

A close-up photograph of a silver key being inserted into a brass lock. The key is on the left, and the lock is on the right. The scene is dramatically lit from the right, creating a strong orange and red glow that highlights the textures of the metal and the opening of the lock. The background is dark and out of focus.

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LIMITED

# Proof

By David Auburn

Directed by Eirin Compton

Sun 14 Jun – Sat 20 Jun 2015

£1.50



Hampton Hill Playhouse

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An induction loop system is installed in the Main Auditorium to assist those who use hearing aids with the relevant setting.

Wheelchair positions are available in both Stalls and the Balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the Playhouse, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.



## Director's Notes

My first encounter with *Proof* was back in my university days at LIPA where I was ASM for a student production, and the play has never left me. Young and impressionable as I was, I found it contained a fair bit of advice to help me on my way in life. I always ask myself “Am I crazy?” on a regular basis. Stepping up from ASM to director of *Proof* has not been without its challenges, but I have been very lucky on both cast and crew front and I have enjoyed watching the changes as we have gone from words on a page to a living piece. I never saw myself as an authoritarian director and I am glad my feeling on that was correct. The talent and experience of my cast and crew meant that there have been many ideas, discussions and theories tested out in rehearsals and I do not regret having no blinkers and working alongside and not with such a brilliant bunch of people.



## About the Author

David Auburn was born in Chicago, and raised in both Ohio and Arkansas. His father was the Dean of the College of Art and Sciences at University of Arkansas, his mother was the assistant deputy director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services for the Arkansas Department of Human Services. After high school he moved back to Chicago where he attended the University of Chicago and studied English Literature. After College he was a writing fellow for Steven Spielberg's Amblin Productions. Auburn went on to Julliard School for writing and began perfecting his skills. He has received the Guggenheim Foundation Grant, the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, and Joseph Kesselring Prize for Drama. In 2001 he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Proof*. Auburn's other works include *Skyscraper* performed at the Greenwich house; *Fifth Planet*, by New York Stage and Film; *Miss You*, HBO County Arts Festival; and *The Next Life*, Julliard School. His work has been published in Harper's Magazine and New England Review.

## About the Show

*Proof* opened off Broadway in 2000 before it moved to the Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway where it had a run of 917 performances. The original cast featured Mary Louise Parker and Ben Shenkman. Later in its run the cast included Anne Heche, Neil Patrick Harris and Jennifer Jason Leigh. The Broadway production won a Tony Award for Best Play and David Auburn's script won the Pulitzer Prize. *Proof* has been performed all over the world in over 30 languages. In 2005 Miramax released the movie version of the script starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins and Jake Gyllenhaal.

## What is a Proof?

The goal of mathematics is to better understand the rules and systems of numbers, geometry and algebra and develop new ways to look at these rules and systems. As mathematicians study rules they come up with conjectures which are ideas that are believed in mathematics to be true but have not been proven. One example of this is the Riemann Hypothesis. "The Riemann hypothesis asserts that all interesting solutions of the equation  $\zeta(s) = 0$  lie on a certain vertical straight line" (Clay Mathematics Institute). A Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis would radically affect the maths world because it would prove the above statement is true not just a conjecture. Although the script never specifies what proof Catherine solves it is suspected it may be Riemann's Hypothesis.

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## The Bar is open after the show

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



Please  
Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones

## Please don't spoil the performance

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance.

Thank you.

# In Rehearsals



## Cast & Crew

Catherine	Raagni Sharma
Robert	Roger Smith
Hal	Steve Shepherdson
Claire	Kelly Wood

Director	Eirin Compton
Assistant Director	Jojo Leppink
Stage Manager	Kathryn Smith
Sound	John Pyle
Lighting	Malcolm Maclenan
Lighting Assistant	Meg Hird
Wardrobe	Margaret Williams
Set Design	Trine Taraldsvik

## Special Thanks

For fear of this being just a list of names I could give each a codename and the challenge would be to work out who they were, but the standard is always the best. First of all TTC for letting me take on *Proof*, Jojo for being my minion, Roger for being the rock and Raagni for moulding to the changes. Kelly for her hunting and snaring skills and Steve for showing us how robots work. Bill for letting me have a go at this and Idun, for being the most special of all Deedlebugs.



# Setting

The back porch of a house in Chicago

## Act 1

### **Scene 1**

Back porch, night time

### **Scene 2**

The next day

### **Scene 3**

Evening, that day

### **Scene 4**

The next morning

*Interval of 20 minutes*

## Act 2

### **Scene 1**

Four years previous to the events in Act 1

### **Scene 2**

Morning, an instant after end of Act 1

### **Scene 3**

The next day

### **Scene 4**

Winter, 3 and a half years earlier

### **Scene 5**

The present, a week after events in Scene 3

# Notable Mathematicians



John Nash (1928-2015)

John Forbes Nash, Jr. was an American mathematician and Nobel Laureate in Economics with fundamental contributions in game theory, differential geometry, and partial differential equations. Nash's work has provided insight into the factors that govern chance and decision making inside complex systems in daily life. The 2001 film 'A Beautiful Mind' is based upon his life.



