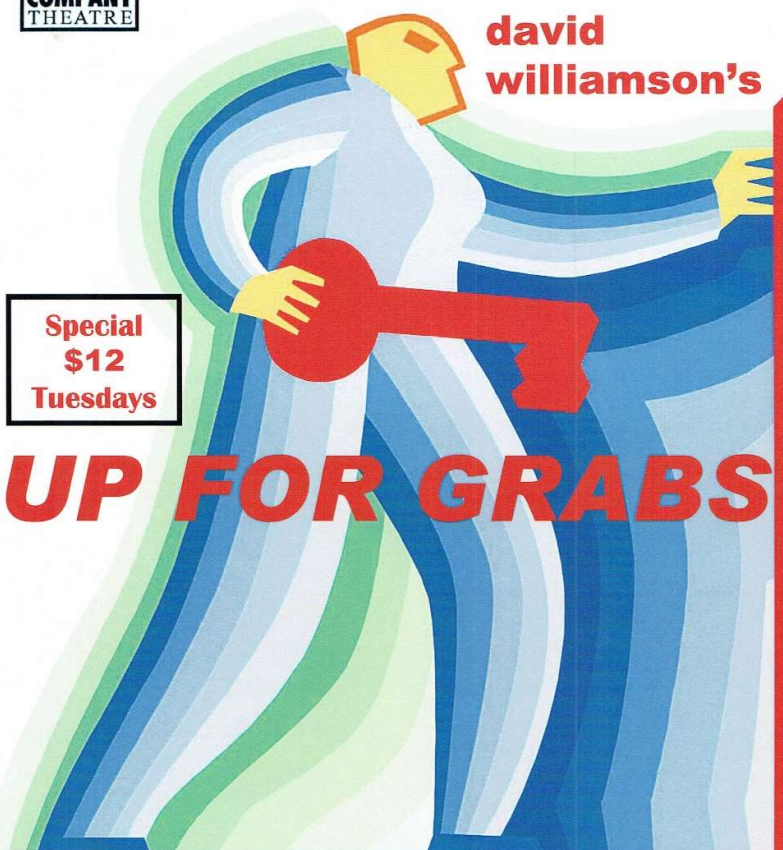




COMPANY THEATRE presents

david
williamson's



Special
\$12
Tuesdays

UP FOR GRABS

directed by richard parmee

The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont, North Shore
November 20th to December 4th 2004

Tues – Sat @ 8.00pm. Sunday 28th Nov @ 2.00pm \$18/\$15



You can now book online at www.iTICKET.co.nz

Phone iTICKET on 361 1000* *Booking fees may apply

Or phone Company Theatre on 446.6280 or 445.9900

A valuable piece of art is *Up For Grabs*. What would you do to sell it?
A new, super sexy Australian comedy. Contains explicit sexual references.



November
2004

Company Theatre, C/- The Rose Centre,
School Road, Belmont
Membership & Mailing List Secretary: Sheila: 445.6580

Play Number 4
2004
Season
20 November to 4
December
UP FOR GRABS

By David
Williamson

Directed
by Richard
Parmee



Dear Friends &
Members of Company Theatre,
Company's last production for 2004 is
UP FOR GRABS

By David Williamson
Directed by Richard Parmee
Sat Nov 20 - Sat Dec 4
Tuesday to Saturday @ 8.00pm
Special \$12 Tuesdays!!

What is it about? *The art of persuasion.*

Driven by greed, young entrepreneurial art dealer, Simone Allen, has underwritten an ambitious price of two million dollars for a highly prized and fashionable painting. The clock is ticking, it's now Friday and the deadline for sale is Tuesday; fortunes and reputations are on the line. "There's a moment in every dealer's life where you have to abandon the pretence that deep down you are still a person of integrity."

Satire turns to farce in this swift-paced world of money, hype and shallow glamour. First produced by Sydney Theatre Company in 2001, *Up for Grabs* was later presented in London's West End and at DownStage Theatre earlier this year. This punchy play has pyrotechnic wit and all the tension of a thriller. Prolific leading Australian playwright Williamson, at his best.

Please note *Explicit Sexual References and strong language.*

NEW BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Book on-line at www.iTICKET.co.nz

Delivery and Handling Fee of \$1.99 applies to all bookings (except Company Members) but this is much cheaper than other booking agencies. You can now choose your own seat on-line, and have your tickets delivered to your door. If you do not have access to the net, you can phone Richard on 446.6280 and he will book your allocated seat for you.

We encourage you to pay in advance by credit card or cheque.

Door sales still available but subject to availability. You can phone and check on the day.

You can phone iTicket on 361.1000 or Richard on 446.6280 to check availability.

The matinee for this production is

Sunday November 28th at 2.00pm.

**Adults \$18. Seniors/Students/Members \$15
SORRY— No EFTPOS facilities at the door.**

Best wishes, Sherry Ede. *President of Company Theatre.*

Cast in order of appearance

NGAIRE JONES (Simone)

Ngaire first appeared at Company as Debbie, the girlfriend of Richard Pearse in *The Pain and The Passion* (2000) and earlier this year she played Eleanor in Roger Halls' *Take A Chance On Me*. Over the last few years she has performed at just about all of the Auckland Drama societies.

