

# COMPANY THEATRE

Ray Cooney and John Chapman's



# NOT NOW DARLING

a 10th ANNIVERSARY  
PRODUCTION

## ☆☆ DIRECTOR'S NOTES ☆☆

It is a great pleasure to direct Company Theatre's official Tenth Birthday Production, and to be involved once again with "Not Now, Darling". When we first staged this play in 1982, I played Harry McMichael, and, despite this, the production was Company's first real box office success. Eight years later I am still laughing at the lines; a tribute both to the play and to the very strong cast you will be watching tonight.

"Not Now Darling" is a classic English farce. The storyline is, as it should be, wonderfully complicated and defies brief description. The characters are, in the main, thoroughly outrageous. If you like your theatre to be thought-provoking, meaningful and subtle, you are in for a big disappointment. If, on the other hand, you are simply looking for entertainment and a lot of laughs, then sit back!

PETER SEGROVE



## SYNOPSIS

The action of the play takes place in the private 4th floor salon of Bodley, Bodley and Crouch, an exclusive West-End firm of furriers, with an esteemed reputation. The hierarchy of the company consists of three directors, Maude Bodley, her husband, Gilbert Bodley, and Arnold Crouch. Various members of the staff, clientele, their spouses, lovers and employees (or various combinations of the above) make up the rest of the cast.



ACT I and II Noon, on a sunny day in late summer.  
(The action is continuous)

There will be an interval of twenty minutes  
between Acts I and II.  
During this time, complimentary tea, coffee or  
juice will be served.

# NOT NOW DARLING

by Ray Cooney & John Chapman

Direction by  
PÉTER SEGROVE



## ☆ CAST ☆

(in order of appearance)

ARNOLD CROUCH	John Palmer
MISS WHITTINGTON	Adelaide Jones
MISS TIPDALE	Margaret Hewitt
MRS FRENCHAM	Yvonne Burgham
GILBERT BODLEY	John Stoutley
COMMANDER FRENCHAM	Neil Burgham
HARRY MCMICHAEL	Geoff Clews
JANIE MCMICHAEL	Angela Redmond
SUE LAWSON	Wendy Kristensen
MAUDE BODLEY	Sylvia McQuilkan
MR LAWSON	Mark Oswin

## ☆ PRODUCTION ☆

STAGE & WARDROBE DESIGN	Cathie Sandy.
STAGE MANAGER	Barbara Messenger.
PROMPT	Muriel Jones.
LIGHTING DESIGN	Peter Fitzgibbon, Mark Oswin.
LIGHTS & SOUND OPERATION	Mark Oswin, Zella Gilbert, Wayne Shepherd.
FRONT OF HOUSE	Doug Bourke, Ruth Segrove.
PUBLICITY	Zella Gilbert, Barbara Simpson, Neil Burgham.
PROPS	Cathie Sandy, Barbara Messenger.
SET CONSTRUCTION	Tony Sandy, Peter Segrove, John Palmer, Doug Bourke.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Neil Burgham.
PROGRAMME	Neil Burgham, Wendikae Lane-Chan



John Palmer

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IN REHEARSAL  
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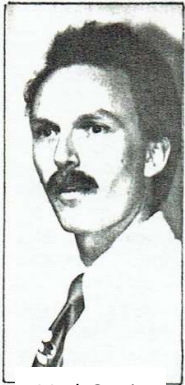
Angela Redmond, John Palmer



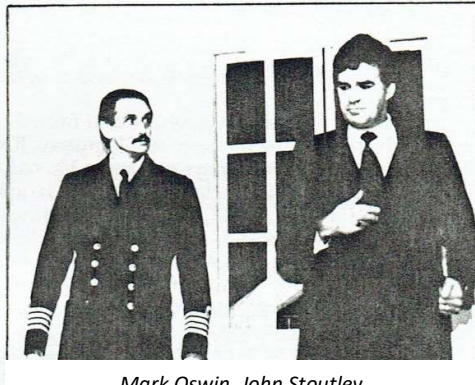
Wendy Kristensen



John Palmer, Angela Redmond John Stoutley,  
Margaret Hewitt



Mark Oswin



Mark Oswin, John Stoutley



Yvonne Burgham, John Palmer

\*\*\*\*\*  
IN REHEARSAL  
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John Stoutley, Margaret Hewitt



