



Directed By Kathy Gent

15 - 29 November 2014

Tues - Sat 8pm, Sundays 2pm

The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont

Company Theatre is the resident theatre at the Rose Centre. All our previous productions are displayed on the foyer walls.

\$2

Company Theatre - From the President



Sherry Ede - President of Company Theatre

Welcome to Company Theatre and MORE Fawlty Towers. After a sell-out season in 2012 of Fawlty Towers we are delighted to present MORE episodes for your enjoyment. And there is indeed a whole lot MORE! Congratulations to Director Kathy Gent and the team who have created the show with the biggest set and the largest cast in Company's history.

Kathy Gent - The Director



Prior to coming to New Zealand in 1995 I directed pantomimes, plays and musicals for groups in Sheffield, Portsmouth and London with favourites being Cabaret, A Chorus of Disapproval and Stepping Out. This is the 10th production I have directed for Company Theatre which is almost my second home, my most recent production being Calendar Girls last year and it follows the success of Fawlty Towers in 2012.

I love directing large cast shows, particularly comedy where so much attention has to be given to characterisation, timing, business and physical interaction – this being the case, the casting of such a show as Fawlty Towers is critical, not to completely mimic the original actors but to delve into their attitudes and relationships as staff or guests in this crazy 1970's hotel and recreate an ensemble piece that is both believable and true to John Cleese's vision. The cast have been superb in being open to exploring different ways of interpreting the text and characters. It has been such a pleasure to work with Scott and Julie again as Basil and Sybil and to discover so much new talent for this production. With no stage directions and only the TV script to work from, we have worked hard as a team to bring this classic to life.

The success of Fawlty Towers also rests on recreating the essence of the 1970's hotel through attention to detail in the set, costumes and props, and this is one of the most elaborate and complicated sets that Company has ever built. I am indebted to the work of Phil Davis and the set building team, to Fred and Doreen for finding their treasure-trove of props and to Sonia and her costume team for hours of work in exploring the op shops and costume collections of the North Shore.

Please sit back and enjoy this evening or afternoon of sheer entertainment.

The Fawly Towers Story

Fawly Towers is one of the best-known and most loved TV series from the halcyon days of British comedy – the 1970's.

It starred John Cleese as the irascible Torquay hotel owner Basil Fawly, and Prunella Scales as his domineering wife Sybil – his 'little nest of vipers'. Connie Booth played Polly the dependable maid and general assistant, and last but certainly not least, Manuel was superbly played by Andrew Sachs – the tyrannised waiter from Barcelona, general dogsbody and subject of frequent physical attacks by the demented Basil.



Only two series of six episodes were ever made, A Touch of Class being the very first episode and Basil the Rat being the final one.

John Cleese was inspired to write what became Fawly Towers after he and the rest of the Monty Python team were staying at the Gleneagles Hotel in Torquay while filming Monty Python's Flying Circus in the early 1970's. The 'wonderfully rude' hotel owner Donal Sinclair threw Eric Idle's briefcase out of the hotel 'in case it contained a bomb', complained about Terry Gilliam's table manners and chucked a bus timetable at another guest after he dared the ask the time of the next bus to town.

John Cleese and his then wife Connie Booth co-wrote the hotel owner into a series of programmes and two years later Fawly Towers opened for business, going on to win many major awards. In 2000 Fawly Towers was named the best British television series of all time by industry professionals and truly deserves to be viewed and reviewed on stage and screen.

The three episodes we have chosen become increasingly farcical, and between them give Basil the opportunity to fail to deal with improbable and ridiculous situations ranging from snooty lords and ladies, to public health inspectors and to dead guests in the closet.



Company Theatre - The Show

More Fawly Towers

by John Cleese & Connie Booth

The Episodes:

A Touch of Class

- 20 minute Interval -

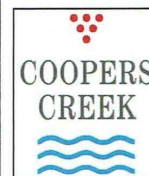
Basil the Rat



- 20 minute Interval -

The Kipper and the Corpse

After the Show



Our house bar stays open after the performance. You are welcome to stay, enjoy our range of Coopers Creek wine and mingle with the cast and crew.



