



COMPANY THEATRE

PRESENTS

SOCIAL CLIMBERS

A PLAY BY ROGER HALL

Directed by **STEVE WRIGHT**

18 April - 2 May 1998

Wed - Sat at 8 pm
Sunday at 6 pm

THE ROSE CENTRE
School Road, Belmont
Bookings Ph 445-9900
Ph 486-3835

* **Season Commencing...** *

CAST
(In Order of Appearance)

SUSAN.....Helen Ann Davies
KATH.....Penny Skyrme
ANNIE.....Rebekah Berresford
EMILY.....Moira Coote
MAXINE.....Adrienne Morgan
SINEAD.....Jennie Gregory

CREW

Director.....Steve Wright
Production Manager.....Kathy Gent
Stage Manager.....Alistair Fletcher
Assistant Stage Manager.....Richard Parmee
Costumes.....Annie Gandar
Properties.....Maureen Kenny
Stage Design.....Steve Wright/Malcolm Love
Stage Painting.....Scott Craig
Publicity.....Catherine Long/Geoff Clews
Programme.....Sherry Ede
Poster Design.....Scott Craig
Set Construction.....Malcolm Love/Steve Wright/
Tony Sandy/Anthony Whitehouse/Richard Parmee
Lighting Design.....Phil Searle
Lighting Operator.....Phil Searle/Malcolm Love
Sound Operator.....Elise Edwards
Front of House Manager.....Doug Bourke
Bookings.....Doug Bourke
Bar Manager.....Tony Sandy



A special thank you to Hubbards Cereals

Next at Company Theatre
Three Play '98. (Three One Act Plays)
June 20th - July 4th '98
Money and Friends by David Williamson.
Would you lend your best friend \$10,000?
August 15 - 30 '98

Saturday April 18th, 1998.

The action of the play takes place in a tramping hut. The time is the present. When a group of women decide to do some serious tramping together, ostensibly to help one of their number "pick up the pieces of her shattered life", it transpires that she isn't the only one with problems.

Act 1

- Scene 1: Day One. Evening.
- Scene 2: Day One. Later that Evening.
- Scene 3: Day One. Night.
- Scene 4: Day Two. Morning.
- Scene 5: Day Two. Afternoon.

INTERVAL

Act 2

- Scene 1: Day Two. Evening.
- Scene 2: Day Three. Morning.
- Scene 3: Day Three. Afternoon.
- Scene 4: Day Three. Evening.
- Scene 5: Day Four. Morning.

Last year's winner of the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship, Roger Hall needs no introduction to New Zealand audiences. From 'Glide Time' to 'Market Forces', 'Middle Age Spread' to 'Conjugal Rights', he has delighted New Zealand audiences for over 20 years.

I was delighted when Company Theatre asked me to direct their production of *Social Climbers*. Being an avid Roger Hall fan and having directed *Glide Time* in 1985 and *Prisoners of Mother England* in 1988, I am familiar with his parochial writing with its incisive wit. This is another gem from his pen and I've thoroughly enjoyed the journey *Social Climbers* has taken me on.

THE SETTING

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

There will be one interval during which the Bar will be open, and tea/coffee will be served.



**Roger Hall
 Playwright**

**Steve Wright
 Director**

Biographies of The Cast (in order of appearance.)

HELEN ANN DAVIES (Susan)
 This is Helen's first foray into "straight" theatre. She has extensive musical comedy experience from *Nellie* in *South Pacific* (North Shore Operatic Society) to *Mary Kenny* in *De Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* (Auckland Music Theatre Company.) Helen has played the Madam of a Brothel in *Can-Can* and says it is no reflection on her true character - of course! She enjoys going from one extreme to another.

PENNY SKYRME (Kath)
 Penny first appeared for Company Theatre in another Roger Hall play, *Fifty Fifty*. Since then she has done many productions with Company-mainly as mothers! She excelled as the dominating mother *Lady Julia* in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and played a completely different mother as *Sally* in *Mothers and Fathers*. A further motherly figure was *Lady Rumpers* in *Habeas Corpus* in 1993. But for this play she has thrown away the padding, but not the mother character!

REBEKAH BERRESFORD (Annie)
 This is Rebekah's first non-Shakespearean production. For the past 7 years she has appeared in numerous plays by the great bard including as *Nerissa* in *Merchant of Venice* (Westpoint'97) and *Phoebe* in *As You Like It* (Milford Playhouse). She is really enjoying herself in this non-Shakespearean play where "You can't rely as much on the text for character." The part of a counsellor she sees as quite ironic, as she has grown up with counselling. Her own mother is a psychologist.

MOIRA COOTE (Emily)
 Moira's involvement with Company Theatre spans many years. She has appeared on stage in *Situation Comedy*, *Steel Magnolias* and most recently in *Palladium* where her skills as a choreographer were well and truly put to the test! She feels she is always cast as the sweet as pie, mumsy kind, and is determined to find a play where she can be completely different. In the meantime she also makes an excellent, kind teacher to the Junior Company children each Saturday afternoon.

ADRIENNE MORGAN (Maxine)
 This is a double debut for Adrienne, a very experienced actress. It is her first time for Company and her first production in Auckland. A kiwi by birth, Adrienne has spent many years in Brisbane where she has been involved in stage and television. Her theatrical credits include well known plays like *House of Bernarda Alba* by Garcia Lorca, *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder and *What the Butler Saw* by Joe Orton. T.V. credits include local shows and 2 years of voice overs for ABC T.V.

JENNIE GREGORY (Sinead)
 Jennie is a new member of Company Theatre but has performed in theatre and film both here and overseas. She is delighted (she thinks) to now find herself a be-toweled punk under Steve Wright's eagle-eyed directorship. She is thoroughly enjoying being part of *Social Climbers*.

New Roger Hall hits Belmont

The latest work by New Zealand's most famous living playwright Roger Hall, hits the boards in Belmont from April 18.

Fresh from its highly successful professional production in Auckland last year, the Shore's Company Theatre scored the amateur performance rights for "Social Climbers" as soon as they became available, and will produce the community theatre premiere of the show at Belmont's Rose Centre Theatre.

The play features an all female cast who explore the highs and lows of life as only Hall can write about it. The women are on a tramping excursion which challenges each of them in different ways and provides a brilliant backdrop for the uniquely Kiwi humour which has become a "Hallmark" of the creator of Middle Age Spread and Market Forces (on television currently).

The show is directed by Steve Wright who says of the cast; "Each of these women is just fantastic in this show, I think our audiences will be coming back for more."

Social Climbers opens on Saturday April 18 and runs to Saturday May 2. Performances Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm and 6pm on Sundays. To book, phone 445-9900 or 486-3835 between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday. Any further information phone Catherine Long on 445-0599.



SOCIAL CLIMBERS: Director Steve Wright with the play's cast.

Helen Ann Davies, Moira Coote, Rebekah Berresford, Adrienne Morgan