

We owe thanks to so many people and organisations who have helped make this production possible.



We are particularly grateful to Mark and Sarah, licensees at the Royal Oak, for Club Nights and rehearsal facilities. Thanks also to East Bridgford News and the Post Office for selling tickets.

Finally a huge 'thank you' to so many friends and members who have loaned props and help with set build and refreshments.

We are always delighted for new members to join the group, either acting or working behind the scenes. If you are at all interested please talk to any member of the group or phone Michael Clarke on 01949 20682 for details of our meetings. Alternatively contact us via our website - www.ebdg.co.uk.

We have a number of exciting productions under consideration for next season requiring actors of all ages. You have seen the high standard we manage to achieve – come along and get involved – we have a lot of fun.

Membership also entitles you to attend our entertaining and informative monthly meetings and various theatre visits.



facebook

Dates for your diary in 2016...

November: 22nd - 26th Rebecca or The Heiress
(dependent on performing rights).

Please check our website www.ebdg.co.uk for the latest news and dates of forthcoming productions.

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East Bridgford Drama Group is affiliated to
NANDA
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Drama Association

Programme designed by www.tcedesign.com

East Bridgford Drama Group
presents



A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

A comedy by
David Tristram

Edward Jones was just an ordinary man, doing ordinary things - until the day before his 40th birthday. What happened next was, quite literally, incredible. It defies belief. It defies logic. It defies the fundamental laws of science and nature...
... But it happened.

10-14th May 2016
Tuesday to Saturday 7.30pm
at East Bridgford Village Hall

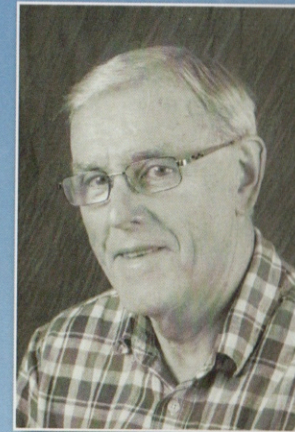
A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

A Comedy written by
DAVID TRISTRAM

The Cast in order of appearance

MALE & FEMALE NARRATORS (x 2)	David Valentine and Rowena Lucas
EDWARD	Marcus Whybrow
FARMER, FIRE CHIEF, MARTIN	Jim Costello
PARAMEDICS	Naomi Cope + Lauren Preece
MARY (EDWARD'S WIFE)	Naomi Cope
DR. ROGERS	Jean Starbuck
DOCTOR	Susie Rashid
DR ROGERS' RECEPTIONIST	India Daly
DR. NUGENT	Len Jackson
NURSE	Lauren Preece
SARAH	Karen Peckover
NEWSREADERS	Naomi Cope + India Daly
REPORTER	Lauren Preece
DC JARVIS	Naomi Cope
DCI THOMPSON	David Valentine

Directed and designed
by Jon Shepherd.



Dr Nugent
Len Jackson

I have been involved with amateur theatre for over 30 years and have appeared in and directed countless plays. I started acting in school with the usual Panto and nativity productions. My first and only Shakespeare play was **Macbeth** back in the early 90s in Wiltshire. It was also there that I started to direct, first pantomimes and then plays. I first appeared at East Bridgford in 1995 in John Godper's play **Salt of the Earth** and since then I have been a regular performer in both comedy and Drama. My most recent roles included Nog in our Pantomime **Humpty Dumpty** last year and, just prior to that, Henry in our October two-hander **The Secret Lives of Henry and Alice**.

If I were pressed to pick my favourite roles they would have to be, in no particular order, Henry in **Henry and Alice**; Eric in **The Opposite Sex**; Barry in **A Fistful of Mondays** and Aylott in a **Month of Sundays**, all with East Bridgford.

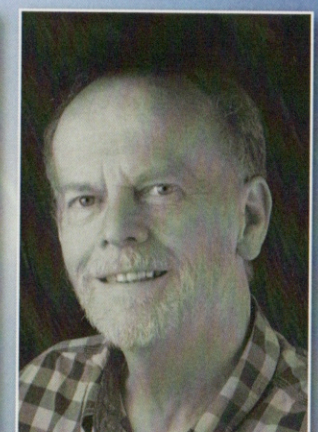
The play I most enjoyed directing was a fairly recent one called **It's Never Too Late** by Ron Aldridge. I was lucky enough to have a wonderful cast and crew and the collective performances were simply outstanding, as evidenced by the sell-out audiences!

I have been with EBDG for well over twenty years and was honoured to be its Chairman for ten of those years. I have been trusted with some wonderful parts and am fortunate to have found this amazing group.