Alastair Fletcher - Company Theatre Bar Manager

Company Theatre - The Show

Cast of More Fawlty Towers



Above: Building the Fawlty Towers hotel. This photo shows 7 of the 15 plus people who have worked on the biggest set that Company Theatre has built in our 34 year history!

Below: Look out - Manuel leaps to the rescue! From *The Kipper and the Corpse* (Dress Rehearsal photo)



The Hotel Staff and Permanent Residents of Fawlty Towers

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Basil Fawlty | - | Scott Hayden |
| Sybil Fawlty | - | Julie Collis |
| Polly | - | Meg Andrews |
| Manuel | - | Daniel Fernandez |
| Major Gowen | - | Malcolm Beazley |
| Terry | - | Peter Dodds |
| Miss Tibbs | - | Jan Judson |
| Miss Gadsby | - | Barbara Farron |



Basil the Rat - Hotel Guests

- | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| Mr Carnegie | - | Kerr Inkson |
| Mr Taylor | - | Steve Green |
| Mrs Taylor | - | Liz Brown |
| Ronald | - | Steven Arnold |
| Quentina | - | Greta Lawson |
| Mr Higgins | - | Bryan Johnston |

A Touch of Class - Hotel Guests

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Lord Melbury | - | Peter Segrove |
| Danny Brown | - | Bryan Johnston |
| Mr McKenzie | - | Peter Dodds |
| Mrs McKenzie | - | Greta Lawson |
| Mr Wareing | - | Steve Green |
| Mrs Wareing | - | Trudy Thumath |
| Susan Wareing | - | Daisy Eaglesome/
Matilda Dalwood |
| Mr Watson | - | Ian Birch |
| Mrs Watson | - | Kate Birch |
| Sir Richard Morris | - | Kerr Inkson |
| Lady Morris | - | Liz Brown |
| Papergirl | - | Caitlin Miller |
| Policemen | - | Peter Dodds,
Steven Arnold |

The Kipper and the Corpse - Hotel Guests

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Mrs Chase | - | Trudy Thumath |
| Dr Price | - | Peter Segrove |
| Mr White | - | Ian Birch |
| Mrs White | - | Kate Birch |
| Mr Leemens | - | Steve Green |
| Mr Zebedee | - | Bryan Johnston |
| Mr Xerxes | - | Steven Arnold |
| Miss Young | - | Liz Brown |
| Elderly Gentleman | - | Kerr Inkson |
| Redhead | - | Greta Lawson |
| Mr Ingrams | - | Fred Gould |
| Laundry Staff | - | Peter Collis,
Caitlin Miller |

Crew

Director	–	Kathy Gent
Production Manager	–	Steven Arnold
Stage Manager	–	Phil Davis
Assistant Stage Manager	–	Caitlin Miller
Set Design	–	Phil Davis/Kathy Gent
Set Construction	–	Phil Davis assisted by Scott Thomas, Russell Simpson, Ian Birch, Tony Sandy, Stephen Hood, Alastair Fletcher, Peter Segrove, Peter Dodds, Kath Hair, James Fox, Dave Miller.
Set Dressing	–	Anne Rimmer, Caroline Parker
Lighting and Sound Design	–	Scott Thomas
Lighting and Sound Operation	–	Stephen Hood
Properties	–	Fred and Doreen Gould
Rehearsal Prompt/Props Asst	–	Peter Collis
Wardrobe Manager	–	Sonia Dupuch
Wardrobe Assistants	–	Jo Eakin, Kim Pharo
Costume Advisor	–	Nadine Hayden
Programme/Publicity/Photos	–	Kathy Gent/Sherry Ede
Front of House Manager	–	Sherry Ede, Lesley Hawkey
Bar Manager	–	Alastair Fletcher



would like to thank all the dedicated members who support the production as front of house or bar helpers.

