

Alan Turing, the famous Code Breaker during the Second World War and the pioneer of the first computer, was recently given a posthumous royal pardon for his conviction for gross indecency with another man. There is now an active campaign to pardon another 50,000 men similarly convicted. In recognition of Alan Turing and the campaign Streatham Theatre is bringing Hugh Whitemore's 'Breaking the Code' to the stage.

"In the long run, it's not breaking the code that matters – it's where you go from there. That's the real problem."

Alan Turing was the eccentric genius who helped break the complex German Enigma code, playing a major role in the winning of the Second World War.

After the war Turing turned his scientific and mathematical genius to the concept of developing an 'electronic brain'; the first computer, which led to smartphones and tablets we use today.

Meanwhile, in his private life Turing was breaking another code: the taboo of homosexuality. In 1952 he admitted the criminal act of gross indecency and was sentenced to undergo hormone treatments as part of his rehabilitation, as an alternative to prison. He committed suicide in 1954.

Following on from the recent film '*The Imitation Game*', Streatham Theatre Company's production of Hugh Whitemore's play focuses on Turing the man, his personal moral code, the relationships that influenced his life and his struggle to appreciate the conventions and laws of 1950s society.

Turing received a posthumous Royal Pardon in 2013. There is now a campaign to extend a pardon to all homosexuals convicted of similar criminal offences in the past. There will be an opportunity for those attending the play to sign the petition online to show their support if they so wish.

BREAKING THE CODE by Hugh Whitemore

Based on the book 'Alan Turing: The Enigma' by Alan Hodges

Performances for the Streatham Festival 2015:

Friday 3 July / 8pm (doors 7.30pm)

Saturday 4 July 2015 / 8pm (doors 7.30pm)

Saturday 11 July / 2pm (doors 1.30pm) / 7pm (6.30pm)

The Studio, Streatham Hill Theatre (Beacon Bingo),
110 Streatham Hill, London SW2 4RD

Tickets: Adults £10, Members / Concessions £8

For more information and how to book tickets please visit Streatham Theatre's
website at: www.streathamtheatre.org.uk/code

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<http://www.streathamtheatre.org.uk/pr>]