



the **CURIOUS**
INCIDENT
of **the dog**
in the **night-time**



MARK HADDON

Tickets £12

A PLAY BY SIMON STEPHENS

FEB 18th – 21st 2026 7.30 pm

WWW.THALIANTHEATRECOMPANY.CO.UK

Box Office 0333 666 336

Thalian Hall, 64 Bridge Rd E, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU

This amateur production of 'the curious incident of the dog in the night-time' is presented in
arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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Committee:	Colleen Town, Darren Barsby, Louise Bateman, Maryann Scott, Tammy Wall and Zara Stuart.

Message from the Chair

I am delighted to welcome you to the stage adaptation of Mark Haddon's book, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time*. This is a wonderful story about difference, about being an outsider, about seeing the world in a surprising and revealing way. On it's inaugural outing the stage play won seven Olivier awards in 2013 including for best new play. Those well read amongst you will know that the title of the book refers to a line spoken by Sherlock Holmes in *The Adventure of Silver Blaze* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, where he wonders why the dog did not bark at an intruder. The relevance of this line in the play will become clear.....

As regular supporters of the Thalian Theatre Company will be aware, we have traditionally been known for our musical performances and this is the first time in our history that we have branched out into a straight play format. We are proud of our mission to continually improve and diversify our theatrical output and we would welcome your feedback, as valued audience members, on whether this is a path you would like us to continue upon. In the meantime, may I thank you for joining us tonight. Please sit back and immerse yourself in a very special story.

Mandy Sayers, Chair

Director



Clive Dancey

Clive has previously directed *Chicago* and *Calendar Girls* for Thaliens, and more recently *The Little Mermaid* for HDOS. He has been an active member of Thaliens for several years, playing such parts as Eddie in *Made in Dagenham*, Fester in *The Addams Family*, and the Tin Man in *The Wiz*, as well as Cogsworth in Wares' *Beauty and the Beast* and Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for Act 4 Theatre.

He is extremely proud of this show and hopes that you will not only enjoy our interpretation, and leave with a new sense of the subject matter and a love of what theatre can teach us about society.

This production contains occasional strong language and mild adult themes. Flashing lights are also used in this production.

Book by Mark Haddon

Mark Haddon is a British author and illustrator, born in 1962. He is best known for his novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, which won multiple awards. Haddon's work spans fiction, poetry, and children's literature, often exploring unique perspectives, identity, and human experience.

Play by Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens is a leading British playwright known for emotionally direct, contemporary drama. Born in 1971 in Stockport, he studied at the University of York. His plays include *Motortown*, *Punk Rock*, *Birdland*, and his acclaimed stage adaptation of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night Time was first presented by the National Theatre, London at the Cottesloe Theatre on 2nd August 2012 and transferred to the Apollo Theatre, West End, London on 12th March 2013. The Play opened in the USA at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre on 5th October 2014. This play is presented by kind permission of Warner Bros. Entertainment.

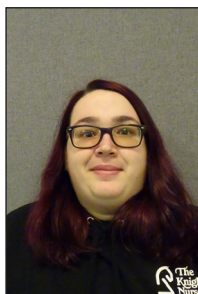
Principals



Christopher

Alfie has performed in several plays with Cuffley Players and Cheshunt Dramatic Society, but playing the role of Christopher is his biggest challenge to date. Not only has he had a vast amount of lines to learn, but he has worked really hard to get inside the mind of this neuro diverse teenager.

Alfie Bennett



Siobhan

Jess is very excited to be a part of Curious Incident. Having been acting since the age of 5, Jess joined Thalian's in 2025. She has appeared in both productions of *Nativity* and *Kinky Boots* as an ensemble member, and this will be her first role with us that she is stepping out of that and into a named character.

Jessica Woodland



Judy

Alison is excited about being involved in the Thalian's first play. She recently performed in *The Herd* at the Barn and has been a familiar face in musicals here at Thalian hall for many years.

Alison Downes



Roger

Vinnie is often found back stage but also treading the boards. He has appeared in numerous shows in the ensemble and occasionally in a supporting role. Here he plays several supporting characters including Rogrer and the station sergeant.

Vinnie Clemens



Ed

Barney Shergold

Barney has been on the amateur stage for over 30 years, mostly in musicals or comedies, so it's a welcome challenge to be in such an emotional show as *Curious*. Barney's recent roles include Admiral C Weed in *The Little Mermaid*, Baldrick in *Blackadder II* and Mr Tunncliffe in *Flying Feathers*.

Other parts played by:



Adam Lipinsky

This is Adam's first show with the Thaliens Theatre Company and his first play since university. Adam has been an active member of multiple musical theatre companies since he was young and is excited to expand his skill set. Recent credits include *Beauty and the Beast* - Ware Musical Theatre and *Shrek the Musical* - Hertford Dramatoc society.



