

Welcome

2016 sees more new faces at St Michael's Players and for this show we welcome Ashley Brown and Jon Holmes to our stage for the first time.

Still room for more

In common with every other drama group, we're always on the lookout for more people and if this sounds like your thing we'd love to hear from you

To get involved, please contact alastair.dewar@cgi.com

Social media

May we suggest you like and follow us on Facebook
(StMichaelsPlayersW4)

Or follow us on Twitter @StMsPlayers

We do invite you to post your reviews and pictures to these pages

Forthcoming Attractions

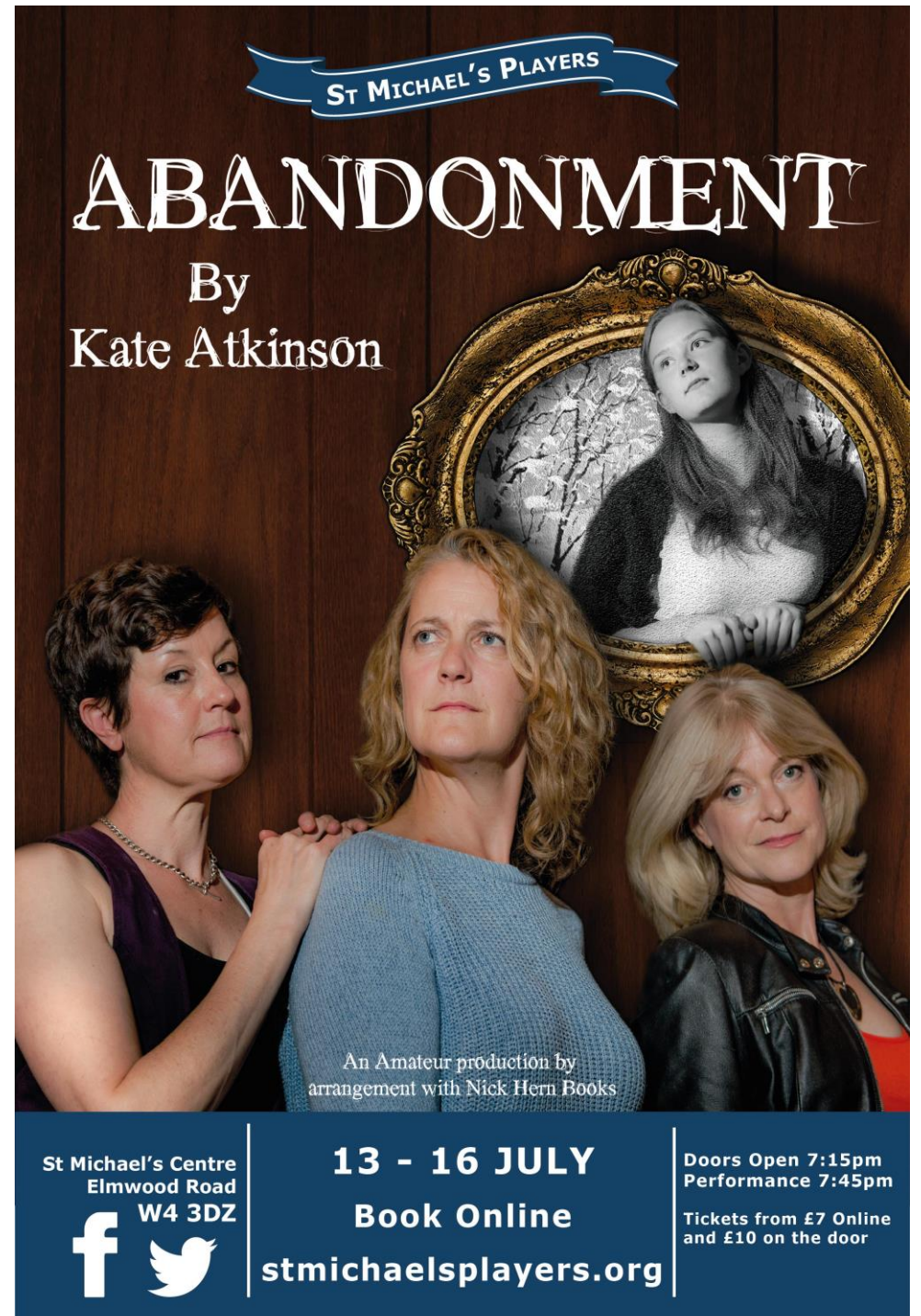
Our productions for the remainder of 2016 are:

The Ladykillers: a stage adaptation of the classic Ealing Comedy written by Graham Linehan – 5th to 8th October

Beauty and the Beast: this year's fantastic Panto – 7th to 10th December

For details of all future shows, glimpses of past shows and online booking visit:

www.stmichaelsplayers.org



ST MICHAEL'S PLAYERS

ABANDONMENT

By
Kate Atkinson

An Amateur production by
arrangement with Nick Hern Books

St Michael's Centre
Elmwood Road
W4 3DZ

13 - 16 JULY
Book Online
stmichaelsplayers.org

Doors Open 7:15pm
Performance 7:45pm
Tickets from £7 Online
and £10 on the door

The CAST

(in order of first appearance)

Agnes	Magdalena Jablonska
Susie/Gertie	Anny Hooker
Elizabeth	Cressida Strauss
Kitty/Laetitia	Elizabeth Ollier
Callum/Rev. Scobie	Jon Holmes
Ina/Lavender	Bryony Wilman
Alec/Merric	Ashley Brown



The CREW

Director	Paul Smith
Production Designer	Marc Pearce
Light and Sound Operation	Marc Pearce, Jo Harry
Wardrobe	Teena Heer
Asst. Wardrobe	Chris Pease
Set	Coral Churchill, Marios Papadakis
Stage Manager	Jo Harry
Asst. Stage Manager	Lauren Powell
Props	Gina Symmons
Hair and Make Up	Fleur de Henrie
Marketing	Helen Doyle
Front of House	Members & friends of St. Michael's Players



THANKS

The director would like to thank the following:

Moira Reid for all her running around on costumes;
the Committee for their rarely thanked hard work;
Susan Conte for her assistance;
his family for all their patience.

Abandonment

The location is Elizabeth's flat, in a Victorian conversion, somewhere in the north of Britain. The time is the present.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Kate Atkinson will be known to many for her highly acclaimed novels, such as *Behind The Scenes At The Museum*, *Life After Life* and *Case Histories*. Less well-known is the fact that she wrote a play, *Abandonment*, first performed in Edinburgh in 2000. It is a marvellous play, full of the richness of dialogue - and themes - for which she is famous.

And it is that richness that so appealed to me when I first read it; the audience can come to it on so many levels, as a meditation on love, family, religion, resurrection... or simply a witty, occasionally shocking, character study. It's even a ghost story!

It was originally set in Scotland, with its particular brand of Catholicism, a recurring theme in her work. In *Case Histories*, she writes

"It wasn't that [he] believed in religion, or a God, or an afterlife. He just knew it was impossible to feel this much love and for it to end."

And that very much is the issue here: is it possible for us to end, simply disappear? Or do our lives somehow continue to reach forward into the future, touching those yet to come, as the long-forgotten still have an impact us?

For Elizabeth, that is compounded by not really knowing who she is in the first place, by being first abandoned at birth, and then thrown into a family that, like, I dare say, most of ours, doesn't quite function the way we might choose.

Perhaps it is exactly those doubts that ghosts of times gone by choose to colonise as their homes in the living world...