Banbury Cross Players Presents...

The Mill
ARTS CENTRE / BANBURY



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Based on the bestselling novel by Paula Hawkins and DreamWorks film. Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel

19-21st November 2026
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury

NODA



The Mill

ARTS CENTRE / BANBURY

Become a **proud supporter**



The Mill is the only dedicated arts & performance venue across the whole of Cherwell district, and as such plays a critical role in making the area a vibrant place to live, work and play.

We rely on your support to keep the creativity, entertainment and inspiration flowing, and accessible to all!

Some of our current projects that urgently need your support;

- **Schools county lines & knife crime education programme**
- **Our FREE community tickets scheme**
- **Creative social inclusion & wellbeing sessions**
- **Supported community artists**

Scan to **learn more** and **support us** now!

The Mill Arts Centre Trust is a registered charity. Charity Reg No 1165998



norbar®

Norbar Torque Tools

Norbar is proud to call Banbury home.

From our state-of-the-art facility, we design, manufacture and assemble world-leading torque control products.

We're delighted to support the Banbury Cross Players.

recruit@norbar.com | www.norbar.com

Vice Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the first production of our 2026/2027 season.

The Girl on the Train was one of those novels which truly "went viral" upon publication in January 2015. In Britain, almost a million copies were sold in six months and worldwide sales are now nudging 50 million. The next year saw an Americanised film released, starring Emily Blunt. Another huge commercial success with $175 million box office receipts. This play was first performed in 2018, initially at Leeds Playhouse and then London's West End. More than a decade after publication, this twisted psychological thriller exerts a strong grip. Even upon those who know the story and what happens at the end - but no spoilers for those who do not!

Our cast have really enjoyed the challenge of this piece. It's complex to stage, but at least as with the original story, it's set in Britain. No need for New York accents! There are dark themes of loneliness, alcoholism, obsession and domestic abuse, but it's also a classic detective whodunnit. Just don't expect a cosy Christie crime caper.

This is Director Lucy Byford's second production for the Banbury Cross Players, but her first at The Mill. *Home, I'm Darling* in 2024 had to be performed in a sports centre due to post-flood theatre refurbishment. I'm glad she has now been able to deploy her inspirational creative brilliance in a proper theatre.

My thanks to the myriad teams and supporters behind this and all our productions. Those backstage, front of house, in the technical box. Our generous sponsors. The endlessly supportive Mill team. The amazing actors. And of course, our audiences, without whom we would simply be shouting in an empty space.

Adrian McGlynn
Vice-Chairman
Banbury Cross Players



Director's Introduction

The Girl on the Train is a beautifully written, intense, and dynamic play. Bringing this production to the stage has been both exciting and challenging, and I am incredibly grateful to the Banbury Cross Players for giving me this opportunity. Backed by a remarkably talented cast and a deeply supportive team, I am thrilled to bring this gripping story to Banbury. Whether you loved the original book or are completely new to the plot, I hope you will be swept up in a journey that twists and turns until the very final moment.

I have absolutely loved working with this cast, and I'm immensely grateful to them for eagerly embracing some of my more unconventional ideas! Our core intention is to immerse the audience in Rachel's unreliable memory and fractured reality, whilst honouring the playwright's vision of her catching a train between almost every scene.

It has been a joy to watch this production evolve from our wonderful rehearsal space at St Hugh's to the theatre itself, where the technical elements truly bring it to life. I am grateful that we have been able to use lighting and sound to increase tension and create atmosphere.

While Rachel is central to the narrative—appearing on every single page of the script—this play is a true ensemble piece. The cast has fully embraced the collective storytelling required, especially through our non-naturalistic transitions. They have proven what we at BCP have always known: it takes an extraordinary team to stage the theatre we do.

My deepest thanks go to the amazing team, both on and off stage, who have made this process such a pleasure. Finally, a massive thank you to my husband, Martin, and our girls, Layla and Skyla, for your endless support and for letting me be away from home so much!

I hope you enjoy watching this production as much as we have loved creating it.

Lucy Byford
Director, *The Girl on the Train*



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Synopsis



Rachel Watson is a lonely, struggling divorcée and heavy drinker who rides the train into and out of London every day. To escape the pain of her failed marriage and her ex-husband Tom living two doors down with his new wife, Anna, Rachel fixates on the seemingly-perfect young couple living along the tracks, whom she names "Jess and Jason". In reality, the couple is Megan and Scott Hipwell. From her train window one day, Rachel witnesses something shocking - Megan kissing a stranger on her back porch.

Shortly after this sighting, Megan goes missing. Because of her frequent alcohol-induced blackouts, Rachel cannot trust her own memories. Driven by a mix of obsession and guilt, she inserts herself into the police investigation, talking to Scott Hipwell and therapist Kamal Abdic. As the police (led by D.I. Gaskill) start treating Rachel as a suspect rather than just a witness, she has to piece together the hazy fragments of the night Megan disappeared. But how can you do that if you can't even trust your own memories?

CAST

Rachel Watson – Sophie Raval
Megan Hipwell – Lauren Davidson
Anna Watson – Kate Groves
Tom Watson – Richard Morris
Scott Hipwell – Matthew Perris
Kamal Abdic – Prash Raval
D.I. Gaskill – Simon Hook

Acknowledgements

Richard Oliver, St Hugh's Church, The Mill Arts Centre and Wacky Wardrobe.

The taking of photos or video recordings of this production during a performance is **strictly prohibited**. In case of an emergency, please follow all instructions given by the The Mill Duty Manager.

Please note that latecomers may not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance. This may be at the interval.