Mary Goodfellow

After an earlier professional career working in cabaret and theatre for schools, Mary has directed, choreographed and acted for Digsweil Players for a number of years. She has appeared in several Barn productions, such as *Steel Magnolias* and *Glorious*. She has also appeared in previous Thaliens such as *Twelfth Night*, and *Evita*.



Pagen Hall

Pagen is so happy to be joining her first Thalian's show. Her previous roles have included Katurian in *The Pillowman*, Eli in *Let The Right One In* and Benjamin the Donkey in *Animal Farm*. Pagen's musical credits include; Bad Idea Bear in *Avenue Q*, Enid Hood in *Legally Blonde*, Bridget in *Bring It On* and Pugsley in *The Addams Family*.



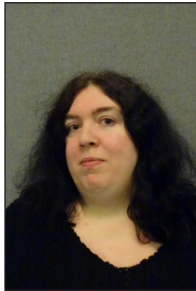
Zara Stuart

Zara is very passionate about 'The Curious Story' and the neurodiverse perspective. She has recently co-directed *Alice in Wonderland* with Digswell Players. Zara has also performed in *Nativity*, *Kinky Boots* and *Twelfth Night* at Thaliens



Ian McNally

Ian is thrilled to be part of this production. Recent credits include *Kinky Boots* with Thaliens and his first pantomime *The Little Mermaid* with HDOS in December. He loves being involved in local theatre and is excited to continue developing his performance journey on stage.



Vicki Shaw

Vicki has been involved in Thalian shows for many years, from *Sweet Charity* in 2004 to *Nativity* most recently. She has been a strong presence in many ensembles, but as her confidence has grown she has taken on named parts, and is enjoying the challenge that *Curious* provides to extend her repertoire.

Performing is Fun

Don't delay – Join today. We meet on Monday and Thursday evenings at Thalian Hall directly opposite B&Q in Bridge Road East. For further details contact our wonderful membership secretary Colleen Town on Tel: 07901 518695.

Synopsis

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time follows Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old boy with an extraordinary mind and a distinctive way of understanding the world. Brilliant at mathematics and driven by logic, Christopher finds everyday human behaviour confusing and overwhelming, relying instead on order, routine, and facts he can trust.

When he discovers his neighbour's dog, Wellington, has been mysteriously killed, Christopher launches his own investigation, inspired by his love of detective stories. Carefully recording each step, he is determined to uncover the truth. What begins as a simple mystery soon leads him into far more complex territory, pushing him beyond the safety of his structured life.

As Christopher's journey unfolds, he must confront difficult truths about his family, trust, and independence, navigating unfamiliar and challenging environments along the way. Adapted for the stage, the play uses inventive theatrical storytelling to immerse audiences in Christopher's unique perspective, creating a moving, funny, and deeply human exploration of difference and resilience.

Production

Director Clive Dancey
Production Manager Alison Downes
Costumes Cast
Lighting Andy Barker, Tim Haynes
Projections and Sound Will Mitchell
With thanks to Clifton Hoyle, Nick Mogg and Tim Spink

Props Vanessa Baker
Nick Baker
Programme Martin Lester
Treasurer Angela Monaghan
Special Needs Advisors Zara Stuart
Jessica Woodland

2026 Season

The Great British Bake-Off.

A joyful, feel-good celebration of Britain's favourite baking tent. This deliciously funny musical mixes larger-than-life contestants, upbeat songs, and all the triumphs and disasters of the competition we know and love. A light-hearted treat for anyone who enjoys a good laugh—and a good bake.

9th - 13th June 2026

Everybody's Talking About Jamie.

A vibrant, uplifting musical about finding your voice and embracing who you truly are. Jamie New dreams big, faces doubts and obstacles, and learns to shine with the help of unexpected allies. Full of heart, humour, and unforgettable music, it's a story of acceptance and the power of being yourself.

22nd - 26th September 2026

Christmas Variety Show.

A sparkling seasonal celebration for all ages, packed with music, comedy, and festive cheer. This lively mix of performances brings warmth, nostalgia, and plenty of surprises to get everyone in the holiday spirit. A perfect way to begin the Christmas season with family and friends.

3rd - 5th and 10th - 12th December 2026

This hall is for hire!

We can offer use of the hall to any groups or individuals with a connection to the performing arts, education or exercise.

Please contact our bookings secretary Colleen Town for further information at membership@thaliantheatrecompany.co.uk or just visit our website and look for Venue Hire.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of United Kingdom Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and an actionable offense.

Notes from the Director, Clive Dancey

A few years ago, this show was in the West End, and when friends went to see it, they said how technically amazing it was, but they didn't tell me that much about the story. They said it was about an autistic boy and his journey. I tried to go and see it, but time passed and I didn't go.

