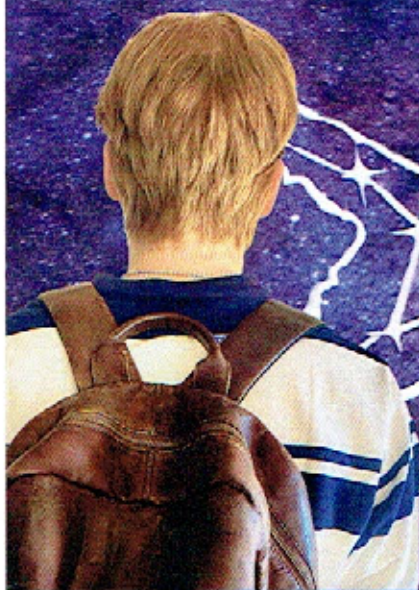


COMPANY THEATRE

presents Olivier & Tony Award Winner

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT

OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME



directed by
Suzy Sampson

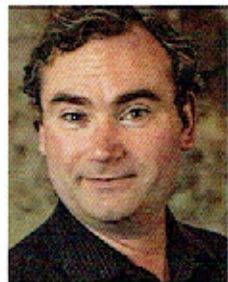
by Simon Stephens based on the novel by Mark Haddon

11 - 25 MAY 2024

iTICKET

THE ROSE CENTRE BELMONT





Welcome

from Stephen Hood
PRESIDENT OF COMPANY THEATRE

Company Theatre welcomes you to the beginning of our 2024 season of plays! After last May's NAPTA Award-winning *The History Boys*, Suzy Sampson returns to direct Simon Stephens' Olivier & Tony Award-winning *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, based on Mark Haddon's Whitbread Award-winning novel. Lead actor Ben Wickers and his equally talented castmates turn the fine material of this moving and inspiring story into a sight to behold.

In August, New Zealand playwright Gary Henderson's *Home Land* will be directed by Sian Davis – whose last stint directing for Company Theatre was with August 2023's NAPTA award-winning *Death of a Salesman*, and who just finished directing "Cherish" at TheatreWorks, Birkenhead. Following this, powerhouse Company Theatre director Kathy Gent returns in November to direct Tim Firth's *Sheila's Island*, the female version of August 2021's *Neville's Island* which had its run cut short after its opening weekend due to a virus that shall not be mentioned... It would be great to see you there!

About the Director

Suzy Sampson



Suzy trained at The London Academy of Performing Arts and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, the Stella Adler Academy in New York and TVI Studios in Los Angeles.. Her one woman show Shakespeare's Will was awarded Best Production in Hong Kong and has toured Prague, Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington.

In 2015 Suzy established the highly acclaimed Outdoor Shakespeare in the Bay and produced, directed and acted in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It* at Te Puna Quarry. In 2018 she produced and directed *Outdoor Oscar Wilde* at The Elms Te Papa in Tauranga.

Ben Elton's play *Popcorn* which she directed for **Company Theatre** in 2018 received the ACTT Theatre Awards for Outstanding Comedy.

Suzy also co-produced and acted in Geoff Allen's play *Sexy Buddha* at The Pumphouse, Vic Theatre and Pitt Street Theatre and directed and produced *Skylight* by David Hare at The Pumphouse in 2020.

Suzy's most recent directorial role was for **Company Theatre's** production of *The History Boys* in 2023 and she feels very privileged to be back working with such a wonderful cast and crew and many familiar faces on the Rose Centre stage.



Thoughts on the Play

from Suzy Sampson
DIRECTOR

Ngā iwi kia ora rā

I'd been waiting a long time for the rights to come available for community theatres to present this very special play. Having neuro diverse people in my own family I really appreciate this opportunity to present some of the ways a non typical brain might process the world we live in.

Directing "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my theatre career. It has been a truly collaborative process with my stellar and creative cast bringing suggestions for the staging of the rapid paced scenes and it's been a lot of fun "playing" with this play within a play!

