

Cumbria  
Live

## Out and about

# A tale that ends with the hangman's noose



**NO DEFENCE:** Ruth Ellis with Detective Inspector Jack Gale



**TRUE STORY:**  
The Thrill of Love takes a fresh look at the woman behind the headlines



**WHO IS SHE TRYING TO PROTECT?:** Fleur Wady as Ruth Ellis and Brian Wernham as Detective Inspector Jack Gale

**T**HE gripping drama *The Thrill of Love* comes to Workington's Theatre Royal next week for a five-night run.

Workington Playgoers perform Amanda Whittington's play about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, from next Tuesday to Saturday (October 10 to 14).

A divorcée with two young children to care for – one fathered by a Canadian soldier, the other born during her marriage to dentist George Ellis – Ruth Ellis works in the kind of nightclubs where more than just drink is on offer. Meeting the wealthy, womanising David, a racing driver with whom she becomes obsessed, it is a relationship that ends in murder, outside the Magdala public house in Hampstead.

Why does she plead not guilty but offer no defence? And who is she trying to protect?

At the age of 28, she was tried and executed in the



**THE THRILL OF LOVE:** Workington Playgoers' cast, from left, Fleur Wady, Anne Bowmer, Brian Wernham, Kelly Pearce, and Jenni Rushton  
Pictures: Chris Lewis Photography

summer of 1954.

*The Thrill of Love* takes a fresh look at the woman behind the headlines.

Ruth is played by Fleur Wady, with Brian Wernham

as Detective Inspector Jack Gale, Jenni Rushton as nightclub manageress Sylvia Shaw, Anne Bowmer as model and actress Vickie Martin, and Kelly Pearce as

Doris Judd, a young charwoman.

Performances begin at 7.30pm and tickets are available from [www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk](http://www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk)