

COMPANY THEATRE
PRESENTS
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
BLACKEST COMEDY..



JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

DIRECTED BY ANTHONY WHITEHOUSE

AT THE ROSE CENTRE THEATRE
BELMONT

27TH APRIL - 11TH MAY 1996

Just Between Ourselves

by Alan Ayckbourn

The Play

Set on four successive birthdays in the course of a year, the play takes as its central figure Dennis, a self absorbed man who spends most of his spare time in his garage, disastrously tinkering at various do-it-yourself projects.

Dennis's reaction to life's problems is to laugh - a laugh that keeps all emotion, fear, panic and sensitivity at bay and prevents him seeing that his wife Vera is close to breaking down.

Vera's problems are caused partly by emotional neglect, the lack of any real function and the rather poisonous presence in the house of Dennis's mother, Marjorie.

Another couple, Neil and Pam, initially come round to look at the second hand car entombed in Dennis's garage. They become more and more implicated in Dennis and Vera's life, not least because Neil, weak, impotent and indecisive cannot begin to understand why his wife is both desperate and unfulfilled.

Pam however, retains her rage whereas Vera is only able to wave as she drowns.

Despite the rather bleak themes of the play there are many humorous moments in this well crafted and highly acclaimed script.

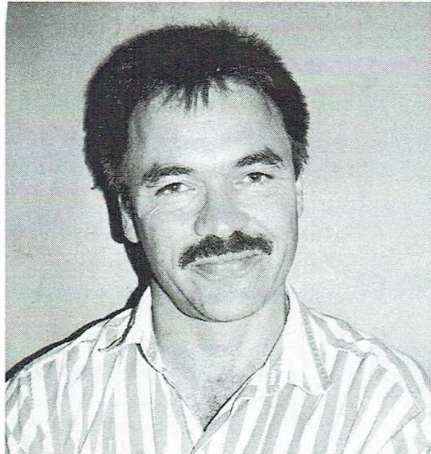
The Playwright

Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939 and is one of Britain's most prolific modern playwrights. His other plays include Relatively Speaking, How the Other Half Loves, The Norman Conquests and Absent Friends.

Ayckbourn wrote Just Between Ourselves during one cold British winter and he described the result like this:

"The North sea storms hurtled round the house, slates cascaded from the roof and metal chimney cowlings were bounced off parked cars below my window, rebounding hither and thither like demented pinballs. Not surprisingly the result was a rather sad, some say a rather savage play with scenes concerned with total lack of understanding with growing old and with spiritual and mental collapse."

**Directed and Designed by
ANTHONY WHITEHOUSE**



Anthony is an experienced director with many productions to his credit in Hamilton, Gisborne and Auckland.

He joined **Company Theatre** last year and appeared in the production Natural Causes in a memorable comic role.

Earlier this year he was part of the comedy théâtre group **Arthrob** at the Devonport Festival.

As a director, Anthony shows an attention to detail and a love of unusual stage technique.

In past productions he has tried such stage effects as simultaneous action in different time zones, an empty stage for long periods or action offstage that can only be heard.

In this production he wanted to have a large proportion of the action occurring within the confines of the cluttered garage, which is only visible through the open framework of its walls. Hence at times, the audience may be just aware of the words alone, but the cast are directed to keep moving around behind the structure so that no one is obscured for too long.

Anthony brings a fresh and innovative approach to this production.

THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE.

Dennis	Graham Wagstaff
Vera, his wife	Diane Lamont
Neil	Matthew Cousins
Majorie, Dennis's Mother	Sian Davis
Pam, Neil's Wife	Kerry Budel

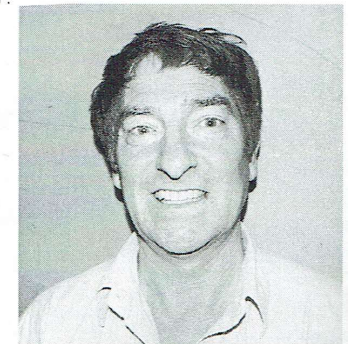
The action takes place in the garage and rear of Dennis's home in England.