Thank you for joining us in the Rose Theatre today - it will be a roller coaster ride through good times and bad but we hope you ultimately find it an uplifting experience.

Tihei mauri ora!
Nga mihi nui, Suzy



The Cast

Christopher Boone

Siobhan

Ed Boone

Judy Boone

Voice 1 / Mrs Shears

Voice 2 / Roger Shears

Voice 3 / Duty Sargeant

Voice 4 / Rev Peters

Voice 5 / Information Assistant

Voice 6 / Mrs Alexander

Ben Wickers

Rebecca Wright

Mark Huston

Caroline Chapman Smith

Marissa Willson

Jimmy Carrick

Trudy Price

Duncan Preston

Frannie Johnson

Trudy Thumath

ACT 1

Ed's House, Christopher's school, The Park, Swindon Town, Swindon
Train Station, London Underground

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

London, Judy's House, Hampstead Heath, Ed's House,
Christopher's School



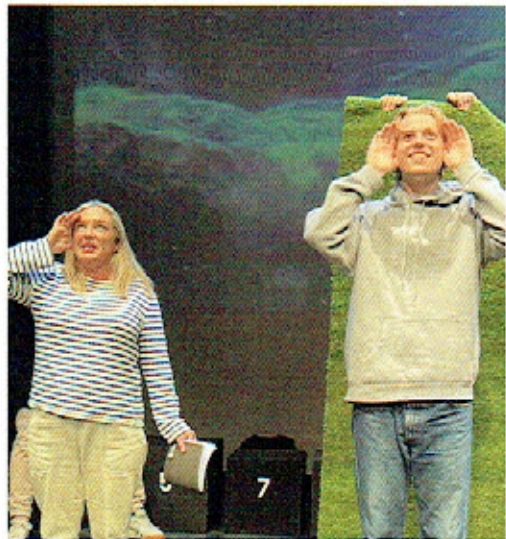
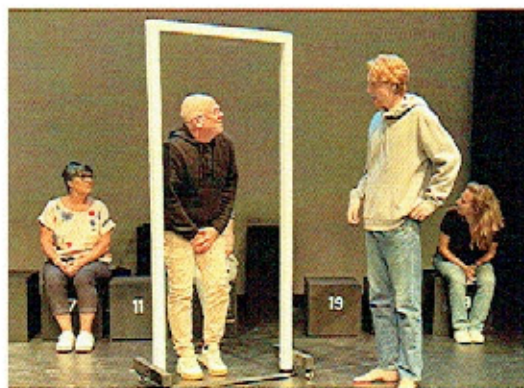
There will be ONE INTERMISSION of 15 minutes
Refreshments, ice cream and a variety of drinks
will be available.

Meet the Cast



BEN WICKERS
Christopher Boone

This is Ben's debut performance with Company Theatre and he can't be more excited to be performing with this talented troupe. Recently he has performed on the other side of the bridge in *Kimberly Akimbo* where he was nominated for an ACTT award and Grand Horizons. Outside of theatre, Ben sells alcohol for a living and is working towards a creative writing degree. The challenge to take on Christopher has been a wonderful and eye-opening journey, and he's delighted to bring this heartfelt, tender, and inspiring piece to the stage.



REBECCA WRIGHT
Siobhan



This is Rebecca's fourth production acting with Company Theatre and she is excited to be back working on what promises to be a unique and thought provoking piece of theatre. She is enjoying working alongside a talented cast and crew, exploring the creative and innovative ways through which we can understand the inside workings of Christopher's mind, as it comes to life on stage.