Acknowledgements:

Peter Eccles Coins and Banknotes; Torbay Theatre; Ian Hunt; Belmont Appliances; Stanley Bay Bowling Club; ImpactActive(NZ) Rosedale; Ravenhill Cafe Birkenhead; Special thanks to Barfoot & Thompson and the Belmont Veterinary Clinic for their support for this production.

BIOGRAPHIES



Scott Hayden – (Basil Fawlty)

While he loves the dramatic roles he has been privileged to play (A Few Good Men, State of the Play), Scott's first acting love is comedy. Having performed in such beloved shows as The Darling Buds of May and 'Allo 'Allo, being Basil Fawlty in the previous sold-out season was such an amazing experience that returning for More Fawlty Towers was never a question. Scott has also acted in a number of commercials and award winning short films.



Julie Collis - (Sybil Fawlty)

Julie has been enjoying a fantastic year in both her passions. In her ceramics she had a major solo exhibition at Masterworks, and was a finalist in the Wallace Art Awards. She was also very excited to have two feature films, 'Jake' and 'The Z-Nail Gang', released.

"A re-visit to Fawlty Towers tops it all off nicely." 'Cher', 'Madonna', 'Lorde', 'Sybil', yet another famous woman who only needs one name.



Daniel Fernandez – (Manuel)

Dani arrived in New Zealand two years ago from Spain where he trained in drama, physical theatre and clowning. He belongs to the Auckland Playback Theatre Company, where he continues to develop his skills in improvisation and theatre sports. In more than fifteen years of performing, he has explored a diverse range of classic theatre such as Moliere (The Marquis of Mascarille in The Pretentious Young Ladies), Bertold Brecht (Andrea Sarti in Life of Galileo Galilei), and Jardiel Poncela (Valentin in Night of Summer with Insomnia), short films and live performances. He loves absurd comedy but he never imagined that one day he would end up playing a Spanish waiter in Fawlty Towers. Dani has a dark side, and when he is not acting he is a Solar Energy Engineer and Inventor.

BIOGRAPHIES



Meg Andrews – (Polly)

Meg's first stage appearance was as baby Jesus at the ripe age of 6 months old. Since then her passion for theatre has only grown. She trained in ballet and contemporary dance, then moved on to be a trained belly dancer and act in many vibrant productions in the Manawatu. Since moving to Auckland she has gained a diploma in on- screen acting, performed for Prince Charles and Camilla, and has been in a few amazing shows including Alice in The Vicar of Dibley for Phoenix Theatre. She loves yoga & meditation, musicals, singing and studying Shakespeare.



Peter Dodds – (Terry, Mr McKenzie, Policeman)

Since arriving from the UK, Peter has been active in stand-up comedy and has acted in An Ideal Husband earlier this year for Company Theatre, Aladdin for Mairangi Players and The Vicar of Dibley for Phoenix Theatre. His roles in London's West End have included a season at the National Theatre in "His Dark Materials" and at the Old Vic in "On the Middle Day". He is performing regularly at The Classic Comedy Club where he has gained a reputation for his risqué humour.



Malcolm Beazley – (Major Gowan)

After acting for Tokoroa Little Theatre in the 1960's and Howick Little Theatre in the 1970's, Malcolm took a break from theatre, to return to the stage two years ago with the Rose Singers in musical revues and playing Godfrey in Dad's Army. Having a taste for the military life of the Second World War, he fits the bill perfectly as the Major.



BIOGRAPHIES



Barbara Farron – (Miss Gadsby)

Barbara acted for 12 years with the Older Womens' Theatre, then had various minor roles in television and finally discovered Company Theatre – her four roles in Fawlty Towers, More Fawlty Towers, Allo Allo, and Brassed Off have kept her busy in retirement. To quote Barbara, "Retirement, it doesn't exist, does it?"



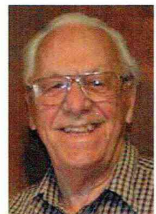
Jan Judson – (Miss Tibbs)

Drama has always been part of Jan's life and she has been involved in school and community groups as teacher and director. Over recent years however, her main love has been presenting one woman programmes of singing and original dramatic monologues and poetry, performing to many groups in venues all over the North Shore. She played the role of the nurse in the Shoreside production of Romeo and Juliet and Lady Cravenshire in the Company Theatre production of Calendar Girls. She also runs a ladies' a capella group - the Treble Makers who perform throughout the North Shore.



Peter Segrove – (Lord Melbury, Dr Price)

Peter returned to Company in our last production "A Shortcut to Happiness" after an absence of nineteen years. He was an early member of the group having been in "They Came to a City" in 1981. He was, by his own admission, very young at the time. Since then he has directed and acted in in many plays and musicals throughout Auckland. The most recent of these was at The Playhouse in Glen Eden where he directed "The Pirates of Penzance". "It's great to be back at Company and part of the madness of "Fawlty Towers"!"



Fred Gould – (Mr Ingrams)

Fred has been around theatre most of his life playing Pantomime in England through to theatre and television in New Zealand. He has done a lot of backstage work over the years mainly in props together with Doreen the chorus girl he married in 1958.

BIOGRAPHIES

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Trudy Thumath - (Mrs Wareing, Mrs Chase)

This is Trudy's ninth production with Company Theatre. Her last appearance was as Marie, the officious Chairwoman of the Knapely WI in Calendar Girls. She is delighted, once again, to be a guest at the famous Fawlty Towers! Although a fan of dogs, she feels she is not quite as besotted as Mrs Chase. She would like to thank Kathy for giving her the chance to work with such a talented cast and crew.



Kerr Inkson – (Sir Richard Morris, Mr Carnegie, elderly gentleman)

Kerr is an emeritus professor at The University of Auckland. He took up drama (writing and acting) in 2011 as a retirement hobby and completed a postgraduate Diploma in Arts (drama) in 2012. His recent credits have included Hitch! at the Rose Centre (author), and, as an actor, Mr Andrews in Everything She Ever Said to Me (Scratch New Writing, Basement Theatre), Josiah Seath in The Great Fire of London (GW Productions, Rose Centre), Dr Chumley in Harvey (Pilgrim Productions, Pitt Street Theatre) and a number of productions with the Marvellous Seniors Theatre Group.



Bryan Johnston – (Mr Brown, Mr Higgins, Mr Zebedee)

Bryan trained at London's Rose Bruford Academy studying Theatre Directing; after his training he went on to produce and direct at various venues in London- highlights include a successful sold out season of The Method at BAC, Savage/ Love at The Old Red Lion, The Hitching Post at the Oval Theatre as well as performing as part of the main production at London's Millennium Dome. Since moving to New Zealand Bryan has directed several productions, most notably Mancub at The Basement theatre and has appeared as Macbeth, Mercutio and Petrucio, amongst others in Shoreside Theatre's outdoor Shakespeare at the Pumphouse. He's very much looking forward to appearing alongside a wonderful cast in his first production for Company Theatre.



Steven Arnold - (Policeman, Ronald, Mr Xerxes)

Steven says, "Ronald is great fun to play, he is rich and snooty and a bit stupid. Last year I died on stage – 25 times as the cancer victim in Calendar Girls. So from Pathos to Pathetic, that seems to be a pretty good character arc." Steven enjoys theatre, both as a director and an actor and adjudicates plays at a national level. He has acted in plays as diverse as Winnie the Pooh and Zorro (the title roles), and has performed in Pygmalion, Twelfth Night, Salad Days to name a few – in Christchurch, Wellington and overseas - in short he is addicted! "It's quite different to my day job – I am a University lecturer, oh no wait a minute – it's not that different after all."



