

streacham
theatre company



Streacham
Festival 15
www.streachamfestival.com

+++BREAKING/THE/CODE+++

by Hugh Whitmore, based
on the book
'Alan Turing: The Enigma'
by Alan Hodges



*It's not breaking the code that matters
it's where you go from there...*

Souvenir Programme

3, 4, 11 July 2015 - The Studio, Streacham Hill Theatre

www.streachamtheatre.org.uk

This amateur production of "Breaking the Code" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

Welcome from the Chairman

This is our third appearance in the Streatham Festival, in our third year of existence: a pattern seems to be forming! It will soon become a Streatham tradition...

This year's Festival theme is 'Coming of Age' and this play fits that theme from several angles. Since Turing 'came out' in 1952, homosexual acts have been de-criminalised and the age of consent lowered to 16, via 18 and 21. Also, Turing 'gave birth' to the electronic brain, which has brought us the computer and the information age.

I hope you enjoy the show, and that you continue to support STC into the future. We hope to see you at some of our future events.

David Harvey

Director's Notes

"That's the way of the world, people never seem to hear of the really great mathematicians." (from *Breaking the Code*)

Where would we be without Alan Turing? Every aspect of our lives, from work to leisure and entertainment, travel to shopping, banking to healthcare, relies on his concept of the 'electronic brain' - the computer in its varying forms. Nevertheless, the question remains: if Turing had not been convicted of gross indecency in 1952 and then pardoned in 2013, would he now be so acclaimed? Would anyone outside the discipline of computer science know of his achievements?

This is my second encounter with *Breaking the Code*. In 2012 my invitation to design the set for a Network Theatre production to be directed by Terry Wynne was halted in its tracks due to the unavailability of the licence. Luckily for STC, the time is now right and I am proud to be permitted to stage this tragic and poignant play.

My thanks go to the wonderful cast, many of them new to STC. They each came to the play with enthusiasm and excitement and have brought passion, commitment and bucketsful of talent. The subject is so powerful and some of the scenes so moving that without their constant jollity and fun we would have been deeply depressed.

Huge thanks also to the wonderful production team: for their teamwork, planning, resourcefulness and determination to seek it out, think it through and make it work.

A big STC thank you too to Linsey, Craig and their team at Beacon Bingo, who have so enthusiastically welcomed us back to the old Streatham Hill Theatre for a fourth time.

And finally to Hugh Whitemore - a gifted playwright who has crafted this play so precisely that every word has its place and no word is out of place - and who knows just how to lighten the mood with a wry smile when it seems the word is a truly dark place.

So now it's your turn - turn off that smartphone or iPad and come back with us to 1952 - to a world before Apps, texts or Facebook. Just remember one thing ...

"Who is right, who is wrong? No-one! While you are alive - live!"
(Turing quoting Pierre from *War and Peace* to Ross in 1952).

Helen Mason

Our grateful thanks go to

Beacon Bingo, Streatham Festival, Vinters Studios, Network Theatre, Alastair Callcutt, The British Home, The Old Shirburnian Society (Sherborne School), Pratts and Payne, Recycle Your Cartridge, our patrons Lord Michael Grade (Baron Grade of Yarmouth) and David Harewood, our front of house team, **and of course you our valued audience.**

+++BREAKING/THE/CODE+++

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Act 1

Manchester Police Station, 1952
The Turing family home, 1928
A Manchester pub, 1951
Manchester Police Station, 1952
Bletchley Park, 1939
Alan Turing's home, Wilmslow, 1951
The Turing family home, 1942
Alan Turing's home, Wilmslow, 1952

Interval of 20 minutes

Act 2

Sherborne School, 1953
Bletchley Park, 1942
The Turing family home, 1952
Manchester Police Station, 1952
A Manchester park, 1953
A secret location, 1953
Ipsos, Corfu, 1953
Manchester Police Station, 1954
Alan Turing's home, Wilmslow, 1954

+++THE/CAST+++

in order of appearance

Alan Turing Louis Fox
Detective Sergeant Mick Ross Mike Jennett
Christopher Morcom Ian Cuthbert
Sara Turing Carol Pinfold
Ron Miller William Roney
John Smith Alan Scott
Dillwyn Knox Enda Lambe
Pat Green Laura Camberley
Nikos Sam Fox

+++THE/PRODUCTION/TEAM+++

Director Helen Mason
Assistant Director Hild Liptrott
Technical Director David Harvey
Production Assistant Jo Ostrowska
Stage Management Hild Liptrott, Helen Mason,
..... Jo Ostrowska, Eshani Weeresinghe
Costumes Liz Burton
Makeup Laura Camberley
Set Build Members of the Company
Graphic Design David Harvey
Cast Photography Andreina Sambucetti
Promotional Video Raphael Douhet

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+++PERSONNEL/FILE+++

Helen Mason - Director



I love all aspects of theatre - acting, set design and directing - so can usually be found somewhere on, behind or in front of the stage. I am a founder committee member of STC.