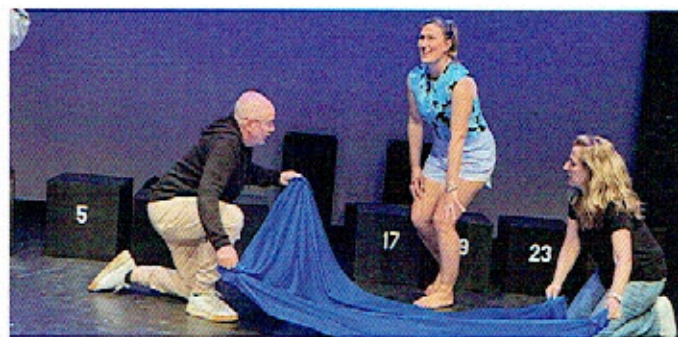
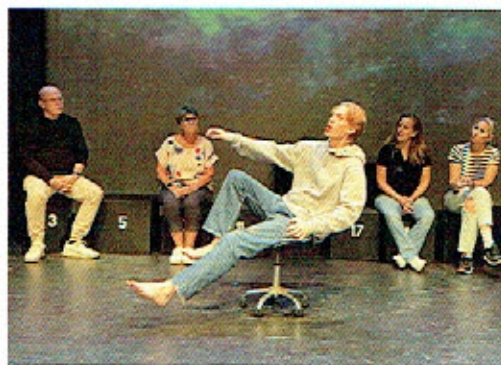
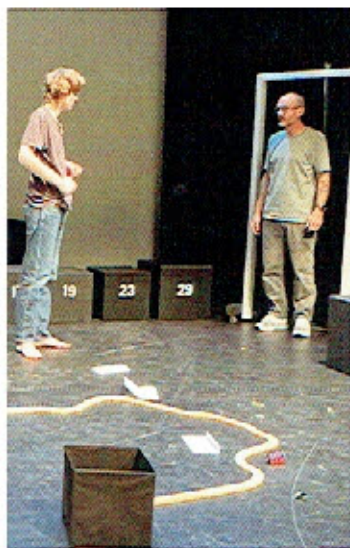


MARK HUSTON

Ed Boone

This is Marks first production with Company Theatre after a too long break from treading the boards. Past productions include *Hamlet* (Galatea Theatre), *The Artefact Project* (Charlatan Clinic) *Birthday Boy*, *Scenes from a Separation* and *They Shoot Horses Don't They?* (all at the Howick Little Theatre). In between productions,

Mark enjoys traveling the world to work with top acting, voice and movement coaches e.g. Alexander Technique in Mexico City and Shakespeare in NYC.



CAROLINE CHAPMAN SMITH

Judy Booth

Caroline returned to acting after a long sojourn in the corporate world. She loves the stage and screen and is excited to join the Company Theatre for the *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. As a mum herself, she understands the highs and lows of parenting and is honoured to be able to tell Judy's story.





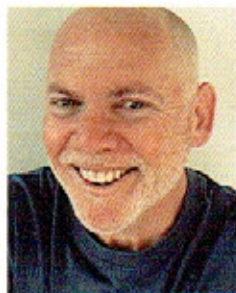
MARISSA WILLSON

Voice 1 / Mrs Shears

Five years ago, Marissa rekindled her childhood love of acting and has not looked back since! She has played a variety of roles in local theatre including Shakespeare, Dickens and Agatha Christie. In 2021 she was in *Speaking with Tongues* which won best Drama at the ACTT Awards. In 2022 she played Veronica Novak in *God of Carnage* for which she received a NAPTA nomination for Outstanding Leading Actress, Fawcett in the award-winning play *Jerusalem*, and Erica in *Rumours* all with Company Theatre.

JIMMY CARRICK

Voice 2 / Roger Shears



A local, award-winning actor, Jimmy is happy to be treading the boards once again with Company Theatre. This is his first performance since last year's Company Theatre's NAPTA nominated production of *Rumours*.



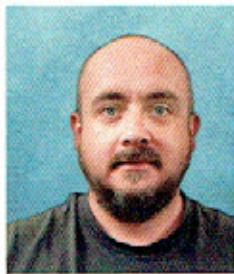
TRUDY PRICE

Voice 3 / Duty Sargeant



Trudy's passion for performing arts began when she was cast as the little kid left behind in Mangatawhiri Primary School's production of the *Pied Piper*. Growing up, Trudy was a regular at both Pukekohe and Papakura Theatre Clubs, treading the boards whenever she could. After several years off raising a family, recent acting highlights

include Carol Strong in *Catch Me If You Can* with DeBase Music Centre, Belinda Blair in *Noises Off* with Papakura Theatre Club and as Monica Wells in *Rehearsal for Murder* with The Dolphin. Trudy is thrilled to be working with Suzy and the team at Company Theatre and, as always, thanks her husband and children for their unwavering love and support.



