

THE N Z PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF

# BLUE COMEDY

BY PAUL ABLEMAN

MADLY IN LOVE - a sky-blue comedy

HANK'S NIGHT - a sea-blue comedy

## Première!

COMPANY THEATRE are very pleased to be able to bring you the Premiere New Zealand performance of Paul Ableman's "BLUE COMEDY".

When I saw the plays twelve years ago at the first production at the Open Space Theatre in London, they made such a strong impression that I can still recall much of the setting.

Mr. Ableman does not have an agent in New Zealand, and my first enquiries seemed to indicate that "BLUE COMEDY" was not and would not be available here. But I am delighted that the series of letters and cables to and from London finally finished with his U.K. publisher giving COMPANY THEATRE rights for the first showing here of "BLUE COMEDY".

Enjoy it!

*John Dylan*

MAIRANGI PLAYERS

present

"MIXED DOUBLES"

A light-hearted look  
at love and marriage

AT THE PUMPHOUSE

18th - 25th April

at 8.15 p.m.

Bookings: phone

492 386 or 456 278

TORBAY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The proposed August 1981  
production of Torbay  
Dramatic Society is  
"Around the World in  
Musical Comedy".

Enquiries are invited  
from anyone interested  
in acting, singing, or  
in the directing of  
this production.

Please phone:  
Denis Lewis, 478 5671

CONTRIBUTORY ADVERTISING IN THE INTEREST OF  
PROMOTING AMATEUR THEATRE ON THE NORTH SHORE

# Community Theatre

It is easy to pick up the local paper and see what's on at the cinema. It is not quite possible yet for the North Shore people to say "What's on at our theatre?" Although the Shore has excellent, well supported amateur groups, it has no permanent, regular theatre. There are many people for whom the long journey over the bridge, the hassles of city parking and city traffic, and the necessary lateness of their return home are great deterrents for regular theatre-going. However, Shore people do support the arts and cultural events consistently, and a Community Theatre would not be out of place on the Shore.

Community Theatre, by tradition, has a duty to provide a place where the average person can find entertainment and enlightenment, well prepared and well executed, at a reasonable price, and in so doing create opportunities for those people interested in active participation in any way.

Community Theatre is for the Community.

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. We'd like to know what you think. Please talk to any of COMPANY's members after the performance, or phone John Dylan at 457 339, or write to us at Box No. 33-171, Takapuna, 9. Help us to give you your first real Community Theatre.

Why not join COMPANY - for less than 1½ cents a day?

...we welcome you to share our  
COMPANY

## MADLY IN LOVE



Angus McFee .....	Cliff Wenham
Doctor Nair .....	Keith Sexton
Mrs. Elsie Todd .....	Margaret Finnigan
Mr. Reginald Todd .....	David Richardson
Miss Mary Todd .....	Kathleen Crockett

The place:           the Todd living-room

The time:            late in the morning

The question:      who needs what most?

The solution:       .....

(There will be a 15 minute interval after "MADLY IN LOVE" and refreshments will be available)

## May Children's Workshop

During the May Holidays, COMPANY is holding two four-day workshops for children between 9 and 14 years, preferably with a little experience on stage, who would like to learn more about drama. Principal tutor is speech and drama teacher Elspeth Hitchings. Classes are limited to 25; the two workshops (which are the same) are Wed. May 13 to Sat. 16, and Wed. 20 to Sat. 23., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Workshops both end with a production by the children on Saturday night for parents, friends and the public. The cost is \$15 per child. Apply to COMPANY THEATRE, Box 33-171 Takapuna, before 30th April.

## Playwriting Competition

COMPANY THEATRE are currently receiving entries for an amateur playwriting competition. There is no financial prize - but the best ten entries will be submitted to a publisher for consideration, details of all plays made available to all interested amateur and professional groups; and COMPANY will endeavour to present the best plays later in the year in public performance.

