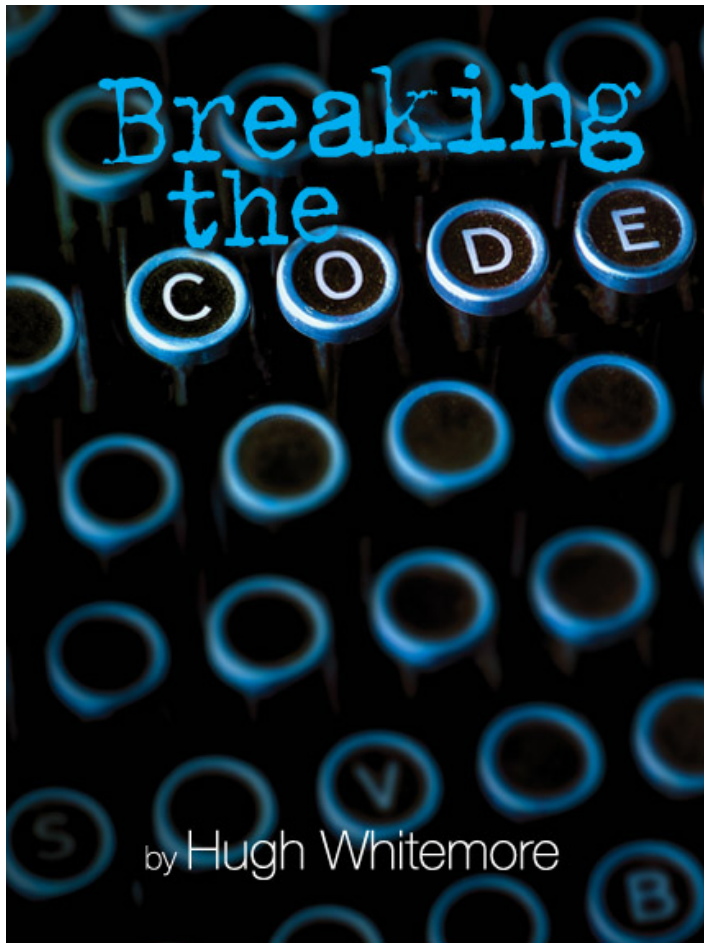


# **Jewel Theatre Audience Guide**

## **Addendum: Nikos Biography**



directed by Kirsten Brandt  
by Susan Myer Siltan, Dramaturg  
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## NIKOS

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Nikos is a fictitious character with a possible counterpart in Alan Turing's real life, as Alan had taken a trip to Greece that coincides with the time of Nikos' scene in the play.

Alan's probation period for his conviction ended in April 1953. Andrew Hodges, in his book *Alan Turing: The Enigma* (1983) writes that on May 10, Alan sent a letter to Maria Greenbaum, the six-year-old daughter of Dr. Greenbaum, his Jungian analyst. It described a complete solution to a solitaire puzzle she had been working on, and ended:

I hope you all have a very nice holiday in Italian Switzerland. I shall not be very far away at Club Méditerranée, Ipsos-Corfu, Greece.

According to Hodges, Alan had already been to a Club Méditerranée on the French coast two years earlier. In the summer of 1953, "probably over the period of the coronation [of Elizabeth II, on June 2, 1953]," Hodges continues, "Caliban escaped from the island [England] for his brief ration of fun, to Paris for a short while, and then to Corfu". Hodges writes:

He would return with half a dozen Greek names and addresses, although from this point of view his exploration of the eastern Mediterranean proved disappointing. As at school, he made mistakes with the French, but still did better than with the Greek.

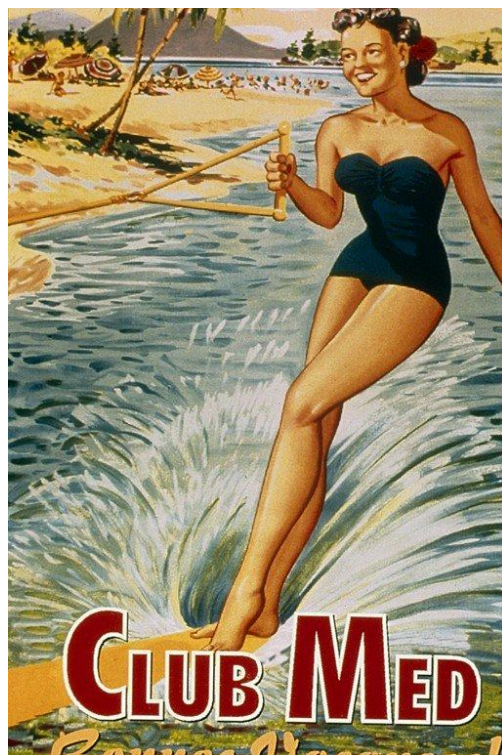
On the beach in Corfu, with the dark mountains of Albania on the horizon, he could study both the seaweed and the boys. Stalin was dead, and a watery sunshine was emerging over a new Europe. Even the cold shabbiness of British culture was not immune to change, and after more than ten years of ration books, a quite new mood, one that no one had planned for, was coming with the growth of the Fifties. Television, its development arrested in 1939, made its first mass impact with the coronation. In a far more complex and more affluent Britain, the boundaries of official and unofficial ideas would become less clear. An outsider, an intellectual beatnik like Alan Turing, might find more room to breathe.

Corfu is a Greek island in the Ionian Sea, and the second largest of the Ionian Islands. Together with its small satellite islands, it forms the northwesternmost

part of Greece. Corfu's beauty and lush greenery—it has more rainfall than any other Greek island—make it a very popular tourist destination.



Postcard of Corfu from the 1950s



A Club Méditerranée ad from the 1950s



Nikos is from Ipsos; modern Ipsos is described in AtCorfu.com:

Ipsos lies in a large bay a few miles north of Corfu town, at the foot of Mount

Pantocrator, Corfu's highest peak ... it is a lively resort, with water sports and a diving school, and dolphins are often spotted frolicking out at sea.

At the southern end is a small harbour with fishing boats and boats for hire, and if you walk inland from here there is the small village of Analysis.

The bars, tavernas and shops are all on one side of the main road to the north, with the beach on the other side.

At the northern end Ipsos joins the small village of Pyrgi, it is hard for the visitor to know where one begins and the other ends!



The Club Med at Ipsos in the 1950s with its rustic huts

On April 24, 1978, Andrew Hodges was shown a list including a number of Scandinavian and Greek addresses—Alan had gone to Norway in the summer of 1952—which were among Alan's unpublished papers. The list, written in Alan's

hand, has since been 'lost'. This 'loss' occurred at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston.

## RESOURCES

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*Please see separate resources document provided as an addendum to this Guide.*