



presents

COWARDLY CUSTARD

A glamorous show of songs and sketches by NOEL COWARD

Directed by **BRUCE MURRAY**



ROSE CENTRE THEATRE

School Road, Belmont.

Opening July 10 1993 at 8.00pm

Then 14 - 17 July and 21 - 24 July at 8.00pm

Matinee July 11 at 2.00pm

Bookings: 445.9900 (mornings) or 445.6939

Company Theatre
presents

COWARDLY CUSTARD

An Entertainment devised by
Gerald Frow
Allan Strachan
Wendy Toye

By Arrangement with Play Bureau Ltd & Samuel French

*Featuring the words and music of
NOEL COWARD*

Directed By Bruce Murray

Musical Direction by Janice Moore

Designed by Robert Letcher

Costumes by Cathie Sandy

Lighting by Peter Fitzgibbon

With

<i>William Barnett</i>	<i>Fleur Lowery-McCombe</i>
<i>Liz McClellan</i>	<i>Julie Ludbrook</i>
<i>Gordon Currie</i>	<i>James Ludbrook</i>
<i>Sue Golding</i>	<i>Matthew Morley</i>
<i>Gregory Henwood</i>	<i>Darrell Parratt</i>
<i>David Kemp</i>	<i>Angela Redmond</i>
<i>Wendy Kristensen</i>	<i>Ruth Segrove</i>

**The Director
Bruce Murray**

Cowardy Custard is Bruce's 31st production as Director.

A trained Baritone and regular performer around Auckland he has directed musicals such as

'You're A Good Man

Charlie Brown,

Finian's Rainbow,

The Wizard of Oz, Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill, Brigadoon,

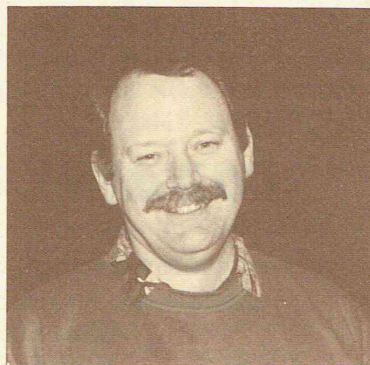
Godspell and several operettas including Gilbert & Sullivan. He

recently appeared in *Kiss Me Kate* (Glen Eden), *Annie Get Your*

Gun (Howick), *Esabelle* (Maidment) and *South Pacific* (North

Shore Operatic Society.) In 1994 he will direct *Funny Girl* for the

North Shore Operatic Society.



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**A little background to
'COWARDLY CUSTARD'**

'Cowardy Custard' can be described as a cavalcade of the words and music *and the life* of Noel Coward.

It was designed for and first performed, at London's Mermaid Theatre in 1972 after many months of preparation and difficult decisions as to *what to include* in a show which could only be about 2 hours long!

Coward's output included 50 plays, musicals and operettas, at least 250 songs, not to mention sketches, his two autobiographies plus the occasional poem, short story or novel. *Cowardy Custard* covers half-a-century of composing from his earliest revue songs to the 1960's Broadway musicals.

Two of the shows devisers Gerald Frow (author of *Gulliver's Travels* and a long-time fan of Coward), and Alan Strachan, (Associate Director at the Mermaid), also wanted to present something *of the man* as well. The common image of a svelte, sophisticated Coward complete with dressing-gown was only half the story. There was also the struggle, the impoverished suburban background, and, all those years ago a family who were forced to take in lodgers whilst a young Noel dreamed of the future and 'reaching for the crown.'

The final outcome in 1972, miraculously organised by Mermaid Director Wendy Toye, was an immense success. It amply justifies Coward's humble claim that 'the most I've had is just a talent to amuse.'



Noel Coward in the 1930's.

