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Cayman Drama Society

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WHEN A GHOST STORY DARKNESS FALLS

BY JAMES
MILTON
AND PAUL
MORRISSEY

Prospect Playhouse

SHOW TIMES 2026 DATES (Thu, Fri & Sat)

7:30 p.m. Feb 26, 27, 28
7:30 p.m. Mar 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

Doors open an hour prior to start time for all performances.

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Cayman Drama Society



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Chairman's message

Welcome to *When Darkness Falls* - a night of whispers and warnings, shadows and storms, where folklore festers and the past refuses to stay buried. This production is a masterclass in menace and mystery, brought chillingly to life by the remarkable volunteers, performers, designers, and directors who power the Cayman Drama Society. Their commitment and creativity are the beating heart of everything we do, and tonight's performance is proof that amateur theatre can be audacious, atmospheric, and unforgettable.

Cayman Drama Society exists because people step forward - onto the stage, behind the scenes, and into leadership - to tell stories that challenge, connect, and occasionally unnerve us. If this evening ignites your imagination or stirs a desire to be part of something bigger, I warmly invite you to join us at our Annual General Meeting in March 2026. It's your chance to help shape our future, support local talent, and keep theatre thriving in Cayman.

Until then, settle in... and let the darkness descend.

Mike Bishop
Chairman



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Artistic Director's message

It is a pleasure to join the Cayman Drama Society as the newly appointed Artistic Director and Head of Drama Training. I am honoured to follow the outstanding work of Kirsty Halliday (O'Sullivan) and would like to thank everyone for the incredibly warm welcome I have received.

I hope you enjoy our first production of the year as much as I have enjoyed working with this outstanding cast and crew. When Darkness Falls has been thoughtfully explored and carefully crafted, it's been fantastic to see the production take shape through such collaboration, commitment, and creativity.

I am pleased to announce that early 2026 has seen the relaunch of our training programme for children and adults. This production of When Darkness Falls provided our students with a unique opportunity to audition for the voice over roles of the Para-Psychologist and Young Boy. Sessions provided students do's and don'ts on audition technique followed with an end-to-end audition experience.

Through our training programme we will continue to collaborate closely with schools and community partners, supporting education and offering further opportunities for individuals preparing for presentations, auditions, public speaking, and corporate training.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, our ambition is to deliver a larger production programme that continues to enrich, educate, and entertain.

Haidee Elise
Artistic Director



DID YOU KNOW?

The Cayman Drama Society, through our CayStage division, offers scholarships to deserving kids who cannot afford our training classes. You can help – please take the time to make a donation, however small – just point your smartphone camera.





Directors' message

Welcome, everyone, to a night of terrifying story-telling. Acclaimed by patrons in the UK and now the USA, WHEN DARKNESS FALLS is a story within a story about stories! Confusing! We hope that we achieve our objective for the evening – to leave you terrified – and thankful that you are not part of the story. But the aim is, after all, entertainment! That is what great theatre is about. And so we also hope that you will have enjoyed the twists and turns of this presentation, and the amazing contribution by our two actors, Chris and Ben, who had many more lines to learn than usual.

It is great to welcome some new faces to our production, and to welcome back some old "young" faces too. Haidee Elise, our new Artistic Director worked with actor preparation. Jack Towson is our stage manager with Mike Harrington assisting for this complex special effects show. Mel Ebanks is back and has been helping with deigning where and when the many sound cues go so to support the drama. And Chris Mann is now part of the old GOATS, *Group Of Active Theatre Seniors*, and was behind the set décor. Other GOATS, Peter Pasold, Frank McGill and Bill Mervyn took part in construction and painting.

And thanks also go out to author Paul Morrisey who has been on board since we applied to perform WDF. We are performing Paul's 2021 version that is a little unique in its opening and closing from the general theatrical version – we thank him for allowing us to present the original work conceived by himself and James Milton.

Paul de Freitas and Erica Ebanks

Directors



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Theatre Manager's message

I write this with a sense of pride – and trepidation. This is **my final Theatre Manager's message** after 15 years on the job. I shall be 80 next year and time is long overdue for a younger generation to take the leadership reins.

