

# Anno Domini

A new audio play by  
Alan Ayckbourn



# Alan Ayckbourn on Anno Domino

“I dug this play off the shelf and it looked recordable. It looked radio friendly. There wasn't too much visual action, there were no vicars running around with no trousers on.”

“It was a play I'd started some years back, but it kept getting gazumped by other plays.”

“The inspiration for *Anno Domino* came from the idea that all relationships ultimately, however resilient they appear to be, are built on sand! And it only takes one couple to break up abruptly, to take us all by surprise, then all of a sudden everyone is suddenly questioning their own unshakeable relationship. A so-called Domino effect, in fact.”

“I recorded on a fairly basic system, but I could multi-track which was fun and allowed all the voice overlaps. The main trouble we had was differentiating the sound of the characters. I did use pitch control a little on teenagers, but the older couple and the middle-aged people were no problem for us.”

“It was fun to do. We both enjoyed it. I hope that comes across.”

## Theatre and its Future

“I think the future of the Theatre hangs in the balance, frankly. But then in my life time it invariably has done as a new challenger emerges to threaten its existence - radio, movies, television, the internet, virtual reality etc, But in the end survive it will.”

“Theatre is one of the last places that is going to get back to something like normal. It relies precisely on gathering people in one place. That is what it is. A theatre is an intimate space.”

“Seeing new work will be very important. It is the thing that keeps theatre going. It is lifeblood.”

“Theatre has always survived - it's unique and has always managed to reinvent itself.”

“Where are we without our theatres? Our lives are greyer and our spirits poorer. May they open their doors soon and let some light back into our lives.”

*The majority of quotes are republished from various interviews with Alan Ayckbourn broadcast & published w/ c 18 May 2020 - notably Dominic Cavendish's interview for The Daily Telegraph (22 May) & Vanessa Thorpe's interview for The Observer (24 May).*

Haydonning Ltd presents

# Anno Domino

**Ben Martin.** *A former barrister*

**Ella Martin.** *His wife, a former magistrate*

**Martha Wray.** *Their daughter, a teacher*

**Craig Dean.** *Martha's partner, a mechanic*

**Cinny Greene.** *A trainee restaurant manager*

**Raz Wray.** *Martha's son from a previous marriage*

**Sam Martin.** *Ben & Ella's son, an architect*

**Amelia Wilkes-Martin (Milly).** *Sam's wife, a solicitor*

**Alan Ayckbourn**

**Heather Stoney**

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**Heather Stoney**

## **Time**

Saturday evening, some of Sunday, most of Monday

## **Place**

Ben and Ella's cottage lounge and back lawn

Craig and Martha's kitchen and backyard

A bistro - staff back door and front pavement

*Anno Domino* was first broadcast on 25 May 2020

This programme is produced by & available exclusively from Alan Ayckbourn's Official Website

[www.alanayckbourn.net](http://www.alanayckbourn.net).

Programme design by Simon Murgatroyd

**Written & Directed by Alan Ayckbourn**

**Sound Design by Alan Ayckbourn**

**Final Mix by Paul Stear**

*Anno Domino* is a Haydonning Ltd production.

With thanks to Jeannie Swales & Tony Bartholomew

Alan Ayckbourn portrait; Alan Ayckbourn & Heather Stoney portrait by Tony Bartholomew

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### **Alan Ayckbourn**

#### ***Writer, Director, Sound & Performer***

2020 marks Alan's 61st year as a playwright. He is rarely if ever tempted by television or film, which perhaps explains why he continues to be so prolific.

He has written numerous plays. These have been translated into over 35 languages, are performed throughout the world, and he and they have won countless awards. Nearly all were first staged at the Stephen Joseph Theatre and he continues to direct and premiere his new work there. He was the theatre's Artistic Director for 37 years, retiring from the post in 2009; he was honoured to be appointed the SJT's first Director Emeritus in 2018.

He has received many Honorary Doctorates including, happily, in 2018 the very first Honorary Doctorate from CU Scarborough. The University of York acquired his archive in 2011. A recipient of the Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts, he has been inducted into American Theatre's Hall of Fame and became the first British Playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Lifetime Achievement Awards. He was knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre.

### **Heather Stoney**

#### ***Performer***

An actor for 30 years, Heather first came to Scarborough in the early 60s to work at the then Library Theatre. A founder member of the theatre in the round's first permanent home, the New Victoria, Stoke-on-Trent, she continued her career appearing on television (she was a regular in the sixties police series *Softly Softly* amongst other programmes), radio with many broadcasts including a lead role in the daily serial *Waggoner's Walk*, the West End and the regions including Scarborough.

Part of the theatre in the round company when it moved to Westwood, she worked there regularly over the years. By the time the SJT opened in the former Odeon, she had retired from the acting profession having become PA to Sir Alan Ayckbourn whom she later married. By then, both firmly committed to Scarborough, they made it their permanent home.

*Portrait of Alan Ayckbourn & Heather Stoney (2020)  
by Tony Bartholomew (© Tony Bartholomew)*