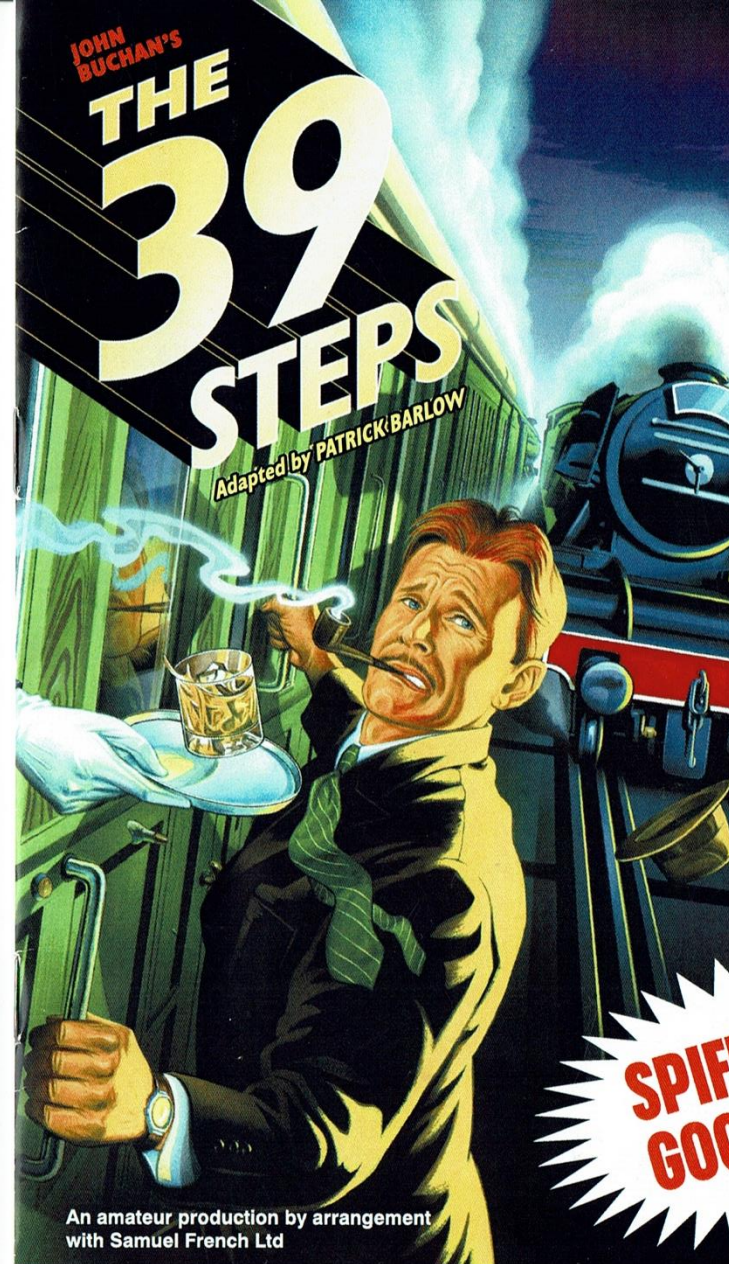




An amateur production by arrangement
with Samuel French Ltd

**SPIFFINGLY
GOOD FUN!**



Stoke on Trent
Repertory
Players

11th to 15th
February 2014
at 7.30pm

Matinee: Sat. 15th
February at 2.30pm

By arrangement with Fiery
Angel Ltd.,
John Buchan
and Alfred Hitchcock's

THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From an original concept by
Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

The original London production, directed by Maria Aitken, designed by Peter McKintosh, lighting designed by Ian Scott, sound designed by Mic Pool and movement directed by Toby Sedgwick, opened at the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn in August 2006 and transferred to the Criterion Theatre in the West End on 14th September 2006. The original production was directed by Fiona Buffini.

This production is licensed by and the films distributed by ITV Global Entertainment Ltd.

Welcome

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is supported and run by volunteers who regularly give up their time and without whom we could not deliver the standard of production and customer service which our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will encounter tonight, others fulfil a less visible, but no less vital role.