At the next AGM, **Chad Powell** has agreed to step up and provide his tech know-how and management skills to operating the Prospect Playhouse. He has very wide support, including mine, and I fully expect that the AGM will confirm his appointment as the 2026/27 Theatre Manager and that he will be around in that position for many years.

And, importantly, no matter who is the Theatre Manager, the support of the old GOATS (*Group Of Active Theatre Seniors*) will be there as we enjoy theatre every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Playhouse doing what the theatre manager and the next production need done to continue the 55 year run of success for CDS.

I heard your question – can I be part of the old Goats too? Of course – all are welcome but we do have a few constraints. We tend to be retired people – male or female – who have spare time during the day. At the moment we meet most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to about 11:30 a.m. and we do stuff – whatever needs doing that we have the skills to do. When finished for the morning, we adjourn to the foyer for refreshment and a chat. Can the time change? Yes – it is up to the group – but the idea is to use daytime rather than evening because the Goats are generally retired people and daytime works for supervising external technicians, accepting deliveries and constructing or deconstructing sets.

Thanks for being a part of my theatre career for these past years. I have really appreciated all of the help – and the thanks – that I have received. Let's do the same now for Chad Powell, ably supported by his wife Cynthia...

Paul de Freitas
Theatre Manager
2011 - 2026

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NEXT?

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The Cayman Drama Society

presents

When Darkness Falls

by James Milton and Paul Morrissey

*Produced and directed for CDS by
Paul de Freitas and Erica Ebanks*

ACT 1

Story 1 – Broken promise

Story 2 – Black dog

ACT 2

Story 3 – The tunnel

Story 4 – The storm

Cast



Chris Armstrong – JOHN BLONDEL

Though Chris is not new to theater, the bulk of his performing experience has been within the realm of public speaking. Whether onstage or off, Chris loves the magical connection that occurs when the performer's energy intertwines with the audience, creating a profound sense of being present. Chris performed as *Christopher Wren* in the 2024 production of *The Mousetrap*. But this is Chris's largest acting role to date, being on stage for the entire play.



Ben Tatum – THE SPEAKER

Ben Tatum is a Caymanian Actor. He first started performing at the Prospect Playhouse when he was 17 years old, appearing in 'Grease', 'The Diary of Anne Frank', 'The Illusion', and the 'Playhouse Family Christmas' from 2018 to 2020. In 2021 he attended a four-year program at the University of Missouri, studying Theatre Performance. Since returning to Cayman, he has performed in 'The Ancestors' and the character of Baron Hardup in 'Cinderella'.

Taped Voices

Oystein Tofte – PARA-PSYCHOLOGIST

Tom Osborne – THE BOY



Crew

Stage Manager Crew	Jack Townson Mike Harrington
Characterisation Workshop	Haidee Elise
Set design	Paul de Freitas
Set Construction and Decor	Paul de Freitas, Pater Pasold Frank McGill, Bill Mervyn Chris Mann, Melanie Ebanks
Sounds Tech Design	Chad Powell Paul de Freitas, Melanie Ebanks
Lights Tech Design	Erica Ebanks Paul de Freitas

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CDS Executive

Executive Chairman	Mike Bishop
Deputy Chairman	Judith Nicholls
Theatre Manager	Paul de Freitas
Secretary	Liana Jones/Mike Bishop
Treasurer	Aidan O'Donoghue
Artistic Director	Haidee Elise

With

Alison Bishop, Erica Ebanks, Emily Harris, Caroline Neale-Allenger, Cynthia Powell, Eleanora Alis Tofte, Alena Valiaeva, Melanie Wright.

Mission Statement

To educate, enrich and entertain our Cayman community through quality theatre, lifelong education and creative opportunities for all.

The Cayman Drama Society was founded in 1970 and continues to be the leading provider of live theatrical entertainment to Grand Cayman.

SMILE.



Cayman's longest-running theatre group has been delighting audiences with tragedies and comedies alike since its first curtain up.

The group's four decades of staying power is a reflection of memorable performances and stellar dedication.

Dart is both a fan and proud supporter.

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