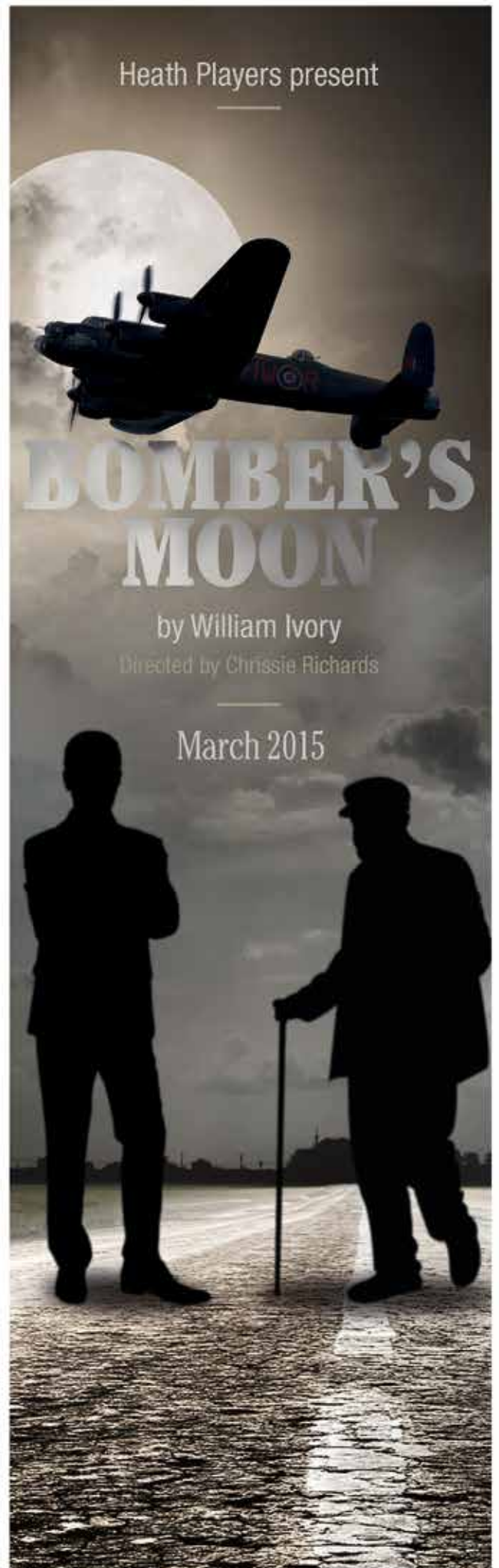




## **SUPPORT HEATH PLAYERS AT HERTFORD THEATRE WEEK!**

We will also be performing *Bomber's Moon* as part of Hertford Theatre Week – on Thursday 23rd April at Hertford Theatre. More information and details of how to book can be found at

**[hertfordtheatreweek.org.uk](http://hertfordtheatreweek.org.uk)**



# BOMBER'S MOON

## On stage

<b>Jimmy</b>	Martin Bedwell
<b>David</b>	Lee Barnes
<b>Frank</b>	Lee Barnes

## Off stage voices

<b>Skipper</b>	Steve Foster
<b>Midupper</b>	Mark Ratcliff
<b>Bomb Aimer</b>	Steve Perry
<b>Navigator</b>	Lee Barnes

## Off stage

<b>Director</b>	Chrissie Richards
<b>Stage design</b>	Chrissie Richards, Spencer Richards
<b>Lights</b>	Mark Ratcliff
<b>Sound</b>	Spencer Richards
<b>Properties</b>	Janet Ratcliff
<b>Costumes</b>	Dot Sharp
<b>Accent coach</b>	Richard Handford
<b>Choreography</b>	Sarah Perry
<b>Publicity</b>	Kirsty Page
<b>Set and crew</b>	Derek Foster, Mark Ratcliff, Steve Perry, Steve Foster, Spencer Richards and other Heath Players members
<b>Poster and programme</b>	Clive Weatherley
<b>FOH</b>	Margaret Lines and friends
<b>Box office</b>	Village Tea Rooms

The action takes place in a care home in Southwell in the East Midlands; the time is the present day. There are also flashbacks to Jimmy's wartime experience.

**There will be one interval between Acts I and II.**

## A note from the director



Lee and Martin saw this play in London and when we read it at Dot's I immediately knew that I wanted to direct it. For me it represents the best in comedic theatre: some wonderfully funny scenes followed by some moments of real pathos, something English writers do so well. This play has been a real challenge for the actors and I would like to commend them for the time and effort they've put into it: they've given up just about every spare moment in the past couple of months, and I hope you'll agree it was worth their while!

There has been a lot of work off stage as well. I decided I wanted the set to be representative of the rear-gunner position in the Lancaster, a tight confined space from which there was no escape, yet realistic. It also needs to work when we see Jimmy's flashbacks to his WWII days. The set building team have achieved this magnificently. Attention to detail and the tenacity to get everything just right shines through in the costumes and props on set – thank you Dot and Janet. A big thank-you too to everyone else who has given up their time to make this show possible. Lastly the sound and lighting needs to swiftly move you, the audience, between the present day and the past. Spencer: thank you for your work on this and for listening me drone on and on, ad infinitum, about 'how I see it and how it needs to be!' – you're a star.

*Chrissie Richards*

## Some background

One of the key events mentioned in this play is the British raid on Nuremberg on 30th/31st March 1944. This was one of the largest raids ever carried out by the RAF, with 795 aircraft taking part. The main force was so large that it emptied every British bomber base from Yorkshire to Cambridge, stretching over 70 miles end to end.

Unfortunately that evening the sky was clear with bright moonlight. The Germans also correctly guessed the raid's destination and the force came under attack as soon as it crossed the Belgian coast. Of the 795 aircraft that left England, 95 were lost with the cost of 545 lives. 160 men survived being shot down but ended up as prisoners of war. More airmen were killed in that single night than in the entire Battle of Britain. Ironically, once the force arrived at their target there was heavy cloud cover and strong winds forcing many aircraft off target. Nuremberg was left largely intact. It remains the worst ever raid in RAF history.

The bombing campaign of World War Two was catastrophic on all sides, the casualty figures speaking for themselves:

**60,595 British civilians**

**305,000 to 600,000 German civilians**

**67,078 French civilians from allied bombing**

**55,573 Commonwealth airmen lost**

**62,021 USA Army and Air Force men lost**

*Heath Players would like to dedicate this production to all of the men and women who lost their lives during WWII. We would also like to remember Peter Lines, a member of Heath Players who is very much missed by us all.*