

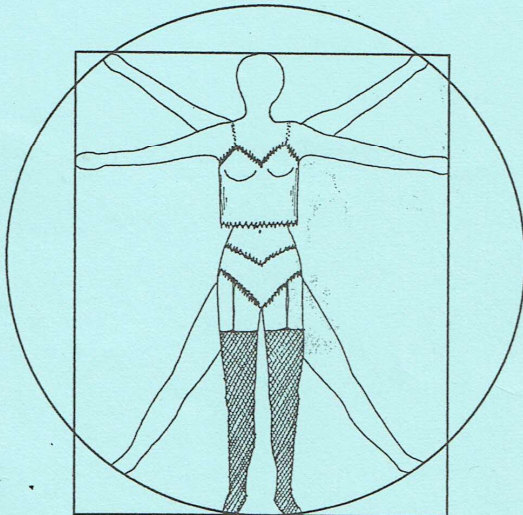
COMPANY  
THEATRE

presents the hilarious and lustful comedy

# HABEAS CORPUS

by Alan Bennett

Directed by Peter Segrove



At the ROSE CENTRE THEATRE  
School Road, Belmont.

Bookings : 445.9900 (mornings only) or 445.6939

## 6th - 14th November 1992

# HABEAS CORPUS

by Alan Bennett

For many years I had dismissed Habeas Corpus - the title suggested a dry legal drama of no particular interest to me. It was therefore a delightful surprise a few months ago when I idly picked it off a library shelf and had a quick browse. One page in and I was hooked. It is a very funny play - almost I suppose a parody on farce, lust and the permissive society- and the style in which Alan Bennett chose to write it is very unusual. It is a style which enables a director and cast to add many ideas of their own without damaging the play unduly! Ideal for a group like us!

We had a lot of fun with Habeas throughout rehearsal. I have been blessed with a very strong cast and an extremely able assistant, Wendy Kristensen, whose help has been invaluable throughout the last few weeks.

We hope you enjoy our first production in *THE ROSE*.

## THE DIRECTOR

**Peter Segrove** has been around Company Theatre for a long time now. He is one of the few current members who remembers Company before we moved to Belmont.

'Habeas Corpus' is the 6th show that Peter has directed for us, the others being two Music Halls, 'Mother Goose', 'Charley's Aunt', and 'Not Now Darling'.

He has also appeared on stage for Company on numerous occasions - most recently as the harrassed *director* in 'Murder in Company'.

Peter has also directed productions for **North Shore Operatic Society**, **Perkal Productions** and **Auckland Light Opera**. The fact that two of these societies no longer exist is an unfortunate coincidence!!





THE CAST



Max has been involved in Theatre since childhood, although in later years the involvement has been minor. He has acted in all types of productions from **Greek Tragedy** through **Shakespeare** to **Review** and has been backstage in props, lighting, stage management, and in theatre administration. This outing with Company is his first major role in a full length play since his young family forced him into his chrysalis.

Catherine was acting with Repertory Groups all over the North and South Islands until the child rearing years forced her into a sustained period of silence (for probably all of 15 minutes.) She first stretched herself across Company's stage during **'Murder In Company'** and is now fully extending herself as the 'enormous and out-standing' Muriel in **'Habeas'**.



Lyndall's previous acting roles include a blind woman in **'Wait Until Dark'** and a pregnant woman in **'Alfie'**. Now she is a flat-chested mousey spinster. As she is none of these things in real life, she longs to play a role more like herself. So if anyone needs a Katherine for **'Taming of the Shrew'**, give Lyndall a call.

James is a hairdresser by day and throws himself around theatre spaces of Auckland at other times. Migrated from Hamilton after productions with **Electra**, he has performed this year in **Summer Shakespeare**, at the **Pumphouse** and the **Watershed**. Holds drama papers from Waikato Uni, Diploma of Drama from Auckland Uni. and this is his first production with Company, so please be nice to him as nobody else seems to like him.



Sherry 'swept' into Company Theatre in May '91, with a 'polished' performance in **'Middle Age Spread'**. She 'dusted' down a few items for **'Music Hall '91'** before finally coming 'clean' during **'Murder In Company'**. She has always wanted to act the part of a Cleaning Lady and **'Habeas'** gives her this chance.



Mike has performed over 25 principal roles with various theatre societies throughout Auckland. Most of these have been with North Shore Operatic where he specialised in character roles. He was last seen with Company in **'Charley's Aunt'**. Mike has 4 cats, a something-cross Rhodesian Ridgeback dog, a son-in-law, two children and a wife. (Not necessarily in that order!)

