

Company Theatre
 Michelanne Forster's
Daughters of Heaven

Directed by Mary Cavanagh

28 July to 11 August 2007

Tickets \$20, Concessions \$15

The Rose Centre
 School Road, Belmont

Bookings (09) 445 6447

"Daughters of Heaven"

By Michelanne Forster

Directed by Mary Cavanagh

Mary has been directing since university, with her debut being a Pirandello play using the original Italian script, performed at the Maidment Theatre at the University of Auckland. Since then she has focused on directing plays in English, ranging from Shakespeare to musicals. Mary also enjoys writing scripts and music for theatre and has a particular interest in New Zealand drama. She first directed "Daughters of Heaven" in 1998 at Westlake Girls High School and is delighted to have the opportunity to revisit this powerful and challenging New Zealand drama.

This is Mary's first play with Company Theatre and she has enjoyed working with such a talented and committed cast.

There will be a 15 Minute interval at the end of Act 1

CAST

Pauline Parker/Gina
 Juliet Hulme/Deborah
 Bridget O'Malley (Maid)
 Hilda Hulme
 Henry Hulme
 Honora Rieper (Pauline's Mother)
 Herbert Rieper (Pauline's Father)
 Alan Brown (Crown Prosecutor)
 Walter Perry (Hilda Hulme's Lover)
 Detective
 Police Matron
 Terrence Gresson (Counsel for Juliet Hulme)
 Dr Reginald Medicott (Defence Psychiatrist)
 Justice Adams
 Prison Officer

Jennifer Martin
 Hayley Baines
 Claire Balfour
 Julie Collis
 John Curry
 Trudy Thumath
 Steve Wright
 John Clarke
 Richard Parmée
 Stuart Bradbury
 Jane Edwards
 Steve Wright
 Richard Parmée
 John Curry
 Stuart Bradbury

CAST PROFILES

Jennifer Martin - Jennifer is a theatre student and "Daughters of Heaven" is her first show with Company Theatre. Her previous theatre roles have included Abigail Williams in "The Crucible" and Serena Katz in "Fame". The combination of the talented and professional cast & crew together with the 'killer' text has created an experience for her like none other. She feels very privileged to have experienced such an intricate role as Pauline, and will never forget this experience.

Hayley Baines - Hayley is a psychology student who has been acting in many forms for over 15 years. This is her first appearance with Company Theatre and she has enjoyed the challenge of playing the complex Juliet. She considers it an amazing opportunity to have been able to combine her passion for acting along with her psychology studies and feels blessed to have worked with such an enthusiastic and dedicated cast & crew.

Claire Balfour - This is Claire's fourth play in Auckland, her second attempt at an Irish accent and her first time on stage for Company Theatre. Previous Auckland productions include "Not Now Darling" at The Stables, "Lonesome West" at The Pumphouse and "Madman Sings to the Moon" at Dolphin Theatre. Says Claire "It has been a pleasure working with great cast & crew on a tragic but fascinating true story!"

Julie Collis - Julie has been a part of the Auckland acting scene for many years....Waverley's mother on Shortland St, and Diane the gossip shopkeeper on Mercy Peak. Stage credits include "Modigliani" and "The Odd Couple" at ETS in 2004. She is thrilled to be playing the elegant, sophisticated Hilda Hulme, and has thoroughly enjoyed working with the dedicated and talented members of Company Theatre.

John Curry - After two happy appearances for Company Theatre - a villain in "The Ghost Train" and an amateur viticulturist in "Spreading Out" - John is enjoying being part of the ensemble in this powerful piece of kiwi drama.

Trudy Thumath - This is Trudy's third production with Company Theatre having previously appeared in "Kindertransport" and "Caught in the Net". She is enjoying the role of Mrs Rieper whom she describes as "confused, bitter and hurt by the loss of her relationship with her daughter, truly a nightmare for any parent"

Steve Wright - With over 20 years experience in community and professional theatre, Steve is delighted to be involved in such a worthy play for Company Theatre. Recently returned from 2½ years in Oxford, England where he was cast in 2 outdoor Shakespearian productions - in 2005 he was Nim in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and in 2006 Stephano in "The Tempest". Steve was last seen on Company Theatre's stage as Dan in Roger Hall's "Take a Chance on Me" in 2003.

