

STRAND THEATRE

ALDWYCH W.C.2

**"GOODNIGHT
MRS. PUFFIN"**



A new Comedy by
ARTHUR LOVEGROVE

First performance at this Theatre Tuesday, July 18th, 1961

PROGRAMME: ONE SHILLING



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IRENE HANDL, so well liked as a Cockney comedienne, is British-born with a Viennese father and a French mother. She spent her early years looking after her father and family, so it was not until her late thirties that she commenced her career as an actress. After a quick course at the Embassy School, she gained her first professional part as Beer, the speechless maid, in "George and Margaret." An instant success, film offers poured in for the actress who had never said a word on the stage. Her first film was with Tom Walls in "The Strange Boarders of Palace Crescent."

She returned to the stage in "Great Day" by Leslie Storm at Salisbury for Southern Command. This was later transferred to the Playhouse Theatre. She followed this with "We Proudly Present" at The Duke of York's in a foreign part, her first, specially written for her by Ivor Novello.

After "Mr. Bowling Buys a Newspaper" with Anthony Hawtrey, she became a featured comedienne in films in—"Make Mine Mink" with Terry Thomas, "Double Bunk" and "School For Scoundrels" with Ian Carmichael, "Two Way Stretch" and "I'm All Right Jack" with Peter Sellers and "The Rebel" with Tony Hancock. "Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" is her first solo starring role.

She has had her own series on radio and T.V. and can be heard on Peter Sellers long-playing record.

JACK ALLEN. Born at Sandbach, Cheshire. Educated Rugby and Clare, Cambridge. Studied to be an engineer and started out as labour manager at I.C.I., Birmingham. Deciding to be an actor, he went to Liverpool Repertory as a student and left as a leading player. The Malvern Festival followed, where he shared room with a small part player called Errol Flynn.

His first West End play was "The House of Jealousy" at the Fortune. "Sweet Allice" with Diana Wynyard at Wyndhams followed.

This led to his appearance as Lieutenant Willoughby in the film of "The Four Feathers" with Sir Ralph Richardson and John Clements.

During the war he served as a Captain in The Royal Ulster Rifles—at the War Office and in S.H.A.E.F.'s Mission to Denmark.

After the war he appeared in "Myself A Stranger" at the Embassy and "Fit for Heroes" at the Whitehall. A highly successful run of "Message For Margaret" followed at the Westminster. Also "Off The Record" at the Piccadilly.

His films have included "The Sound Barrier," "The Conspirators" with Robert Taylor and recently Michael Powell's "The Queen's Guard."

On T.V. as early as 1937, he has recently appeared in "Miss Treves," "Dixon Of Dock Green" and "The Army Game."

He is married to Ruth Dunning, the actress.



CICELY HULLETT, born at Acton, always had the ambition to be a great dramatic actress. Encountering parental opposition she started training ostensibly to be an elocution mistress but ran away to seize her first acting break—a showgirl in the touring version of "Alf's Button." One of the harem, she appeared nightly covered from head to foot in Armenian Bole—a coffee-coloured make-up resistant to all removers bar the scrubbing brush! Determined to do more artistic work she accepted the part of the maid in a tour of "Frankenstein" which dried up in Ireland and forced her to return steerage.

After E.N.S.A. in the Middle East and Italy, she spent some years in Repertory, which led to her opportunity to understudy Dame Edith Evans in "Daphne Laureola." A chance for good dramatic work—for which she had to learn to sing!

At last accepting the fact that she was a comedienne she became a feed to George Lacy, Clifford Mollison, Lupino Lane, Ralph Lynn and Bill Fraser. She also appeared in the perennial success "Half Past Eight" at Edinburgh. Her T.V. has included "The Grove Family," "All Aboard," "Skyport," "While Parents Sleep" and "The Innocent."



MARGO MAYNE, convent educated, was born in an off-license in Peckham. She studied all branches of the theatre at Italia Conti and made her professional bow as a dancer at the Dorchester at the age of fifteen. Transferring to ice-shows at sixteen she became the youngest principal when she played Fairy Snowflake in "Humpty Dumpty" at Wembley. Bigger ice leads followed—Maria Zeigler in "The Dancing Years" and Militza in "Glamorous Night."

Feeling the call of the legitimate theatre she accepted the part of the French Girl in "Doctor In The House" at Bournemouth repertory and started her third successful career. Oxford, Worthing and Bromley repertories followed till Television claimed her for "The Gentle Killers" and "Motive for Murder." She has appeared with Bob Hope, Fernandel and Tommy Cooper and also throughout the serial of "Golden Girl" with Katie Boyle. Returning to the Theatre, this time in the Round at Croydon, she played Nerissa in "The Merchant of Venice" for Robert Atkins, C.B.E.

Her hobby is sport and her passion—whelks!



