



COMPANY THEATRE

From the hit TV series by
John Cleese & Connie Booth

**FAWLTY
TOWERS**

Directed By Kathy Gent

16th - 31st March 2012
Weds - Sat 8pm, Sundays 2pm

The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont

Tickets \$25 • \$20 Concessions
Bookings 445 9900 or rosecentre@xtra.co.nz

www.companytheatre.co.nz



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It is a huge challenge to transfer a well-known and well-loved TV series to the stage when audiences will have great expectations of seeing the original characters come to life. My aim has been to find actors who can capture the feel of the performances rather than physical doubles of the TV cast. In terms of looks and performances, our cast have done us proud.

After the successes of "Allo 'Allo" in 2008 and 'Brassed Off' in 2010 I set out to find another screen favourite; Fawlty Towers is I think funnier on the stage than on the screen, the situations so ridiculous, the characters so unusual that there is a lot to explore. But Fawlty Towers is not like "Allo 'Allo"; there isn't a stage script available, you just choose your three episodes and then work out how you do it on one set without camera cuts and close-ups...

It has been a complete joy to work with a cast dedicated to making the production as good as it can be, true to the original vision of John Cleese and Connie Booth. The concept for the show was born in 1971 in the Gleneagles Hotel Torquay on the 'English Riviera'. John Cleese was staying there with members of Monty Python's Flying Circus and experienced unbelievably rude service from the owner Donald Sinclair who threw Eric Idle's briefcase out of the hotel, complained about Terry Gilliam's table manners and chucked a bus timetable at a guest who dared to ask the time of the next bus to town!

With our fabulous set, our costumes and our props we have remained faithful to the 1970's period. I should like to thank the tremendous crew who have worked tirelessly to replicate the original production in minute detail. We, the cast and crew, have had huge fun over the last three months living in the time-warp that is Fawlty Towers. We look forward to taking you there.....

Kathy Gent

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Kathy is Vice-President of Company Theatre. She first directed three university revues and then belonged to drama groups in Sheffield, Portsmouth and London directing many musicals, pantomimes and plays, her all-time favourites of which were 'Cabaret' and 'Stepping Out'. 'Fawlty Towers' is the ninth production Kathy has directed for Company Theatre since she came to New Zealand in 1995 and the last in a string of comedies including Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit', Roger Hall's 'Spreading Out' and 'Take a Chance on Me' and more recently 'Allo 'Allo' and 'Brassed Off'.

FAWLTY TOWERS EPISODES

- The Hotel Inspectors*
- Communication Problems*
- The Germans*

Between each episode there will be a 15 minute interval when the bar will be open and tea and coffee served.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

'Ding Dong, Sex and Jealousy' by Marc Camoletti, directed by Sherry Ede

Auditions 27 May at 2pm; Season 11-25 August

Phone Sherry on 445 2386 for more information

COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members. Please contact Richard on 445 9900 or go to our website www.companytheatre.co.nz

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Basil Fawly	Scott Hayden	Major Gowen	John Clarke
Sybil Fawly	Julie Collis	Miss Tibbs	Barbara Farron
Manuel	Marco Staines	Miss Gatsy	Maureen Pribble
Polly Shearman	Tresna Hunt		
THE HOTEL INSPECTORS			
Mr Hutchison	Steve Wright	Brian	Rob Campion
Mr Walt	Phil Tarbox	Chris	Graeme Webber
John	Allan Matthews		
COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS			
Mrs Richards	Trudy Thumath	Mr Mackintosh	Allan Matthews
Mr Thurston	Graeme Webber	Terry	Phil Tarbox
Mr Firkins	Rob Campion	Guests	Linda Camplin
Mr Yardley	Fred Gould		Claire Wingfield
Mr Kerr	Kristof Haines	Taxidriver	Peter Collis
THE GERMANS			
Nursing Sister	Claire Wingfield	Miss Wilson	Bev Boyd
Doctor Finn	Rob Campion	German guests	Phil Tarbox
Mr Sharp	Graeme Webber		Kristof Haines
Mrs Sharp	Linda Camplin		Kath Hair
Elderly Germans	Allan Matthews		Nadine Gibson
	Trudy Thumath		

