

# BLITHE SPIRIT

*(an improbable farce)*

by **Noel Coward**

Directed by **Peter Brooks**

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Edith (a maid)	<b>Sophie Baxter</b>
Ruth	<b>Christine Morton</b>
Charles	<b>Brian McDonnell</b>
Doctor Bradman	<b>David Radford</b>
Mrs. Bradman	<b>Jan Wallis</b>
Madame Arcarti	<b>Maggie Dobson</b>
Elvira	<b>Martina McCormack</b>

## Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play passes in the living room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent

### Act One

- Scene 1 - Before dinner on a summer evening
- Scene 2 - After dinner
- Scene 3 - The next morning

### Act Two

- Scene 1 - Late the following afternoon
- Scene 2 - Early evening, a few days later
- Scene 3 - After dinner, a few days later
- Scene 4 - Several hours later

There will be one fifteen minute interval

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	<b>Gloria Harding</b>
Asst Stage Manager	<b>Pauline Naylor</b>
	<b>Helen Tomlinson</b>
Technical Stage Manager	<b>John Pyne</b>
Props	<b>Pauline Naylor</b>
Set Design	<b>Michael Lawrence</b>
	<b>&amp; Peter Brooks</b>
Set Construction	<b>John Pyne</b>
	<b>Michael Lawrence</b>
	<b>Tony Morton</b>
Lighting Design	<b>Dave Carney</b>
Sound Engineer	<b>Dave Steve Mills</b>
Wardrobe	<b>Siân Hopkins</b>
	<b>&amp; Cast</b>
Poster & Programme	<b>John Gale</b>
	<b>&amp; Peter Brooks</b>
Production Photographs	<b>Brian Hindley</b>

## FOR SALVA

Technical Stage Manager	<b>John Pyne</b>
Lighting Engineer	<b>Dave Carney</b>
Sound Engineer	<b>Dave Steve Mills</b>
Property Master	<b>Gina Foster</b>
Publicity Co-ordinator	<b>Lizz Freeman</b>
Front of House	<b>Norma Wilson</b>
Box Office Manager	<b>Brian Hindley</b>

## GRATEFUL THANKS TO

Peter Arnott, Arthur Griffiths, Simon Ellingham,  
Francis Butler, REM FM Radio, Central FM Radio,  
ACE Radio,

## Director's Note

Noël Coward always said that Blithe Spirit was his own favourite play. Written in an amazing five days.....And even more amazing when you know it ran for nearly five years on its opening production in London.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Noël at rehearsals of a production I was involved in many years ago which had Beryl Reid, Phyllis Calvert and Patrick Cargill in the cast and can still recall some of the notes he gave me.

There have been countless revivals of this "improbable farce", the last in London starred Penelope Keith and the next opening on Broadway in February has Angela Lansbury in the Madame Arcarti role.

It has been great fun returning to this very clever, witty script and a pleasure to be surrounded by such a talented cast and crew. Brian McDonnell leaves Captain Perkins in Hull for Charles Condomine's country house in Kent.(close your eyes and it could be Coward himself). Christine Morton (Sister Amnesia in "Nonsense") and Martina McCormack (last seen in Arsenic and Old Lace) play the two bickering wives Ruth and Elvira. Maggie Dobson, one of the stalwarts of the Salon makes Madame Arcarti her very own person. Jan Wallis, David Radford and Sophie Baxter complete the cast.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this sophisticated comedy. I know you will.

**Peter Brooks (Director)**

## Coming Soon

## I'll Be Back Before Midnight

by **Peter Colley**

This gripping play is a spine-chilling mixture of suspense and shocks, with just the right amount of comedy added.

Greg brings his wife Jan to an isolated farmhouse, ostensibly to recover from her nervous breakdown. But unsettling things start to happen almost as soon as they arrive. Greg's sister Laura arrives, much to Jan's dismay. Then there is George, a strange and slightly demented farmer who lives nearby.

A nightmare of frightening occurrences result in a thrilling, heart-stopping end. With the talented cast of Ronan Holdsworth; June Williamson; Stephen Burns, and newcomer, Beckie Leedham, this promises to be a truly entertaining evening of drama and suspense.

**Box office: Tel: 952 474 542**