DUNCAN PRESTON

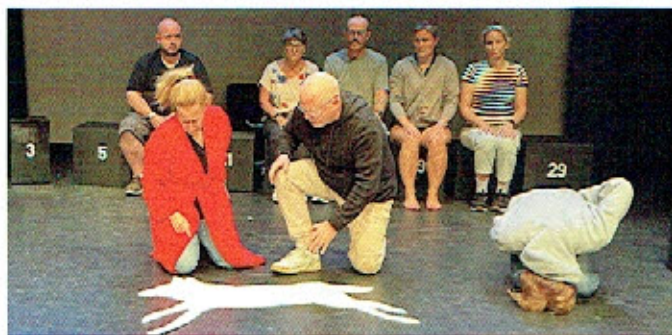
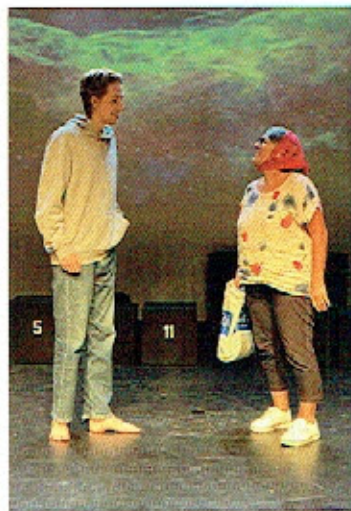
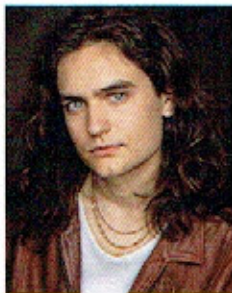
Voice 4 / Rev Peters

Duncan has played School Teachers in both *The History Boys* and *Peninsula*, which was a welcome break from his job as a school teacher. He is looking forward to the multi-role performance in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, as it gives him the opportunity to work as part of a chorus and experiment with more physical theatre. This is Duncan's 6th time working with Company Theatre, having been in *Peninsula*, *Neville's Island*, *Jerusalem*, *Rumours*, and *The History Boys*. He hopes one day to play a character called Duncan.

FRANNIE JOHNSON

Voice 5 / Information Assistant

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time marks Frannie's fourth appearance onstage with Company Theatre having previously acted in *Jerusalem*, *Stones in His Pockets* and *Popcorn*. Frannie is excited to be tackling the new challenges that come along with playing an ensemble of various characters, from people to trees to the inner thoughts of someone's mind.



The Crew



Director	Suzy Sampson
Production Manager	Kathy Gent
Stage Manager	Vettinia Ross
Stage Hand	Emma Arwanitas
Set Design	Suzy Sampson
Technical Advisor	Scott Thomas
Lighting Design	Stephen Hood, Suzy Sampson
Sound Design & Tech Operation	Stephen Hood
Props	Vettinia Ross, Sarah Dettwiler
Set Painting & Dressing	Suzy Sampson, Vettinia Ross, Stephen Hood, Caroline Parker, Tony Sandy, Alastair Fletcher
Set Construction & Dressing	Suzy Sampson, Stephen Hood, Tony Sandy, Scott Thomas, Sherry Berg, Joe Rouse, Mark Huston, Phil & Julie Latimer, Kathy Gent, Sarah- Dettwiler, Marissa Willson
Costumes	Suzy Sampson
Poster & Billboard Design	Suzy Sampson
Programme,	Sherry Berg
Iticket / Advertising	Kathy Gent
Facebook/Instagram/Newsletter	Sherry Ede
Website	Sherry Ede
Billboards	Alastair Fletcher, Stephen Hood
Box Office	Sarah Dettwiler, Sherry Ede, Sherry Berg
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Rehearsal Photos	Suzy Sampson