My route to the stage was via street theatre and community arts. No surprise then that my interpretation of a show will rarely be traditional, safe or low-key - Turing would be proud! Why do I do it? That's simple, it helps with life.

My acting, directing and design credits include *Bazaar and Rummage*, *The Lady in the Van*, *Harvey*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *Teechers*, *Humble Boy*, *Pack of Lies* and STC's *Playing with Sugar*.

The Campaign on Change.Org

There is a campaign to pardon men who, like Alan Turing, were convicted of gross indecency with another man. Turing was personally pardoned in 2013; there are an estimated 49,000 others.

The campaign can be found online at chn.ge/ld7hss3

Hild Liptrott – Assistant Director



I am passionate about virtually all forms of performance and wanted to be part of a local theatre. I became a founder member of Streatham Theatre Company, which is an exciting company, keen to experiment in all forms of entertainment.

Previously I worked for the BBC as an assistant production designer. This was superb experience and although I loved being part of the visual aspect of the productions I worked on, I was also fascinated by directing, producing and all other aspects of theatre, albeit in TV in this instance.

I am able to fulfil my ambition by taking on a variety of roles within the theatre company. I have acted, written, acted as Assistant Stage Manager, props research and sourcing, and I am also a part of the decision making on the choice of productions.

As Assistant Director on this production I have assisted the Director with auditions, read-throughs, helping with rehearsals, prompting and anything else to help with the smooth running of the production.

+++PERSONNEL/FILE+++

Louis Fox – Alan Turing



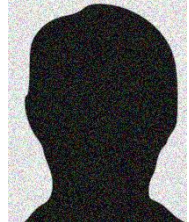
Louis has recently been offered a place at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts to study acting. Prior to that, he has taken part in numerous youth productions with The Young Vic (*Hamlet*, and Peter Brook's *The Suit*) and The National Theatre (*Cesario* by Bryony Lavery). He volunteered as an actor for an award winning Theatre in Education Company, Peer Productions, which toured schools performing plays with social messages. He has also produced and acted in some of his own projects: *The Butterfly Room* which was performed at Edinburgh, and more recently two short films, one of which, *Abattoir Blues*, premiered at the Peckham and Nunhead Free Film Festival. Over the summer he will shoot a third and final film which forms part of this trilogy.



Mike Jennett – Mick Ross



Mike has had varied careers including computer programmer (on mainframe computers so demand dried up), bus conductor (someone else explain to those too young to remember), swimming instructor (couldn't make enough to keep me afloat), musician (too old for pop - not good enough for jazz), Yoga teacher (got into a difficult position), Tai Chi teacher (wasn't moving fast enough), personal trainer, fitness instructor, Chinese acupressure masseur (still available), choir member (occasional). So he is now going to try to be a thespian, with the eventual aim of being the next James Bond, Doctor Who ... Catweazle?



Ian Cuthbert – Christopher Morcom



Ian Cuthbert is a mild mannered PR consultant and sometimes cabaret/comedy performer. He has acted in several theatre productions including *Blood Brothers*, *West Side Story*, *A Tomb with a View* and *Godspell*. In the last few years he has performed with Balham Ukulele Society, Bar Wotever and Script Read East (as both a ukulele player and comic). He can often be found in the dive bars of Soho and Vauxhall entertaining punters with his Chardonnay drenched vocal chords. When not performing, you will find him in his elegant south London flat, where he enjoys photography, playing piano, watching trashy telly and wasting time on Facebook.



