



The Dunham Thesians

the Dunham Thesians present...



The Thrill of Love

the gripping story of Ruth Ellis

a play by Amanda Whittington
directed by Martin Clare

23rd - 26th - Nov 2016

**Dunham Massey Village Hall
7.45pm curtain**

A Word from the Chairman / Director

Welcome one and all to the village hall for our November production, which represents something a little bit different for us, and hopefully will be a stimulating, touching, thought-provoking and emotionally charged piece for you.

There's been occasions in the past where we've really struggled to find plays to suit our small cast, and have ended up scraping the barrel somewhat. Not so this time. We had two plays that were cast-able and that we were very keen on, so we've ended up deciding to do both, and as such already have our April production, "Aurelia" by Robert Thomas, in the pipeline.



First up though is tonight's production, "The Thrill Of Love" by Amanda Whittington. It was recommended to us, but to be honest I approached it with modest expectations. By the time we'd finished the first read through, it was clear it was going to be a strong contender, and although we found various other potential plays, we just kept coming back to this one and it really felt like something we could commit to. The cast have all taken to their parts passionately, and I'm confident that will come across in their performances.

This is my first hand at directing, so I sincerely hope I'm able to do such a challenging piece justice. I really wanted to try out a few different visual effects, but based on past form don't be surprised if the results are somewhat mixed! The subject matter has generated a lot of interest, and it's easy to see why. It's such a compelling case, and despite the tragic and morose nature of it, you can't help but be intrigued and attempt to understand the events that unfolded. In some ways it feels like it took place in some distant past, until it dawns on you that it really wasn't all that long ago, and there'll be plenty of people who would have lived through it. It really shows how attitudes have changed through the years.

As ever, the list of acknowledgments is far too long to fit here, but I do want to pay special tribute to the cast. I've worked them hard, pressuring them into getting their lines down early and being thoroughly pedantic with movements and nuances. I've no doubt they've all rolled their eyes on more than one occasion, but they've worked tirelessly and given everything. Each one of them brings something vital, and I'm extremely proud of their performances. A thanks also to Sylvia, who has undertaken so much of the production, and Trevor, who has once again done much of the otherwise thankless task of set building.

If you enjoy tonight's performance, please make sure to get the date for the April production in your diary. There's an advert inside this programme, and tickets will be on sale early in the new year. For now though, please sit back and let us transport you to the energetic and somewhat seedy world of 1950s London, as we discover the story of Ruth Ellis in "The Thrill Of Love".

Martin Clare.

The Real Ruth Ellis

Ruth Ellis was born in the Welsh seaside town of Rhyl, the third of six children. During her childhood her family moved to Basingstoke. Her mother, Elisaberta Cothals, was a Belgian refugee; her father, Arthur Hornby, was a cellist from Manchester who spent much of his time playing on Atlantic cruise liners. Arthur changed his surname to Neilson after the birth of Ruth's elder sister Muriel.

Ellis attended Fairfield's Senior Girls' School in Basingstoke, leaving when she was 14 to work as a waitress. Shortly afterwards, in 1941 at the height of the Blitz, the Neilsons moved to London. In 1944, 17-year-old Ruth became pregnant by a married Canadian soldier named Clare and gave birth to a son, whom she named Clare Andrea Neilson, known as "Andy". The father sent money for about a year, then stopped. The child eventually went to live with Ellis's mother.

Ellis became a nightclub hostess through nude modelling work, which paid significantly more than the various factory and clerical jobs she had held since leaving school. On 8th November 1950, she married 41-year-old George Ellis, a divorced dentist with two sons, at the register office in Tonbridge, Kent. He was a violent alcoholic, jealous and possessive, and the marriage deteriorated rapidly because he was convinced she was having an affair. Ruth left him several times but always returned. In 1951, while four months pregnant, Ruth appeared, uncredited, as a beauty queen in the Rank film *Lady Godiva Rides Again*. She subsequently gave birth to a daughter Georgina, but George refused to acknowledge paternity and they separated shortly afterwards. Ruth and her daughter moved in with her parents.

Georgina, who was three when her mother was executed, was adopted when her father killed himself three years later. She spent much of her life living locally, mostly with her adopted parents in Warrington, but even as locally as Hale for a time. She passed away of cancer aged 50, and was still attempting to clear her mother's name until the end of her life. Ruth Ellis was originally buried in an unmarked grave within the walls of Holloway Prison. In the early 1970s the prison underwent an extensive programme of rebuilding, during which the bodies of all the executed women were exhumed for reburial elsewhere. Ellis's body was reburied in the churchyard extension of St Mary's Church in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. The headstone in the churchyard was inscribed "Ruth Hornby 1926–1955". Her son, Andy, destroyed the headstone shortly before he committed suicide in 1982.

"The one thing that brings stature and dignity to mankind and raises us above the beasts will have been denied her - pity and the hope of ultimate redemption."