Sarah
Karen Peckover

I joined EBDG in 2011 and have performed in 6 productions and both pantomimes. To date, my favourite role was Miriam in **Snake in the Grass**. While I enjoy directing yearly productions at St. Peter's Academy I prefer to tread the boards. My first experience on stage was as a 5 year old tap dancing a duet to **Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me A Bow Wow**. My first acting role was **The Pied Piper** when I was 8. Other acting experiences include: performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival when I portrayed **Lady Macbeth**, with a broad Brummie accent and performing with **The Nelson Players** in Kimberley for 9 years in various panto roles. During a break from teaching I ran my own drama Academy, for 4 to 18 year olds for 5 years. On my return I got involved with the **Stand up for Shakespeare** 3 year project which involved me working with the RSC and so began my continuing enthusiasm to teach Shakespeare to young children. So far I've directed **Midsummer Nights Dream, The Tempest** and **The Merchant of Venice** and a Shakespeare Musical to children as young as 7. I'm presently: directing **King Lear** to Year 4 children to perform later this month; planning to start rehearsals for a Greek comedy and tragedy to be performed in the open air with my current Year 3/4 class and I've just finished writing and adapting a play for our end of year performance, in July.



Director
Jon Shepherd

This is my first foray into directing. It has been quite a challenge, though not from working with the actors. I have a very talented group to work with, so in that respect they have made my life much easier.

This has been a relatively complex play with many scenes. Originally it was done with just 3 actors! With this production I had a few new actors wanting a part, so the cast has grown somewhat to 11.

I have had a lifelong fascination with live theatre and performing arts, though I have never been interested in being on stage. Preferring behind the scenes technical, set design and props.

Since joining the group in 2011 I have done Sound and Light for **Third Week in August**.

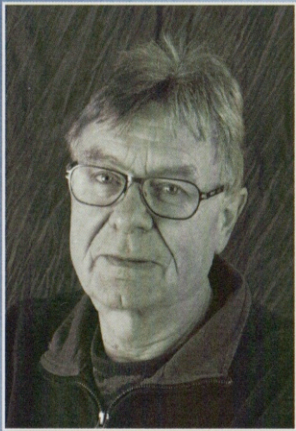
Sound and Set design for:
Shop at Sly Corner, All Washed up, Sitting Pretty, Snake in the Grass, Volunteers, Humpty Dumpty

Sound for: **Green Forms, We Don't Want to Lose You, When We Are Married, Duets, It's Never Too Late, The Secret Lives of Henry and Alice, Old Actors Never Die.**

Designing the posters, programmes banners and props where required. I have only been in East Bridgford 5 years... it mounts up!

Other interests: Playing music, art, photography, theatre, travel and working on the allotment!

Cast by order of appearance



Narrator
David Valentine

I have been treading the boards one way or another for over 60 years now, having appeared in some sketches at the age of four which my parents wrote and performed. As a teenager my acting career peaked when I was a dancing girl in my Dad's version of **Aladdin**, and since then I have appeared in musical productions with the Leicester Amateur Operatic society - **Song of Norway**, **Carousel**, **Oklahoma** and **The King and I** plus starring in several school productions including **Dracula Spectacula** and **Oliver**.

Here at East Bridgford I was Reg in the **Norman Conquests**, and I have also appeared in **Shop at Sly corner**, **The Green Room** and **It's Never Too Late** (as a toy boy!); but most recently I had a small part in **Old Actors Never Die** when I appeared in Red Underpants as a superhero!

I actually enjoy Directing, having directed for example **Gaslight**, **A Month of Sundays** (where everyone had to learn how to line dance!), and my favourite Alan Ayckbourne's **Snake in the Grass**. I also wrote and directed **All Washed Up!** which had its world premiere here at East Bridgford, plus 2 pantomimes **Babes in the Wood** and **Humpty Dumpty** which we performed in conjunction with St. Peter's Academy.

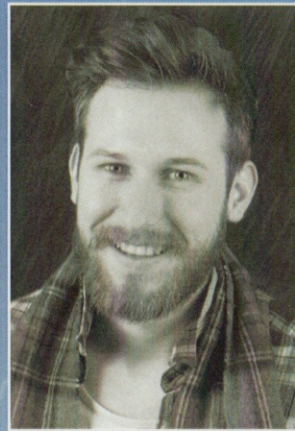


Narrator
Rowena Lucas

My first foray onto the stage in 1985 was as 'Ida' the Cockney maid in **See How They Run** by Philip King. This was with the Dodleston Players just outside Chester - a very similar group to ours. In the 6 years I spent with them we did many comedies, pantomimes and a few serious plays. In pantomime I played Prince Charming, Aladdin and the head girl of a school, among other roles. In plays I played one of the sisters in **A Tomb With a View** by Norman Robbins, and in another play - of which I can't remember the name - I played a mysterious '1920's flapper girl' who could only be seen by the master of the house - I was a figment of his imagination! Such fun!

