



# Irving Stage Company Newsletter

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On 11th August ,1828, William Corder was hanged outside Bury Gaol for the murder of Maria Marten before a crowd of thousands and so entered the folk-law of Bury St. Edmunds.

It was a case that captured public imagination. Not a room could be found in any Bury lodging house the night before his execution, thousands filed past his body on show in Shire Hall and the hanging rope was sold off at a guinea an inch. Early versions of The Red Barn Murder were reportedly performed even before Corder’s execution , prompting concerns over a fair trial.

It would be nice to think that one of these performances took place in the Theatre Royal, though no such record has, as yet, come to light.

Maria Marten will be performed in 19<sup>th</sup> century Barnstorming style. The members of the troupe will be using only the props, costumes and scenery they could load on their cart travelling from venue to venue.

In true 19<sup>th</sup> century style you are invited to join in the performance - boo the villain, show your concern for the heroine and her family and rejoice when Justice prevails. The audience is as important as the actors for this play to come to life. Have fun !

*Dennis O’Leary - Director*

Mr. Nigel Turner (Manager) will play the part of Mr. Marten, Maria’s lamenting father

Mr. Christopher Starkey	William Corder, the dastardly villain
Madame Deborah Croll	Maria Marten, our innocent heroine
Mrs. Dorothy Purnell	Mrs. Marten, Maria’s grieving mother
Mr. Andrew Deane	Tim Bobbin, the village idiot
Miss Christian Jenner	Anne Martin, Maria’s sister
Mrs. Carol Tricker	Meg Bobbin, Tim’s sister
Mrs. Jacqueline Deane	Nell Hatfield, the cunning gypsy
Mr. Benjamin Musgrove.	Johnny Badger, in love with Maria
Mr. Richard Hamshere	Pharos Lee, our gallant Bow Street Runner
Mrs. Janice Brown	Petra Andrews, a gypsy
Mrs. Joyce Coleman	Carmen Andrews, a gypsy
Mrs. Janet Cruickshank	Rosa Andrews, a gypsy
Miss Charlotte Jones	Alice Rumble, Corder’s pretty London Maid
Miss Sophia Davis	A villager
Miss Charlotte Palmer	A villager

**Maria Marten is on next week from Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th October.**

**Please support the company by booking tickets to see the production.**

**You can book your tickets either online, on the Box Office telephone number (01284) 769505, or on the door.**

**Saturday 12th December** sees the evening of our **Christmas Celebration.**

More details of the evening will be appearing in your next newsletter.

Keep the date in your diaries. Tickets will be on sale shortly.