Liz Brown – (Lady Morris, Mrs Taylor, Miss Young)

Liz is back on stage with Company Theatre after appearing as Cora in Calendar Girls last year. She promises to keep her clothes firmly on this time! Performing is a passion in which she loves to indulge when time allows after juggling 4 kids, hubby, cat, work and their gargantuan do-up! She studied theatre arts and drama back in the UK and her most recent UK performance was as Eliza in Pygmalion with the Shoreham Village Players near Sevenoaks.



Greta Lawson – (Mrs McKenzie, Quentina, Redhead)

Greta is tickled pink to be treading the boards once again with Company Theatre. She most recently appeared last year as the beautician 'Elaine' in Company's production of 'Calendar Girls' and previously in her all-time favourite 'Noises Off' playing scantily clad blonde bombshell 'Brooke' when a 16 year old budding actress. Outside of theatre, Greta spends her time in the world of journalism and event management.

BIOGRAPHIES



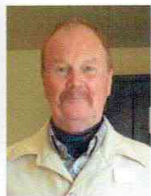
Kate Birch – (Mrs Watson, Mrs White)

This is Kate's first acting role in New Zealand since emigrating from the UK to Auckland three years ago. In England Kate was heavily involved in am-dram. Some of her favourite parts were Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride & Prejudice*, Chelsea in *On Golden Pond*, Agnes in *Agnes of God* and in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*. Most recently she appeared in a French farce - 'Don't dress for Dinner'. By day Kate works at AUT as Director Organisational Development.



Ian Birch – (Mr Watson, Mr White)

Ian has previously acted in various amateur productions in the United Kingdom, most notably as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, Alan in *Come Blow Your Horn* and Arthur in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*. Ian was brought over to New Zealand three years ago by Fonterra for whom he works as an Enterprise Architect.



Steven Green – (Mr Wareing, Mr Taylor, Mr Leemans)

Funnily enough this is the second time Steven has played a dead body in a Company show, but at least this time there is some dialogue before death! He has played Walker in 'Dads Army' three times for the Rose Singers and with Company Theatre has played parts as diverse as a British airman, a French peasant, a Hitler lookalike, a German foot soldier, a confused rock star manager and a black and white minstrel not to mention "Mr Big" the Dutch drug dealer! He performs stand-up comedy in *The Classic Comedy Club* and occasionally sings in a 60's rock band. By day he is the sales and marketing manager for Add-It Accountants.

BIOGRAPHIES



Daisy Eaglesome – (Susan Wareing)

Daisy has performed as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin* and for the last three years with Phineas Phrog Productions at The Bruce Mason Centre, in acting and singing roles including a part in their forthcoming Christmas show. Daisy played 'Melody' in *Brassed Off* with Company Theatre in 2010 and as a member of Devonport Drama from six years old, she played Briny the Mermaid in *Peter Pan* and Mabel in an adaptation of *Pirates of Penzance*.



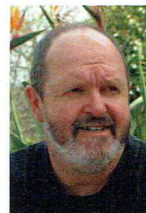
Matilda Dalwood – (Susan Wareing)

Matilda has been part of Devonport Drama for three years. She performed at the Rose Centre in 2013 in Geoff Allen's production of *Peter Pan*. Matilda has performed in advertising, most recently for Tourism New Zealand. She is a keen ballroom dancer. Matilda attends Belmont Intermediate School.



Caitlin Miller – (Newspaper girl/Laundrywoman)

Caitlin has been involved in performing arts since the age of five. Returning to Auckland this year after attending the Sir Anthony Hopkins school of performing arts in Invercargill, she was eager to jump back into theatre feet first. She played Mrs Marchmont in *An Ideal Husband* earlier this year and is delighted to be part of the *Fawlty Towers* cast and crew.



Peter Collis – (Laundryman)

Peter has been a full time potter since his teens. He is well known throughout NZ and has exhibited widely; he made all the pots that got smashed in the *Communication Problems* episode of *Fawlty Towers* in 2012. If you're wondering where you've seen him before, it was on the speedboat in the *Lotto* ad. A walk on part in the last production of *Fawlty Towers* convinced him that his strengths lie in helping behind the scenes. Of his role tonight as one of the laundry men, Peter says, "As long as I don't have any lines I'm happy".