Heidi has been involved in theatre since 1985, singing and dancing her way through many musicals, with groups such as **Gisborne Theatre Arts** and **Wellington Operatic**. After a short fling with the theatre in London, and many travels later, she has landed here in Company in this her first performance with them.



Penny has been involved with Company for several years, appearing in **'Fifty Fifty'** and **'Death on the Nile'**, and active in theatre in Gisborne, Wellington, Spain and Britain. Having been playing domineering mothers since she was 20, she is now using this experience to bring up her own children. She will be appearing in **'Nicholas Nickelby'** for the Lunchtime Theatre in Takapuna later this month.

At an early age John had to choose between the stage and the priesthood. Going by his **Canon Throbbing**, he should have chosen accountancy. Joined Company Theatre in 1989 for **'Who's Life is It Anyway?'** and hasn't looked back since. Not renowned for looking where he's going either.



Gordon joined Company for **'Music Hall '89'**. In 1990 he was a sizzling Dame Trot in **'Babes in the Wood'**, and in 1991 directed **'Middle Age Spread'**. Earlier this year he played Stone in Howick Little Theatre's production of **'The Business of Murder'** - a complete change of character he says.

Chris has been performing for years. In his spare time he has been a boy soprano and even the third cornet in a D Grade brass band. A very brief overseas experience led to his wide renown in stage, television and street theatre. In this production, however, Chris will be fully stretched (and well hung) in a largely non-speaking part, and this photo (right) may have to serve as a more lasting memorial.



## CAST in order of appearance

DR ARTHUR WICKSTEED.....Max Golding  
 MRS SWABB.....Sherry Ede  
 MURIEL WICKSTEED.....Catherine Long  
 DENNIS WICKSTEED.....James Williams  
 CONNIE WICKSTEED .....Lyndall Frost  
 CANNON THROBING.....John Palmer  
 SIR PERCY SHORTER.....Mike Maher  
 LADY RUMPERS.....Penny Skyrme  
 FELICITY RUMPERS.....Heidi Jeory  
 SHANKS.....Gordon Currie  
 PURDUE.....Chris Mullane

PIANIST.....JANICE MOORE

## PRODUCTION TEAM

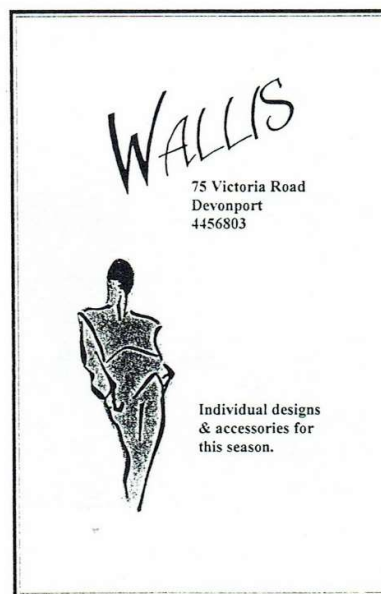
DIRECTOR.....PETER SEGROVE  
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....Wendy Kristensen  
 SET DESIGNER.....Neil Burgham  
 LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Peter Fitzgibbon  
 STAGE MANAGER.....Neil Harrison  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER.....Doug Bourke  
 WARDROBE.....Cathy Sandy  
 PROMPT.....Nannette Quincey  
 ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER...Maira Coote  
 LIGHTING OPERATORS.....Martin Judge, Wayne Shepherd  
 STAGE CREW.....Rob Heighway, Tony Sandy  
 WARDROBE ASSISTANTS.....Gail Carran, Gillian Taylor  
 PROPERTIES.....Fay England, Karen Gailer, Trish Worrell  
 FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGERS...Ros Clews, Gillian Taylor  
 BILLBOARD ARTWORK .....Diana Poor

The play is set in the living room of the  
 Wicksteed house,  
 and on Brighton Pier.

There will be a 15 minute interval.

### COMPANY THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:-

Bendon N.Z. Ltd; Erica Mandeno; Geoff Tyler;  
 Jan Tyler; Robert Letcher; Carol Mountford;  
 Chris Kay, Plastercraft and POINT Cars.



