

Charley's Aunt

written by
BRANDON THOMAS
 directed by
PETER SEGROVE

april 88

Charley's Aunt

CAST LIST

In order of appearance)

Jack Chesney	-	Rowan Maulder
Brassett	-	David Kemp
Charles Wykeham	-	Dempsey Woods
Lord Fancourt Babberly	-	Craig Donnell
Sir Francis Chesney	-	Mike Belsham
Kitty Verdun	-	Rosalind Clews
Amy Spettigue	-	Nikki Rayner
Stephen Spettigue	-	Mike Maher
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez	-	Ruth Mathieson
Ela Delahay	-	Leanne Watkins

SETTING

ACT I	Jack Chesney's rooms in St. Olde College, Oxford. (Morning)
ACT II	Outside Jack's rooms in the grounds of the College. (That afternoon)
ACT III	Stephen Spettigue's drawing room. (That evening)

There Will Be An Interval of Ten Minutes
 Between Each Act.

DIRECTOR

Peter Segrove has been associated with Company Theatre for seven years and has both acted and directed for us on a number of occasions. His most recent appearances were in MR PIM PASSES BY and BONAVENTURE. Prior to that he directed our first pantomime, "MOTHER GOOSE". He also directs for North Shore Operatic Society - his specialty, and greatest love, Gilbert and Sullivan. So far he has YEOMEN OF THE GUARD, THE MIKADO and RUDDIGORE to his directing credit. He is also the current President of Company Theatre.



CRAIG DONNELL This is Craig's first production for Company Theatre; straight from the role of Curly in OKLAHOMA for Music Theatre Productions, Bobtail in CINDERELLA (Nth Shore Operatic) and a cabaret with Marcus Craig (alias Diamond Lil). This is Craig's first straight play. Since his association with Diamond Lil he has been dying to get into a dress, so he couldn't have chosen a better play!



RUTH MATHIESON Ruth's most recent appearance for 'Company' was as Sarat in BONAVENTURE, something of a contrast to her present role. She has been appearing on stage for most of her life, but, being the lady she is, she won't say for how many years. Equally at home in Music Hall (she has done three for us) or dramatic parts, Ruth has also directed; her first major production for Company Theatre was MR PIM PASSES BY.



ROWAN MAULDER Charley's Aunt is Rowan's seventh performance for 'Company' - he began as a lights man back in 1983. Acting is his first love but he has been known to flirt with song and dance in such productions as BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS, (Auckland Operatic) and North Shore Operatic's CINDERELLA. In his most recent role for us he played the 'village idiot' in BONAVENTURE - prior to that, Jack in MOTHER GOOSE, another of questionable intelligence. We'll leave you to decide whether the type-casting has continued in CHARLEY'S AUNT.



ROSALIND CLEWS Ros's original intention in joining 'Company Theatre' was to assist back-stage. But in the five years since she has somehow managed to play a maid in GASLIGHT and a nun in BONAVENTURE, as well as become the real-life mother of twins. When pressed to say which was her favourite role she would say only that the twins took up less time!





DAVID KEMP David appeared as a butler in "Unexpected Guest", our first production here in Belmont, so servitude is not new to him (he plays Jack's 'man' in CHARLEY'S AUNT). In between he has had several other roles for 'Company' to his credit; not the least of which were three MUSIC HALLS. In one of these he achieved notoriety as a giant fairy and in MOTHER GOOSE he was 'well done' in a multi-layered goose costume - the tender timer has still not been located!



NIKKI RAYNER Nikki has appeared in a number of musicals, OKLAHOMA, OLIVER, DIVORCE ME DARLING, RUDDIGORE and as Annie in ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. Her most recent performance was as Miss Muffett in CINDERELLA; despite a definite aversion to spiders. When asked how she coped she said she "just had to tuffet out!". Company Theatre is pleased to welcome Nikki in her role as Amy in CHARLEY'S AUNT.

LEANNE WATKINS Leanne is at home both on the stage or in a back-stage role, but in three years with 'Company' she has appeared in DEAR DELINQUENT, MOTHER GOOSE and MR PIM PASSES BY. Leanne recently danced her way through CINDERELLA for Nth Shore Operatic, relying on a dazzling and constant smile to disguise two left feet.



MIKE BELSHAM CHARLEY'S AUNT is Mike's third appearance with Company Theatre - he previously appeared in MOTHER GOOSE (no make-up required) and the murdering doctor in BONAVENTURE. Mike has appeared in a number of musicals and claims that after only five years in show business he knows the answer to the ultimate Zen question - 'what is the sound of one hand clapping?'.