Company Theatre List of Shows



Company Theatre is the Resident Theatre group at The Rose Centre, Belmont. Other theatres hire this venue during the year. Here is a list of recent Company Theatre productions:

- 2005 – Company Theatre Silver Jubilee Year. 25 Years 1980 - 2005**
 Caught In The Net by Ray Cooney. Directed by Sherry Ede
 Trick of The Light by Ken Duncan. Directed by Sian Davis
 The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley. Directed by Graham Wagstaff
- 2006
 Spreading Out by Roger Hall. Directed by Kathy Gent.
 Gym & Tonic by John Godber. Directed by Lesley Locke
 Noises Off by Michael Frayn. Directed by Richard Parmee.
- 2007
 The Bach by Stephen Sinclair, Directed by Sian Davis
 Daughters of Heaven by Michelanne Forster, Directed by Mary Cavanagh
 Funny Money by Ray Cooney, Directed by Sherry Ede
- 2008
 Someone Who'll Watch Over Me by Frank McGuinness.
 Directed by Steve Wright
 'Allo 'Allo, by David Croft and Jeremy Lloyd. Directed by Kathy Gent
 Boeing Boeing by Marc Carnoletti. Directed by Richard Parmee
- 2009
 Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn. Directed by Lynne Davis
 Tom, Dick and Harry by Ray and Michael Cooney. Directed by David Adkins
 Murdered To Death by Peter Gordon. Directed by Sherry Ede
- 2010 - Our 30th Year (1980- 2010)**
 Who Wants to be 100? (Anyone who's 99) by Roger Hall. .
 Directed by Sian Davis
 Brassed Off by Paul Allen. Directed by Kathy Gent
 Music Hall 2010. Devised and Directed by Ruth Chapman.& Sherry Ede
- 2011
 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Kendall. Directed by Karl Buckley
 Four Flat Whites in Italy by Roger Hall. Directed by Richard Parmee
 Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn. Directed by Lynne Davis
- 2012
 Fawltu Towers by John Cleese and Connie Booth. Directed by Kathy Gent
 The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie. Directed by Sian Davis
- 2013
 Calendar Girls by Tim Firth. Directed by Kathy Gent
 It's Just Sex by Jeff Gould. Directed by Richard Parmee
 Little Gem by Elaine Murphy. Directed by Des Smith
- 2014
 An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde. Directed by Steven Arnold
 A Shortcut to Happiness by Roger Hall. Directed by Sian Davis
 MORE Fawltu Towers by John Cleese and Connie Booth.
 Directed by Kathy Gent
- 2015
 Hautu & Charlie Bloom by Kathleen Gallagher. Directed by Steven Arnold
 Hay Fever by Noel Coward. Directed by Julian Harrison
 Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti. Directed by Elena Stejko

NEXT PRODUCTION



HAUTU & CHARLIE BLOOM

Two plays from The Peace Plays
 by N.Z. playwright, Kathleen Gallagher.
 Directed by Steven Arnold.

14 - 28 March 2015

AUDITION

in The Company Room, December 6th @ 2.00pm.

PERFORMERS required: All ages, both genders. Actors. Dancers. Singers. This is a call for actors who would like to participate in a serious piece of theatre. We will be working from a script but we will be layering a theatrical experience over the script, working with sound, lights, images, movement, text and text layering.

www.companytheatre.co.nz

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- To receive our FREE email newsletter, with details of upcoming shows, go to our website and sign on under MAILING LIST. •
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Barfoot & Thompson are proud to support this production



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 after hours Ph (09) 443 5640
 Email: m.turnwald@xtra.co.nz



And not pictured - Jo Eakin, Kim Pharo, Russell Simpson, Kath Hair, James Fox & Dave Miller

