

STAR CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE 'KING OF THE DETECTIVE-THRILLER'

EDGAR WALLACE'S THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY

GRAY O'BRIEN, RULA LENSKA,
DENIS LILL, CHARLIE CLEMENTS, PHILIP LOWRIE,
APRIL PEARSON, BEN NEALON, GLENN CARTER

Following the phenomenal success of The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, which sold approximately two million tickets over a decade of first class productions, comes a new chapter from Bill Kenwright's Classic Thriller Theatre Company.

Edgar Wallace's *The Case of the Frightened Lady* opens at **Theatre Royal Windsor** on **Wednesday 10th January 2018** followed by a nationwide tour. It is adapted by Antony Lampard and directed by Roy Marsden with design by Julie Godfrey, lighting design by Chris Davey and sound design by Dan Samson.

EDGAR WALLACE is one of the most popular and prolific crime writers of the 20th Century and the brains behind the iconic film, KING KONG. Having written more than 150 detective novels throughout his career **EDGAR WALLACE'S** gripping page-turners are regarded as the bedrock of the modern thriller, and **The Case of the Frightened Lady** remains one of his most celebrated works.

Featuring TV favourites **GRAY O'BRIEN** (*Coronation Street, The Bill, Casualty*) and **RULA LENSKA** (*Rock Follies, Doctor Who, EastEnders*); **DENIS LILL** (*The Royal, Only Fools and Horses*), **CHARLIE CLEMENTS** (*EastEnders*), **PHILIP LOWRIE** (*Coronation Street*), **APRIL PEARSON** (*Skins*), **BEN NEALON** (*Soldier Soldier*) and **GLENN CARTER** (*Jesus Christ Superstar*).

When Inspector Tanner is called in to investigate a ruthless murder at Mark's Priory, the grand ancestral home of the Lebanon family, he quickly discovers that nothing is quite as it seems. The household is controlled by the family physician, the footmen behave more like guests than servants and the secretary Isla is afraid for her life. As Tanner moves closer to the heart of the mystery he uncovers a shocking and closely guarded secret...

GRAY O'BRIEN is best known to TV audiences for his portrayal of the villainous businessman Tony Gordon in ITV's *Coronation Street* and as Dr. Richard McCaig on the BBC medical drama *Casualty*. Most recently he starred in ITV crime drama *The Loch* which aired earlier this year. Other notable roles include *Peak Practice, Taggart* and the 2006 film *The Queen*.

With a career spanning more than 40 years across film, radio and stage, **RULA LENSKA** is one of Britain's best-loved actresses. Her big break came in 1976 appearing in *Rock Follies* and the follow up *Rock Follies '77*. Since then she has starred in countless TV series including the iconic *Doctor Who, Minder, One Foot in The Grave* and *Take a Letter Mr. Jones* as well as *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street*.

DENIS LILL who starred as the much-loved character of Mr Rose in the long-running TV series *The Royal* has appeared in many popular television series from *Z Cars*, *Doctor Who*, *Bergerac* and *Blackadder* to the classic British comedy *Only Fools and Horses*. He also appeared in the 1989 blockbuster movie *Batman* and the 1996 film adaptation of *Evita*.

CHARLIE CLEMENTS captured the nation's heart as Bradley Branning in *EastEnders*, a role that won him many soap and television awards, including Most Popular Newcomer at the National Television Awards and Best Soap Actor at the TV Quick Awards. Charlie's dramatic exit from the soap came in the 25th Anniversary Live Episode.

Joining them is **PHILIP LOWRIE**, best known for playing one of the original characters, Dennis Tanner in *Coronation Street*, a role he played since the shows inception in 1960 until 1968, and again in 2011 until 2014. He also appeared in the television series *War & Peace*, *Rules of Engagement* and *Home Fires*.

BEN NEALON is an Agatha Christie Company and Classic Thriller Company stalwart. On television Ben is best known as Lt Forsythe in the popular ITV award-winning drama series *Soldier Soldier*, and for his appearances in *The Bill*, *Casualty*, *Doctors* and *EastEnders*. He also featured in the Oscar-nominated *Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India*.

APRIL PEARSON made her television debut when she was just 9 years of age in the long-running medical drama *Casualty*. Her big break came in the hugely popular BAFTA award-winning TV drama *Skins* as Michelle Richardson. Her film debut came just a few years later in *Tormented* opposite Alex Pettyfer.

Completing the line-up is West End leading man **GLENN CARTER**. Carter has appeared in some of the biggest West End musicals such as *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *Grease* and *Les Miserables*, as well as playing Tommy DeVito in the London premiere of *Jersey Boys*. His most memorable portrayal is perhaps as Jesus in the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber classic *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He played the role in the West End, on Broadway and in the Film.

The cast is completed by **Callum Coates**, **Owen Oldroyd** and **Rosie Thomson**.

The production is directed by **ROY MARSDEN** who is best known as an actor, particularly in his role as Commander Adam Dalgliesh in ITV's *P.D. James* series, which he played for 15 years. But he has also been directing plays since he was 15 years old and had successful West End runs with Noel Coward's *Volcano* and Agatha Christie's (under the pen name Mary Westmacott) *A Daughter's a Daughter*. This is now Roy's third time directing a Classic Thriller Theatre Company production having previously directed *Rehearsal for Murder* and *A Judgement in Stone*.

For tickets and tour dates go to www.kenwright.com

THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY - UK TOUR DATES 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Website</u>	<u>Box Office</u>
10 – 20 Jan	Theatre Royal Windsor	theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk	01753 853 888
23 – 27 Jan	Bromley Churchill Theatre	churchilltheatre.co.uk	020 3285 6000
29 Jan – 3 Feb	The Playhouse, Weston Super Mare	theplayhouse.co.uk	01934 645 544
5 – 10 Feb	Guildford Yvonne Arnaud	yvonne-arnaud.co.uk	01483 44 0000
12 – 17 Feb	The Hawth, Crawley	parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/The-Hawth	01293 553636
19 – 24 Feb	Aylesbury Waterside Theatre	atgtickets.com/aylesbury	0844 871 7607
26 Feb – 3 Mar	Chesterfield Pomegranate Theatre	chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk	01246 345 222
5 – 10 Mar	Cardiff New Theatre	newtheatrecardiff.co.uk	029 2087 8889
12 – 17 Mar	Queen’s Theatre, Barnstaple	parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/Queens-Theatre	01271 316063
19 – 24 Mar	Stoke Regent Theatre	atgtickets.com/stoke	0844 871 7649
26 – 31 Mar	Edinburgh Kings Theatre	edtheatres.com/kings	0131 529 6000
3 – 7 Apr	New Victoria Theatre, Woking	atgtickets.com/woking	0844 871 7645
21 – 26 May	Milton Keynes Theatre	atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes	0844 871 7652
4 – 9 Jun	Eastbourne Devonshire Park	eastbournetheatres.co.uk	01323 412 000
12 – 16 Jun	Coventry Belgrade Theatre	belgrade.co.uk	024 7655 3055
18 – 23 Jun	Southend Palace Theatre	southendtheatres.org.uk	01702 351135
25 – 30 Jun	Theatre Royal, Brighton	atgtickets.com/brighton	0844 871 7650
2 – 7 Jul	Swansea Grand Theatre	swanseagrandtheatre.co.uk	01792 475715
23 – 28 Jul	Leeds Grand Theatre	leedsgrandtheatre.com	0844 848 2700
30 Jul – 4 Aug	Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds	theatreroyal.org	01284 769505

More dates to be announced

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