Act 1	Scene 1	A Saturday afternoon in February
	Scene 2	A Saturday afternoon in May
Act 2	Scene 1	A Saturday evening in October
	Scene 2	A Saturday morning in January

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.
Refreshments are available at our House Bar.

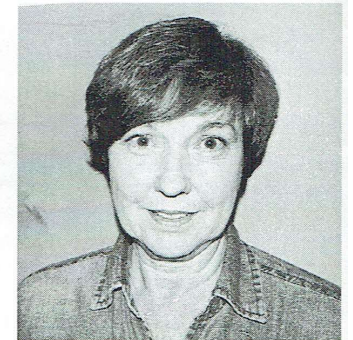
Graham Wagstaff as Dennis

Graham says he has been performing for years! He has worked in most theatres around Auckland in too many productions to name. However this is his first appearance for Company Theatre and his first time at the Rose Centre - another link for his theatrical chain.



Diane Lamont as Vera

Diane is a very experienced actress in both an amateur and a professional capacity, ranging from Maria in N.Z.'s first production of West Side Story to Joan in Bernard Shaw's St Joan. Since coming to Auckland she has played at the Dolphin Theatre and also appeared in the T.V. productions of Sound and the Silence and True Life Stories for South Pacific Pictures.



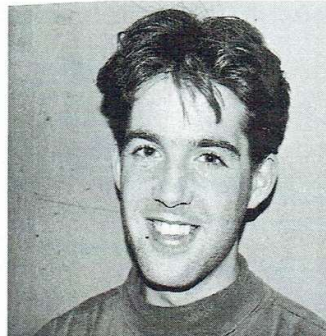
Sian Davis as Majorie

Sian has had many years acting experience in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand in past years. She says she was recently 'resurrected' to play a viciously manipulative mother for the Otago University production of A Lie Of The Mind by Sam Shepherd. Her appetite was sufficiently whetted to repeat a similar role in this production!



Matthew Cousins as Neil

Since arriving from the U.K., Matthew has toured the North Shore theatres performing in Jean and Richard for the Devonport Theatre, Golden Pathway Annual for Milford Players and Between Mouthfuls for Mairangi. He first appeared with Company in The Mad Mad World of Theatre. This is his third Ayckbourn production.



Kerry Budel as Pam

This production is only Kerry's second time on stage. Last year she played Rosalinda in Company's production of A Cut In The Rates for Threeplay. She is very enthusiastic about acting and hopes to do much more.



The Production Team

- Directed & Designed by Anthony Whitehouse
- Costume Design Cathie Sandy
- Wardrobe Gail Curran
- Make-Up Advisor Terry Smith
- Lighting Design Phil Searle
- Lighting Operator Bill Wallace
- Production & Stage Manager Kathy Gent
- Properties Maureen Kenny
- Set Construction Tony Sandy/Grant Thomas, Wayne Church/ Jim Murphy, Doug Bourke
- Set Painting Janet Macklin
- Prompt Carol Dossor
- Publicity Linda Whitehouse
- Billboards Sue Gross/Richard Parmee
- Programme Tony Sandy
- Bookings Sherry Ede
- Front of House Manager Ruth Segrove
- House Bar Annette Happy
- Tony Sandy/Gary Glanville



Left to Right Back: Tony Sandy, Bill Wallace, Phil Searle, Maureen Kenny, Carol Dossor, Gail Curran. Front: Annette Happy, Kathy Gent, Cathie Sandy.

Next at Company Theatre

Robert Letcher
directs

NOISES OFF
by
Michael Frayn

An hilarious comedy.

Season Dates
September 1996



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Post To:

Company Theatre

c/- The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont, Auckland
or for phone queries contact Doug Bourke on 486.3835
or Moira Coote on 445.8223

Name.....

Address:.....
.....
.....

Phone:.....

I would like to join Company Theatre as a:

Full Member \$20. Double/couple is \$30.