JOHN PALMER (Gerry)

John has acted with various theatre companies in Auckland, but keeps coming back to his first love, Company. This almost pathological loyalty has been rewarded by the only role in this play without theme music or a phone. Paranoid? Me?

NIAL GREENSTOCK (Kel)

Nial is no stranger to the Company Theatre stage. Productions include *The Pain and The Passion*; *Straight & Narrow*; *Eugenia*; *Brilliant Lies* and *Eric* in *Take a Chance on Me*. He is greatly enjoying the outrageous (should that be outstanding?) part (which part?!) of Kel in this production!

DAHLIA PHILLIPS (Mindy)

This is Dahlia's first show for Company. She has performed with Shoreside, Stables, Mairangi & Limelight Theatre. Last seen at Shoreside in *Mansfield Park*. **Mindy**, the character she plays here, is a far stretch from her own life, where she has a swear jar! If anyone counted these rehearsals she would be rich by now!

SALLY WALLEN (Dawn)

Playing self-doubting, cynical Dawn Grey signals Sally's first appearance at Company Theatre. However, she's no stranger to community theatre, having worked at the Dolphin Theatre (*Time of My Life* 2002, *The London Suite* 2004), Ellerslie Stables Theatre (*Thermal Underwear* 2004) and in Britain (*Silly Cow*, East Kilbride Theatre Co, 2000). Sally can't wait to take part in future Company shows. Particularly if drinking's involved!

SHERRY EDE (Felicity)

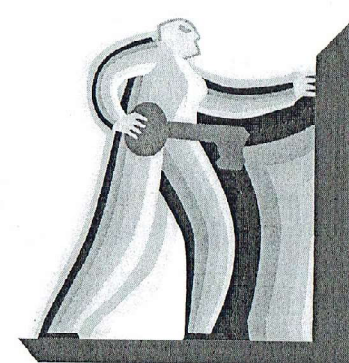
Sherry has been involved with Company Theatre since 1989, helped the big move to The Rose Centre in 1992 and has been President for the last 3 years. Acting highlights include *Habeas Corpus*; *Situation Comedy*; *Straight & Narrow* & *Brilliant Lies*. She has directed 5 productions and wrote *The Pain and The Passion* - the story of Richard Pearse. Last year she directed the comedy *Run For Your Wife* and is greatly looking forward to directing the sequel *Caught In The Net*. For April 2005.

RICHARD PARMEE (Manny)

Richard has been involved with Company Theatre for nine years, is a past President and is presently Vice President. Last year he acted in all three Company productions and this year he was the Inspector in *An Inspector Calls*. He is a strong fan of David Williamson's writing style and has acted in *Money and Friends*, directed *Brilliant Lies* (the explicit sexual harassment story) and now *Up For Grabs*. Next year he will return as the lovable but bumbling character of Stanley in *Caught In The Net*.



UP FOR GRABS



By

DAVID WILLIAMSON

Directed by

Richard Parmee

20 November

to

4 December 2004

www.companytheatre.co.nz



LOOK OUT—THEY'RE COMING BACK!

Our next production

CAUGHT IN THE NET by RAY COONEY.

It's 20 years later in this hilarious sequel to RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!

Directed by Sherry Ede. 28 April to 14 May 2005.



CAST



SIMONE ALLEN.....NGAIRE JONES
 GERRY..... JOHN PALMER
 KEL.....NIAL GREENSTOCK
 MINDY.....DAHLIA PHILLIPS
 DAWN GREY.....SALLY WALLEN
 FELICITY.....SHERRY EDE
 MANNY.....RICHARD PARMEE

The play is set in Sydney, Australia,
 in the present time.



INTERVAL
 There will be one
 interval of 15 minutes.



We serve Cooper's Creek wines.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS to

EROX Lifestyle Centre, Takapuna
 Rachel at ZEUS Hair Salon, Takapuna
 Kathy Gent; Doug Boyd, Vodafone.

CREW



DIRECTOR.....RICHARD PARMEE
 SET DESIGN.....RICHARD PARMEE
 Assistant Director.....DAVID ADKINS
 PRODUCTION MANAGERSUE GROSS
 REHEARSAL PROMPT.....SUE GROSS
 STAGE MANAGERSHEILA STEVENS
 COSTUMESREBECCA COOPER
 Wardrobe Assistance from Cathie Sandy & the
 wardrobe of the cast and crew!
 PROPERTIES.....MAUREEN KENNY
 SET BUILDING MANAGER: ..PHIL DAVIS
 Set Building Team:.....PHIL DAVIS
 TONY SANDY, BOB STEVENS
 LIGHTING DESIGN.....PHIL SEARLE
 LIGHTING OPERATOR.....PHIL SEARLE
 SOUND DESIGN.....DAVID ADKINS
 SOUND OPERATOR..... DAVID ADKINS
 PUBLICITY; PHOTOS; PROGRAMME
SHERRY EDE
 FOH MANAGER.....SUE GROSS
 BAR MANAGER.....TONY SANDY

The Director's Notes

What a ride!!!