+++PERSONNEL/FILE+++

Carol Pinfold – Sara Turing



Having seen the original production of *Breaking the Code* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in the mid-eighties, Carol renewed her interest in the Turing story by visiting Bletchley Park Museum in recent years. Sara Turing always acknowledged “the inestimable brilliance” of her son. She forgot to protect his memory by writing a posthumous biography and maintained to the last that his death was a tragic accident. Carol returns to the stage after a long absence. “*The opportunity to play a complex character like Sara was too good to miss.*”



“*The opportunity to play a complex character like Sara was too good to miss.*”

William Roney – Ron Miller



William is currently studying Drama at Roehampton and would eventually like to go into Directing or Writing. He shares the same attitude to life as Ron - “*take it as it comes*” - and shares his confidence, however, that’s where the similarity ends. He finds Ron quite manipulative, calculating, streetwise; a prowler who is out to take what he can and

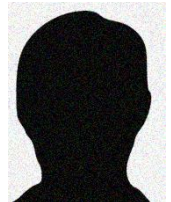


doesn’t worry who he hurts along the way. William is thoroughly enjoying playing this devious character.

Alan Scott – John Smith



Alan's acting career has jumped about a bit. He’s visited ancient Greece (*Lysistrata*), moved through Italy (*Merchant of Venice*), detoured to Ruislip as an American spying for the Russians (*Pack of Lies*) and jumped back to 18th Century Norfolk (*Restoration*). He even went undercover to Wales as the Director of *Under Milk Wood*. His aliases have included an evil Elizabethan nobleman (*The Clink*), a Swedish pantomime dame (*Smut’s Saga*), an ugly sister (*Cinderella*), Sherlock



Holmes (*On the Air*), a schizophrenic Yorkshire playwright (*The Lady in the Van*) and now a sinister Secret Service “Spook”.

+++PERSONNEL/FILE+++

Enda Lambe – Dillwyn Knox



code-breakers character to performance.

Enda has appeared in several productions for Streatham Theatre Company since it began in 2013. Enda has really enjoyed playing his character Knox and finds him really interesting. A classical scholar who translates ancient texts, he is the codebreaker. *“Turing was the hardware and Knox was the software”*. Hence Enda feels a connection having worked in IT for over 25 years. Knox’s father was the Bishop of Manchester, his brother was the editor of Punch in the 50’s and his brother and wife were also during the war. Knox is a really interesting play and Enda is looking forward to the performance.



Laura Camberley – Pat Greene



code-breakers character to performance.

Laura is a 26 year old actress. Originally from Oxford, she moved to London in March to continue her professional acting career. Her experience lies in theatre and musicals but she is now moving into screen performance. She trained at the University of Central Lancashire in Drama and Theatre Studies.

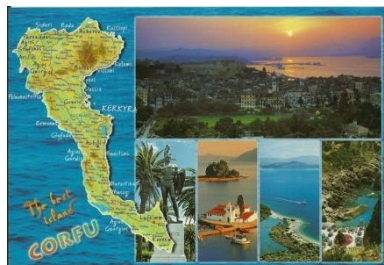
“Patricia and I are very different people but we are both attracted to men with focus and intelligence. I think we have all fallen in love with the wrong man and experienced unrequited love so I feel her pain.”



Sam Fox – Nikos



Unfortunately we have very little information as, despite repeated requests, the Greek authorities have not responded. Perhaps he is operating under an alias as a secret agent, or maybe he just ticked the ‘no publicity’ box? Who knows? It’s all Greek to me...



Coming Soon

Streatham Theatre Company runs events on the second Tuesday of every month. In addition to this regular slot, we have events and activities at other times. Our events are usually open to all, and cover a wide range of activities including play readings, workshops, quizzes and social events. Many events are free to members. Do come along, and if you have a suggestion for an activity please let us know.

<i>11 August</i>	An event to be announced
<i>8 September</i>	Improvisation Workshop by Frances Bruce
<i>13 October</i>	Off Stage Workshop by David Harvey
<i>10 November</i>	Directing Workshop by Lesley Strachan
<i>December</i>	Streatham's Got Talent social

So far we have staged seven productions since our launch in April 2013, and are constantly working on our programme of future productions. These productions will be performed by our members in local venues for local audiences. In addition, we may take our shows 'on tour' to showcase Streatham's talent elsewhere. If you're interested in getting involved in any capacity, or have any suggestions or proposals for a future show, do get in touch.

Membership

Membership is open to everyone (aged 18 or over), with a connection to Streatham, and whatever their level of experience in theatre or related activities - amateur, professional or none. Annual subscriptions are only £10 - ask one of our team for an application form or contact us as below. Your subscription will help us keep putting theatre into Streatham.

Contact

You'll find more on our website www.streathamtheatre.org.uk where you can also join our mailing list and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

You can email us on info@streathamtheatre.org.uk or call 020 3432 5710.

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