



Tracy Lord
NINA TAYLOR
Nina is a versatile actress and no stranger to The Autumn Festival of Norfolk. She has appeared as temptress, Alma Mahler in Mahler's Conversion, drug-addled desperate daughter in Melvyn Bragg's King Lear in New York and ethereal ghost Countess Guiletta Guiccardi in Beethoven's Tenth. She is thrilled to this year be playing a role originated by such an iconic actress and personal hero.



Dinah Lord
BECKS CLAYTON
Becks returns for her second year at the Autumn Festival, having first joined the team in 2023 as a Norfolk Actors Company stage assistant for Lady Windermere's Fan. This year, she steps into the spotlight, making her acting debut as Dinah Lord. She is delighted to bring this vibrant and occasionally mischievous character to life. Becks has a keen interest in the Arts from studying Drama at school, and her previous career in the film industry. She is excited to be taking to the stage to share her energetic portrayal of the youngest Lord sibling with audiences at the Hostry.



Margaret Lord
ALISON UTTING
Alison is delighted to make her first appearance with the Norfolk Actor's Company. She trained at Guildford School of Acting and has lately returned to the stage appearing at the Sewell Barn Theatre productions of The Welkin, 1984 and most recently as Bette Davis in Bette and Joan. She has also enjoyed roles in two Agatha Christie classics at the Maddermarket Theatre and will soon be performing in another Christie 'whodunnit', Murder in the Studio, also as part of this year's Autumn Festival.



Sandy Lord
RUBY BARDWELL-DIX
Ruby is a proud member of The Norfolk Actors Company, performing in the festival's production of Lady Windermere's Fan in 2023. Notable roles include Mercutio in 'Romeo and Juliet', Helena in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Veronica in 'God of Carnage' and understudy for Maria in 'The Sound of Music' at the Theatre Royal Norwich. Film credits include 'The Spirit Lock', 'Blood and Stones', 'The Dog That Couldn't Bark', 'Totality' and upcoming anthology series 'Once Upon A Time In Suffolk'.



Uncle Willie
PETER BARROW
Peter Barrow co-founded the Autumn Festival so that he could always be in the yearly play and no one could keep him out of it! In recent years he has played a nefarious Middle European baron, a dead revenant Middle European baron, a Sea God, an amiable American cuckold, an unhappy Middle European captain of industry and a Wildean dandy. Tonight, he is a happily louche American millionaire.



Elizabeth (Liz) Imrie
LUCY GLEESON
Lucy first performed at The Autumn Festival in 2022, where she danced at the Norfolk Arts Awards. Since then, her first performance with the company was in 2023 where she appeared as Rosalie in Lady Windermere's Fan. After graduating from University of Kent in 2021, Lucy has appeared as Sound Ideas Spongebob The Musical, at the Norwich Playhouse. Other credits include parts with Upshoot Theatre Company and Threshold Theatre Company's A Chorus Line.



(Mike) Connor
CHRISTOPHER NEAL
Chris first auditioned for the festival's central production in 2014 and took on a small role in A Country Wife that year. Since then, he has enjoyed years of fun and adventure at the annual event, taking lead roles in Mahler's Conversion (2015) and The Graduate (2019), The Eagle Has Two Heads (2017), and last year's Lady Windermere's Fan.



George Kittredge
JOHN DAVIS
John is thrilled to be making his first appearance with the Norfolk Actors Company at The Autumn Festival of Norfolk, the first he hopes of many. A relative newcomer to the Norwich stage, John has appeared in six plays since moving back in 2020, most recently as Mr Darcy in Pride & Prejudice at the Maddermarket in March. Other notable roles include Van Helsing in Dracula, Ivan in Art by Yasmina Reza, Robert in Betrayal by Harold Pinter and John Proctor in The Crucible by Arthur Miller.



C.K. Dexter Haven
GILES CONNEELY
Giles previously appeared with the Norfolk Actors Company in 2022 in Ring around the Moon, playing Romainville, a patron of the arts and butterfly collector. In 2023 he played Mrs Erylne's famous lover, Lord Augustus 'Tuppy' Lorton in Lady Windermere's Fan. He returns as an established member of the company in the role made famous by Cary Grant. Giles said "I'm delighted to be working again with the fantastic Norfolk Actors Company.



