

1981 THEY CAME TO A CITY

Thanks for every part of our fantastic
team Peter. I greatly admire your attitude
& ability on stage and we all love you
off stage. Do hope I personally get a
chance to work "on stage" with you sometime
soon. Thanks again Peter, & in the words
of Alice, "It wouldn't have been the same at all
without you Joe!"

THEY CAME TO A CITY

Love,
Rosemary.

by

J.B. PRIESTLEY

"I have read and heard many wildly different accounts of what this play is about, and I have been told, among other things, that it is really a study of the Integration of the Personality, a drama of Life after Death, a slab of Left Wing Propaganda, a plea for Town Planning. My best reply perhaps is to describe how I came to write it.

During the War, I was impressed by the very different attitudes of mind that people had to any post-war changes, which were then being widely discussed. The unknown city gave me exactly what I wanted but it should be remembered that what is important in the play is not the city but the respective attitudes of the characters toward it."

J.B. Priestley.



"THEY CAME TO A CITY" by J.B. Priestley,
directed by Rosemary Gailer.

The action takes place in the 1940's, at the
walls of a strange city.

ACT 1 Dawn

I N T E R V A L

ACT 2 Sunset

Cast in order of appearance:

LADY LOXFIELD - Jan Kither
 PHILIPPA LOXFIELD - Stefanie Davies
 MR. CUDWORTH - Mervyn Saunders
 MRS. BATLEY - Heather Pitt
 SIR GEORGE GEDNEY - John Dylan
 MRS. STRITTON - Patricia Scott
 ALICE FOSTER - Sylvia Ronayne
 MALCOLM STRITTON - Norm Isherwood
 JOE DINMORE - Peter Segrove

And those important people behind the scenes:

LIGHTING - John Middleton
 STAGE MANAGER - Peter Kither
 PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Cynthia Scott Kenny
 SOUND - Cliff Wenham
 SET DESIGN - John Dylan
 SET CONSTRUCTION & PAINTING TEAM - Colin & Helen Gorton,
 Willi & Rosemary Gailer,
 Peter Kither, Frank Perry,
 John Dylan, Peter Segrove.
 FRONT OF HOUSE - Janine Hurtubise,
 Company Members & Friends.

Grateful thanks also to:

BOX OFFICE - ORGAN WORLD
 PHOTOGRAPHY - ROBERT VAN DE VOORT
 ST. PETERS
 MR. H. GAILER



PETER SEGRIVE - Has worked backstage with North Shore Operatic Society. Appeared, briefly, in "Mixed Double" with Mairangi Players earlier in the year. Has always wanted a "big part", and this, his first appearance with Company, has proved that he deserves one.

SYLVIA RONAYNE - One of the original "Company" members. German born. 10 years acting experience. Last seen with Company as the mistress in "With All My Love I Hate You". Also a member of Torbay Drama Society & Mairangi Players - last production with the latter in "Queen & the Rebels". Usually plays the "Dumb Blonde" but definitely not "type cast".



PATRICIA SCOTT - A founder member of "Company Theatre". Been acting off & on since the age of 10 years. Has played a wide variety of characters from the common char-lady, "Handsome Prince" in Rapunzel, to the bitter wife in "With All My Love I Hate You" etc. Also appeared in several productions with New Independent Theatre & Mairangi Players.



NORM ISHERWOOD - Five years on stage in Australia, then spent 4 years at New Plymouth Little Theatre, where his last performance was in "Table Manners" from "The Norman Conquests". Arrived in Auckland in March. This is his first appearance in Auckland. (New Plymouth's loss is Company's gain.)



JAN KITHER - Has been actively involved in Music & Theatre for the last 5 1/2 years. Prior to coming to Auckland, took part in a number of Operatic Productions. Played lead role in Torbay's production of "Gaslight". Has appeared in several "Company" productions. Is interested in further promoting the arts on the North Shore.

