



Company Theatre  
presents

Henrik Ibsen's

# Hedda Gabler

a new version  
by  
Christopher Hampton

directed by  
Sian Davis

at the ROSE CENTRE, BELMONT  
14 November - 28 November 1998

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## HEDDA GABLER

### THE CAST

in order of appearance...

Miss Juliane Tesman .....Dianne Lamont  
Berte, the maid.....Linda Whitehouse  
George Tesman.....Nigel Flockhart  
Hedda Gabler.....Tricia Phillips  
Mrs Thea Elvsted.....Erica Kroger  
Judge Brack.....David Berresford  
Eilert Lovborg.....Michael Donovan

### THE CREW

Director.....Sian Davis  
Costumes by .....Cathie Sandy  
Cosumes Assistant.....Heather Levack  
Furniture (arranged by) ..... Catherine Long, Moira Coote  
.....& Lyndall Frost  
Set Construction.....Tony Sandy,  
.....Anthony Whitehouse, Doug Bourke, Richard Parmee  
Lighting Design.....David Powell  
Lighting Operation.....JohnBurton/Doug Annan  
Stage Manager.....Richard Parmee  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Helen Davis  
Backstage Crew.....Sheila Stevens, Kathy Gent, Heidi Jeory  
Dressers.....Gail Carran, Laura Worrall  
Publicity.....Anthony Whitehouse  
Photography.....Sherry Ede  
Programme.....Sherry Ede  
Front of House.....Doug Bourke  
Bar Manager.....Tony Sandy

### Acknowledgements and thanks to:

The North Shore Operatic Society; Takapuna Grammar School; Papakura Theatre; Mairangi Players; Carol Evans; Alistair Fletcher; Robert Letcher; Piano recordings by Phyllis Spencer. A special thanks to *First Scene* for some of the stage scenery. A special thanks to *Abigails* of Devonport. Company Theatre welcomes new members. Please phone Annie on 445.8181 or Sherry on 445.2386. Our next production will be in April 1999. Check for audition notices in the *North Shore Times* or become a member!



by Henrik Ibsen

## Director's Notes

*Henrik Ibsen is recognised as one of Theatre's greatest playwrights, noted for his ability to integrate theatrical artistry with a range of vital and complex social and moral issues. And this is nowhere better exemplified than in "Hedda Gabler".*

*Impeccable craftsmanship in construction combines with precise and spare dialogue, a taut storyline spanning a brief thirty six hours, and strong characterisation, with Hedda herself offering one of the best ever female roles. The centrality to the piece of Hedda's situation and nature also makes her role one of the most demanding, not least because of the range of possibilities in the playing, and thence in the play's meaning.*

*At one level "Hedda Gabler" may be seen as a feminist tract, the tragedy of a woman suppressed by marriage and convention, despairingly seeking escape from entrapment in the everyday banality of George's slippers and Auntie Julia's new hat,...and more horrible yet! But the snare is much of her own making, and she is her own worse enemy...*

*"Hedda Gabler" is here presented in a new version by Christopher Hampton, eminently accessible, wonderfully playable.*

## THE SCENES

The action takes place in Tesman's villa in the fashionable part of a provincial town in Norway.

**ACT 1: Early Morning**

**ACT 2: Afternoon of the same day.**

*Interval of 15 minutes, during which refreshments are available in the foyer.*

**ACT 3: The next day at dawn**

**ACT 4: Evening**



November 14 - 28, 1998

## THE DIRECTOR - Sian Davis

Sian has had a long-time involvement with theatre. She has been seen most recently, as the unfortunate *Mrs Parker* in Centre Stage's "Daughters of Heaven"; as *Miss Prism* in "The Importance of Being Ernest" and *Granny* in "Hot Water", both at the Pumphouse. Directing "Hedda Gabler" fulfils an ambition held since her appearance in it a very long time ago.

## THE CAST

### Dianne Lamont (Miss Juliane Tesman)

A former broadcaster and professional actress, Dianne's most recent role for Company was *Madame Arcati* in "Blithe Spirit" in 1997. Also in 1997 Dianne played *Lady Bracknell* in the Pumphouse Winter Classic Production of Oscar Wilde's "Important of Being Ernest". In 1996, she appeared, for Company in "Just Between Ourselves" and "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime".

### Linda Whitehouse (Berte, the Maid)

Linda's involvement with theatre spans many years and many theatrical societies, mostly assisting in a backstage role. This is Linda's first opportunity to perform on stage for Company.

### Nigel Flockhart (George Tesman)

Originally from Gisborne, Nigel has been in Auckland for 3 years, involved in theatre and film. In 1996 he was *Arthur* in "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime", for Company. Also in 1996, he was *Steve Hubbel* in "A Streetcar Named Desire" at the Pumphouse and *Hamlet* in "Ophelia Thinks Harder" for Mairangi Players. This year he acted in an independent short film called "A Dogs Dinner". His range is certainly wide, but we are not sure if he quite qualifies for his character's statement in *Hedda Gabler*... "Extraordinary, Mm?"!

### Tricia Phillips (Hedda Gabler)

Tricia has a huge number of theatrical credits over many years, with a long association for the Adelaide Theatre Group, Australia. Local residents may remember her from the now defunct Devonport Theatre Company's production of "The Homecoming" playing the part of *Ruth*. She has appeared in *Gloss*, *Porters* and *Shorthand Street (Myra)*, three feature films and one short film. Her resume also tells us she can sing, mime, clown and dance.

### Erica Kröger (Mrs Thea Elvsted)

Erica has been involved with theatre since early childhood, and hopes to become a professional actor. She arrived in New Zealand in April, after completing her B.A. in Drama in South Africa. She recently played *Olwen Peel* in Milford Playhouses production of "Dangerous Corner" by J.B. Priestley. This is her second production in this country.

### David Berresford (Judge Brack)

David made his stage debut at the age of 47 and hasn't stopped since. He has now done a total of five Shakespeare's. Last year he discovered modern theatre with Maya Dalziel's production of "The Elephant Man", and then went back to the classics for Chekov's "Three Sisters". He is in a strong position for this present classic production! David thinks that *Judge Brack* is the least salubrious character he has played, but the magic of the theatre still holds him entranced.

### Michael Donovan (Eilert Lovberg)

This is Michael's second time to tread the boards. In his first production last year, he played *Doctor Frederick Treves* in "The Elephant Man", at the Maidment Studio. Over the last three years, Michael has written and directed three short drama films, which have had screenings in Festivals in New Zealand and around Europe. He is finding the experience of being an actor extremely helpful, not only for character insight but a better understanding of what it is like to perform, which he summarises as "absolutely terrifying"!