Seth Lord
STEPHEN GOYMER
Stephen has acted in four Autumn Festival productions including King Lear in New York, The Graduate, Rufus Rank (play for radio) and Lady Windermere's Fan. He is delighted to have the opportunity to join the cast of The Philadelphia Story as Seth Lord. He adds "It has been a privilege to have been involved with local theatrical productions over the past forty seven years. He regards working with The Norfolk Actors Company as a real joy and chance to develop his skills surrounded by so much creative talent.



Elsie the Housekeeper
ANGELA GOYMER
Angela appeared in Lady Windermere's Fan for the Festival last year, and has also appeared in other productions for the Autumn Festival, notably the Rufus Rank radio play and The Country Wife. She is active at the Maddermarket and Sewell Barn Theatres in Norwich, having also been directed by Stash Kirkbride in the Ghost Train. Angela has been a supporter of the Festival over the years and she is delighted to continue to be a member of the Norfolk Actors Company.



Night Watchman/Priest
BRADLEY CLARKE
This is Bradley's second Autumn Festival of Norfolk production, his first being Oscar Wilde's 'Lady Windermere's Fan' in 2023. It was such a fun experience that he couldn't pass up the opportunity to be a part of it again and he is excited to be back, watching 2024's production unfold, as part of the production team.

THE NORWICH DANDIES

ONLINE AUCTION

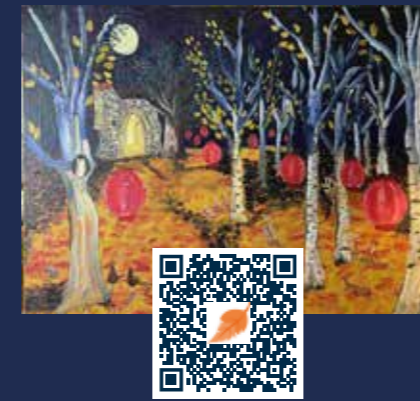


We are delighted to introduce this year's featured festival artists The Norwich Dandies who are an acclaimed arts collective, recognised with a Norfolk Arts Award and the EDP People's Choice award. Since 2010, they have been dedicated to painting community-inspired murals and facilitating arts workshops, particularly for adults with learning difficulties. Their mission is to empower individuals through artistic expression.

You now have the opportunity to own one of their paintings, including the original art work for this year's Autumn Festival brochure cover, through an online auction with the highest bidders announced on 4th November. Support their inspiring work by placing your bids on the festival homepage or by scanning the codes below.

Visit their website for more info on their creative work. www.norwichdandies.co.uk

Woodland Night Scene



The True Love



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The Autumn Festival of Norfolk is a Not-For-Profit, community interest project, produced annually by The PBSK Partnership. To go into partnership with us, to offer support and interest in any area of the festival:

Email: info@autumnfestivalofnorfolk.org

Special Thanks to:

Chris Bealey & Rebecca Chapman, Victoria Jenkins & Sara Winsor, Suzanna & Simon Redford, The University of East Anglia, Steffan Griffiths, Sarah Grimes, Anna Stevenson and staff at Norwich School, Mortgages For Actors, Norwich Theatre Royal, John Jarrold Trust, City College, Booja Booja, Jane Hawksley, Hamilton & Hassanah Wilson & Subud Norwich, BDH Printers, Off The Wall, Larking Gowen, Canaccord, Bread Source, Christine Ferris, Jeremy & Sally Cottle.

The Dean of Norwich Cathedral, Chapter, all staff and volunteers.

STASH KIRKBRIDE and PETER BARROW, in association with UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA and MORTGAGES FOR ACTORS, present a NORFOLK ACTORS COMPANY Production of

The
AUTUMN FESTIVAL
of Norfolk
Signature Project

The Philadelphia Story

BY PHILIP BARRY

Directed by STASH KIRKBRIDE



Photo by Mark Ivan Benfield.
Original painting of "True Love" by THE NORWICH DANDIES.

THE
Norfolk ACTORS
COMPANY



Director's Note

Welcome to **The Norfolk Actors Company** production of this classic piece of American theatre.

As always we're so pleased to have assembled our Rep Company of actors (welcoming new cast and crew members too) all of whom have spent the last 2 months bringing to life this delicious story for you. You're in for a treat! Set in Philadelphia (playground for the rich and famous) this is an opportunity to hear language spoken in a style and pace rarely heard of these days. It's a comedy for sure, but it has more to it than that. We've made quite certain we tell the story truthfully, steering clear of comedy for comedy's sake. There is depth to this story, and we have spent such an enjoyable time discovering the many layers this play has to offer.