This enables you to purchase any number of tickets to our shows for the reduced rate of only \$8.00 per ticket, instead of \$12.50. You will also receive Company's monthly Newsletter with Details of Club Nights, Auditions and other social events.

OR

Please put me on your **mailing** list to receive free advance information on forthcoming shows.

Junior Company for 6 - 12 year olds runs on a Saturday afternoon from 4.00- 5.30pm.

Please phone Ruth Segrove 445.6939 for details.

I enclose a membership cheque for.....

You will receive a receipt and membership card in the post.

Are you interested in:

acting

backstage

social

Weekly Entertainment Guide

Thursday 11th April

Let's keep this 'Just between ourselves'

Rehearsals are well under way for Company's next production 'Just Between Ourselves' written by Alan Ayckbourn.

Director Anthony Whitehouse is no stranger to Ayckbourn's writings, having directed several of his plays.

"Just Between Ourselves" is billed as Ayckbourn's blackest comedy.

One of Ayckbourn's trademarks is to centre the plot around a passive, apathetic, yet potentially destructive character. Dennis (played by Graham Wagstaff) remains oblivious to the storming relationship between his wife (Dianne Lamont), and his mother (Sian Davis). Dennis undermines his wife's confidence throughout the entire play, encouraged by his mother. Vera is in mid life crisis, suffering suburban neurosis.

Another Ayckbourn trademark is the unusual settings of his plays.

"Just Between Ourselves" is no exception, with the action taking place in a garage, complete with mini.

Dennis tinkers about in here for ever, the typical Do it Yourself. After advertising his mini for sale, Pam (Kerry Budel) and Neil (Matthew Cousins) come around to see it. They provide no light relief, they are trapped in an unhappy marriage, and are totally unable to communicate with each other.

"Just between Ourselves" runs from Saturday April 27 till Saturday May 11 at the Belmont Rose Centre at 8pm. For bookings phone 445-9900 mornings or 445-6939. Adult tickets are \$12.50.

On opening night you can enjoy a pre-show complimentary glass of bubbly and nibbles.

This is a play not to be missed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY?: Back row from left; Graham Wagstaff, Matthew Cousins, Kerry Budel and Sian Davis. At the front; Dianne Lamont.

Weekly Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 24th April

Can I borrow your car...?

If a stranger suddenly walks up to you - that's impulse.

If a stranger suddenly walks up to you and asks for your car... that's desperation.

That's what happened when Anthony Whitehouse saw Kiri Webster in her mini in Ponsonby. Anthony is directing Company Theatre's next production *Just Between Ourselves* and they are desperate for a mini by Saturday.

The car has a star role having been permanently entombed in a garage for several months.

Even after advertising for a mini, Company Theatre had had no luck, so Anthony did what he had to do - he begged.

Fortunately he chose Kiri, who has had involvement with theatre in the past, and who understood how difficult finding the right props can be. After initially asking if another vehicle could be made available for her use, and a being given a fairly vague "we'll see what we can do" she agreed to do with out her shopping basket for three whole weeks.

Kiri has obtained gold medal status on the lending stakes, as since agreeing to lend her mini, she has obtained part-time work, so transport to work now involved catching two buses.

Just Between Ourselves is on at the Rose Centre in Belmont. The season runs from April 27 to May 11. Opening night special includes a glass of bubbly and there is a matinee on Sunday May 5 at 2.30pm. For bookings phone 445-9900 (mornings) or 445-6939.



THANK-YOU: A big bunch of flowers to say thank-you. Director Anthony Whitehouse and Kiri Webster.

Concert for everyone



Company Theatre relives the old time music hall entertainment tradition

Song, dance and merriment will soon flow from the Rose Centre in Belmont.

Company Theatre opens its season of Palladium this Saturday.

The show begins in old time music hall

style and progresses to a royal variety concert. Tickets cost \$15 or \$10 for

concessions. Phone 445-6939 for bookings or door sales on the nights.

The show runs 16-30 August.