Recently, with East Bridgford Drama Group I have been a presumptuous charity shop customer in **Volunteers** by Hilary Mackelden and a Yorkshire charlady in **When We Were Married** by J.B. Priestley. I also thoroughly enjoy providing support to the group with roles such as props, stage manager and prompting. I love the whole process.

My hobbies are reading, computers and technology, horse riding, Scottish country dancing, travel and gardening - among others! There's never enough time in the day!



Edward
Marcus Whybrow

"Look at my face... my beautiful, smiling face. Go on, feel free... drink it in"

An excerpt, there, from my personal diary and a good prep for tonight's show as it's exactly the emotion Edward has forgotten. Playing him has been a welcome challenge as he experiences a crazy carousel of emotions.

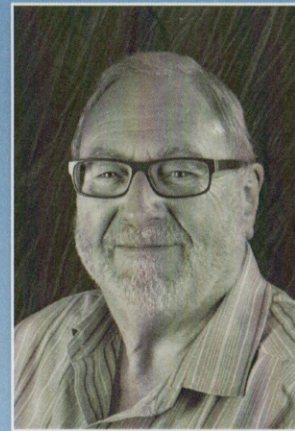
I've not been acting for long, although I've been hard at it. You may have seen me recently in Burton Joyce's **Ladies Down Under** as Danny, or in Lowdham Panto's **Cinderella** as Prince Charming. I've also snagged a part in **Brassed Off** coming to the Nottingham Arts Theatre in July 2016.

My favourite experience would have to be playing a masked extra in Theatre Royal's Hood: The Legend Continues. Still got the mask!

Other interests: I like language, I'm a musician and I play with local band **Loose Chippings**. My day job is kind of like LEGO for adults: I build parts of the internet out of software (the fun bits obviously.)

Missing my face already? Visit my website: <http://marcus.actor>

New to East Bridgford
Village Hall



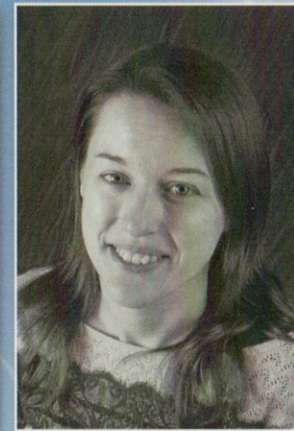
Farmer, Fire Chief, Martin
Jim Costello

I have only been in three previous productions with East Bridgford Drama Group so far. A provincial newspaper reporter in **When We Are Married**; the town crier, villager and masked ball guest in the **Humpty Dumpty** pantomime;

A non speaking part as a menacing Russian Mafia heavy. This will be my fourth stage appearance with this group. Before East Bridgford I have not done any acting since I was at school, when I played the part of a crusty old uncle in **The Crimson Coconut**.

Apart from this limited acting experience I am a published author with one novel to my name, and a sequel in progress.

Other interests: include charity fund raising, photography, tropical fish keeping, a house rabbit called Toffee, and I have just taken up Green Bowling.



Paramedic, Mary, Newsreader, DC Jarvis
Naomi Cope

Since joining the group in 2011, I have played a variety of roles from a 12 year-old 'Babe' in **Babes in the Wood** (the audience had to suspend their imagination on that one!) to a Russian Gangster in **Old Actors Never Die**.

Third Week in August was the first as Sue, then Zelda in **Sitting Pretty**, Poppy in **All Washed Up** and chorus in **Humpty Dumpty**.

My favourite role has undoubtedly been the loveable, if slightly dim, maid 'Ruby' in **When We Are Married**.

Other interests: When I'm not involved in a production I love spending my time baking, watching films and going to Zumba with friends!



Paramedic, Nurse, Reporter
Lauren Preece

I have only recently joined East Bridgford Drama Group, and my first role was Princess Soufflé in **Humpty Dumpty**. This was a very enjoyable role but it did challenge my singing voice! In my first ever play however, I played the Little Match Girl in **The Little Match Girl** by Charles Dickens.

I take GCSE drama in school where we work on directing our own plays as well as scripted work. Outside of school, I go to 'Circle Up', a youth drama group. We work on building skills here and experimenting with different techniques in our short compositions. At the end of every year we also make a short film, in which we help come up with and test out ideas.