Cassandra, The Daily Mirror, 13th July 1955



The Cast

The Thrill of Love



Laura Kinsella - ***Ruth Ellis***



Chris Matthews - ***D.I. Jack Gale***



Kath Phillips - ***Sylvia Shaw***



Rachael Gallagher - ***Vickie Martin***



Sally-Marianne Hatton - ***Doris Judd***

Running Order

ACT 1

Scene 1	Ruth's Apartment
Scene 2	Hampstead Station
Scene 3	The Court Club
Scene 4	The Court Club
Scene 5	The Court Club
Scene 6	The Court Club
Scene 7	The Court Club
Scene 8	The Little Club
Scene 9	The Little Club
Scene 10	Ruth's Apartment

ACT 2

Scene 1	Gale's Office
Scene 2	Golders Green
Scene 3	Ruth's Apartment
Scene 4	Ruth's Apartment
Scene 5	Holloway Prison
Scene 6	Courtroom
Scene 7	The Court Club



(The interval will take place at the end of Act 2.
The raffle will be drawn after Act 2, Scene 4.)

**Please be advised that tonight's performance
contains flashing lights.**

Announcements

The Thrill of Love

In the highly unlikely event of a fire, emergency exits are located as follows:

- The main entrance where you came in
- Behind the curtain next to the folding doors
- Through the kitchen
- Immediately behind the stage



Please ensure you turn your mobile phone off (or onto silent or flight mode) for the duration of the performance. If you turn your phone on during the interval, please remember to switch it off again before the play resumes.

You are welcome to take photographs, but we kindly ask that you refrain from using flash photography.



Drinks are available both before the show and during the interval. You are welcome to bring drinks into the hall, but please exercise caution. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

If you aren't already on our mailing list, please make sure you sign up to receive advance notification of our future productions. You can add yourself directly to our email list by visiting the www.dunhamthespians.org.uk home page. You can also complete a form available at the bar to receive our postal mail shot.



Raffle tickets are available both before the play and during the interval. We always have a healthy selection of prizes, so please make sure you get some tickets. The raffle will be drawn after Act 2, Scene 4.

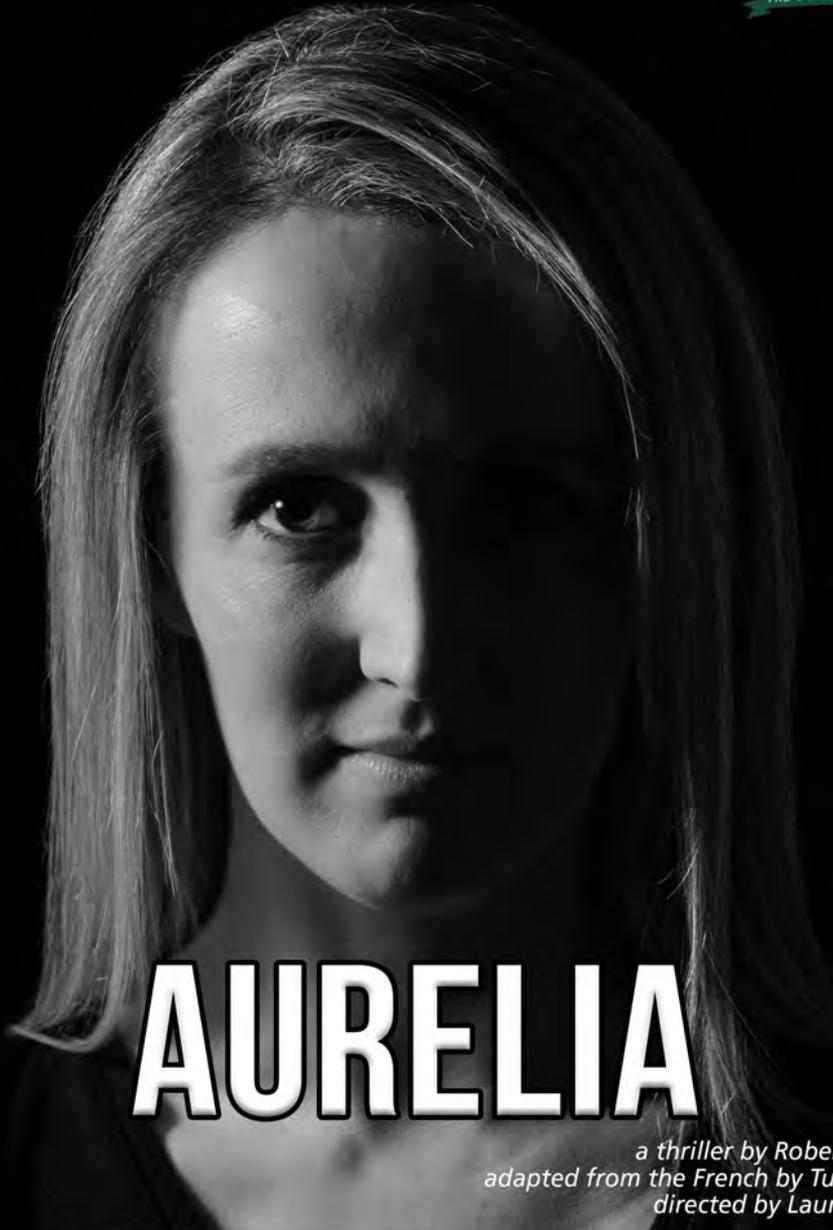
Behind The Scenes



the Dunham Thespians present...