STEFANIE DAVIES - Born in Coventry, England, (after the war - thank goodness.) Potty on theatre from childhood but apart from school concerts had many years to wait before actually "taking the plunge". Emigrated to N.Z. in 1975 and joined Mairangi Players. Has played assorted parts from demented cousin in "Celebration" to lovesick niece in "Mr. Pim". Joined "Company" earlier this year.



HEATHER PITT - Born in S.E. London but grew up in West Kent. Lived 6 years in Republic of South Yemen & joined the Little Aden Dramatic Society. Emigrated to N.Z. in 1968. Joined Torbay Dramatic Society in 1969 & since 1976 has taken various roles at New Independent Theatre. Joined Company a year ago & this is her first appearance with the group.



MERVYN SAUNDERS - First stage appearance at the age of four singing "Popeye the Sailorman", (never been asked to sing since.) Has had interest in Theatre for many years & been co-opted for many parts, including Jim in "Glide Time". Appeared also in "Constant Wife" for New Independent Theatre. This is his first appearance for Company and adds a little "Kiwi" flavour to alien cast.



JOHN DYLAN - Co-founder of Company Theatre, (does a reasonable job of kidding people that he's in charge.) Born under a bush in Hertfordshire & never quite recovered. Started acting in 1958 & spent several years with various drama groups in London, gaining experience with publicity & administration as well as stagecraft. Has also worked with Mairangi Players, and behind the scenes with New Independent Theatre, where his own play "Adam & Eve" was presented in 1979. (Pretends to be an enlightened individual but really as thick as two planks.)

ROSEMARY GAILER - Joined Company last year as "Rapunzel" in "The Stone Cage". Been acting, spasmodically, for the past 20 odd years. Has had several parts recently that require her to take off 20 years or add on 30, (beginning to wonder if anyone will want her just as she is ever again.) "THEY CAME TO A CITY" is her first venture into the role of producer (chief whip-cracker & sweeper-upper) director.





Company's logo was designed to represent the nine original members, as a circle or group, with a space through which both people and ideas can pass freely in both directions.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS:

*Plastic in Aspic
Neuroses in Bloom
Lend Us Your Ears
Simultaneous Broadcast
Oh
One Blast and Have Done
Imperfectly Serious
Strawberry Jam
Lunch Hour
With All My Love I Hate You
The Stone Cage
Krapp's Last Tape .
Blue Comedy
Balls
Imported From Canada*

AND IN FUTURE?

COMPANY THEATRE will be endeavouring to present as many productions as possible during the coming year, of as many different kinds of theatre and for as wide a range of tastes as possible. The programme has not been finally selected at the time of printing, but our next production will probably be "THE PIED PIPER", a children's entertainment which we hope to tour several schools at the end of the term and present for a week at the end of the holidays.

Also on November 15th we are proud to present

Chic Littlewood

in

'THANK YOU, MR. HOLLOWAY!'

a programme of songs, music, comedy and nostalgia.

Keep an eye on the local paper - or join our mailing list.

*COMPANY THEATRE,
P.O. Box 33171,
Takapuna, 9.*

NORTH S

COMPANY THEATRE PRESENTS



The full "City" cast from left to right — John Dylan (Sir George), Heather Pitt (Mrs Batley), Mervyn Saunders (Cudworth), Peter Seagrove (Joe), Norm Isherwood (Stritton), Sylvia Ronayne (Alice), Patricia Scott (Mrs Stritton), Stefanie Davies (Philippa) and Jan Kither (Lady Loxfield).

Performances are Friday October 23 to Saturday 31 (not Sunday to Tuesday) at St Peter's Hall, Killarney St, at 8.15pm. Book at 467-791, 4pm to 7pm.

A lesson to be learned

There's a lesson or two to be learned from Company Theatre's latest offering at their venue in St Peter's Hall, Killarney St, Takapuna.

When you suffer setbacks — as Company did, having to withdraw its last production completely because of illness, and losing several hundred dollars in the process — you don't lose sight of your goals.

