

The Play That Goes Wrong by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields

CHRIS, the director of a small amateur dramatic society, is welcoming the audience before the first performance of his latest production.

CHRIS:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Cornley Polytechnic Society's spring production of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. I would like to personally welcome you to what will be my directorial debut, and my first production as head of the drama society.

We are particularly excited to present this play because, for the first time in the society's history, we have managed to find a play that fits the company's numbers perfectly. If we're honest, a lack of numbers has hampered past productions, such as last year's Chekov play 'Two Sisters'. Or last Christmas's *The Lion and the Wardrobe*, and of course our summer musical, *Cat*.

This will be the first time the society has been able to stage a play of this scale and we are thrilled. It's no secret we usually have to contend with a small budget, as we had to in last year's presentation of Roald Dahl's classic, *James and the Peach*. Of course, during the run of that particular show the peach went off, and we were forced to present a hastily devised alternative entitled *James! Where's your Peach?*

Finally we've managed to stage a play as it should be, and cast it exceptionally well. I'm sure no one will forget the problems we've faced with casting before, such as 2010's Christmas presentation of '*Snow White and the Tall, Broad Gentlemen*', or indeed our previous year's pantomime, another Disney classic, '*Ugly....and the Beast*'.

But now, on with the main event, which I am confident will be our best show yet! So without any further ado, please put your hands together for Susie H.K. Brideswell's thrilling whodunit - *The Murder at Haversham Manor*.