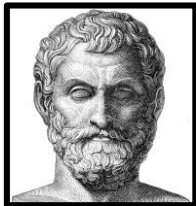
Sophie Germain (1776-1831)

Marie-Sophie Germain was a French mathematician, physicist and philosopher. Self-taught from books at home, she corresponded with other famous mathematicians in the guise of a male pseudonym. She won the grand prize from the Paris Academy of Sciences for her essay on elasticity theory. Sophie Germain is known for her work on Fermat's last theorem and Germain primes.



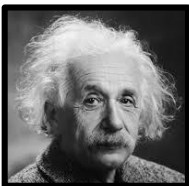
Carl Freidrich Gauss (1777-1855)

Johann Carl Freidrich Gauss was a German mathematician who contributed significantly to many fields, including number theory, algebra, statistics, analysis, differential geometry, geodesy, geophysics, mechanics, electrostatics, astronomy, matrix theory and optics. Sometimes referred to as the 'Prince of Mathematics' and is ranked as one of history's most influential mathematicians.



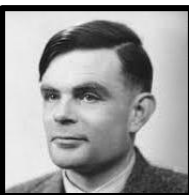
Thales (c624-547/546bc)

Thales used principles of mathematics, specifically geometry, to solve everyday problems. He is considered as the 'first true mathematician'. Thales used geometry to calculate the heights of pyramids and the distance of ships from the shore. He is credited with the first use of deductive reasoning applied to geometry, by deriving four corollaries to Thales' Theorem.



Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Albert Einstein was a Nobel Prize-winning German-born theoretical physicist. Einstein's work is also known for its influence on the philosophy of science. He developed the general theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics. Einstein is best known in popular culture for his mass-energy equivalence formula  $E = mc^2$



Alan Turing (1912-1954)

Turing's fame as a mathematician can be attributed to his formulating of algorithms and computations for a computer, the Turing Machine. His mathematical background helped device techniques in code breaking, specifically in World War 2.



# Proof in Action



# Cast Biographies



## Raagni Sharma

Raagni is a member of The Mountview Young Company. In the past she has performed with The National Youth Theatre and The Hammersmith Lyric Young Company. Her last role was Mrs De Winter in *Rebecca* at the Pump House Theatre, Watford. Since then she has graduated with a biology degree from the University of Bristol. This is Raagni's first time performing with TTC and she's excited to be part of *Proof*.



## Roger Smith

Roger joined TTC in 1972 and first appeared as Duncan in the "Scottish Play". He directed a studio production *Escorial* in 1975 and his first major production, *Habeus Corpus* in 1977. Subsequent directorial highlights have included *Alphabetical Order* and *Darkness at Noon* (both Swan Award winners) and TTC's final productions at both Hampton Court (*Dead of Night*) and at Vera Fletcher Hall (*They Came to a City*). TTC acting credits include, Edmund in *The Exorcism*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Gerado in *Death and The Maiden*, Badger in *Wind in the Willows*, Geoffrey in *Absurd Person Singular*, Lord Augustus in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Talbot in *Mary Stewart*, and most recently as Professor Linden in *The Linden Tree*.



## Steve Shepherdson

Steve's main bread and butter is in creative writing. However, having done a few short courses in acting with City Academy and the Hampstead Academy of Acting and Drama, the performing bug caught and he decided to try and audition for TTC. His first role was as Billy in the critically acclaimed *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*. This was shortly followed by *Equus* which was a wonderful experience and incredibly well received. *Proof*, Steve's third production, and first in the Coward Room, has been a challenge being that he joined the show with only four weeks to opening. The cast and crew have been terrific, however, and he feels very lucky indeed to be part of this amazing production.



## Kelly Wood

Kelly is a regular actor and director at HHP, having acted in *The Snow Queen* and *Dinner* with TTC and directing *Follow Me* with OHADS, as well as a number of professional credits across TV, film and theatre.

# Teddington Theatre Club Ltd

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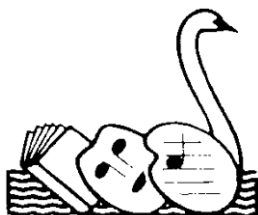
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Box Office Manager **Roberta Cole**

Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to **artsrichmond**.

This production is entered for the **artsrichmond** Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

# Coming Soon

at Hampton Hill Playhouse

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By William Shakespeare

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Sun 28 Jun 2015 – Sat 4 Jul 2015

Auditorium

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By Laura Wade

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Sat 12 Sep 2015 – Sat 19 Sep 2015

Coward Studio



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[www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk)

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Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with the Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Playhouse. To find out more please visit our website [www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk), call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you will find in the Foyer.