John Clarke - John was a comparatively late starter in his acting career, having his first role in the stage musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" in 1989 at the age of 39. Since then he has continued to 'walk the boards' in many stage productions and appeared regularly in various TV drama's, commercials and feature films. He is looking forward to playing Alan Brown, Crown Prosecutor and enthusiastic about being back in front of a live audience.

Richard Parmée - Richard has had the privilege of being on stage for Company Theatre many times, most recently as Simon in "The Bach", and the thrill never ceases. He has enjoyed working with a new director and a richly talented cast & crew to help create what he believes will be an exciting vision of this tragedy....

Stuart Bradbury - This is Stuart's first role with Company Theatre although he has been active with many of Auckland's other theatre companies. Last year he played the fourth Henry in "Travels with my Aunt" at Howick. In 2005 he was in "The Cripple of Inishmaan" & "Strangers on a Train" at the same theatre - the latter, like Daughters of Heaven, set in the '50s and in which he also played the detective. Is somebody trying to tell him something?

Jane Edwards - This is Jane's first production in New Zealand and she is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to be part of Company Theatre. "Mary and the team are wonderful people and I have really enjoyed stepping outside of my own personality and taking on the role of Prison Matron".

JOIN COMPANY THEATRE!

Phone Steve on 634 6313 or
E: companytheatre@gmail.com
W: www.companytheatre.co.nz

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Mary Cavanagh
Production Manager/PA/Prompt	Sue Gross
PA/Prompt	Molly Clarke
Stage Manager	Sheila Stevens
Set Design	Mary Cavanagh
Set Construction	Richard Parmée with Alastair Fletcher, Steve Wright
Set Dressing	Maureen Kenny, Phil Searle
Set Painting	Steve Wright with Richard Parmée
Lighting Design/Operation	Phil Searle
Sound Design	Terry Smith
Sound Operation	Jenny Gannet
Properties	Maureen Kenny
Wardrobe	Nadine Gibson
Publicity	Kathy Gent
Poster Design	Jenni Holland
Photography	Anne Rimmer
Programme	Richard Parmée
Front of House Manager	Lynne Davis
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Box Office, Front of House & Bar Staff	Members of Company Theatre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Bell Gully (Barristers & Solicitors),
Torbay Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre

AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

Auditions for Ray Cooney's "Funny Money"

Directed by Sherry Ede

At 2pm on Sunday 19 August 2007 @ The Rose Centre

Enquiries phone Sherry on 445 2386 Production: 17 Nov - 1 Dec

When a court decision seems like madness, it may well be

In the wake of the David Bain case, Derek Round recalls the bizarre legal back story to another famous South Island murder trial.

THE PRIVY Council's quashing of David Bain's murder convictions has put under the spotlight the position of crown prosecutors who are appointed judges in New Zealand's adversarial justice system.

The late Justice Neil Williamson, who presided at both the Bain and Peter Ellis Christchurch Creche trials, had been crown prosecutor in Christchurch before he was appointed to the bench.

A prosecutor's job is to attempt to get a conviction and questions have been and are being asked as to whether it is appropriate that many of them are then appointed as judges, committed though they are to acting fairly and impartially on the bench.

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In the Bain and Ellis trials, Justice Williamson, who held strong moral views arising from his family's Catholic background, ruled as inadmissible evidence which defence counsel argued unsuccessfully was crucial to their case.

In the Bain case, that included evidence that David's father Robin Bain was alleged to be having an incestuous relationship with his teenage daughter Laniet.

The Privy Council ruled that, had the jury found Robin Bain to be deeply depressed and facing public revelation of having sex with Laniet, it might have concluded that he had a motive for the killings.

