

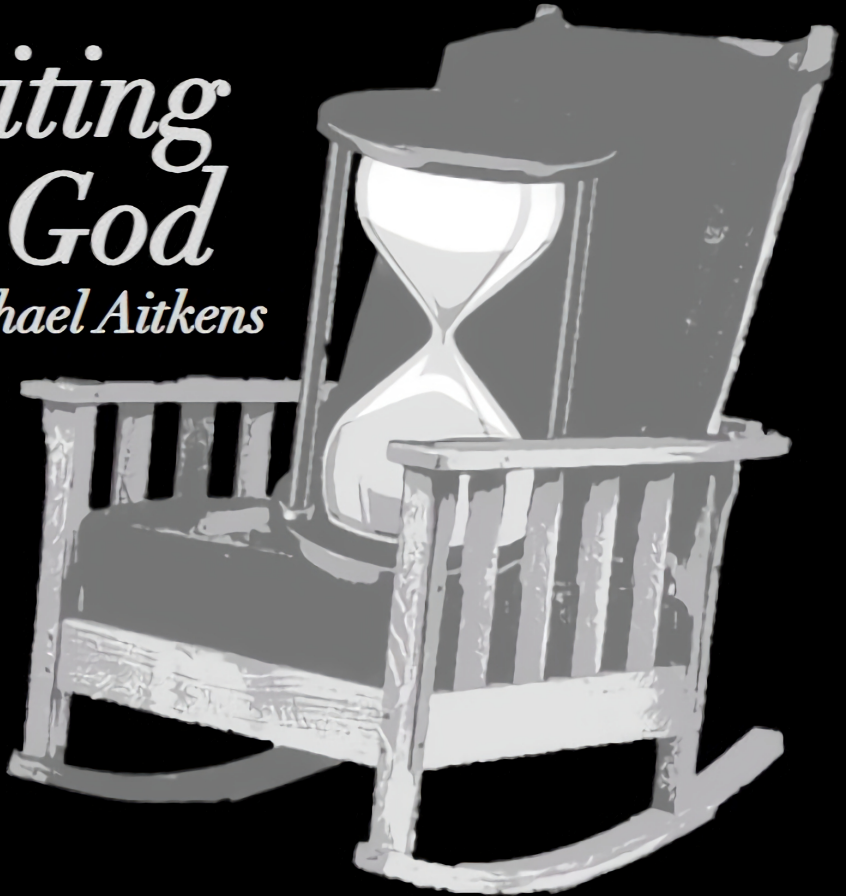
This Amateur production of *Waiting for God* is presented by arrangement with Concorde Theatricals Ltd, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

www.concordetheatricals.co.uk



Presents

*Waiting
for God*
by Michael Aitkens



Wed 15th - Sat 18th November 2023
At The Barn Theatre, Little Easton Manor

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

PROGRAMME

Our Cast

Diana Trent	Judy Curry
Tom Ballard	Peter Simmons
Harvey Baines	Adam Thompson
Jane Edwards	Cheryl Ferris
Sarah Chase / Doctor	Jane Presland
Geoffrey Ballard / Dr Gyno	Liam Sheils
Dr Jenny Henry / Denise Sparrow / Milly	Gillian Williamson
Undertaker	Steve Patient
Basil	John Jones
Maid	Marcia Baldry-Bryan

Our Crew

Director	David Bone
Technical Director	Will Jamieson
Stage Manager	John Jones
Properties Manager	Maureen (Mo) Jones
Lighting/Sound Designer	Jay Williams
Set Design / Construction	Richard Pickford
Backstage Crew:	Steve Patient Marcia Baldry-Bryan Madeline Harmer
Front of House Team	Lynda Shelverton Edward Gildea Adrian Hoodless Clive Weatherly
With Thanks to	Lynda Shelverton

With special thanks for the assistance and understanding of Andy, Mel and all the staff at Little Easton Manor, without whom the Greville Theatre Company would not be able to continue keeping drama alive at this wonderful historic theatre.

Directors Notes:

This is my second foray into directing, my first being *Dinner* in this very theatre 2 years ago. This was a very different challenge!

Waiting for God ran on TV from 1990 to 1994 and starred Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden as Diana and Tom. I was a fan - I loved the anarchic, dark but side-splitting humour of the show. So when I heard that Michael Aitkins had written an updated stage version in 2017, and then read it, I knew I had to bring it to our lovely audience at the Barn.

There have been a few stage adaptations of well known TV sitcoms written in recent years: 'Allo 'Allo, *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Dad's Army* come to mind. With those shows, the task can only be try to make the on-stage characters as close as possible to the TV originals; there is only one Captain Mainwaring, after all, and he can only be played one way - the audience would expect nothing less!

Waiting for God allows a little more artistic licence and, presented with an obscenely talented cast, I made the decision very early on to direct this with a very light touch, allowing all our actors to lay down their own interpretations of the characters. Some of our actors had never seen the TV show when they were cast, and still haven't! (Can you work out which ones?).

During rehearsals I have, just occasionally, 'nudged' a character a little closer to the original. The TV characters were played the way they were for good comedic reasons, after all. But largely the actors have skillfully made these characters their own.

Technically, this was also a very challenging show: Lots of scene changes on our small stage at the Barn, many accompanied by some very quick costume changes, together with many sound and lighting challenges too. Our cast, technical and backstage teams have worked tirelessly to bring this riotously funny comedy to the Barn stage, and we all so hope you like the result!

David

David Bone - Director



Mel and Andy welcome you to the Barns and Gardens of Little Easton Manor, which offers a stunning setting to host your special occasion.

The Barn Theatre

The Barn Theatre is one of the oldest and finest tithe barns in the country. It offers an intimate venue and perfect setting for a magical event, and is licensed for civil ceremonies for up to 140 guests.

The Rafters Barn and Tea Room

The Rafters Barn and Tea Room, which adjoins the Barn Theatre, is also licensed for civil ceremonies for up to 70 guests, and can be used in conjunction with The Barn Theatre or stand-alone.

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The Greville (as it is fondly known) was originally established in 1959 by a group of teachers from the Helena Romanes School in Great Dunmow, Greville being the family name of the Earls of Warwick. We have performed over 100 productions in our 63-year history, most of them at The Barn, which became our home in 1970.

We are always looking to welcome new participants who share our passion for local theatre. So if you are interested in being part of the action, whether performing, directing, designing/building sets, lighting/sound control, stage managing, etc. or just happy to wield a hammer or make the tea; in fact anyone who feels that they would like to be involved in some way, please contact us!

communications@greville.org.uk

www.greville.org.uk

Or find us on Facebook!