STRAAND 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
IRENE HANDIX, so well liked as a Cockney comedienne, is British-born with a Welsh father and a French mother. She spent her early years lodging 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 dear, the spastics 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 Brides 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 Prudishly Present" at The Duke of York's in a foreign part, after her first, specially written for her by Ivor Novello. After "Mr. Rowing Runs a Newspaper," with Anthony Havelock, she became a featured comedienne in films in—"Make Mine Mink" with Terry-Thomas, "Double Bank" and "School for Scandal's" 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 at Rugby and Clare, Cambridge. Studied to be an engineer and trained as a labour manager at J.G.J., 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 Ferrol Finon. His first West End play was "The House of Jealousy" at the Fortune. Sweet Athies" with Diana Wynyard at Wydock's followed. The lead 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 "My Wife A Stranger" at the Embassy and "I Am A Stranger" at the Whitehall. A slightly successful run of "Message for Margaret" followed at the Westminster. Also "Off The Record" at the Piccadilly. His films include "The Sound Barrier", "The Conspirators" with Robert Taylor and recently Michael Powell's "The Queen's Guards." On TV, as early as 1957, he has recently appeared in "Miss Trefus," "Diana of the Green Door," and "The Army Game." He is married to Ruth Dunning, the actress.

CICELY BULLETT, born at Acton, always had the ambition to be a great dramatic actress. Encountering parental opposition she trained privately in the art of acting. Eventually she was accepted into a theatrical company where she was taught the craft of acting. Her first major role was in "The Dancers," which earned her critical acclaim. She also appeared in "Romeo and Juliet" at Stratford. Her TV work includes "The Grove Family," "All Aboard," "Shipwreck," "While Parents Sleep," and "The Innocent." She is married to Rodney Dike, and they have four daughters.

MARGO MAYNE, convent educated, was born in an off-licence in Pekinham. She studied all branches of the theatre at Italia Conti, and made her professional bow as a dancer at Her Majesty's at the age of fifteen. Transferring to ice-shows at sixteen she became the youngest principal in "Hunger Dumpty" at Wembley. Before her first lead role in "The Dancing Years" and "Millions in "Glamorous Night," she felt to the call of legitimate theatre she accepted the part of the French Girl in "Doctor In The House" at Bournemouth, and started her second successful career. Oxford, Worthing and Beamish repertory followed till Fellows called her for "The Gentle Rivals" and "Motive For Murder." She has appeared with Bob Hope, Fernandel and Dorothy Cooney and also throughout the serial of "Golden Girl" with Katie Boyle. Returning to the West End, she headed the run of "The Man In The Room" at the Piccadilly. She recently appeared in "The Merchant of Venice" for Robert Atkins, C.B.E. Her hobby is sport and her passion—whiskies!

RODNEY DIK, born Harrow, educated Haileybury. After training at the Webber Douglas School, he spent some time in repertory at Wotton, Oxford, Salisbury and Coventry. While at RADA Repertory he realised his ambition to play in Shakespeare--"Sebastian in "Twelfth Night,"" and had the honour of playing before the Queen, then Prince Charles. A season at the Old Vic followed, and a tour of Europe with a Shakespearean season for Frank Hazleth, when he had the honour of playing before the King and Queen of Denmark. His classical background he is, however, forced to confess that his first film was "Firewomen from Outer Space." In which he played a biologist. A contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer followed. His most interesting film engagement has been in "Mr. Topaz." in which Peter Sallis directed as well as played the title role. In order that Peter Sallis could act, as he was, see himself acting, Rodney played all his scenes at the rehearsals—the same time he was playing in at the same time he was playing in. His TV programmes include "The Makepeace Story" with Ian Barstow, "Carry On Admiral," with James Hayter and "The Long Summer," the television 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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"GOODNIGHT MRS. PUFFIN"

by ARTHUR LOVBGROVE

Monday to Friday at 8.0. Saturday 5.15 and 8.30.
Matinees: Thursday at 3.00.
“GOODNIGHT, MRS. PUFFIN”

Cast in order of appearance

Ethel Fordye
Jacqueline Fordye
Pamela Fordye
Nicholas Fordye
Annie
Amelia Puffin
Henry Fordye
Stephen Parker
Victor Parker
Roger Vincent
CICELY HULLETT
MARGO MAYNE
JILL HYEM
RODNEY DIAK
BARBARA WHATLEY
IRENE HANDL
JACK ALLEN
KENETH THORNET
BRIAN PARKER
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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In the interest of Public Health this theatre is disinfected exclusively with Radsac Fluid.