DEMPSEY WOODS Dempsey was introduced to theatre and quickly became addicted to it whilst still in the 3rd Form. He played several leading roles whilst still at school and this is his first 'speaking' role in amateur theatre. Having made an ass of himself as one half of a horse in CINDERELLA for Nth Shore Operatic, he is determined not to repeat the experience. Why did he ask us not to reveal which half?

MIKE MAHER A long-time stalwart of Nth Shore Operatic, Mike has specialized in character roles in both Gilbert & Sullivan and more modern musicals. Following a happy association with a number of 'Company' people in CINDERELLA he needed little encouragement to join the cast for 'CHARLEY'S AUNT'; his first non-singing role. Married with two children and three cats, Mike is fond of theatre, travel and socializing - not necessarily in that order.

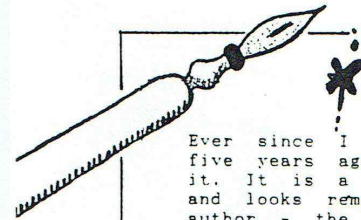


PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	-	Peter Segrove
Production Assistant	-	Neil Burgham
Stage Manager	-	Anne Potter
Wardrobe	-	Cathy Sandy
Set Design	-	Rowan Maulder
Publicity	-	Rosalind Clews
Lighting/Sound	-	Karl Watkins Darryn Wilkins
Properties & Furnishings	-	Leanne Watkins
Programme	-	Neil Burgham David Kemp Rowan Maulder
Front of House	-	Wendy Kristensen
Prompt	-	Denise Bourdot
Backstage Crew/Scenery	-	Fred Woods Arron Watkins
/Props	-	Lyn Bennett Marcia Edwards

The Production Team wishes to acknowledge the support given by the following people:

Craig Donnell, Ruth Mathieson, Rosalind Clews, John Linnell, Kate Exton, Dempsey Woods, Rod Lonsdale in building and painting the set, Florie Burgoyne and Doreen Brown, in assisting with costumes and Leanne Watkins, Geoff Clews and Mike Belsham for publicity.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Ever since I first read "Charley's Aunt, about five years ago, I have been determined to direct it. It is a lovely show - the 'classic' farce - and looks remarkably fresh for a 96 year old. Its author - the redoubtable Mr Thomas - also had the forethought to die early enough to make it free of royalties. With three sets to build and pay for, we are grateful for his consideration.

I am delighted, now that I have finally 'got around' to directing the show, that such a strong cast is available to 'act it out'. My one regret is that our stage facilities are limited, and limiting, for this production.

I very much hope you enjoy "Charley's Aunt"; we have found it a challenge, but lots of fun.

Peter Segrove.

**COMING
IN
1988...**

The following programme is planned for the rest of 1988: May 29th A programme of one-act plays which will be adjudicated by Lois Paynter.

July 29th - August 6th Roger Hall's "FIFTY FIFTY" directed by Neil Burgham.

November - (Dates to be decided) A comedy to be produced by guest director, John Antony.

COMPANY THEATRE INC

Patron: Wyn Hoadley President: Peter Segrove
Treasurer: Anne Potter Secretary: Rosalind Clews
Committee: Neil Burgham, Leanne Watkins
Rowan Maulder, Ruth Mathieson
Wendy Kristensen, Mike Belsham

Company Theatre is a lively, energetic group based in Belmont/Bayswater, Takapuna City. We perform three major productions a year and have regular club nights in which members who are not currently performing can participate. We are always keen to have new members, in whatever capacity - production, acting, behind the scenes and front of house. We also welcome as members those who simply want to be associated with whatever we are doing. If you would like to be one of us, please give Ruth Mathieson a call on 456-939 (after hours).

If you are a member of a work social club, a sports club, charity or community service group etc. and your group would be interested in combining a night at the theatre with a fund raising venture, then perhaps they would care to 'take-over' a performance night. This would involve your group in pre-selling the seats for a show and then sharing the proceeds with us. Give Neil Burgham a call on 457-369 (after hours).

