

Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release 14th February 2022

CHESIL THEATRE AUDITIONS FOR TENSE VICTORIAN DRAMA

Chesil Theatre’s May production will be *Ladies in Retirement* by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham. Open auditions will be held on Sunday 27th and Monday 28th February 2022 with an informal reading on Friday 25th February, all at 7.45pm..

This is a period piece, set in 1885 and based on a true event. In a remote farmhouse close to the marshy, fog-bound Thames estuary, live Leonora Fiske, a successful former chorus girl now of independent means and her companion Ellen Creed, from a genteel background but fallen on hard times. Ellen is responsible for protecting her two vulnerable and child-like sisters who have a simple understanding of the world. Leonora agrees to their spending a holiday at her home but things soon go downhill under the pressure of their visit. Added to this, a ne’er-do-well relative turns up out of the blue determined to benefit from Ellen’s benefactor. The situation becomes strained, calling for decisive and dangerous solutions. *Ladies in Retirement* is an excellent example of its genre.

Malcolm Brown, Director of *Ladies in Retirement* says:

“This play benefits from an intriguing plot and well-defined characters. There are challenging parts for six women with playing ages between 20 and 60 with one male role as the crafty, persuasive young nephew. The tension builds throughout the action to a startling conclusion.”

Newcomers are welcome at the reading and auditions. Full details are available on [www.chesiltheatre.org.uk](http://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk). Chesil Theatre is situated in the centre of the City in Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU.

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Editor’s Notes

The attached image is provided repro-free for editorial use.

About Chesil Theatre

Chesil Theatre (Winchester Dramatic Society) is based in the heart of Winchester, presenting six main productions a year, ranging from comedy to classics. Chesil Theatre also encourages new writing through their biennial festival *TakeTen*, runs drama workshops and readings, plus two lively youth theatre groups as well as offering stagecraft and technical training. The Company has been performing for over 150 years.

Since 1966 Chesil Theatre has been the Society’s permanent home - a former 12th century church in Chesil Street, Winchester. This medieval building provides an intimate 75-seat studio-style theatre and versatile performance space.