

Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

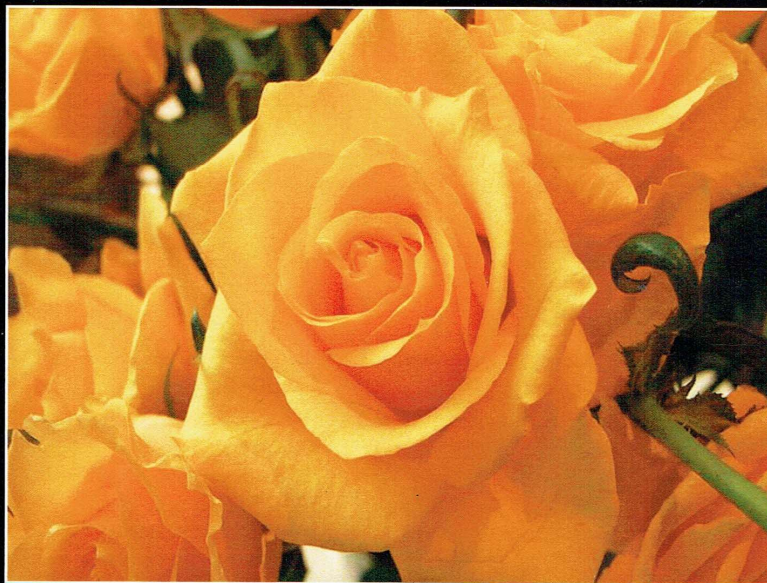


**COMPANY THEATRE**

presents

# Relatively Speaking

Directed by Lynne Davis



March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

## CAST PROFILES

**Guy Davis "Greg"** - "If Guy were not upon a stage, someone else he'd rather be. If Guy were not upon a stage, slightly lost, he would be." Guy has been on stage and working behind the scenes for as long as he can remember. He has performed in Shakespeare and Pinter plays, musicals such as *Les Miserables* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, and several Ayckbourn plays to scratch the surface. *Relatively Speaking* is his first appearance for Company Theatre which has been thoroughly enjoyable for him. In his spare time, Guy enjoys long walks on the beach, warm wood fires on cold winter nights and a nice home cooked meal.

**Nicky Gyles "Ginny"** - After a ten year break from acting (mostly due to working unsociable hours), Nicky was extremely pleased to be back on the stage and to be a new member of Company Theatre. She started acting at the tender age of just 3 and has loved it ever since. She has performed regularly on stage, made a few television appearances and attended drama classes at The Dolphin and Maidment Theatres. Her last role was the lead in *Sylvia Plath* in 1999. Her big O.E. followed and interrupted her acting career so when she moved into the neighbourhood - just a short walk away from the Rose Centre - she was very excited to join Company Theatre and immediately got involved behind the scenes with the last production: *Boeing Boeing*.

**Bob Stevens "Phillip"** - At heart, whether they know it or not, everyone who acts must surely dream of being able to walk on to a theatre stage, feel the warmth of the lights, draw a deep breath, and say "What ho!" Although he's acted in several Ayckbourn plays before, Bob says that *Relatively Speaking* will be the highlight - as long as he remembers to deliver that classic line.

**Dianne Lamont "Sheila"** - Recently Dianne has been working professionally with roles in the TVNZ series *Orange Roughies* and the NZ film *We're Here to Help*. This Ayckbourn play has tempted her back to the stage. "It's deftly written, the dialogue is delicious and the plot is both amusing - and confusing!" Dianne appeared here in Ayckbourn's black comedy *Just Between Ourselves* in 1996. This is her tenth appearance for Company Theatre.

## AUDITIONS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Tom, Dick & Harry* by Ray & Michael Cooney directed by David Adkins

7pm on Sunday 10 May at Rose Centre

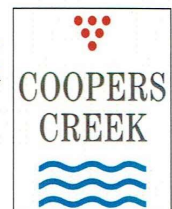
Cast will require 6 men and 3 women, all ages.

Production dates August 8-22.