The Dunham Thespians



AURELIA

*a thriller by Robert Thomas
adapted from the French by Tudor Gates
directed by Laura Kinsella*

26th - 29th April 2017
Dunham Massey Village Hall

The Thrill of Love

Credits

Cast

Ruth Ellis
D.I. Jack Gale
Sylvia
Vickie
Doris

Laura Kinsella
Chris Matthews
Kath Phillips
Rachael Gallagher
Sally-Marianne Hatton



Crew

Director
Producers

Stage Building

Costumes

Prompt
Understudies

Props

Lighting / Sound
Dance Choreography
Photography
Promo Filming

Special Effects
Raffle & Refreshments

Design & Artwork
Set Dressing
Front of House / Bar

Tickets

Martin Clare
Sylvia Rose
Martin Clare
Trevor Wells
Martin Clare
Sylvia Rose
Laura Kinsella
Kath Phillips
Rachael Gallagher
Sally-Marianne Hatton
Louise Burgess
Rebecca Buckley
Louise Burgess
Richard Hankinson
Martin Clare
Sylvia Rose
Martin Clare
Carole Cormack
Vanessa Lozano
Martin Clare
Vanessa Lozano
Martin Clare
Elizabeth Craig
Bill Craig
Sue Kinsella
Martin Clare
The company
Rebecca Buckley
Louise Burgess
Richard Hankinson
Bill Craig
Philippa Cameron
Martin Clare

With Thanks To

The Rope & Anchor Public House
Red House Farm
Carole Cormack
Andrew Bushell & Peter White
Joan Pendlebury

The Rope
&
Anchor.
Dunham Massey



Tucked away in the country lanes near Dunham Massey, the Rope and Anchor is in the perfect location for you to enjoy a family meal after exploring the surrounding countryside, or the ideal venue for a romantic dinner, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

We have a relaxing bar area where you can enjoy our selection of JW Lees ales, fine wine, spirits and soft drinks. Enjoy our comfortable surroundings, whatever the weather with a modern fire place where you can cosy up for a chat, or you can relax and dine al fresco in our fully waited, extensive, comfortable outdoor seating area in beautiful surroundings.

Not forgetting our younger visitors, we offer an excellent children's menu & a great play area. So, whether you're celebrating an event or just taking a relaxing break, we look forward to welcoming you soon.



If you would like to book a table or enquire about hiring out our amazing function spaces we have provided all the contact details below:

www.theropeandanchor.co.uk

Tel: 0161 927 7901

Twitter : @Rope_Anchor

“Intent To Murder” (1954)



As there was no production in 1955, this was the closest I could get. I'm not sure who the gentleman (centre) is, but you may recognise a young Ron Hutchinson (left) and a young Esmé Duckworth (right).

Website

If you haven't yet seen it, take a look at our new website, which includes information about the history of the society, as well as photos, programmes and details about our production history dating back to the formation of the society in 1922. If you have any pictures (physical or digital) that can help us fill in the gaps, please let us know!



Joining The Society



We are always keen to recruit new members to the society, both on stage and behind the scenes.

If you have ever fancied trying your hand at being on stage, or feel like you have something to contribute behind the curtain (as it were), then get in touch. We're a friendly bunch!

Contact Martin on 07789 171 337, or email info@dunhamthespians.org.uk

*Thank you all for your continued support.
We hope you have a lovely festive season, and will look forward to welcoming you
back to the Village Hall for "Aurelia" in the Spring.*

Jenny Morton (1936 - 2016)



The Dunham Thespians would like to pay tribute to Jenny Morton, who sadly passed away in late September (pictured here, far right, at the Thespians 75th anniversary celebration). Jenny was a long standing supporter of the Thespians, and was prop mistress for many years. Even though she had long since retired from the society, she continued to send us best wishes cards for every production. Her funeral service, held at the large church in Warburton, was bordering on standing room only. That tells you all you need to know about how highly thought of she was by all who knew her. She will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

Committee Officials

Chairman
Vice Chairlady
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

Martin Clare
Sylvia Rose
Bill Craig
Philippa Cameron
Laura Kinsella
Lindsay Park
Trevor Wells



The Dunham Thespians

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Dunham Massey Village Hall, School Lane, Dunham Massey, Cheshire. WA14 4SE.

Martin Clare - Chairman
07789 171 337

info@dunhamthespians.org.uk
www.dunhamthespians.org.uk