First-aid facilities in this theatre are provided by the first-aid committee, who are willing to assist free of charge.

Please are reminded that the filming of photographs during performances is not permitted.

In accordance with the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain’s Order, the public must leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and with their coats upon. All ladies of 50, gents and children, must be kept strictly out of the auditorium and any other dressing rooms. Want of any dressing rooms is intended to show the audience to the ideal and best of the reading. It shall be strictly limited to the number mentioned in the reading list for the purpose of the audience.

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JILL HYEM was born in London and educated in Sussex.
After training at the Webber Douglas School and touring the stage as a student at Eastbourne Repertory she made her first professional appearance at Highbury Repertory. Later she became a writer, having her first novel 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—spotless whilst playing at Worthing Repertory, she transferred to Television and has since appeared in “Little Women”, “The Mad Hatter”, “Divorce Of Dodi Green”, “Gary 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 are air rifle, archery, and collecting postage stamps.

MURRAY KASHE, 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 farmer in Southern Ontario. Three factors contributed to his becoming an actor—a determination to cure a speech defect—cooperating at camp concerts—and ‘backing’ when in the carnival. His first professional job was on radio in Canada as an announcer, subsequently a disc jockey, interview and spectrum writer.

His first stage appearance was with the Earl Grey Shakespearean Company. He met his wife, Libby Morris, the singing comedienne, through a blind date arranged by a friend. Soon afterwards, he and Libby were married and traveled England for a holiday—and have remained ever since, she for cabinet and T.V. he for T.V. and films.


His hobbies are photography, preferably of small daughter, and travel.

BRIAN PARKER, born in Leeds, started his career as a heating engineer. Blown by the success boat under the R.A.F., serving in the North with “Women’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.

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During this he married actress Patilie McGregor 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.”

Carrying a line in T.V., for himself as a policeman he has appeared in “No Hitting Places,” “Once A Cred,” 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 THORNET was seen by Francis L. Sullivan whom 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 Alexander Repertories. There followed tours of "September Tide" opposite Marie Burrel and "Castle In The Air" opposite Joyce Mathias. An offer to play Lobby 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 "Seaforth" and "Resilient Heroes." Then came the most moving part of his career, playing an Aussie to Australians in "Pomodori" 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 TV includes "Elegance" in "A Tale Of Two Cities," Jagger in "Great Expectations," "The Assassin" and "The Night-Watchman." His last West End play, which he also played on Broadway, was "The Visit," which Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne chose to open the new Royale Theatre, Kingston.

His hobby is reading and campaigning for the abolition of licensing hours.

BARBARA WHATLEY was spotted in a British Drama League Competition at the Seals 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 Crowborough. Her T.V. includes "The Railway Children," "Think of Sheringham" with Kenneth Horne and "Double Your Money" for Hughie Green— in which she reluctantly admits she won "The 10th-Over Girl." She has toured the country in two musicals, "The Student Prince" as Gretchen and "The Boy Friend," in which she played the maid, Horrace. Alexander Dore, the producer of "Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" saw her as Horrace and this led to the present engagement. Her hobby is cats, lace and sketch, though hers has only just started through the ten year test!

ALEXANDER DORE wrote the producer of "Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" is a man of many parts, producer, actor, author, writer and drama teacher. Born in London, of Russian parents, his father was conductor of the Johanneseburg and Copenhagen Symphony Orchestras, 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, Crewe and Lichfield. Plays intended for London followed—"Sour Sorrows" 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 Wheel Of Change" is now on general release. He is married to actress Edna Doré and they have two sons, Michael. His hobbies are sewing and cricket.

ARTHUR LOVEGROVE, author of "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin," born in Portman, 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 diocese. Two days after being demobilised from the Army he gained his first professional engagement, playing Mr. Burgess in Bernard Shaw's "Candida" in a tour of the night-stands at Army camps. Less than a year later he was in the West End—"Noose in the Neville Theatre: "Journey's End" at the Westminster, "Red Headed Blonde" at the Vanderbilt and "Lucy Strike" at the Apollo followed. His next appearance at the Strand was as Ted Green in "Touch Is Light." Recently he appeared as Sergeant Locke in "The Bad Soldier Smith" at the Westminster. His films include "Naked Fury," "In the Nick," "The Steel Burnout," his T.V. "Knight Errant," "No Hiding Place" and "Dance Of Dark Green," Reading J. B. Priestley's introduction to his three Time plays in which J. C. Dowse 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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