

Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU

NEWS RELEASE

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TENSION AND DRAMA IN CHESIL THEATRE’S NEXT SHOW

Chesil Theatre Winchester’s next production is the psychological thriller *Ladies in Retirement* by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham which runs from Saturday 21st to Saturday 28th May 2022 with a matinee on Sunday 22nd. Tickets are now available from [www.chesiltheatre.org.uk](http://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk).

*Ladies In Retirement* is set in 1885 and based on a true event. Leonora Fisk is a retired actress, though probably more accurately no more than a chorus girl. Thanks to the generosity of her many male admirers over the years, she is able to retire in some comfort to a remote farmhouse on the Thames estuary, surrounded by mists, marshes and flooded tracks. Her housekeeper/companion Ellen Creed has had a less fortunate life. From a genteel background, the family has fallen on hard times with Ellen now solely responsible for the well-being of her two vulnerable and child-like sisters. The sisters come to stay with Leonora for a short holiday but overstaying their welcome creates pressure and things take a turn for the worse. Into this scenario comes the Creed sisters’ nephew, himself with a shady past and intent on benefiting from the situation.

The play examines the dilemma exposed in trying to take care of loved ones many years before the welfare state came into being. The intriguing plot reveals the timeless and hidden qualities in human nature, when presented with complex moral decisions.

*Ladies In Retirement* is directed by Malcolm Brown whose previous productions for Chesil Theatre have included *Kindertransport, Nobody’s Perfect* and *Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime*.

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For further information and reviewer tickets, please contact:

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Editor’s Notes

The attached image is provided repro-free for editorial use. Please credit Rob James.

Caption: Helen Milton-Symes as Leonora Fiske (left) and Adrienne Ellery as Ellen Creed in Chesil Theatre’s production of *Ladies In Retirement*

About Chesil Theatre

Chesil Theatre (Winchester Dramatic Society) is based in the heart of Winchester, presenting up to eight productions a year, ranging from comedy to classics. Chesil Theatre also encourages new writing through their biennial festival *TakeTen*, runs drama workshops and readings, plus two lively youth theatre groups, as well as offering stagecraft and technical training. The Company has been performing for over 150 years.

Since 1966 Chesil Theatre has been the Society’s permanent home - a former 12th century church in Chesil Street, Winchester. This medieval building provides an intimate 75-seat studio-style theatre and versatile performance space.