Enquiries to Richard Parmee c/o Rose Centre 445 9900 or David Adkins 021 852 529. See website for further details. [www.companytheatre.co.nz](http://www.companytheatre.co.nz)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Harbour Big Tree Company • Albany Beauty Therapy  
Devonport Timber & Garden • Devonport Chocolates  
Coopers Creek • Torbay Theatre



**SYNOPSIS**

The play is set in the late 1960s in England.

**Act 1**

Scene 1 - Ginny's London flat, Sunday 7 am

Scene 2 - The garden patio of Sheila and Philip's country home

**Act 2**

Scene 1 - The same scene a moment later

Scene 2 - The same. An hour or so later

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

I have been involved with many Ayckbourn productions now both on and off stage, and I have to say that he has my admiration as a playwright. His clever script writing is thoughtful, humorous, and grates on the truth of human nature. He encourages directors to extend their creativity and artistic ability, and challenges the actors to desire to play their role exactly how he sees it.

This is the second time I have directed *Relatively Speaking* but this production is definitely uniquely special to me; firstly for having the opportunity to direct for Company Theatre whose productions are well known for their high standard, and secondly to have had the luxury of a great cast with whom I have enjoyed working so much. I would like to thank them for their special qualities, Nicky for her sparkly personality and tenacity, Dianne for her professionalism and attention to detail, Bob for his trust and dedication, and Guy for his energy and cheerfulness, and for opting to spend his leisure hours with his mother.

Enjoy

Lynne Davis, Director

**ABOUT ALAN AYCKBOURN**

Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939. He is one of Britain's most successful and prolific dramatists having written more than 60 works for the theatre including musical plays for children. Some of his better known works are *How the Other Half Loves* (1970); *Absurd Person Singular* (1973); and the trilogy *The Norman Conquests* (1974). BBC describes Ayckbourn as a keen commentator of the British middle class. A more recent play *House and Garden* was performed simultaneously in adjacent theatres with the same cast racing from stage to stage.

Sir Alan Ayckbourn (he was knighted in 1997 for his services to theatre), says of *Relatively Speaking*, "in general, the people who liked this play when it was first seen remarked that it was 'well constructed'; those that didn't called it old-fashioned. If the latter is true, then I suppose it's because, as the song goes, I am too. As to whether it's well constructed, well, in a way I hope it is, since I did set out consciously to write a 'well made' play. I think this is important for a playwright to do at least once in his life, since as in any science, he cannot begin to shatter theatrical convention or break golden rules until he is reasonably sure in himself what they are and how they were arrived at."

**CAST (In order of appearance)**

Greg	Guy Davis
Ginny	Nicky Gyles
Philip	Bob Stevens
Sheila	Dianne Lamont

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director	Lynne Davis
PA to Director/rehearsal prompt	Carole Oliver
Production Manager	Kathy Gent
Stage Manager	Mark Higgins
Set design	Philip Davis
Set dressing	Caroline Parker
Set construction	Philip Davis, Guy Davis, Nicky Gyles, Bob Stevens, Alastair Fletcher, John Gardner, Richard Parmee, Sheila Stevens, Tony Sandy, Caroline Parker, Anne Rimmer
Properties	Emma Service, John & Mary Gardner, Fred & Doreen Gould
Wardrobe	Cathie Sandy, Ruth Chapman
Lighting design & operation	Dylan Sheehan, Alex Jones, Ollie Powell
Sound design	Lynne Davis
Sound	Gina Dowding, Terry Smith
Publicity	Kathy Gent, Lynne Davis
Signboards	Sherry Ede
Programme	Sheila Stevens
Bookings	Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent
Front of House	Steve & Raewyn Wright, Sheila Stevens & members of Company Theatre
Bar	Alastair Fletcher & members of Company Theatre

Company Theatre would like to thank all those people unnamed in this programme who have contributed in any way to the success of the production.

**COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP**

For Membership of Company Theatre see our website, phone Richard at The Rose Centre 445 9900 or email [companytheatre@gmail.com](mailto:companytheatre@gmail.com).