My other main hobby is music. I am in a folk band with my flute, where we play at festivals and ceilidhs. I am also working on my Grade 4 in piano and I am starting to teach myself tenor saxophone.

New to East Bridgford
Village Hall

Cast by order of appearance



Dr Rogers
Jean Starbuck

I joined EBDG in 1982 since when I have acted in over 60 plays, directing several, stage managing and prompting a myriad more.

The first play I acted in was **The Unexpected Guest** by Agatha Christie playing a 75 year old woman complete with grey wig and stick. 14 years later at the age of 48 I played Gwendolene Fairfax in the **Importance of Being Earnest** who was supposed to be 19! Everything in between. I have been 'married' to several men some multiple times.

Variety is the spice of life. Obviously I've really enjoyed my time here.

Other hobbies include 1 husband. 1 son and a new American daughter-in-law. 2 dogs and three-quarters of an acre of garden which is open to the public here and there.



Doctor
Susie Rashid

Bolt from the blue will be my first purely acting role. When I was 16 I joined St Giles Church Fellowship in West Bridgford and was in the chorus of their pantomimes for the next six years.

The following year I was the principal girl "Princess Layla" in their production of **Sinbad**. I have also been in several **Guide and Scout Gang Shows** at The Theatre Royal in Nottingham.

I lived in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates for ten years, where I joined the Choral Group. I took part in many **Gilbert and Sullivan** productions. This theme continued when I returned to this country and I joined **Savoyards**, a newly formed Gilbert and Sullivan group in Radcliffe on Trent.

Since then I have rather returned to my roots and been in two pantomimes with East Bridgford Drama Group. Now to try my hand at acting!

New to East Bridgford
Village Hall



**Receptionist
Newsreader**
India Daly

My first acting role was as Humpty Dumpty in East Bridgford Drama group recent pantomime **Humpty Dumpty**. Although this was my first production I have been doing drama at **Circle Up** for the last 7 years. I am planning to take drama when I start my GCSE's in September.

I sang the song **'Bigger isn't Better'** as a solo in the recent pantomime and despite being very nervous when I started rehearsing I pulled it off and it made me realise I wanted to improve my voice. I have therefore recently started singing lessons at my school Kesteven and Grantham Girls Grammar School.

I also do dance and I am busy rehearsing for a show which is just 2 weeks after this play. I dance with the **Clare Calder School of Dance** and do modern and ballet.

Although I'm very busy with my drama, dancing, singing and school work, my first love is for my horse Flash. I spend a lot of time riding her at Pony Club events and competitions. I especially love competing in hunter trials and I have recently been lucky enough to win 2 events and qualify for the national championships being held in October.

New to East Bridgford
Village Hall

David Tristram

born 1957, is an English comic playwright. He has published 23 plays which take a farcical view of sex, alcohol, drugs, crime and theatre itself. Tristram claims he writes only comedy because he can't take himself too seriously.

Director's Notes

The play starts quite literally with a bang as Edward working up a pylon is suddenly hit by a "bolt from the blue" in an otherwise clear blue sky.

Edward is lucky to be alive and finds himself in a hospital bed. The first thing Edward sees when he regains consciousness is a ham sandwich, and approximately 30 inches behind it, his wife Mary.

The rest of the play takes place in multiple locations: A farmer's field, a doctor's surgery, Dr. Rogers' home, Dr. Nugent's office, Edward's home, a park, a car and an NBC news desk... not to mention up a pylon!

So you see, we will take you through various locations, our acting skills will take you so far, your imagination will hopefully fill in the missing details.

Sit back and join Edward on the most incredible journey of his life... or is it? Only you can decide what really happened when the lights fade for the final time.

Toasted sandwich anyone?

Jon Shepherd

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Pat Pickworth
Set Build	David Valentine/Geoff Soar
Stage Manager	Ruth Casterton
Asst. Stage Manager	Yvonne Haynes
Lighting	Julz Dawson
Sound Design	Jon Shepherd
Sound Operators	Duncan Garment/Steve Baker
Costumes	Denise Bostock
Properties	Jackie Valentine
Prop Construction	Paul Capper/Jon Shepherd
Printing	Jeff Casterton
Front of House Manager	Pam Dawson
Refreshments	Janet Baker/Michael Clarke
Ticket Sales	Jennie Henley
Cast Photography/Poster and Programme Design	Jon Shepherd
Other Photography	Moritz Dawkins
Prompts	David Valentine/Rowena Lucas

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