Directing this play has been a wonderfully exhilarating and unforgettable ride. When I had no choice but to cast myself in it, I knew I had given myself and my fellow actors a huge challenge! If I had not had such an extraordinarily talented and giving group of people around me I might well have lost my way. As it is, a truly brilliant and dedicated cast & crew have brought my vision to life and I hope that you, the audience, will immerse yourselves in and enjoy their creation.

I always felt this was a play that sparked the emotions and I wasn't disappointed for a single second. The relationships and emotions that are put under David Williamson's microscope are familiar to all of us – family, business, money, love and lust – even if the characters themselves are more than slightly outrageous!

A special thank you to David Adkins who, against his better judgment, let me coerce him into directing the bits that I, for obvious reasons, could not – without him the play would not be what it is.

Let the games begin...

Richard Parmee, Director.

THE PLAY Up For Grabs By David Williamson

The art of persuasion...

Driven by greed, Simone Allen, an inexperienced but entrepreneurial art dealer, has underwritten an ambitious price for a highly prized and fashionable painting. The clock is ticking, it's now Friday and the deadline for the sale is Tuesday; fortunes and reputations are on the line!

There's a moment in every dealers life when you have to abandon the pretence that you're a person of integrity...what will you do to make the deal happen.... anything!!

Satire turns to farce in this fast-pace world of money, hype and glamour. First produced in 2001 by the Sydney Theatre Company, *Up For Grabs* has also been seen in London's West End. Get ready for a raunchy, rocky roller-coaster of a ride in this sassy, sexy comedy of manners!

Other plays by David Wiliamson: The Removalists, The Club, Money & Friends, Traveling North, Siren, Brilliant Lies, & many many more!

DETAILS**1. Up For Grabs by David Williamson***a) What is it about?*

Up For Grabs is a comedy by Australia's most popular author, David Williamson.

It has all the classic Williamson ingredients - Sex, Lies, Money, Greed, Relationships and as always the laughter of life that holds it all together.

The plot involves a young art dealer, Simone Allen, who has underwritten a highly prized and fashionable painting for the very ambitious price of two million dollars. She needs to sell it fast! The clock is ticking. It's now Friday and the deadline for the sale is Tuesday...what will she have to do to get a sale? How far will the three bidder's go to get the painting?

b) Warning: Sexual Explicit References

Up For Grabs contains some explicit sexual references and hence we feel it is not suitable for children. The play's 7 characters all show their conscious as well as their sub-conscious agendas. They all have secrets, desires and needs - some explored in quite graphic language. *Up For Grabs* has been performed by the Sydney Theatre Company, on the West End in London and recently at Downstage Theatre in Wellington.

NOVEMBER 18 2004

THE DEVONPORT FLAGSTAFF PAGE 25

Art, money and sex in last play for year

Company Theatre's final production for the year *Up For Grabs* by the popular (and prolific) Australian author David Williamson opens on November 20th. In 2002, Company Theatre presented Williamson's *Brilliant Lies*, and people who saw that will enjoy the same kind of sharp social comment, this time based around the art world.

Up For Grabs is set in the glamorous and "obscenely wealthy" areas of Sydney, and tells the story of a young entrepreneurial art dealer, Simone Allen (played by Ngaire Jones) who has underwritten a highly prized and fashionable Brett Whiteley painting (valued at \$2,000,000). If she can't sign a deal soon, she will be in severe financial trouble.

There are three competing bidders for the painting. Manny and Felicity Davis (played by Devonport residents Richard Parmee and Sherry Ede), are both more interested in keeping up the appearance of wealth rather than what wealth can buy. Felicity would adore a "wow"



Get this straight...Manny (Richard Parmee) makes a point to Simone (Ngaire Jones) in the latest Company Theatre production *Up For Grabs*.

painting to make her friends "sick with envy". Her husband Manny, described in the play as "the fifth richest man in Australia", mainly wants the painting to be one-up on his long-time golf rival.

Other bidders include a couple of off-the-wall highly successful dot.com millionaires, Kel and Mindy (played by Nial Greenstock and Dahlia Phillips) who fancy the painting as a change from investing in yellow convertibles or successive cocaine highs.

There are many comic moments as social satire turns to farce in this swift-paced play. Patrons are advised that the play contains strong language and some

explicit sexual references.

It runs from Saturday November 20th to Saturday December 4th, Tuesday to Saturday at 8.00pm with one matinee on Sunday 28th @ 2.00pm.

Bookings: on-line at www.iTICKET.co.nz or phone Richard on 446 6280 or the Rose Centre on 445 9900. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors. Both Tuesdays are \$12 nights. Door sales are available. Company Theatre is the resident theatre group at The Rose Centre Theatre, School Road, Belmont and for information or to become a member go to their new website at www.companytheatre.co.nz.