RODNEY DIAK, born Harrow, educated Haileybury. After training at the Webber Douglas School, he spent some time in repertory at Windsor, Oxford, Salisbury and Coventry. While at Perth Repertory he realized his ambition to play in Shakespeare—Sebastian in "Twelfth Night"—and had the honour of playing before the Queen, then Princes Elizabeth. A season at The Old Vic followed and a tour of Europe with a Shakesperian season for Frank Hauser, when he had the honour of playing before the King and Queen of Denmark.

With his classical background he is, however, forced to confess that his first film was "Firemaidens from Outer Space" in which he played a biologist.

A contract with Metro-Golwyn-Mayer followed. His most interesting film engagement has been in "Mr. Topaze" in which Peter Sellers directed as well as played the title role. In order that Peter Sellers could, as it were, see himself acting, Rodney played all his scenes at the rehearsals—the star stepping in at the last minute. Rodney also played a part in the same film.

His T.V. includes "The Makepiece Story" with Ian Bannen, "Carry On Admiral" with James Hayter and "The Long Summer," one episode of the Australian trilogy.

His hobby is writing plays. One, "A Hat Hung On Cupid" has been tried out at Bromley.



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presents

**"GOODNIGHT
MRS. PUFFIN"**

by

ARTHUR LOVEGROVE

Monday to Friday at 8.0. Saturday 5.15 and 8.30.
Matinee: Thursday at 2.30.

" GOODNIGHT, MRS. PUFFIN "

Cast in order of appearance

Ethel Fordyce	...	...	...	CICELY HULLETT
Jacqueline Fordyce	...	...	...	MARGO MAYNE
Pamela Fordyce	...	...	...	JILL HYEM
Nicholas Fordyce	...	...	...	RODNEY DIAK
Annie	...	...	...	BARBARA WHATLEY
Amelia Puffin	...	...	...	IRENE HANDL
Henry Fordyce	...	...	...	JACK ALLEN
Stephen Parker	...	...	...	KENETH THORNETT
Victor Parker	...	...	...	BRIAN PARKER
Roger Vincent	...	...	...	MURRAY KASH

Directed by ALEXANDER DORÉ

Decor by John Piper

Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play takes place in the drawing room of the Fordyce's house in Hampstead.

Time: The present—a week before Christmas.

ACT ONE
The Afternoon.

INTERVAL

ACT TWO
Later that evening.

INTERVAL

ACT THREE
An evening three days later.

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Stage Manager	MARJORY MOSS
Assistant Stage Managers	J. COLIN DUDLEY JULIET WELLS
Press Representative	R. H. AYLWIN MUN. 2112

Manager for Strand Theatre JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD

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JILL HYEM was born in London and educated in Sussex and Switzerland. After training at the Webber Douglas School and sweeping the stage as a student at Eastbourne Repertory she made her first professional appearance at High Wycombe Repertory. There she blossomed as a writer, having her first revue produced at the age of nineteen. The title—"Let's be Intimate"—she hastens to explain that the name of the theatre was The Intimate! Spotted whilst playing at Worthing Repertory, she transferred to Television and has since appeared in "Little Women," "The Mad O'Haras," "Dixon Of Dock Green," "Garry Halliday," "The Arthur Askey Show" and "A Life Of Bliss." She has been a regular contributor as a writer to the B.B.C.'s "Monday Night At Home." Her ambition is to write the book and lyrics for a musical. This leaves her very little time for her hobbies, which she states are "Riding, psychology and collecting teaspoons."



MURRAY KASH, Canadian-born of Polish parents, B.A. Social Science, Toronto University, had a number of jobs before becoming an actor. They include—Camp Counsellor at a summer camp for boys, teaching boxing, clerk in a law office, making and selling candy floss in a touring carnival and fruit farming in Southern Ontario. Three factors contributed to his becoming an actor—a determination to cure a speech defect—comping at camp concerts—and 'barking' when in the carnival. His first professional job was on radio in Canada as an announcer, subsequently a disc jockey, interview and sports-caster.

His first stage appearance was with the Earle Grey Shakesperian Company. He met his wife, Libby Morris, the singing comedienne, through a blind date arranged by a friend. Soon after they were married they visited England for a holiday—and have remained ever since, she for cabaret and T.V., he for T.V. and films.

His films include "Time Lock" with Robert Beatty, "The Secret Man" with John Loder, "Bandit Of Zho" with Victor Mature, "Bobkins" with Max Bygraves, "Our Man in Havana" with Alec Guinness and Noel Coward in "The King In New York" for Charles Chaplin.

He has appeared on T.V. as a 'heavy' to Charles Drake, Tony Hancock, and Dave King.

Hobbies are photography, preferably of small daughter, and travel.

BRIAN PARKER, born in Leeds, started his career as a heating engineer. Bitten by the acting bug while in the R.A.F. touring the Canal Zone with "Worm's Eye View." Returned to civilian life, threw up his job, wrote to every Repertory Company in the country—and was accepted by one in Scunthorpe, without any training whatsoever.