Geoff Clews, Wendy Kristensen



Peter Segrove

☆☆ CAST NOTES ☆☆

Since his return to New Zealand from Australia and in the eighteen months he has been a member of Company, JOHN PALMER has now appeared for us in three acting roles, and a Music Hall; each a contrast with the others and each equally demanding. He is joined in the other principal role by JOHN STOUTLEY, who is better known to North Shore audiences for his musical roles and talents. However, John has previously appeared in "Not Now, Darling" as Arnold, as well as a number of other dramatic roles; also in Australia. Joining this 'international' cast, and in her second acting role is ANGELA REDMOND, who made her debut with Company in "Murder on the Nile", closely followed by an appearance in "Music Hall '89". MARGARET HEWITT, also a "Music Hall '89" trouper, joined Company as the formidable Sister Robertson in "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" in 1989. Well known to Company Theatre audiences as a Music Hall Chairman extraordinaire, GEOFFREY CLEWS has also made a number of acting appearances for us and, like the rest of the cast, is thriving on the chance to ham it up in his first truly comic role. It has been several years since SYLVIA McQUILKAN last appeared for Company, ("Mother Goose" and "Tomb With a View") and she makes a welcome return on this occasion. For a number of years WENDY KRISTENSEN has been a loyal member of Company Theatre and prior to her role in "Not Now, Darling", was previously a part of our music hall and pantomime productions and the play "Bonaventure". NEIL and YVONNE BURGHAM make another husband and wife appearance for Company Theatre. They last appeared on stage in 1988, once again in a Cooney/Chapman farce ("Move Over Mrs Markham"). MARK OSWIN ("Wait Until Dark" & "Murder on the Nile") and ADELAIDE JONES, a newcomer to Company, make up the remainder of the cast.

☆☆ THE DIRECTOR ☆☆

PETER SEGROVE defies description as a director, without resorting to all the cliches ever written about them. He needs no introduction to Company Theatre audiences (No.1) and we don't know where we'd be without him (No.2). A multi-talented performer (No.3) he has both acted and directed many times and, joined us first in 1982 for "They Came to a City" and, coincidentally, "Not Now, Darling". (That has to be No.4!). Since then the list of productions with which he has been associated continues to grow, as do his accomplishments (No.5). Peter stepped into the responsibilities of directing this production when the scheduled director was unable to take up the offer. But, (to be serious for a moment) (No.6?) it is in a sense fitting that he should do so. No one has worked harder for us over recent years and who better to take on our tenth anniversary production. We owe a big debt to Peter's energy and enthusiasm and have a corresponding concern for his sanity!

☆☆ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ☆☆

Belmont Traders, Devonport Timber, Zella and Ken Gilbert,  
Phyllis Banbrook, Wendy Hollyer, Penny Maich, Penny Tomlinson,  
Naval Museum, Gainor Blackman, Elsie O'Hara, Michael Cole,  
Eamon Ellwood, Bernice Revill



NORTH SHORE COMPANY THEATRE &  
DRAMATIC SOCIETY INC.

President	Geoffrey Clews
Vice President	Neil Burgham
Secretary	Barbara Simpson
Treasurer	Peter Segrove
Committee	Ruth Segrove, Cathie Sandy, Tony Sandy, Angela Redmond, Doug Bourke, Zella Gilbert.



1990

To complete our programme for 1990, we'll be presenting "BABES IN THE WOOD"; a traditional pantomime by Tony Currie, to be directed by ALISTAIR BIBBY.

Auditions will be held in St. Michael's Hall on Sunday 2nd September at 2.00 pm.

**COMPANY THEATRE**  
of Belmont



the  
Ray Cooney  
and  
John Chapman  
farce

**NOT  
NOW  
DARLING**

a 10th ANNIVERSARY  
PRODUCTION

**AUGUST 15 - 17 and 22 - 25**

**AT 8.00 PM**

**ST. MICHAEL'S HALL, BELMONT**

**\$10 and \$9 (sen. citizens/students/groups)**

**PHONE 456 939 for RESERVATIONS**

**A Champagne Performance**



John Stoutley and Sylvia McQuilkan share a champagne toast during rehearsal for "Not Now Darling", the official Tenth Birthday production of the Company Theatre.

A recreational theatre group based in the Belmont/Bayswater Area, the Company Theatre have assembled a highly experienced cast including Geoff Claws, John Palmer and Angela Redmond under the direction of Peter Segrove for the production.

"Not Now Darling" runs from August 15-25 at St Michaels Hall, Belmont, with a special Champagne performance on August 18.

**STAGE**



**DON'T LOOK NOW:** Harry McMichael, played by Geoff Claws, is horrified by his wife's behaviour.

**Triangle with twist**

The path of true lust never runs smoothly, as the latest production from the Company Theatre shows.

*Not Now Darling* is typical English bedroom farce involving the standard love triangle with a twist.

Harry McMichael marries striptease dancer Janie and the whole play centres on her intentional infidelities.

Ray Cooney and John Chapman wrote the play 30 years ago. It was performed by the Company Theatre for its opening season 10 years ago.

"It is to mark our tenth anniversary. The show was such a hit then and we expect it to be the same this time around," says Geoff Claws, who

plays Harry. Angela Redmond plays Janie.

"It is a laugh a minute. I know that sounds trite but the constant flow of movement between the characters is wonderful."

Justice rules in the end when all the characters get their just desserts.

"That is fun to watch and really keeps you on the edge of your seat," says Geoff.

Geoff enjoys playing Harry, a character he says is far removed from himself. "He really develops throughout the play but the real excitement for me is acting someone who is so unlike myself."

*Not Now Darling* starts tonight at the St Michaels Hall, Bayswater.