Backstage Crew, Front-of-House, Bar and Coffee Bar, Members, Friends, Young Rep and all other helpers - we are deeply indebted to everyone involved - **Thank You.**

Some information which you may find helpful:

The Bar is open from 6.45 until 11.00pm on performance evenings and drinking-up time is 20 minutes afterwards.

Coffee, tea and confectionery are available in the foyer from 6.45.

All interval refreshments may be ordered before the performance to avoid queuing later.

The car park is open from 6.30. until 11.00pm on performance evenings; overspill parking is available in the Staffordshire University car park further along Leek Road.

Neither the Rep nor Staffordshire University can accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of vehicles.

Please note that smoking is not allowed in any part of the theatre building.

We hope that you enjoy your evening with us.



**PLEASE ENSURE THAT MOBILE
PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF
DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**

BOOKING INFORMATION

Our box office is open from the Monday preceding each Rep production through until the last night of the show from 5.00 to 8.00pm.

Tel: 01782 209784

Book tickets during opening hours from Music Mania,
4/5/ Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley.

Tel: 01782 206000

Why not join our free MAILING LIST ?

Simply complete a mailing list form, available in the bar and leave in the box situated at the Box Office.

www.stokerep.org.uk

- Find out 'What's On' and 'What's News' by visiting the Rep's website.
- Online booking, information about current and forthcoming productions, shows, concerts and activities is available at the click of a mouse.
- Join our emailing list and keep up to date with the latest news.
- Catch previews of forthcoming Rep productions by checking out the Rep's channel on



- Have your say (and find out what others are saying) at **www.Facebook.com/stoke.rep.theatre.players**



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twitter

We hope you enjoy this play, and perhaps fancy "having a go" yourself.

However, we welcome new members into all posts/jobs in the theatre. Perhaps you are not aware of all the things that are needed to support the play on the stage.

Apart from acting, members are working behind the scenes as stage manager, prompting, providing the lighting and sound effects, building the sets, providing furniture and props, organising costumes running the bar and coffee bar, running the booking office, selling programmes and being "front of the house" to welcome the audience.

If any of these appeal to you, you can chat to members and find out more.

Each Wednesday of the Rep Players productions I will be in the bar, and can direct you to the knowledgeable, relevant person.

Judy Adams (Chair for the Players)



Alsager Community Theatre
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The Many Steps

John Buchan wrote *The Thirty Nine Steps* while he was in bed recuperating from a flare up of a duodenal ulcer, an illness which remained with him all his life. The novel was his first 'shocker', as he called it, a literary form in which the story combines personal and political dramas, and an adventure where the events are unlikely and the reader is only just able to believe that they really happened. This marked a turning point in his literary career and introduced his hero, Hannay, who continued his adventures in four subsequent books.

The novel is one of the earliest examples of the 'man-on-the-run' thriller and was subsequently adopted by Hollywood as an often-used plot device. In *The Thirty Nine Steps* Buchan holds up Richard Hannay as an example to his readers of an ordinary man who puts his country's interests before his own safety. The story was a great success with the men in the First World War trenches. One soldier wrote to Buchan, "The story is greatly appreciated in the midst of mud and rain and shells, and all that could make trench life depressing."

There have been several film adaptations starting with the 1935 black and white version directed by Alfred Hitchcock (which departs substantially from the book) with Robert Donat as Hannay. In 1959 the first colour version, directed by Ralph Thomas and starring Kenneth More as Hannay, was closely based on Hitchcock's adaptation, featuring the music-hall finale and Hannay's escape on the Forth Rail Bridge, scenes not present in the book. A 1978 remake, directed by Don Sharp, with Robert Powell as Hannay is regarded as the closest to the book, being set at the same time as the novel was, pre-World War I, but it still has little resemblance to Buchan's original story. The film was followed by a spin-off television series, *Hannay*, starring Powell and featuring adventures occurring prior to the events in the novel.