After several years in Northern Repertories he won his chance of a tour of "It's Never Too Late" with Binnie Hale and Mary Merrall. During this he married actress Paddy McQueen and they now have two children. Lucinda (4) and Andrew (3), already started out on their careers as child actors and models, proving that "It's never too early."

Carving a line in T.V. for himself as a policeman he has appeared in "No Hiding Place," "Once a Crook," and in the "Scotland Yard" series, and in "The Great Adventure" with Alec Clunes and Margaret Lockwood. His

films include "The Man In the Moon" with Kenneth More and an R.A.F. documentary made in Singapore. His hobbies are photography and classical music.

KENETH THORNETT was seen by Francis L. Sullivan when he was an estate agent playing in an amateur production of "When We are Married." This resulted in his playing in the tour of "The Man With Red Hair." After a tour of "Blossom Time" he joined the Wolverhampton and Birmingham Alexandra Repertories. There followed tours of "September Tide" opposite Marie Burke and "Castle In The Air" opposite Jessie Matthews. An offer to play Lofty in "Seagulls Over Sorrento" in South Africa took him out of this country for some time and he followed this by three and a half years in Australia playing "Seagulls" and "Reluctant Heroes." Then came the most daring part of his career, playing an Aussie to Australians in "Pommie" for which he built up his height from six feet two to six feet six. Returning to this country he played a nation-wide tour of two leads in "Separate Tables."

Films claimed him for "Violent Playground" with Stanley Baker and "The Night Apart" with Michael Wilding. His T.V. includes Lefarge in "A Tale Of Two Cities," Jagers in "Great Expectations," "The Assassins" and "The Nightwalkers." His last West End play, which he also played on Broadway, was "The Visit" which Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne chose to open the new Royalty Theatre, Kingsway. His hobby is reading and campaigning for the abolition of licensing hours.

BARBARA WHATLEY was spotted in a British Drama League Competition at the Scala in a performance of "The Shell" and became an assistant stage manager at the Chesterfield Civic Theatre at the age of seventeen. She made a comfortable line for herself playing the title role in "The Reluctant Debutante" around the Repertories, including Windsor, Worthing and Croydon.

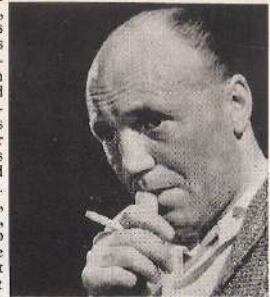
Her T.V. includes "The Railway Children," "Thinking Of Shrinking" with Kenneth Horne and "Double Your Money" for Hughie Green—in which she reluctantly admits she was 'The Dish-Out Girl'. She has toured the country in two musicals, "The Student Prince" as Gretchen and "The Boy Friend" in which she played the maid, Hortense. Alexander Doré, the producer of "Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" saw her as Hortense and this led to the present engagement. Her hobby is cars, fast and sleek, though hers has only just scraped through the ten year test!

ALEXANDER DORE the producer of "Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" is a man of many parts, producer, actor, author, script-writer and drama teacher. Born in London, of Russian parents, his father was conductor of the Johannesburg and Capetown Symphony Orchestra, he started out to be a schoolteacher having gained his B.Sc. at Cambridge. Teaching lasted one term, then the theatre won him. He became an Assistant Stage Manager at the Canterbury Repertory. Soon he had blossomed out as a producer at Aberystwyth, Cromer and Leicester. Plays intended for London followed—"Sweet Sorrow" and "The Love Machine" fell by the wayside, but his acting career took him straight to the West End with "No Time For Sergeants," "The Bells Are Ringing" and "Mr. Venus." As an author he is extremely busy, having 15 T.V. plays and 6 film scripts to his credit. Of these "The Wind Of Change" is now on general release. He is married to actress Edna Doré and they have one son, Michael. His hobbies are fencing and cricket.

ARTHUR LOVEGROVE, author of "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin," born Fulham, was a commercial artist for ten years before deciding to become an actor. As an amateur he devised, composed and produced three Scout Gang Shows for Fulham district. Two days after being demobbed from the Army he gained his first professional engagement, playing Mr. Burgess in Bernard Shaw's "Candida" in a tour of one night stands at Army camps. Less than a year later he was in the West End—"Noose" at the Saville Theatre. "Journey's End" at the Westminster, "Red Headed Blonde" at the Vaudeville, and "Lucky Strike" at the Apollo followed. His previous appearance at the Strand was as Ted Green in "Touch It Light." Recently he appeared as Sergeant Locke in "The Bad Soldier Smith" at the Westminster.

His films include "Naked Fury," "In The Nick" and "The Steel Bayonet"; his T.V. "Knight Errant," "No Hiding Place" and "Dixon Of Dock Green." Reading J. B. Priestley's introduction to his three Time plays in which J. W. Dunne is quoted inspired Arthur to write a comedy on the theme. It took him three weeks.

His hobbies are reading and watching cricket.



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