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Kathy Gent
Production Manager	Lynne Davis
Stage Manager	Sheila Stevens
Assistant Stage Manager	Kath Hair
Backstage Assistant	Peter Collis
Set Design	Phil Davis
Set Construction	Phil Davis assisted by Guy Davis, Richard Parmee, Alastair Fletcher, Tony Sandy, Steve Wright, Scott Thomas
Set painting and dressing	Caroline Parker, Anne Rimmer
Wardrobe	Nadine Gibson assisted by Kim Pharo
Dresser	Ruth Chapman
Properties	Fred and Doreen Gould assisted by Linda Camplin
Lighting Design	Andrew Potvin
Lighting and Sound Operation	Jake Thumath
Sound Effects	Terry Smith
Publicity and Programme	Kathy Gent
Photos	Sherry Ede
Front of House Manager	Lynne Davis
Bar	Alastair Fletcher
Front of House and Bar Teams	Members of Company Theatre

Hair Styled by
Jos Diver & Paul Hogan
Of Jos' Salon, Devonport

CAST PROFILES

SCOTT HAYDEN

Having played characters from Col Jessup in 'A Few Good Men' to Capt Bertorelli in 'Allo 'Allo, Scott is delighted to take on the challenge of another icon of pop culture in the role of John Cleese's comic masterpiece Basil Fawly. A regular Company Theatre actor since 2007, Scott is extremely grateful for the opportunity and thankful to be working with such a talented group of on stage cast and off stage crew.

JULIE COLLIS

Last year Julie played the glamorous Judy in 'Four Flat Whites' in Italy and this year it is the well-groomed, well organised, well controlled Sybil. "I just adore looking down my nose while Basil runs around in ever-decreasing circles". In this the sixth in a series of varied productions for Company Theatre, Julie finds the constant challenge, enthusiasm and vigour of the talented cast and crew both exhilarating and rewarding. She is sure the audience will love the show as much as the cast love performing such iconic work.

MARCO STAINES

Que? Marco Staines, the newest recruit in Company Theatre has the unenviable task of performing as Manuel the Spanish waiter. His Italian nationality proved to be a great help when exploring his role – "Manuel reminds me of how I was when I first came here- clueless."

TRESNA HUNT

Tresna played Katy in Company Theatre's production of Brilliant Lies in 2002. Since then she has had two children and completed postgraduate studies. Over the last two years Tresna has taken screen acting classes, has written and performed in a TAPAC stage show and has written and had filmed a 3 minute screen play for an Outrageous Fortune competition. Tresna is playing Polly and particularly enjoys the alliance with Basil Fawly.

JOHN CLARKE

Playing the Major is a dream role for John. "I have always loved this character. He is very similar to me really – doesn't have a clue what's going on round him but a harmless old coot!" Since appearing in 'How the Other Half Loves' in 2000, John has acted in 13 plays with Company Theatre and sees it as a second home for him and his constant shadow Lily aka Miss Lily the dominatrix dog.

BARBARA FARRON

This is Barbara's third production under Kathy's direction. Barbara previously performed in TV productions and spent 12 years with the Older Womens Theatre.

MAUREEN PRIBBLE

Maureen has performed on stage for about 30 years in productions for Mairangi Players, Phoenix Theatre, Torbay Drama Society and the Older Women's Theatre Group. This is her first play for Company Theatre. She has appeared in several TV Commercials both in New Zealand and overseas.

STEVE WRIGHT

Steve has over 30 years experience of community theatre. Most recently he played an Albanian refugee in Tom, Dick and Harry, Ernest in Bedroom Farce and Leo in Roger Hall's Who Wants to be 100. His last appearance was as Brevis in Improbable Fiction. An occasional appearance in Hercules and Xena and in TV ads are among his other credits.

PHIL TARBOX

This is Phil's second production with Company Theatre, his first being in 'Four Flat Whites in Italy' where he played a variety of Italians. He now appears in Fawly Towers playing Brits and a German. Before moving to New Zealand, Phil appeared in Cinderella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, My Fair Lady and Salad Days. "Kathy has been an excellent director, guiding us as well as reining us all in magnificently to keep us true to the episodes".

TRUDY THUMATH

This is Trudy's seventh production with Company Theatre. She last appeared as the nervous downtrodden Grace in 'Improbable Fiction'. She is thoroughly enjoying playing the part of snobby, bossy Mrs Richards and is delighted to be working once again with old friends and meeting some new ones. Trudy would like to thank Kathy for allowing her to work with such a wonderful cast and crew.