But why 'The 39 Steps'? According to Buchan's son, William, the name of the book originated when the author's daughter was counting the stairs at the nursing home in Broadstairs, where Buchan was convalescing. "There was a wooden staircase leading down to the beach. My sister, who was about six, and who had just learnt to count properly, went down them and gleefully announced: "There are 39 steps." Sometime later the house was demolished and a section of the stairs, complete with a brass plaque, was sent to Buchan. The mysterious phrase 'thirty nine steps', first mentioned by the character Scudder, became the title of the novel, and the solution to its meaning is a thread that runs through the whole story. An intriguing feature of the title is that its meaning in each of the film versions is essentially different, not only from the book, but also amongst the films themselves. In the 1935 film and the 1959 remake, the phrase refers to the clandestine organisation itself; in the book and in the 1978 film version, it does refer to physical steps, but steps located in different places and with different significance to the plot. The only thing about which one can be reasonably sure is that for the films the title is often abbreviated to *The 39 Steps*, but the full title, *The Thirty Nine Steps*, is more commonly used for the book and for the 1978 adaptation.

The Cast

Richard Hannay:.....James Freeman

Annabella Schmidt,

Pamela & Margaret:Sarah Stockdale

Clown 1:Ian Birkin

Clown 2:Lee Birkin

**All other parts played by
Ian Birkin and Lee Birkin**

**The action takes place in various settings in London and
the Scottish Highlands**

(and quite a few places in-between!)

Period: 1935

*There will be a twenty minute interval between
Part One and Part Two*

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The Crew

Co Directors:Diana Halstead and Ann Williams
 Stage Director:Richard Masters
 Set Designer:Diana Halstead
 Stage Manager:Richard Masters
 Scenic Artists: John Beeston, Peter Burrows
 Set construction: Mike Adams, Elliot Allcock,
 Aaron Bagnell, John Beeston, Stuart Campbell,
 Bill Hancock, Nathan Haslam, Daniel James,
 Peter Logan, Richard Masters, Jamie Wood
 Lighting Design & Operation:Malcolm Rushton
 Sound Design & Operation:..... Mike Adams
 Props and Set Dressing:Margo Bloor
 Assisted by Elliot Allcock, Nathan Haslam,
 Daniel Jones
 Wigs: John Cumberlidge
 Costumes supplied by:.....Litchfield Costume Hire
 Wardrobe Sylvia Wright
 Dresser:Joy Rawlins
 Programme designJanet Smith
 Company Photographer:Peter Croft
 Flyman Pete Logan

Thank You

*Stoke on Trent Repertory Theatre
 North Staffs Operatic Society
 E. L. Norman Photographic Studios
 Tom Pear*

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade



Fawlty Towers

by John Cleese
and Connie Booth

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd



Stoke on Trent
Repertory Players

**29th &
30th April
& 1st to 3rd
May 2014
at 7.30pm**

**Matinee:
Sat. 3rd May
at 2.30pm**

Tickets: £9.50 ★ Students £5.50 (all performances)
Saturday matinee: £7.50

Book online at www.stokerep.org.uk
 or from **Music Mania**, Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley, SoT. Tel. 01782 206000
 Rep Box Office Tel. 01782 209784
 The Rep • Leek Rd • Stoke on Trent • ST4 2TR



John Buchan

John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir PC, GCMG, GCVO, CH, (26th August 1875 to 11th February 1940) was the first child of John Buchan, a Free Church of Scotland minister, and Helen Jane Buchan. Born in Perth, Buchan was brought up in Kirkcaldy, Fife, and spent many summer holidays with his grandparents in Broughton in the Scottish Borders where he developed a love of walking and the local scenery and wildlife, which often featured in his novels; the name of a protagonist in several of Buchan's books, Sir Edward Leithen, is borrowed from the Leithen Water, a tributary of the River Tweed.



After attending Hutchesons' Grammar School, Buchan was awarded a scholarship to the University of Glasgow where he studied classics, wrote poetry, and became a published author. In 1895, having gained a junior Hulme scholarship, he went to study Literae Humaniores (the Oxonian term for the Classics) at Brasenose College, Oxford, where his friends included Hilaire Belloc, and Raymond Asquith. Whilst there, Buchan won both the Stanhope essay prize in 1897, and the Newdigate Prize for poetry the following year and was elected president of the Oxford Union, in addition to having six of his works published.