It is hoped that this competition will be mutually beneficial to aspiring playwrights who are unable to get their work published or performed, to theatre groups in search of original material, and to the theatre-going public of Auckland in general and the North Shore in particular. Closing date for scripts is May 31st 1981.

## HANK'S NIGHT



Dick ..... Keith Sexton  
Alice (his wife) ..... Pam Nicholson

Bill ..... Roly Walker  
Jane (his wife) ..... Dyan Ripley

The place: the lounge of Bill's house.

The time: just after dinner

The question: what to do just after dinner

The solution: .....

COMPANY THEATRE WILL TAKE THEIR PRODUCTIONS  
OUT TO PRIVATE FUNCTIONS WHENEVER PRACTICAL.  
IF YOUR FIRM OR SOCIETY WOULD BE INTERESTED,  
JUST ASK US - WE'D BE PLEASED TO TALK.



# Join

Share our COMPANY - for under 1½ cents a day! Be a Companion!

Formed in May 1980 by a handful of people looking for something a little different from the usual Dramatic Society, COMPANY now involves over two dozen people who have found that a policy of lots of hard work and enthusiasm, and not a little personal sacrifice, is an immensely rewarding and fulfilling approach to theatre. Everyone is warned at the start of each season that there will be an enormous amount of work involving everyone - there is more to being in a theatre co-operative than learning lines and painting a set!

The productions that we have done to date have inspired us, as individuals and as a co-operative group, to head on to new and different presentations, and never to be put off from considering any plays that other dramatic groups may not or can not consider.

One of the nicest comments made by a newcomer to COMPANY recently was simply: "This group's got a lovely feeling to it - I like it!"

I hope you will too.

COMPANY THEATRE will be endeavouring to present as many productions as possible during the coming years, of as many different kinds of theatre and for as wide a range of tastes as possible. Our ideal would be to enable residents of the North Shore to pick up their local paper and see ... "what's on at our local theatre this week?" With plenty of active support from its members, COMPANY could give you your first essentially continuous community theatre.

I'd like you to share our COMPANY. And I'd like to ask you if you could afford ONE AND A HALF CENTS A DAY for the things we're prepared to give you.

A NEW, DIFFERENT THEATRE

TICKET DISCOUNTS

NEWSLETTERS

PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS

SOCIALS

DRAMA WORKSHOPS

SPECIAL EVENTS

RUN - AND FRIENDS

Do you think one and a half cents a day is about right?

Please fill in your name and address on the enclosed form and post it to me, John Dylan, at 15 Alamein Avenue, Belmont, Auckland 9. If you'd like to know more first, do ring me at 457 339. Either way, I'd like to hear from you. And if you're already a member - thanks for continuing to share our COMPANY.

yours sincerely,

*John Dylan*  
John Dylan  
COMPANY THEATRE

# Previous Productions

PLASTIC IN ASPIC

NEUROSES IN BLOOM

LEND ME YOUR EARS

SIMULTANEOUS BROADCAST

OH?

ONE BLAST AND HAVE DONE

IMPERFECTLY SERIOUS

STRAWBERRY JAM

LUNCH HOUR

WITH ALL MY LOVE I HATE YOU

THE STONE CAGE

KRAPP'S LAST TAPE

COMPANY THEATRE would be pleased to bring their productions to your club, society or social night, where practical. We enjoy providing entertainment for you: and as the cost is minimal we can help you to raise money too. Talk to any member of Company or write to Box 33-171 Takapuna, Auckland 9.

No further details are available for this production.

"This was a very alternative piece of theatre," described by John Dylan:

"This production used a sound-tape only and we used just two white balls - of the ping pong variety - floating around seemingly by themselves in a blacked out environment. Sort of like Samuel Beckett's *The Mouth / Not I*. John Middleton - also of TV2 then - created the mechanics and electrics of the illusion. We toured it, (took it to Devonport once) and it almost started a fist fight in the audience afterwards between those who thought it was "an amazing experience" and those who were furious because they didn't get to see any actors and felt it was a load of utter rubbish - and said so very loudly!"

