







COMPANY THEATRE PRESENTS...



LOCKDOWN IN
LITTLE GRIMLEY

WRITTEN BY DAVID TRISTRAM, DIRECTED BY KATHY GENT
8-10 DECEMBER 2020 AT THE ROSE CENTRE




DIRECTOR KATHY GENT

ON DIRECTING LOCKDOWN IN LITTLE GRIMLEY
2020 has been a one play year for *Company Theatre*, producing Gary Henderson's *Peninsula* three times and suffering two lockdowns immediately before planned openings in March and August before finally staging the play to great acclaim in November.

Lockdown has been the theme. So what better play to choose for our 40th anniversary celebration than *Lockdown in Little Grimley* by the master of one act comedies, David Tristram. We have had a very short rehearsal period during which we have found it difficult to contain the laughter and trust that the opportunity for our audiences to laugh unreservedly is a tonic at the end of a very difficult year in the theatre.

BIOGRAPHY
Kathy absolutely loves directing comedies, especially plays with strong characters and a touch of the ridiculous. Most recently she has directed *Steel Magnolias* (a little sad too), *One Man Two Guvvners* (definitely ridiculous), *Ladies Day*, *Calendar Girls* and two seasons of *Fawley Towers* for *Company Theatre*; For *Lockdown in Little Grimley* she has brought together four actors who have stood out in her plays for their skill in comedic timing and a stage manager who is skilled in controlling them.



'BERNARD' SCOTT HAYDEN

Scott has been acting with *Company Theatre* since 2007, including two sell-out runs as Basil Fawley in *Fawley Towers* and *More Fawley Towers*. Having played a variety of roles in North Shore Theatres ranging from the dramatic (Colonel Jessup in *A Few Good Men* with Centrestage) to the comedic (Captain Bertorelli in *'Allo 'Allo* with *Company*) and mixtures of both (Elyot in *Private Lives* with Torbay), Scott has always appreciated the firm friendships forged during the course of each production - not the least of which being with his wife whom he met on the production of *Funny Money*.

Bringing Bernard to the stage is a wonderful opportunity to not only work alongside his cherished colleagues and dear friends once again, but to also celebrate the vital role theatre has been in Scott's own life.



'GORDON' JAMES CARRICK

James has been treading the boards since 2015. A late comer to the world of stage acting, James' first role was as Fred Baxter in *Off The Hook*. It was then on to *Company Theatre's* production of *One Man Two Guvnors* in the role of Francis.

Company Theatre is the place James considers to be his theatrical home. Although he claims every show will be his last, he always comes back - especially for this production. Any show that makes him laugh out loud from the very first read through is always going to be hard to turn down.



'JOYCE' TRUDY THUMATH

Trudy has appeared in many plays with *Company Theatre*. She was in the 25th Anniversary production *Caught In The Net*, where have those fifteen years gone?! She is thrilled to be working with her old friends again on this very funny play and would like to thank Kathy for the opportunity to work with such a talented team. 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone and what better way to see it out than to laugh at it?



'MARGARET' JULIE COLLIS

A seasoned actress on stage and screen, Julie was born in the UK and raised in New Zealand and until recently has been working as an actress in LA. She won Best Actress at *Short & Sweet Hollywood*, and has just completed a role in David Fincher's *MANK*. She has worked on numerous productions for *Company Theatre*, most recently *Calendar Girls* and has always enjoyed working with Kathy Gent. *Lockdown in Little Grimley* has been enormous fun, working with such a talented cast on a piece that is a humorous approach to the current pandemic.

CAST & CREW FOR LOCKDOWN IN LITTLE GRIMLEY

CAST - IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Bernard	Scott Hayden
Margaret	Julie Collie
Gordon	James Carrick
Joyce	Trudy Thumath

CREW

Director	Kathy Gent
Stage Manager	Jan Judson
Rehearsal Prompt	Sarah Dettwiler
Lighting and Sound Production	Scott Thomas
Lighting and Sound Operator	Stephen Hood
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Front of House Staff	Committee Members & Volunteers
Graphic Design & Illustration	Hayley Atkins

SETTING

Little Grimley Village Hall, somewhere in deepest England

ACT 1 *The first committee meeting after lockdown restrictions ease*

An interval of 20 minutes when refreshments will be served

ACT 2 *The first rehearsal.*

WE NEED YOU!

Company Theatre would love more volunteers to help with our Front Of House during our shows. If you are able to spare some time, please speak to our front of house manager Lesley Hawkey to find out more.



There will be
ONE INTERVAL
of 15 minutes
where a variety of drinks
will be available
for purchase





PLAYWRIGHT DAVID TRISTRAM

David Tristram (born 1957, Quarry Bank, UK) is an English comic playwright. He has published 29 plays and comedy novels, and produced and directed three films. Widely performed by amateur and professional groups, his plays have parodied such pop-culture genres as soap operas and detective stories.

Educated at Dudley Grammar School and Birmingham University, where he studied English and music, Tristram was a commercial copywriter before turning to comedy. In 1985 he founded the Flying Ducks Theatre Company, which has now become a professional touring company. The enterprise has

expanded into the Flying Ducks Group, which stages conferences and other events, provides audio-visual and Internet production services, and represents actors.

Tristram's plays take a farcical view of sex, alcohol, drugs, crime, and theatre itself. Tristram claims he writes only comedy because he can't take himself too seriously. He usually tests his new work at a small theatre in Bridgnorth near his home in Highley before wider release. His plays have been performed in South Africa, Mexico, Europe and of course, New Zealand.



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Company Theatre celebrates:



Real troupers... Foundation Company Theatre members (from left) Kay Boyes, Ruth Chapman, Peter Segrove, Paddy Stafford-Bush and Sharon Segrove. Left: Another foundation member, Geoff Clews, cuts the cake.



Company Theatre celebrated its 40th anniversary last week with a ruby-themed gathering at the Rose Centre. Former and current members got together to celebrate and watch the latest show, *Lockdown in Little Grimley*. Since its founding, the company has staged nearly 150 productions.

Four decades in the limelight



Red-letter evening... (from left) set builder Tony Sandy and costume manager Cathie Sandy (who have both been with the company from the beginning), past president Sherry Ede and current president Stephen Hood.

Left: Sofie Gabriel (left) and Rebekah Talsma were among the newer members at the event.

