

# THE WHIPS

PRESENT



## WAIT UNTIL DARK

by

FREDERICK KNOTT

Directed by  
Stephen Turner

OCTOBER 28th-31st  
8-15pm

1987

## October 1987

**THE STORY:** A sinister con man, Roat, and two ex-convicts, Mike and Carlino, are about to meet their match. They have traced the location of a mysterious doll, which they are much interested in, to the Greenwich Village apartment of Sam Hendrix and his blind wife, Susy. Sam had apparently been persuaded by a strange woman to transport the doll across the Canadian border, not knowing that sewn inside were several grams of heroin. When the woman is murdered the situation becomes more urgent. The con man and his ex-convicts, through a cleverly constructed deception, convince Susy that the police have implicated Sam in the woman's murder, and the doll, which she believes is the key to his innocence, is evidence. She refuses to reveal its location, and with the help of a young neighbor, figures out she is the victim of a bizarre charade. But when Roat kills his associates, a deadly game of cat and mouse ensues between the two. Susy knows the only way to play fair is by her rules, so when darkness falls she turns off all the lights leaving both of them to maneuver in the dark until the game ends.

### Cast, in order of appearance:

MIKE	Niall Toole
CROKER	Graham Ross-Cornes
ROAT	Richard Johnson
SUSY HENDERSON	Hilary Turner
SAM HENDERSON	Tony Thompson
GLORIA	Rachel Miller
POLICEMAN	James Bazlinton
POLICEWOMAN	Jill Davis

### Synopsis of scenes:

The action of the play takes place in a basement flat in Notting Hill Gate.

#### ACT I

Scene 1. A Friday evening in September  
Scene 2. Saturday afternoon

#### ACT II

Scene 1. Twenty minutes later  
Scene 2. About an hour later

#### ACT III

Scene 1. Immediately following  
Scene 2. A few minutes later  
Scene 3. A minute later

Time: The present.

There will be a short interval after Act I, and a 20 minute interval after Act II, during which refreshments will be served.

Please do not smoke in the auditorium.

### Backstage:

Stage Manager	Fran King
ASM	Julia Walster
Director's assistant	Jill Davis
Setting	Nigel Nightingale
Lighting	Charles Hope
Sound	Carol Mills
Special Properties	Tim Ely
Wardrobe	Jackie Walster
Propert	Jeanne Nightingale
Front of House	Jill Early
Poster Design	Sue Floyd
Advance Box Office	Jenny Wardle
Box Office	by courtesy of Wills & Saerton, FSVA, Station Parade, East Horsley

THE WHIPS would like to thank Valerie and Tony Thompson for use of the Barn at Britain's Fare as a base for rehearsals.

### Director's Note

"Wait Until Dark" was written by Frederick Knott, the author of the well-known thriller "Dial M for Murder". This early masterpiece established Knott's position in the theatre of crime, and was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock, with Grace Kelly and Ray Milland in the leading roles. "Wait Until Dark", in the opinion of many an even better example of the genre, was first produced at the Strand Theatre, London, in 1955. Honor Blackman created the part of the blind heroine, Susy Henderson, and Peter Sallis played opposite her as the arch-villain Roat. "Wait Until Dark" was also filmed in Hollywood, and on this occasion was a vehicle for the 1980s Filaster, Audrey Hepburn.