Romance, humour, passion, humanity, learning, all this is to be found within the lines of this beautifully crafted period piece of theatre. Enjoy it all, as we set sail upon this delightful 'feel good' journey back in time, American High Society circa 1935. If you'd like to leave your reviews & comments about the production do email us, we'd love to hear from you. info@theautumnfestivalofnorfolk.org

And, if you'd like to take part, either on stage, or behind the scenes for our 2025 festival production, email us, our doors are always wide open. On behalf of myself & co-founder of the festival Peter Barrow, welcome and thanks for being here tonight.

Best wishes,

Stash

Stash Kirkbride, Artistic Director
stash@autumnfestivalofnorfolk.org

Cast & Crew of 2024



Photo by Simon Finlay

"As a graduate of the Bristol Old Vic, working for the Norfolk actors Company is truly an honour. It's wonderful to be a part of such a collaborative process where we are all supportive and caring for each other. Sharing our knowledge and experience helps us strive for the highest standards and its refreshing to work in such a professional way. Having an environment where the empty space is filled with unique moments to share with an audience is something to cherish."

Giles Conneely, member of the company of 2022/2023/2024

"Being part of the Norfolk Actors Company is an utter joy. What we have here is a rare thing, where every single person - whether they have 100 lines or just 1 - feel as though they are just as important and valued to the production as every other participant. This ethos stems from a group of creatives who value the play as a whole rather than the spotlight, a team who simply share a great love for theatre."

Ruby Bardwell-Dix, member of the company of 2023/24.

STASH KIRKBRIDE and PETER BARROW, in association with UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA and MORTGAGES FOR ACTORS, present a NORFOLK ACTORS COMPANY Production of

The Philadelphia Story

BY PHILIP BARRY

THE
Norfolk
ACTORS
COMPANY

Monday 28th October to Saturday 2nd November 2024
At The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral NR1 4DH

After being an instant Broadway success, this sophisticated and completely captivating romantic comedy, imbued with nimble language, wit and delightful characters was turned into a hit film starring Katherine Hepburn, James Stewart & Cary Grant, which was then turned into the even bigger hit musical High Society, starring Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra & Bing Crosby. A sparkling, 'feel good' story just got even better with this stellar cast of actors from across Norfolk taking part.

"I couldn't tell apart who within the cast were the professionals, experienced local actors, or those with little or no previous experience. It is a seamless mix." MICHAEL BILLINGTON, Theatre Critic for The Guardian

THE NORFOLK ACTORS COMPANY PRESENTS Production Credits 2024

Cast

(in order of appearance)

NINA TAYLOR as Tracy Lord
BECKS CLAYTON as Dinah Lord
ALISON UTTING as Margaret Lord
RUBY BARDWELL-DIX as Sandy Lord
PETER BARROW as William (Uncle Willie)
LUCY GLEESON as Elizabeth (Liz) Imrie
CHRISTOPHER NEAL as (Mike) Connor
JOHN DAVIS as George Kittredge
GILES CONNEELY as C.K. Dexter Haven
STEPHEN GOYMER as Seth Lord
ANGELA GOYMER as Elsie the Housekeeper
BRADLEY CLARKE as Night Watchman/Priest

Directed by **STASH KIRKBRIDE**

Produced by **STASH KIRKBRIDE**
Executive Producer **PETER BARROW**
a PBSK Partnership Project

VICTORIA JENKINS PA to the Artistic Director
HAMILTON WILSON Associate Producer

CHRIS BEALEY & REBECCA CHAPMAN Associate Directors

SUZANNA REDFORD Company Stage Manager
TIM TRACEY Festival Productions Manager
MARK IVAN BENFIELD Production Consultant
SUZANNE BELL Costumes Design
BARRY PARSONS Sound Design

SCOTT MEACOCK Front of House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
VICTORIA JENKINS Social Media & Marketing
SARA WINSER Programme and Social Media Design
SIMON REDFORD production Support/Front of House
LOUISE HARVEY & BRADLEY CLARK Assistant Stage Managers
SIMON FINLAY Production Images Company Groups image
MARK IVAN BENFIELD Cover image & Post-Production
BARRY PARSONS Rehearsal images

pbsk
PARTNERSHIP
Creating Projects in Norfolk



Photos by Barry Parsons