

COMPANY THEATRE

MURDER ON THE NILE

by Agatha Christie



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"MURDER ON THE NILE" by Agatha Christie

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Beadsellers Sue Donnell
Megan Finlay
Barbara Simpson.

Steward Mark Oswin

Miss ffoliot-ffoulkes Lola Marshall
Christina Grant Marie Ortquist
Smith Nick Greening
Louise Dawn Moss
Dr Bessner Gray Kirkbride
Kay Mostyn Angela Redmond
Simon Mostyn David Kemp
Canon Pennefather Freddy Woods
Jacqueline de Severac Penny Skyrme
McNaught Steve McTague

SYNPOSIS

The scene throughout is set in the observation saloon of the Paddle Steamer "Lotus", which is cruising the Nile between Shellal and Wadi Halfa.

Act I At Shellal, late afternoon.

Act II Scene I By the temple of Abu Simbel threedays later, in the evening after dinner.

Act II Scene II The same, five minutes later.

Act III The same, the next morning.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to "Murder on the Nile".

Agatha Christie's whodunnits have been popular entertainment for many years. These days, 'entertainment' in the theatre is something that can become lost amid collections of musicals, realistic dramas and thought provoking stylistic theatre. There remains, in fact, a vast body of dramatic art, from many ages in history, which is rarely produced in New Zealand. I place this play in that category for it pretends to be nothing other than pure entertainment.

COMPANY THEATRE has always had a focus on drama rather than musical theatre and therefore hopes to do its part to fill the gaps in the North Shore theatrical calendar. We can produce on average only four shows a year unfortunately but we have a lot of fun doing so. I hope you are enjoying this one with us.

Anne Potter.

Anne has directed a number of plays for COMPANY THEATRE and nearly all have had some connection with dark deeds in one form or another. Among these plays are "Dangerous Corner", "Tomb With a View", and "Dear Delinquent", and this trend continues with her current choice of an Agatha Christie play. Christie is of course the quintessential 'murder mystery' author and as such has inspired what is probably the greatest flattery of all - a satire. Having directed the real thing, Anne tells us she is now tempted to produce this 'send up' as a sequel!



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Anne Potter Production Manager Ros Clews

Lighting Design Peter Fitzgibbon

Stage Manager Bernard Hoult

Wardrobe Kate Exton

Sound/Lighting Operators Peter Fitzgibbon

Leanne Watkins

Props Linda Hargis
Make-up Lauren Pope

Front of House Ros Clews

Yvonne Burgham

Publicity Neil & Yvonne Burgham

Programme Neil Burgham

Set Construction Bernard Hoult Stage Furnishing Ros Clews

Art Work Claire Carrie

To all those cast, crew, members and friends who assisted with such things as set construction, wardrobe, furniture, props etc., a warm thank you from the production team.

NORTH SHORE COMPANY THEATRE & DRAMATIC SOCIETY INC.

Patron Wyn Hoadley

President Peter Segrove
Vice President Mike Belsham
Secretary Ros Clews

Treasurer Neil Burgham

Committee: Yvonne Burgham, Ruth Mathieson Anne Potter, Leanne Watkins Freddy Woods.

(New members are always welcome, in whatever capacity. If you would like to join us, please phone Ruth Mathieson on 456-939, or Ros Clews, on 458-928.)



CAST NOTES

DAVID KEMP (Simon Mostyn)

Having romped through two musicals at the Pumphouse last year ("Grease" and "Footrot Flats"), David has faced in this role, both a change and a challenge. He has found the need to learn dialogue both 'a relief and terrifying - a relief to be able to express emotion and terrifying because of the sheer size of this part'.

PENNY SKYRME (Jacqueline de Severac) This is Penny's second role for Company - she first appeared as Sarah in the 1988 production of "Fifty Fifty". Before spending several years overseas she appeared in many productions with various groups in Wellington.

FREDDY WOODS (Canon Pennefather) Freddy's first year with Company has been a busy and varied one. He's appeared in all but one of our recent productions; as an insane killer, a young layabout, and a 'camp' interior decorator. But he has found this role, and the need to age rather quickly, the biggest challenge so far.

GRAY KIRKBRIDE (Dr Bessner)

This is only the second stage appearance for Gray - the first in November 1988 in "The King and I" for Music Theatre Productions at the Pumphouse. Coming from a musical background, he has found this straight acting role a fulfilling enhancement to his theatrical experience.

ANGELA REDMOND (Kay Mostyn)

This is Angela's debut as an actor and Company is pleased to give her this chance to 'try her wings'. Her only previous experience before an audience has been in ballroom and Latin American dancing competitions and before that in school musicals ("The Pyjama Game" and "Oklahoma")



NICK GREENING (Smith)

Another 'newcomer' to Company, Nick's most recent appearances were in "The Tempest" for Pumphouse Winter Shakespeare', for Theatre Workshop in "Abelard and Heloise" and for Mairangi Players as Ratty in "Toad of Toad Hall".

DAWN MOSS (Louise)

Following her debut for Company in "The Pohutukawa Tree", we were certainly keen to have Dawn 'on board' for this production. Dawn's experience goes back to college days and a number of roles with the Milford Little Theatre and includes a strong musical background.

LOLA MARSHALL (Miss ffoliot-ffoukes). This is Lola's second appearance on stage, both of which have been with Company Theatre. (Her first production was "Bonaventure" in 1987). This is Lola's first try at a character role and she assures us she is 'loving it'!

MARIE ORTQUIST (Christina Grant) Marie comes to straight drama from a background of singing, dancing and restaurant theatre with the Napier Frivolty Minstrels and has found her two roles so far for Company a 'real challenge'. Marie first appeared in "The Pohutukawa Tree" in 1988.

MARK OSWIN (The Steward)

Mark first appeared on stage for Company in the 1988 one-act plays; his previous experience having been, like many, in school plays. He has assisted backstage with lighting/sound and we are pleased to see him in his first role in a major production.

STEVE MCTAGUE (McNaught)

Steve is another newcomer to Company's acting strength but he has performed in a supporting role in the lights and sound box for our two previous plays.

COMPANY THEATRE'S NEXT PRODUCTION

(Opens Mid- July 1989)

"WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY"

by Brian Clark

(author of such television plays as "Telford's Change")

Named best play of 1978 by the London theatre critics.

Audtions for "Whose Life Is It Anyway" will be held in St. Michael's Hall, Belmont at 2.00 pm on Sunday 30th April