting room of Forest Corner,  
Mrs. Bramson's bungalow in Essex.

Scene One	:	<i>A Sunday morning in September</i>
Scene Two	:	<i>An afternoon twelve days later</i>

## ✻ Interval ✻

Scene Three	:	<i>Late afternoon, two days later</i>
Scene Four	:	<i>Immediately afterwards</i>

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Peter Woods
Producer and Prompt	Linda Woods
Stage Management and Set Construction	David Lye
Costumes	Jennie Yates
Props	Caroline Garside
	Charlotte Smith
Sound	Philip Lye
	Mervyn Jupe
Lighting	Ben Garside
Business Manager	Mervyn Jupe
Front of House	Sue Darrieulat

## ❖ DIRECTOR'S NOTE ❖

'Night Must Fall' was inspired by a particularly gruesome murder in Brighton in July 1934. In part two of his autobiography, "Emlyn", Emlyn Williams wrote:

*"I well remembered reading the next morning's papers and thinking, where was the murderer now? Was he scanning the same paper as I was, in the same sunlight, holding it in the same hands, which had ..."*

What urged Williams towards the project was the sinister behind the ordinary. The sunny morning would go, during the play the shadows would lengthen as the lonely house is encompassed by other shadows, invisible and inevitable.

The script's working title was 'The Inevitable Dark'. *"Clumsy, bookish. I fell back on the self-question which is in every conscientious writer's gospel. 'Is there a simpler way of putting it?' What is a simpler way of saying 'inevitable?' It's got to happen. It's got to get dark. It's got to be night. It must get dark. Night must fall."*

The play opened to acclaim in May 1935 with Emlyn Williams himself as Dan, and also starring Dame May Whitty and Angela Baddeley. It later transferred to Broadway and was then filmed, with Robert Montgomery and Dame May Whitty (both of them nominated for Academy Awards) and Rosalind Russell. A 1964 remake with Albert Finney, Mona Washbourne and Susan Hampshire was poorly received.

'Night Must Fall' has never been revived in the West End although there was a successful national tour some thirty years ago with Adam Faith and Dame Sybil Thorndike.

St. Michael's staging originates from my wish to see Philip Lye play Dan; I am grateful to him for sharing my enthusiasm, and to the rest of the cast and production team for working so hard to bring the play to life in a hair-raisingly short time. Finally, a welcome to St. Michael's Players for Jeffery Smith (Hubert) and Rachael Naylor (Dora).





## CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME



After the enormous success of 'Cinderella' (our first-ever panto) last year, we are heading to Old Peking this December with a production of 'Aladdin'.

Jane Atkinson will be directing again and the cast includes Kathy Davey (*Aladdin*), Mervyn Jupe (*Abanazar*), Philip Lye (*Wishee Washee*), Rachael Naylor (*the Princess Jasmine*), Diana Robinette (*Typhoo, the Panda*) and Peter Woods (*Widow Twankey*).

Evening performances are at 8pm from Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th December with an afternoon performance at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th December.



St. Michael's Players are always keen to welcome new members, actors or otherwise. If you would like to know more about us, ring our Membership Secretary, Ruth Reid, on 020 8994 5296

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH LIGHTING FUND

Any profits from 'Night Must Fall' will go to the lighting fund which is aimed at enhancing the appearance of our beautiful church. Other fund-raising events include a recital of works by Brahms and Schumann to be given by the WELLS PIANO QUARTET and HELEN ATTWOOD (Contralto) in the church at 7.30pm on Saturday 11 November. For further details and ticket reservations ring Linda Woods on 020 8994 0925