One of its goals is to get as much good theatre to the

North Shore as it can, whatever the cost in blood, sweat, tears, and money. And it's the sheer dedication of the Company team we have to thank for J.B. Priestley's *They Came To A City*, playing at 8.15pm nightly until Saturday.

Countless other groups have done this one. Some have failed. Company haven't.

From the icy Mrs Stritton (Patricia Scott) and her long-suffering husband

(Norm Isherwood) to the stuffy Sir George (John Dylan) and Lady Loxfield (Jan Kither), with a voice as cultured as her pearls, the nine arrivals at the City Gates trade their philosophies and secrets as expertly as they trade insults.

Except, of course, for Mervyn Saunders' careful Cudworth, he's obviously too shrewd to trade anything except insults (and does that very capably!) to

dear Mrs Batley (Heather Pitt) whose calmness and beautiful grin reveal a lovely lady who knows more than she's willing to say.

They're all tough characters in their own way, and few more so than Lady Loxfield's daughter Philippa, played by a wide-eyed and enthusiastic Stefanie Davies.

But the bouquet goes to Peter Segrove and Sylvia Ronayne, as Joe and Alice, who handle Rosemary Gailer's sensitive direction of the lengthy closing scene with a feeling that (despite several chunks of platitudinous writing by

Priestley that do little to help them) keeps you with them the whole way.

They Came To A City ought to be standard reading material for anyone interested in their own future life — and it might have a decidedly beneficial effect on their present, too. There isn't anyone not interested in their present, and there isn't anyone to whom *They Came To A City* won't mean a lot. Don't miss it. It's on until Saturday.

Bookings — Organ World of Music, Strand, Takapuna, phone 494-472, or phone 467-791 between 4 and 7pm.

happenings

Priestley play asks questions

Ever felt you wanted to change the world? What are the things you value most; things upon which the "New world" must be founded? Or would you even bother?

That's the sort of question the nine people who "came to a city" have to answer in Company Theatre's forthcoming production at St Peter's Hall, Takapuna, of J.B. Priestley's *They Came to A City*.

Which of the nine people, all from quite different backgrounds, has the "right" attitude to this new city?

Whoever it is, you can be sure that your own attitude will be reflected pretty accurately by one of the nine

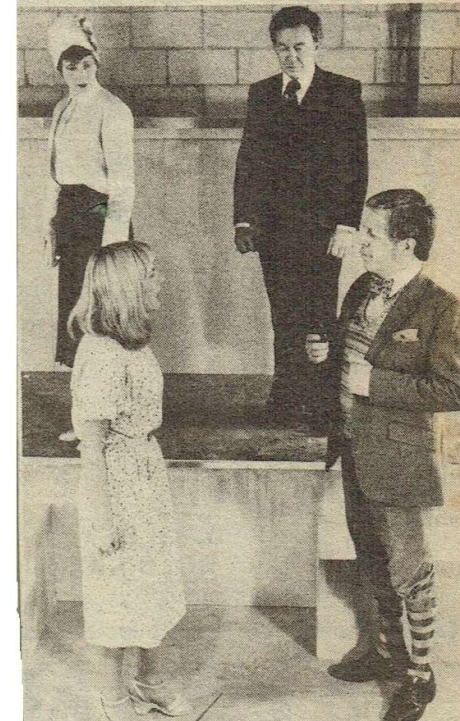
and you will be able, without too much difficulty, to think of somebody you know and say, "now, he's exactly like that".

They Came to A City opens on Friday, October 23 and runs until Saturday 31 (not Sunday to Tuesday).

Bookings can be made at Organ World of Music, the Strand, Takapuna or by phoning 467-791 between 4-7pm.



Peter Segrove plays Joe and Sylvia Ronayne plays Alice in Company Theatre's production of *'They Came to A City'* by J.B. Priestley.



Sylvia Ronayne as Alice berates John Dylan (Sir George Gedney) for his stuffiness to the consternation of Mrs Stritton and Mr Cudworth (Patricia Scott and Mervyn Saunders) in Company Theatre's production of *They Came to A City* by J.B. Priestley.