Company Theatre was well represented in the 2023 Northern Area Performance and Theatre Awards (NAPTA). Congratulations to the following nominees and award recipients:

Award Winners:

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Male Role in a Play

- Reg Williams as "Willy Loman", **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Female Role in a Play

- Lynn Webster as "Linda Loman", **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Male Role in a Play

- Aidan Allen as "Scripps", **The History Boys**



Nominations:

Outstanding Play

- **Death of a Salesman**
- **Rumours**

Outstanding Direction of a Play:

- Kate Birch, **Rumours**

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Male Role in a Play:

- Jesse Park as 'Dakin', **The History Boys**
- Duncan Preston as "Hector", **The History Boys**

Outstanding Leading Performer in a Female Role in a Play:

- Rebecca Wright as "Chris Gorman", **Rumours**

Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Male Role in a Play

- Geoff Allen as "Uncle Ben", **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Supporting Ensemble

- The Cast of **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Supporting Performer in a Male Role in a Play

- Geoff Allen as "Uncle Ben", **The History Boys**

Outstanding Set Design

- Sian Davis and Scott Thomas, **Death of a Salesman**
- Scott Thomas, **Rumours**

Outstanding Costume Design

- Cathie Sandy, Kathy Gent & Gail Carran, **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Lighting Design

- Scott Thomas, **Death of a Salesman**

Outstanding Sound Design

- Stephen Hood, **The History Boys**
- Stephen Hood, **Death of a Salesman**
- Stephen Hood, **Rumours**

Outstanding Props Design

- Vettinia Ross, **The History Boys**

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In assisting with the production of this play, a warm THANK YOU to:

The Rose Centre, Julie Latimer

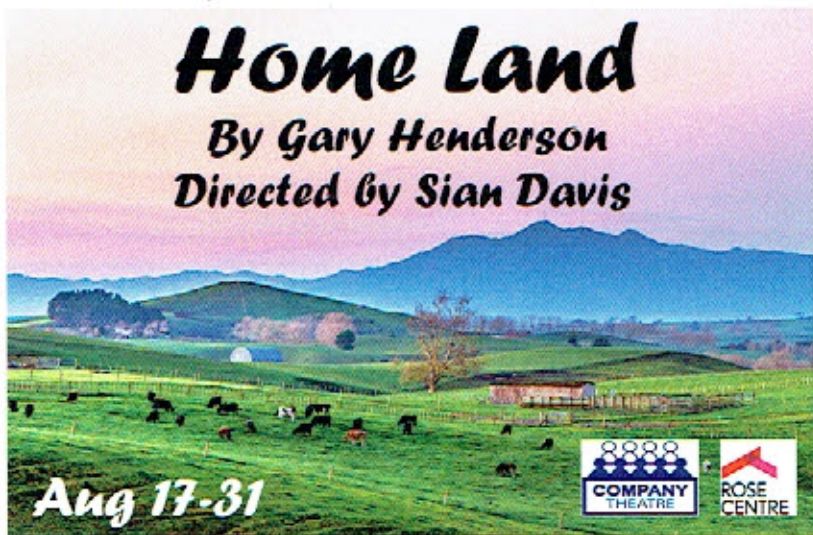
Stephen Dils

and

The volunteers who look after front of house



Coming up in the 2024 Season:



New Zealand playwright Gary Henderson tells the story of Ken Taylor, who's dedicated his whole working life to the hill-country farm where he now lives alone - an 80 year old widower, virtually crippled and totally reliant on his son and daughter-in-law to run the farm and tend to his needs. Ken's daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter have arrived from Auckland for this, his last weekend on the farm that's been his whole world.



Bonfire night 2019, Sheila, Denise, Julie and Fay are Team C in Pennine Mineral Water Ltd.'s annual outward-bound team-building weekend. Somehow, Sheila has been nominated team leader, and, using her cryptic crossword solving skills, has unwittingly stranded her team on an island in the Lake District.