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## COMPANY THEATRE

*Company Theatre* has grown steadily over 12 years from a group of nine enthusiasts, performing in Church Halls (latterly St. Michael's in King Edward Ave) to an established society of approximately sixty members, now with its own purpose built theatre and clubroom. We present 3 major productions a year and also have a thriving children's group - *Junior Company*. Some of our recent productions include: **Not Now Darling;** **Murder on the Nile;** **Who's Life Is It Anyway?;** **Middle Age Spread;** **Move Over Mrs Markham** and several **Victorian Music Halls.**

We look forward to achieving even greater success in our new home. If you wish any further information about Company, Junior Company, next year's productions or becoming a member, *please see back cover.*



**Company Theatre Committee 1992**  
*Celebrating the Opening of the Rose Centre*  
 Left to Right: Ruth Segrove, Cathy Sandy, Neil Burgham, Tony Sandy, Wendy Kristensen, Doug Bourke, Peter Segrove, Sherry Ede (Absent: John Palmer, Barbara Simpson)

## JUNIOR COMPANY

started in 1989 for children from 6 - 13 years. The main aim is to help children experience all facets of the performing arts, with a strong emphasis on *drama, improvisation and stagecraft.*

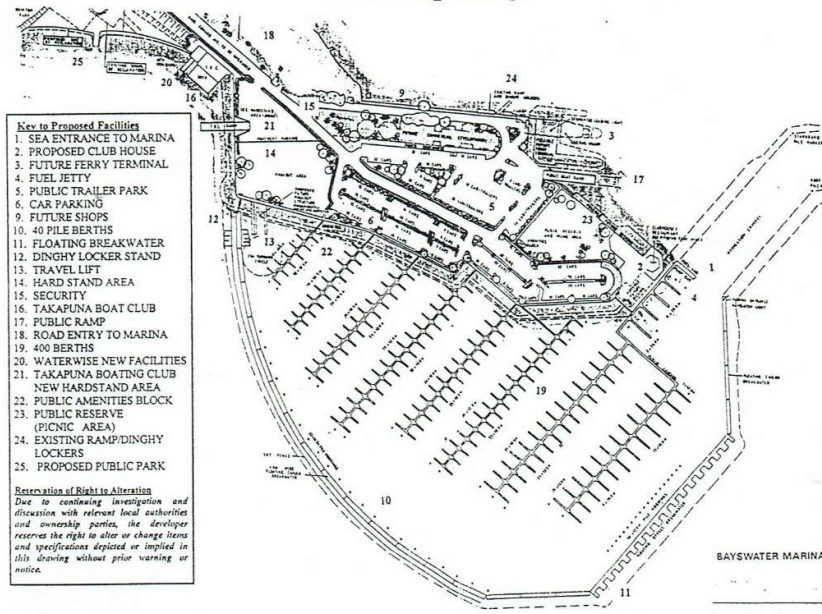
The group meets once a week on Saturdays from 4 - 5.30pm at the Rose Centre. The culmination of each year's classes is a major production, with public performances. Recent major productions: 1991 - **Those Were The Days;** 1992 - **The Princess and the Pea.** Information Ruth Segrove 445.6939.



Emma Blackman - *The Jester*  
*The Princess & The Pea*

# BAYSWATER MARINA

CONGRATULATES  
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 on its Opening.



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**and support this Community Project**

For more information regarding the Bayswater Marina Project, please call down to Bayswater and see Wayne Paterson or phone 445.6735



**THE ROSE CENTRE** was officially opened at the end of September '92. (Photo shows Opening Ceremony. The Centre's first Chairperson, Paddy Stafford-Bush on Right). The Centre has 2 **Community Lounges**, a **Kitchen** and a 120 seat **Auditorium** - all available for hire. A **Creche** runs from 9.00-12.00 pm, Mon to Fri, with vacancies for children over 2 years. Cost: \$3.50(one) \$4.50(two)



Various **courses** are run during the daytime and evenings. At present these include: a Mothers' Group - (informal get togethers); Lambada Dancing; Growth & Sharing Course; Embroidery; Discussion Group; Naturopathy; Yoga; Musical Minikids; Toastmistresses and even Sit Dancing. Many more activities are planned and ideas are always welcome.

Any enquiries, please phone 445.9900 (9-12 weekdays).



HABEAS CORPUS: Lyndall Frost as Connie Wicksteed and Mike Maher as Sir Percy Shorter.

**Lots of laughs promised**

Belmont's Company Theatre will be performing its first production in its new home at the Rose Centre in Belmont next month.

*Habeas Corpus* is a hilarious comedy set in England during the 1960s about a 53-year-old doctor with a passion for young female patients.

Director Peter Segrove says the production is their premiere in their new home although they performed at the centre during the opening celebrations in September.

"We have been performing in Belmont for 10 years and have built up a loyal following but there are still a lot of local people who have never heard of us."

*Habeas Corpus* plays at the Rose Centre from November 4-14. Bookings 445-9900.



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