A few years later, I decided to investigate this play a little bit more. I got the book and started to read it. I was hooked. I find books difficult to read as you have to keep turning pages, so, as I'm very lazy, I got the audiobook. After about twenty minutes, I was in tears. I was so moved by the storytelling and by the directness of Christopher, I felt ashamed. How did I get to my age without knowing anything about this subject matter?



How do I know so little about autism and ADHD, and about people being on the spectrum? So I made it my mission to get this play up and running. Three years later, we're about to produce our version of it. I'm still learning. I hope the play not only entertains, as theatre should, but also informs you of the subject matter. I hope that you leave with a sense of wonder and that you feel more informed as to how people on the spectrum think and act.



For me, this has been an informative and changing journey of understanding how the brain works for some people, and it has helped me to grow as a person and to be better able to accept and deal with difficult situations that may evolve from talking to somebody whose brain works slightly differently to mine.

Within our cast, we have special needs teachers who experience this daily and have been an invaluable asset for me as I direct actors in a world that I am still learning about.

Past Productions

2000	Oklahoma	2013	Oliver
2001	The Pajama Game	2014	Little Shop of Horrors
2001	Guys and Dolls	2015	Guys and Dolls
2002	Jack the Ripper	2016	Oklahoma
2002	Anything Goes	2017	Sleeping Beauty
2003	Cabaret	2018	Made in Dagenham
2003	The Wizard Of Oz	2019	Pirates of Penzance
2004	Call Me Madam	2019	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
2004	Sweet Charity	2020	Chicago
2005	Pirates of Penzance	2022	Jack The Ripper
2005	Kiss Me Kate	2022	Calendar Girls
2006	Little Shop of Horrors	2023	The Wiz
2006	Annie Get Your Gun	2023	The Addams Family
2007	South Pacific	2024	Twelfth Night
2008	Hot Mikado	2024	Six (Teen Edition)
2009	Calamity Jane	2024	Evita
2010	My Fair Lady	2025	Kinky Boots
2011	Half A Sixpence	2025	Nativity!
2012	Fiddler on the Roof		



Past Performances

Why not visit our 'Shows' web page to see photos from our productions over the last 25 years. You can find programmes too for most of the shows. Visit www.thaliantheatrecompany.co.uk/shows/ or scan this QR.

Thalian Theatre Company – A Short History

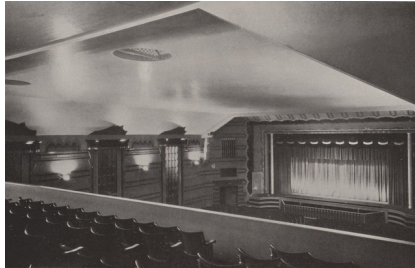
Formed in 1929 from a merger with two other amateur societies, the Barnstormers (drama) and the Operatic Society (music). The Old Welwyn Theatre in Parkway, later the Embassy Cinema, was the first venue. Most of the early shows were Gilbert and Sullivan productions. Dame Flora Robson, an early and active supporter, can still be remembered sweeping down the aisles. In those days ticket prices were 2/4d to 5/9d and a special London train, the 10.52 pm, was put on to take patrons back to the city.

The society's first producer was A W Richardson and it wasn't long before musical shows and 'straight' plays poured out in succession while the reputation of the Thaliens grew.

A large-scale production of St Joan was reported favourably at length in the Daily Telegraph no less. Festival triumphs took the society as far as America, where the 'Lord Howard De Warden Cup' was won with Not This Man by Sidney Box. The Thaliens were also



The Welwyn Theatre, 1930



**The Welwyn Theatre Opened
27th January 1928**

first at the Letchworth Festival. Before closing down for the duration in 1939 they presented the world première of Castles in the Air written for the society by Sidney Box and Montgomery Tully with music by May H Brahe. This South American romance starred Mildred Thompson in her debut as a dark-haired señorita. After the war, in 1947, the Thaliens were back in business with The Gondoliers and continued filling the

Welwyn Theatre until in 1962 when, after a successful opening performance of Carousel, a fire broke out and the stage was destroyed. The members pulled together, and the remaining performances were completed at a local school. When the Hawthorne theatre opened the Society moved in and have been performing happily there with many a good production until making Thalian Hall their permanent home in 2020.

More recently in 2023 the society changed its name from the Welwyn Thalian Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society to the Thalian Theatre Company.

Why not be a Friend or Member of Thaliens?

Get an email now and then to let you know what we are doing and dates for our upcoming auditions and shows. Just go to our website and on the home page, enter your email address, or sign up on our members page.

The Thalian Theatre Company Presents

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL



9th - 13th June 2026

Tickets Available Soon