Justice Williamson had joined Raymond, Donnelly and Brown as a young law student shortly after the sensational 1954 Parker-Hulme mur-

der trial when Pauline Parker and Juliet Hulme were found guilty of killing Parker's mother by bashing her with a brick in a stocking in Christchurch's Victoria Park.

Parker and Hulme's defence counsel, Alec Haslam and Terence Gresson, both of whom later became judges, argued they should be found not guilty on the grounds of insanity because they suffered from a state known as folie à deux, associated with a lesbian relationship.

Before he began his summing-up the trial, Mr Justice (later Sir Frances) Adams (a former Dunedin crown prosecutor) saw Hulme's junior counsel, the late Brian McLelland, and the assistant crown prosecutor Peter Mahon in his chambers and told them he did not intend to put the insanity defence to the all-male jury in his summing up.

Mahon, with considerable integrity and courage, his friends in the legal profession say, told Adams that if he did not put the insanity plea to the jury he would feel obliged to seek leave to withdraw from the case.

Adams then agreed to put the insanity plea to the jury, which rejected it and found the two teenagers guilty.

(Many of the young law students attending the trial heard for the first time the words "lesbian" and "dildo" - words not in common use in Christchurch society in the 1950s.)

The attitude of many of the police at the time was exemplified by Inspector Jack Fletcher, the gruff but genial police prosecutor in the Magistrate's Court who once said to me as the last of the defendants he had prosecuted was led to the cells: "As far as I'm concerned they're all guilty or they wouldn't be here."

That attitude is relevant to the police attitude in the Bain and Ellis cases.

Shortly after the Parker-Hulme trial, crown prosecutor the late Alan Brown, who had led the prosecution, began behaving in a strange manner which was very much out of character and included brandishing a shotgun.

Brown's partners, Mahon and the late Jack McKenzie, because they were unwilling or unable, refused to confront Brown over his increasingly bizarre behaviour.

As Brown's behaviour became more alarming, his friend and fellow lawyer Ted Taylor (later New Zealand ambassador to Japan and Christchurch coroner) asked me to apply for an order to have Brown committed under the Mental Health Act.

I was a 19-year-old law student

and the most junior member of Raymond, Donnelly and Brown's staff at the time. Feeling acutely embarrassed and uncomfortable, I saw stipendiary magistrate the late Rex Abernethy in his chambers and signed the necessary application for Brown's committal. He was admitted to Ashburn Hall (now Ashburn Clinic), a private psychiatric hospital in Dunedin.

Ironically, the director of Ashburn Hall, Dr Reginald Medlicott, had been the principal medical witness for the defence in the Parker-Hulme trial and was aggressively cross-examined by Brown. Now Brown was his patient.

Medlicott told a colleague: "There were times during the trial when I thought I was the only sane person in the courtroom."

Medlicott told me Brown had been suffering from a disorder for some time before the Parker-Hulme trial and this had been exacerbated by the tension of the trial which attracted worldwide publicity and brought many foreign journalists to Christchurch.

The disorder was probably what was then known as manic depression, now known as bipolar disorder, which is notoriously difficult to diagnose, but can be successfully treated with a number of drugs which were not available at the time.

His illness did not affect the outcome of the Parker-Hulme trial, but it raises important questions: What if the judge, defence counsel or a witness in a similar trial had been suffering from a disorder which was not apparent at the time? Could this be grounds for a subsequent appeal?