This amateur production of "THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
https://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk/

CREW

Director - Lucy Byford
Production Manager - Janice Lake
Set Design - Richard Ashby
Set Build - Richard Ashby and Nik Lester
Lighting - Shaun Parry
Sound - Fraser MacLean
Stage Manager - Jem Turner
Assistant Stage Managers - Janice Lake and Stephen Rouse
Prompt - Hilary Beaton
Marketing - Katy Roberts, Simon Hook & Lauren Davidson
Rehearsal Photography - Simon Hook
Show Trailer - Phil Wintle & Simon Hook
Show Photography - Mike Watling
Programme Design - Katy Roberts
Front of House - BCP Members

CAST



RACHEL - SOPHIE RAVAL

Sophie joined BCP earlier this year, performing in *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*, and previous credits include *All's Well That Ends Well* at the Edinburgh Fringe and *Blood Brothers*. Offstage, Sophie is a former costume maker for Disney and the Royal Opera House, making costumes for stage and screen around the world.



MEGAN - LAUREN DAVIDSON

Lauren is delighted to be returning for her third BCP production, having previously appeared in *Puck* (2025) and *Jack Absolute Flies Again* (2026). She is thrilled to be taking on the role of Megan, a character very different from her previous roles, and one that has given her the opportunity to really challenge herself and dive into a new kind of characterisation. When not acting, Lauren works as a video game producer.



ANNA - KATE GROVES

Kate has been a member of BCP since 2013, first stepping in last minute into *Boots*, that year's festival play entry. Kate has acted in many BCP plays of various genres over the years, particularly enjoying *Dracula*, three Shakespeare plays, and more recent works, such as *Home, I'm Darling*, *Puck*, and *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*.

CAST



TOM - RICHARD MORRIS

Richard made his debut with BCP in *Our Country's Good* (2024). He was fortunate to play the titular role in last year's pantomime, *Aladdin*. Previous roles with a variety of theatre companies include Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Bernard in *Yes, Prime Minister*, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice* and Freddie Page in *The Deep Blue Sea*, to name a few. Most recently, he has performed locally with KADS in their productions of *The 39 Steps* and HTG in *God of Carnage*.



SCOTT - MATTHEW PERRIS

This marks Matthew's third production with BCP, following *Home, I'm Darling* (2024) and *Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime* (2025). Taking on the role of Scott has been a real creative challenge, requiring a deep dive into the complex psychology of an uncomfortable, morally flawed character. It has been an immensely rewarding role to inhabit, made all the more fulfilling by the chance to collaborate with such a dedicated and talented cast.

CAST



KAMAL - PRASH RAVAL

Prash is delighted to be performing in his second BCP production, after debuting in *Jack Absolute Flies Again* back in March. These have been his first acting roles since university, but the stage is very much his happy place! When not acting, Prash officiates wedding ceremonies for couples around the world.



DETECTIVE INSPECTOR GASKILL - SIMON HOOK

Simon's previous appearances for BCP include the philandering MP in the farce *Out of Order* (2022), one of *Cinderella*'s ugly sisters and *Aladdin*'s equally ugly brother Nigel. He directed *Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime* (2025) and played the stammering Specs in *A Handbag*, this year's award-winning one-act festival play.

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN IN REHEARSAL













Get Involved with Banbury Cross Players!

Established in 1945, with a long history and a diverse range of theatrical performance, Banbury Cross Players (BCP) pride ourselves on producing theatre of the highest standard. Each year we have a season of 3 -4 full-length productions, and a summer Drama Festival play entry, in addition to a varied programme of weekly Thursday sessions, including workshops, play readings, and more!

For more information, including our upcoming productions, calendar of events and how to join, scan the QR code, visit www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk, find us on Facebook and Instagram or drop us an email at contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk.

banburycrossplayers

bcp1945

Upcoming Productions



TILL THE STARS COME DOWN

by Beth Steel

25-27 FEBRUARY 2027



THE THRILL OF LOVE

by Amanda Whittington

12-14 MAY 2027



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by William Shakespeare

15-17 JULY 2027

NODA
For every stage

Banbury Cross Players are a proud member of NODA, which is the UK's leading membership organization for amateur theatre, established in 1899. NODA supports groups by providing services like insurance, resources, and a platform for connecting, celebrating, and amplifying amateur theatre across the UK.

Banbury Cross Players 2026 NODA Awards

- *Puck* - Regional & District Winner of the NODA London Innovation Award for an element of a production which is different, challenging or innovative
- Justin Clinch as Sergeant Plod in *Inspector Drake and the Perfeckt Crime* - District Winner of the Harvey Kesselman Comedy Award for Best Comedic Performance in a Play or Musical



Humphris funerals

Serving your family

Complete Traditional and Contemporary Funeral Service, and Monumental Masons.

We offer help, guidance and support when you have lost a loved one, making sure you say goodbye the way they would want. Humphris Funerals has been proudly serving the people of Banbury, Oxfordshire and surrounding areas as funeral directors since 1880.

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Private chapel of rest
- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Home visits
- Repatriation Services

01295 265 424

32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG

www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk

NAFD

Sky Wave is proud to support the Performing Arts in Oxfordshire



Visit us at Bicester Motion for tours, tastings and cocktails

Enjoy a 10% discount on orders over £30 with code PA2026 or QR code. Get yours at skywavegin.com

THE SKY WAVE DISTILLING CO



S|E

SE-Solicitors

Empowering you to realise your future.

The leading law firm in the heart of England, providing the highest quality legal expertise for all of your private wealth, inheritance tax planning, family, property and commercial needs.

Legal500 2026

SE-Solicitors.co.uk

Contact Us:

hello@se-solicitors.co.uk

+44 (0) 1295 204000

Oxford | Bicester | Banbury | Brackley | Bourne End