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Acknowledgements :

MUSIC. THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS

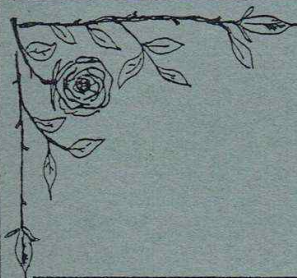
ROSMINI COLLEGE

KEN DONNELL

ROBIN AND IVY WATKINS

... AND EVERYONE ELSE

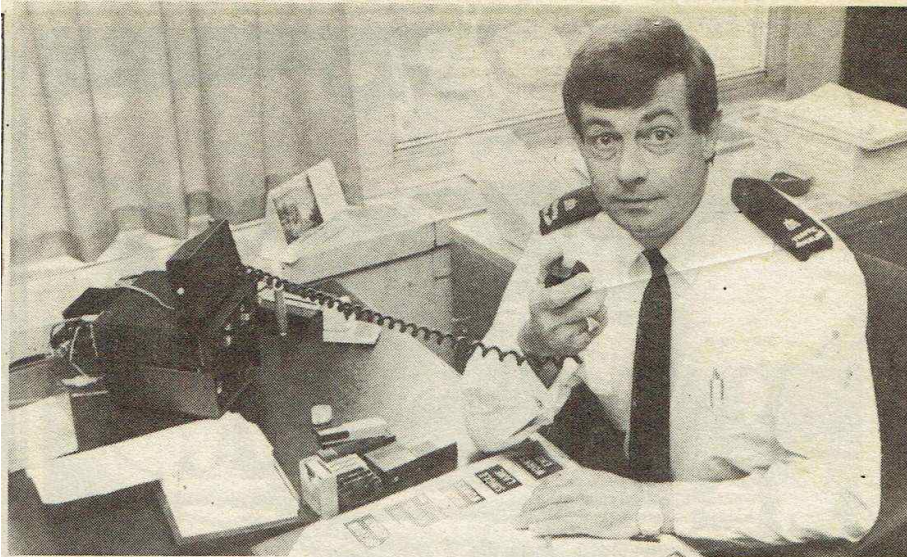
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Mr Belsham on the job at the Auckland traffic department . . .

By MAX CHAPPLE

Policeman dresses up after hours

After a hard day at the office there's nothing Birkdale's Mike Belsham likes better than to light the lights and step on stage.

Mr Belsham (40) is chief inspector of Auckland traffic department patrols, but after hours he might be an ugly sister or Mother Goose.

"I sometimes think that people believe someone like me gets home, takes out the family copy of the Transport Act and reads it. But I don't."

His latest role is Sir Frances Chesney in the comedy *Charley's Aunt*, a production soon to be put on by the Company Theatre at St Michaels Theatre in Bayswater.

Mr Belsham says he does it to relax, and it's a real contrast to his professional role.

"It's one of the few places I can go where everybody knows what I

do for a living but they don't make an issue of it.

"I'm very proud of being a traffic officer but I just can't stand being required to justify what I do for a living."

Mr Belsham was never involved in drama before he saw an advertisement in a paper for parts in *Mikado*.

He went along and met an old colleague from his time in the police force who gave him a part.

"I had no idea of the sort of thing I was getting myself into."

Since then he has been involved in operatic societies and drama groups because he enjoys it so much.

He likes comedy roles the best and sings, but admits he's not perfect.

"I can't dance for nuts - I've got two left legs and they're totally unsynchronised.

"My forte is probably in comedy roles, being the clown."

Mr Belsham enjoys the adrenalin and the excitement of drama.

"If anyone wants to know the true meaning of terror, try standing in the wings knowing that there are about 300 people out there . . . and you have to get it right."

As well as helping him relax, acting experience has its advantages in a work situation too, he says.

"It's certainly made me more confident about public speaking."

But mainly he does it because it's fun and it's different.

"It's a complete transformation from the work that I do and it makes a very refreshing change."



. . . and in the cast of *Charley's Aunt*. The other actors are, from left to right, Ruth Mathieson, Mike Mar, Leanne Watkins, Nikki Rayner and Ros Clews. Pictures: Sydney Ensor and Garry Brandon.



CRAIG Donnell (centre) being coerced into impersonating Charley's Aunt in Company Theatre's production of Brandon Thomas's famous play. Henchmen are Dempsey Woods (left), and Rowan Moulder.

Production dates for the play are April 6-9 and 13-16 at 8pm, Sunday matinee on the 10th at 2.30. Bookings phone 444 3471 5-9pm.

COMPANY THEATRE
Presents
CHARLEY'S AUNT
 Directed by
PETER SEGROVE
ST MICHAEL'S HALL
BAYSWATER
APRIL 6-9, 13-16, 8pm
Sunday Matinee: April 10, 2.30pm
Tickets: \$8 — Concessions \$7
Bookings: Ph 444-3471, 5-9pm

1988 CHARLEY'S AUNT



"CHARLEY'S AUNT" 1988
Dir. Peter Segrove
Nicky Rainer, Craig Donnell, R
Clews, Ruth Mathieson



Donna Lucia ..Ruth Mathieson