ROB CAMPION

This is Rob's first production since school days and he is passionate about his participation in Fawly Towers and working with such a talented cast and crew. His daughter has just started a degree in Musical Theatre in Australia.

ALLAN MATTHEWS

This is Allan's third play for Company and the second with Kathy as director. He's playing three minor roles – John, an elderly German and Mr Mackintosh. The latter never mentions the war.

CLAIRE WINGFIELD

This is Claire's first production with Company theatre. She recently arrived from Birmingham in the UK where she was a very active member of the Moorpool Players and enjoyed playing a variety of roles from the upperclass Miss Eynsford-Hill in 'Pygmalion' to a gold-digging fortune hunter in 'Laying the Ghost'. Claire is really enjoying playing the part of the nursing sister as it gives her a bit of authority; someone at least needs to think they can control Basil.

BEV BOYD

This is Bev's first production with Company Theatre. As a teacher Bev has been involved in writing and directing school productions but " being on the other side of the curtain, working with a talented and supportive cast and crew has been a valuable learning experience". Bev admires Miss Wilson's passion for colour and for coordinating has outfits for a dazzling stand-out effect.

KATHERINE HAIR

Kath has worked both onstage and offstage at Company, most recently acting in Four Flat Whites in Italy and working as stage manager for 'Improbable Fiction'. Previously she earned a nomination for best director in the ACTT awards for 'Foreplay'. She is looking forward to Fawly Towers as it "is such a hilarious and busy show".

GRAEME WEBBER

Graeme is usually involved in the musical side of Company having appeared in Music Hall and composed music for Improbable Fiction but he is very pleased to take a couple of minor roles in this hilarious production. "It's been so much fun" says Graeme, "I've watched it from the sidelines while waiting for my part and have had to stifle endless laughs".

LINDA CAMPLIN

Having been involved behind the scenes for some years, this is Linda's first production on stage with Company Theatre. She says playing Mrs Sharp has been a fun and memorable journey.

KRISTOF HAINES

Fawly Towers is Kristof's first production with Company theatre. He first got his taste of the stage in 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at Tauranga's Detour Theatre Company, and was last seen in Shoreside's production of 'Macbeth' at the Pumphouse.

NADINE GIBSON

Known for costuming a number of productions for Company Theatre including this one with help from the very talented Kim Pharo, as well as

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...



Ace Engravers, Fairview Village, Firewatch, Hearing Care Browns Bay, Carters Builders Supplies, Coopers Creek, The Rose Centre, Stanley Bay Bowling Club

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NORTH SHORE TIMES, MARCH 13, 2012 21

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Company Theatre wreaks havoc in Fawlty Towers

Company Theatre presents three episodes from the iconic 1970s hit TV series *Fawlty Towers*, written by Basil Fawlty and his then wife Connie Booth following a visit to the Gleanegles Hotel in Torquay when filming *Monty Python*.

They have chosen some of the funniest episodes – *The Hotel*

Inspectors, *Communication Problems* (remember deaf old Mrs Richards) and *The Germans* (don't mention the war).

The Society has built an elaborate set to replicate the seedy hotel in Torquay on the English Riviera, complete with hotel and hospital bedrooms, and Kathy Gent the director has

found an excellent array of acting talent to take on the well-known roles of Basil, Sybil, Polly, Manuel and the Major plus a number of hotel guests.

Who did not roar with laughter at the TV programmes? You will love seeing the familiar characters come to life on the stage.

This is not the first time that Company Theatre has taken on the adaptation of a well-known TV series. In 2008 Kathy directed a production of *'Allo Allo'* and then in 2010 she directed the stage version of the film *'Brassed Off'* in conjunction with North Shore Brass Band. On those occasions

audiences flocked to see their favourite characters brought to life on the stage.

Over half the tickets for *Fawlty Towers* have been sold and Company

Theatre is hoping for a sell-out.

■ Performances run at The Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont from March 17-31 – Tuesday to

Saturday 8pm; Sunday matinees 2pm. All tickets should be booked in advance by phoning the Rose Centre on 445-9900 or emailing rosecentre@xtra.co.nz.



Power games: Basil (Scot Hayden) scowls as wife Sybil (Julie Collis) takes the upper hand in running the hotel.



