

Dangerous Obsession

Crisp's most popular play, performed worldwide by amateurs and professionals alike, opened at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, in 1987 before transferring to the Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue. It starred Dinsdale Landen, Carol Drinkwater and Jeremy Bulloch and proved a popular critical and commercial success. The production transferred to the Fortune Theatre in January 1988 where it enjoyed a further 10-month run. A 1999 film version, very loosely based on the play and called *Darkness Falls*, starred Ray Winstone. Crisp was so incensed with the end result that he demanded his name be removed from the credits.

This autumn a professional tour of the play opened in September and ended its run on 4th December, just as ours begins!

We presented the play in 1996 as part of our 38th season. It featured Peter Miller, Diane Hodgson and Chris Westlake and was directed by our late, much-missed friend and colleague Gwen Whippy.

Cast

Lisa Gibbons as Sally Driscoll

Lisa trained in European Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford College, including a three-month placement at Institut del Teatre in Barcelona studying puppetry. She has appeared in several plays throughout Kent and London and is very excited to be a member of MLT and grateful to play Sally in *Dangerous Obsession*.

Barry Mitchell as Mark Driscoll

Barry Mitchell played Don Pedro in the Blissful Theatre Company's *Much Ado About Nothing* this summer. He is also involved with Gravesend & District Theatre Guild. *Dangerous Obsession* is his first show as part of the Medway Little Theatre company.

Barry Kearns as John Barrett

Barry Kearns has been a member of MLT for over fifteen years and has appeared in many productions. Recent highlights include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Look Back in Anger*, and *Philadelphia! Here I Come*. He also directed our production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* in 2015.

Crew

Director	John Winson
Stage Manager	Dawn Jones
Prompt	Margaret Winson
Light & Sound	Mic Aldington
Set Design & Construction	Del de Lorme, Dawn Jones, John Winson



N J Crisp

11 December 1923 – 14 June 2005

Norman James Crisp, known as a writer only by his initials and surname, was born in Southampton and became one of television's most prolific writers, writing for many classic BBC series in particular. He was also a novelist and wrote several plays including his most popular, *Dangerous Obsession*.

He served in the RAF from 1943 to 1947 and then went through various jobs including being a taxi company manager, a Marks & Spencer management trainee and a typewriter salesman, all the while trying his hand at writing. He had short stories accepted by the weekly tabloid newspaper *Reveille* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. One of his first television plays, *People of the Night* (1957), focused on a radio cab company was broadcast by the BBC.

He became a full-time writer in 1959 and wrote a dozen more plays for the BBC and several for the ITV company Anglia. He also wrote for an

early BBC soap opera called *Compact* (1963-64). For 10 years from 1965 he wrote for *Dixon of Dock Green* and introduced much rougher criminals than featured previously.

He contributed to numerous long-running series including *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, *The Expert* (1968-76), the first BBC2 drama series to be made in colour and *Colditz*. He is particularly remembered for co-creating and writing the family-business drama *The Brothers* (1972-76) which regularly attracted audiences of up to 11 million viewers every Sunday evening. He wrote a feature-length television drama *The Masks of Death* (1984) which starred Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and John Mills as Dr Watson as well as the horror film *Murder Elite* (1985) with Ali MacGraw.

Crisp had several novels published which all sold well. These included *The Brink* (1982), *In the Long Run* (1988) and *The Ninth Circle* (1988). His plays included *Fighting Chance* (Apollo Theatre, 1985) which was set in a rehabilitation centre for neurological patients and based on his own experiences with spinal problems which had left him partially disabled.

In 1959 he was one of the founding members of the Writers' Guild and also served as its chairman. He negotiated the first £1,000 fee to be paid to a writer for a television drama. Virtually blind during the last few years of his life he died in Southampton Hospital after a long illness in 2005.

Paul Tomkies, November 2019