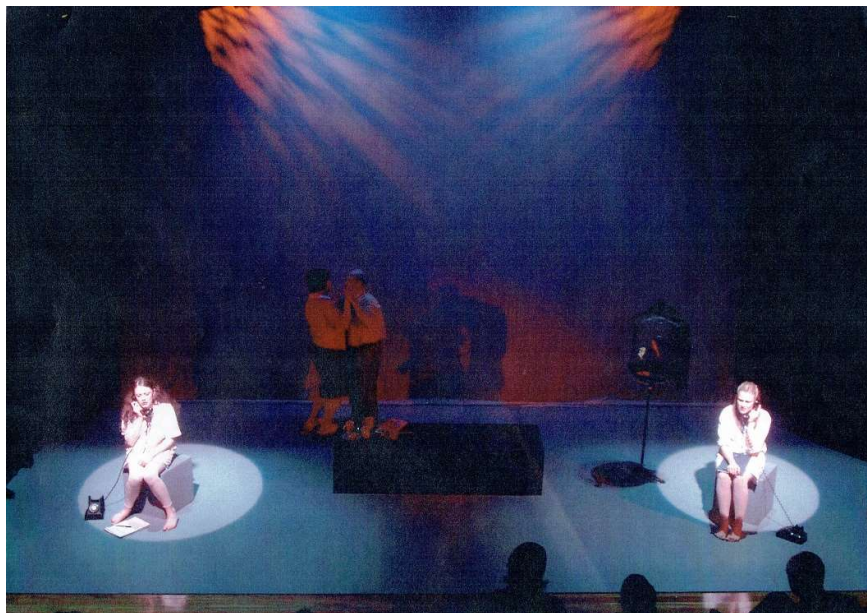
They are questions which I believe the New Zealand Law Society and the Law Commission should address with some urgency.

Brown was eventually discharged from Ashburn Hall, resigned as Crown Solicitor and retired from Raymond, Donnelly and Brown.

He was struck off the roll as a barrister and solicitor - a decision the Law Society probably would not have taken if it had been aware of the full medical background - but later restored to the roll before he died.

Hulme's counsel, Terence Gresson, took his own life after he became a judge. Detective Archie Brian Tait, one of the detectives on the case, also took his own life years later, apparently because a man against whom he had given evidence had been convicted when Tait believed he was innocent.

■ Derek Round is a former editor of the New Zealand Press Association





Teenager admits killing mother with axe - 26 Jul 2007 - Assault & h... http://www.nzherald.co.nz/topic/story.cfm?c_id=124&objectid=104...

The New Zealand Herald
nzherald.co.nz

Assault and homicide Story

Teenager admits killing mother with axe

11:29AM Thursday July 26, 2007

A 17-year-old girl today admitted murdering her mother with an axe.

The teenager, who was 16 when she bludgeoned her mother to death on a couch at her Christchurch house, pleaded guilty at a pre-trial conference in the High Court this morning.

Justice John Hansen continued interim name suppression for the teen, who was remanded for sentence in the High Court on August 23.

At a closed depositions hearing in the Youth Court last May, evidence was given an axe was used to inflict head injuries on the teenager's mother, who was found dead on a couch at her Papanui home last November 29.

One witness described finding a blood-like substance on a wooden-handled log splitter at the home.

Four gashes, some up to 10cm long, were found on the left side of the mother's head and face.

A Papanui convenience store proprietor told how a teenager had entered the store about 9.10pm on the night of the murder and asked if she could use the phone, but was told it wasn't for public use.

He said he then heard the teenager say the word "murder" so he dialled 111 for her and handed her the phone.

He told the depositions hearing he heard the teenager say: "I kill my mum".

Crown prosecutor Chris Lange said today that members of the teenager's family were preparing victim impact statements and wished to be heard in court.

The teenager's lawyer, David Ruth, urged Justice Hansen to sentence her immediately.

Victim impact statements were from the teenager's family and they could communicate their feelings to her directly if they wished.

While Mr Ruth said he was mindful of the family's wishes to be heard in court, he urged the judge to consider her age and said she wanted to put the matter behind her.

Justice Hansen said it was not just a matter of the family expressing their feelings, they should have the opportunity to be heard in public.

He said he would not be imposing more than the minimum 10-year non-parole period with the standard life sentence.

He convicted the teenager over the murder and remanded her for sentence.

A woman in the public gallery at the rear of the court swore and had to be restrained by other members of the teenager's family as she left the dock after an appearance lasting less than three minutes.

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