THE CAST

*Below, from Left to Right:
Matthew Morley, Ruth Segrove (front), Darrell Parratt (back),
Fleur Lowery-McCombe (front), James Ludbrook (back),
Julie Ludbrook (back) and David Kemp (kneeling)*



THE CAST

*Below, from Left to Right:
Liz McClellan, William Barnett, Sue Golding (back)
Wendy Kristensen (centre front), Gregory Henwood (back),
Gordon Currie (front) and Angela Redmond.*



THE PROGRAMME Act 1

Overture

I'll See You Again Orchestra

Opening Medley

If Love Were All Matthew Morley
 I'll See You Again Julie Ludbrook
 Time and Again David Kemp
 Has Anyone Seen our Ship? Angela Redmond/ Darrell Parratt
 Try to Learn To Love Fleur Lowery-McCombe
 Kiss Me Gregory Henwood
 Go Slow, Johnny James Ludbrook
 Tokay Gregory Henwood and All
 Dearest Love Julie Ludbrook
 Could You Oblige Us with a Bren Gun? The Men
 Come the Wild, Wild Weather Ruth Segrove
 Spinning Song/Parisian Pierrot Liz McClellan/ All
 Play, Orchestra, Play All
 You Were There William Barnett/Angela Redmond

Duets Sequence

Any Little Fish Gregory Henwood/ Julie Ludbrook/
 Gordon Currie
 In A Boat, On A Lake With My Darling Matthew Morley/Angela Redmond
 A Room with a View Wendy Kristensen/Darrell Parratt
 When You Want Me David Kemp/Ruth Segrove
 Specially For You Gordon Currie/Liz McClellan
 Beatnik Love Affair Fleur Lowery-McCombe/James Ludbrook
 I'm Mad About You All
 Poor Little Rich Girl William Barnett
 Louisa Angela Redmond/Gordon Currie
 Liz McClellan
 Mad About the Boy Liz McClellan/ Fleur McCombe/
 Julie Ludbrook/Ruth Segrove
 The Stately Homes of England David Kemp/James Ludbrook
 Matthew Morley/ Gordon Currie
 I've Been to a Marvellous Party Liz McClellan
 Mrs Worthington Gordon Currie
 Why Must the Show Go On All

During the Interval

Something Very Strange Orchestra

THE PROGRAMME Act 2

London Sequence

London Pride William Barnett
 London is a Little Bit of All Right Julie Ludbrook and All
 What Ho, Mrs Brisket! Wendy Kristensen and All
 Don't Take Our Charlie for the Army Fleur Lowery-McCombe and All
 Saturday Night at the Rose and Crown Ruth Segrove and All
 London At Night Matthew Morley and All
 London is a Little Bit of All Right (Reprise) All
 There Are Bad Times Just
 Around the Corner William Barnett/Gordon Currie/
 Gregory Henwood
 Alice Is At It Again James Ludbrook/Angela Redmond

Travel Sequence

The Passenger is Always Right David Kemp/James Ludbrook/
 Gregory Henwood/Darrell Parratt
 Useless Useless Phrases Fleur Lowery-McCombe
 Reprise
 The Passenger is Always Right Wendy Kristensen/James Ludbrook/
 Mad Dogs and Englishmen Darrell Parratt
 Nina Gordon Currie
 I Like America Gregory Henwood
 Bronxville Darby and Joan Fleur Lowery- McCombe/
 Gordon Currie
 I Wonder What Happened to Him David Kemp/Matthew Morley/
 Gordon Currie
 Twentieth Century Blues Liz McClellan/Julie Ludbrook
 Let's Do It (Music by Cole Porter) All

Closing Medley

Touring Days Liz McClellan/Gordon Currie
 Nothing Can Last Forever Gregory Henwood
 Would You Like To Stick a Pin in My Balloon Fleur Lowery-McCombe/ GIRLS
 Dance, Little Lady William Barnett and ALL
 Men About Town James Ludbrook/Gregory Henwood/
 Darrell Parratt
 Sigh No More Julie Ludbrook
 The Younger Generation All
 I'll Follow My Secret Heart Liz McClellan
 If Love Were All (Reprise) James Ludbrook and ALL

PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Bruce Murray
Musical Director	Janice Moore
Set Design	Robert Letcher
Costume Design	Cathie Sandy
Lighting Design	Peter Fitzgibbon
Lighting Operator	Reuben Pollock
Lighting Crew	Martin Judge Neil Harrison
Wardrobe Co-Ordinators	Cathie Sandy Gail Carran
Wardrobe Sewing	Cassie Kay Barbara Messenger Barbara Simpson Janine Judge
Production Manager	Doug Bourke
Properties Co-Ordinator	Trish Worrall
Property Assistants	Betty Wrightson & Niki Hare
Stage Manager	Bill O'Meara
Assistant Stage Manager	Wayne Shepherd
Prompts	Bronwyn Sell & Fiona McCleod
Set Construction:	
Co-Ordinator	Tony Sandy
Construction Crew	Doug Bourke Jeff Marsh Rob Heighway Richard Alley
Publicity	Ros Clews
Photographer	Moira Coote
Programme Design	Sherry Ede
Bookings	Ruth Segrove
F.O.H. Manager	Doug Bourke

Acknowledgements

Dougall Love (Lexington Technical Ltd); Music Theatre Production;
Stewart Gross, Robert Lagdon (Theatre Supplies Ltd); O.I.C. Ltd;
Special thanks to NATURE'S SUNSHINE (NZ) Ltd



**Left: JANICE MOORE
MUSICAL DIRECTOR.**

Janice began her involvement with theatre as a rehearsal pianist for the North Shore Operatic Society, in the early 1980's. She has since played with several theatre orchestras and bands for such popular musical shows as 'Can Can' and 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'. She joined Company for our Music Hall '89 and has been our rehearsal and production pianist ever since, through two more Music Halls and a Pantomime. Janice lives on the North Shore and in her spare time enjoys playing the piano - for friends!

**Right: CATHIE SANDY
COSTUME DESIGN**

Cathie is a very talented lady who has created the many wonderful and effective costumes for all of Company's shows over the past 7 years. From Wellington with Ngai Revue she moved to Auckland 12 years ago and designed for the Arena Theatre. But Arena's loss has certainly been Company's gain. She combines an artistic interpretation with researched detail of each era, and has designed for Victorian Music Hall (and Charley's Aunt) to the 70's (Middle Age Spread) to present day (Beside The Sea) and she has captured the 'glamour' of the 30's in this production.



Do You Want To Be Involved In Theatre?

Company Theatre is always interested in new members. Contact Sherry Ede on 445.2386 for details, or write to P.O. Box 32-251, Devonport. We offer a membership fee which gives you reduced entry into our productions. You can choose between 'Full Membership' which means we would like you to help on a few occasions during the year, or 'Associate Membership' which will give you one price reduced ticket and keep you in touch through our newsletters but does not require any participation.

If you would just like to be on our free mailing list for information on our shows please write to the above address as well.

Costume Hire. We have costumes for hire from fancy dress to formal and we ask only for a small donation, and that you return them in the condition you received them. Further information, please contact Cathie Sandy on 410.9342.

Presold Nights. As a contribution to the community we are happy to arrange for organisations to pre-book one of our performances for fundraising. For further enquiries, please phone Sherry Ede on 445.2386.

Junior Company. We also have a thriving drama group for young people aged from 5 - 12. Children meet once a week on a Saturday afternoon to learn the basics of stage craft and to put on their own productions. Fees are only \$25 a term for 10 lessons. Contact Ruth Segrove on 445.6939.

Club Nights. Once a month we hold our club night. We try to make it something 'theatrical' without the pressures of performance. eg a play reading, improvisations, charades or a visit to another theatre show. Why not come along and have a go. Phone Wendy Kristensen 443.2618.



Angela Redmond, Gregory Kenwood, William Barnett & Liz McClellan

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COWARDLY CUSTARD 1993
 Fleur Mc Combe, Liz McLellan,
 Gordon Currie, Ruth Segrove, Jim
 Ludbrook, Julie Ludbrook, David
 Kemp, Willie, Wendy Kristensen,
 Angela Redmond, Sue Golding



1993 COWARDLY CUSTARD