Having graduated, Buchan entered into a career in diplomacy and government and become the private secretary to Alfred Milner, who was then the High Commissioner for Southern Africa. On his return to London he entered into a partnership in the Thomas Nelson & Son publishing company and becoming editor of *The Spectator*. Buchan also read for and was called to the bar in 1901, though he did not practise as a lawyer.

On 15 July 1907 he married Susan Charlotte Grosvenor, daughter of Norman Grosvenor and a cousin of the Duke of Westminster, with whom he had four children, but writing was never far from his mind, and in 1910 Buchan wrote *Prester John*, the first of his adventure novels set in South Africa. At the same time, he ventured into the political arena, and ran as a Unionist candidate in a Scottish Borders constituency. He supported free trade, women's suffrage, national insurance, and curtailing the powers of the House of Lords, though he did also oppose the welfare reforms of the Liberal Party, and what he considered to be the "class hatred" fostered by Liberals such as David Lloyd George.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Buchan went to write for the British War Propaganda Bureau and worked as a correspondent in France for *The Times*. He continued to write fiction, and in 1915 published his most famous work, *The Thirty Nine Steps*, a spy-thriller set just prior to World War I. The novel featured Buchan's oft used hero, Richard Hannay, whose character was based on Edmund Ironside, a

friend of Buchan's from his days in South Africa; a sequel, *Greenmantle*, came the following year. Buchan then enlisted in the British Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps, where he wrote speeches and communiqués for Sir Douglas Haig.

Recognised for his abilities, Buchan was appointed as the Director of Information in 1917, under the Lord Beaverbrook, a job which Buchan described as "the toughest job I ever took on" and also assisted Charles Masterman in publishing a monthly magazine that detailed the history of the war, the first edition of which appeared in February 1915.

Following the end of the war, Buchan turned his attention to writing on historical subjects, along with his usual thrillers and novels. By the mid 1920s, he was living in Elsfield and had become president of the Scottish Historical Society and a trustee of the National Library of Scotland. In a 1927 by-election, Buchan was elected as the Unionist Party Member of Parliament for the Combined Scottish Universities. Politically, he was of the Unionist-Nationalist tradition, believing in Scotland's promotion as a nation within the British Empire. Buchan remarked in a speech to parliament: "I believe every Scotsman should be a Scottish nationalist. If it could be proved that a Scottish parliament were desirable... Scotsmen should support it."

The son of a clergyman, the church remained a strong presence throughout his life and after the United Free Church of Scotland joined with the Church of Scotland in 1929, Buchan remained an active elder of St. Columba's Church in London, as well as of the Oxford Presbyterian parish, and in 1933 and 1934 he was further appointed as the King George V's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The following year he was honoured with appointment to the Order of St. Michael and St. George, as well as being elevated to the peerage as Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield in preparation for his appointment as Canada's 15th Governor General. Sadly, his tenure as Governor General was not to last for long, as on the 6th February 1940 he suffered a severe head injury incurred when he fell during a stroke. Two operations were insufficient to save him and he died on 11th February. After lying in state in the Senate chamber on Parliament Hill, a state funeral was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, after which his ashes were returned to the UK aboard the cruiser HMS *Orion* for final burial at Elsfield, his family estate in Oxfordshire.

Throughout his time in Canada Buchan had continued to write, including an autobiography and works on the history and his views of Canada. He and Baroness Tweedsmuir established the first proper library at Rideau Hall and founded the Governor General's Literary Awards, which remains Canada's premier award for literature.

Buchan's one hundred works include nearly thirty novels, seven collections of short stories, and biographies of Sir Walter Scott, Caesar Augustus, and Oliver Cromwell. He won James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his biography of the Marquess of Montrose, but the most famous of his books were the spy thrillers, and it is for these that he is now best remembered.



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