



The poster features a central, ethereal face of a young girl with large, light-colored eyes, set against a background of dark, textured brushstrokes in shades of red, black, and green. To the left, a dark silhouette of a person is visible, and to the right, a small black silhouette of a steam locomotive is shown. The Company Theatre logo is in the top right corner.

A young English woman decides to leave home. As her mother and grandmother help her pack, one of the world's best kept secrets is uncovered.

Kindertransport
by Diane Samuels
directed by Graham Wagstaff

12 - 26 June 2004 8.00pm
Matinees Sunday 13 June 2.00 pm Sunday 20 June 2.00pm
Tickets \$18.00 and \$15.00 Child \$9.00 Bookings 445 - 6447
Company Theatre, Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont

Cast :

SIAN DAVIS

A sometime actor, most of Sian's recent focus has been on directing. In the past few years she has directed 'Hedda Gabler', 'The Cherry Orchard', 'Arsenic and Old Lace' and 'Eugenia' for Company Theatre, 'Horseplay' for Tall Poppy, 'Twelfth Night' for Auckland University's Summer Shakespeare and 'Wit' for The Stables Theatre. She is finding her return to the stage *'a humbling experience... good for the soul!'*

EMMA FENTON

Emma is a year 9 student at St Cuthbert's College studying drama as an optional subject. She has been studying speech and drama with Susan Hargraves for the past 6 years and reached Grade 5 in the Trinity College exams; it was Susan who introduced Emma to Company Theatre. Recently Emma appeared as Puck in extracts from A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of a Shakespeare soiree.

LEONORA SMITH

Another pupil of Susan Hargraves, Leonora is 15 and has achieved Grade 7 in the Trinity College speech and drama exams, gaining top marks in Auckland in her Grades 3 and 4. At Selwyn College, she has appeared in 'Anything Goes', 'Flapper, King of the Castle' and 'The Promise'. With Auckland Children's Musical Theatre she has appeared in 'Oliver' and in 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.

LESLEY LOCKE

Although Lesley has acted, and more recently directed in most theatre groups round Auckland, she was delighted to be offered the role of Evelyn as her debut for Company Theatre at The Rose Centre. *"This has been an exciting production to be involved in"* says Lesley, *"and I hope*

we can show audiences something of what life must have been like for these children". As an actor Lesley maintains that we can learn something new in every role, and Evelyn is a most complex character. She has found portraying her to be a wonderful challenge.

TRUDY THUMATH

Trudy is a new member of Company Theatre. Prior to this, she worked with the Devonport Theatre Company for whom she played Mag in 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane'. She has also appeared in various commercials and television programmes. Commenting on her role of Helga, she says *"Kindertransport is a very moving play. As a parent, I can only begin to understand the anguish felt by parents as they sent their children away, not knowing if or when they would ever be reunited."*

JO BAYLIS

This is Jo's first appearance with Company Theatre following three plays at Dolphin Theatre where she played the drunken Suzette in 'Don't Dress for Dinner', (Best Actress award), Sally Chesington in 'Cash on Delivery' and Ruby Birtle in 'When we are Married', (Best Supporting Actress Award). Jo is enjoying the change from playing in farce and comedy to managing the emotions and mood swings of Evelyn's confused and distraught daughter Faith.

DAVID FITCHEW

David first worked with Graham Wagstaff when they met inside the elephant for the Auckland season of 'Phantom of the Opera'. David's theatrical career spans over 50 years and ranges from playing a 14 year old butler's boy in an Ian Hay farce to 90 year old Firs in 'The Cherry Orchard' for Company Theatre. He has directed, and been responsible for set design and décor *"in fact, just about the whole gamut"* of theatrical production.



Kindertransport

By Diane Samuels

**Directed by
Graham Wagstaff**



12 to 26 June 2004

**Weds - Sat @ 8.00pm
Sunday June 13th @ 2.00pm**
Bookings: 4456447



CAST

EVELYN..... LESLEY LOCKE
 FAITH JO BAYLIS
 YOUNG EVA.....EMMA FENTON
 TEENAGE EVALEONORA SMITH
 HELGA.....TRUDY THUMATH
 LIL..... SIAN DAVIS
 RATCATCHER, NAZI BORDER OFFICIAL,
 ENGLISH ORGANISER, POSTMAN
 STATION GUARD.....DAVID FITCHEW

The play takes place in a spare storage room in Evelyn's house in an outer London suburb in recent times.



INTERVAL

There will be one interval of 15 minutes during which refreshments are served.



We serve Cooper's Creek Wines.

CREW

DIRECTOR..... GRAHAM WAGSTAFF
 DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT..MOLLY CLARKE
 PRODUCTION MANAGER KATHY GENT
 STAGE MANAGER MARY CAVANAGH
 ASS'T STAGE MANAGER.... LIZZIE TYSOE
 SET CONSTRUCTION: PHIL DAVIS, TONY SANDY, JIM MURPHY, KRISTI HILL
RICHARD PARMEE, HELEN DAVIES
 COSTUMESCATHIE SANDY
 WARDROBE ASSISTANTS...GAIL CURRAN
JUNE MITCHELL
 DRESSER.....JENNY FENTON
 PROPERTIES..FRED AND DOREEN GOULD
 LIGHTING BOB WILSON
RENEE MATTHEWS,
JUSTIN LATIMER, SVEN NAUMAE
 SOUND DESIGN..... GRAHAM WAGSTAFF
 SOUND OPERATOR....LORNA McGREGOR
 PUBLICITY..... KATHY GENT
 PHOTOS/PROGRAMME.....SHERRY EDE
 FRONT OF HOUSE M'GR.....SUE GROSS
 BAR MANAGER.....TONY SANDY

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Make up advice from Alex Wharton.

**THE PLAY
 KINDERTRANSPORT**

In 1938, around 10,000 Jewish children were sent to England from Europe to escape increasing persecution by the Nazis. Once in England, they were adopted and many became naturalised British, preferring to forget their pasts and knowing they may never see their parents again. Such a person is Evelyn on whom the plays centres. Now in her 50's and with a daughter Faith in her twenties, we learn her story through a series of dramatic flashbacks, from her leaving her parents in Germany, through her journey to England in the *Kindertransport*, and her adoption by her foster mother Lil now in her 80's. Having renounced her past, she finds herself at odds with her daughter who only discovers her mother's background during the course of the play.



The Director – GRAHAM WAGSTAFF

Graham trained as a director at Theatre Corporate under Raymond Hawthorne and has directed plays by Alan Ayckbourn, Tom Stoppard and Peter Shaffer. He has experience in TV and film and has acted in most theatres around Auckland including Titirangi, Dolphin, Maidment and Aotea. Most recently he played Tim in Company Theatre's production of *Take A Chance On Me* earlier this year. He has been passionate about directing *Kindertransport* which he believes is not so much about the Holocaust as about parents and children, the long journey they take together and apart, and the deeper meanings of heritage.

For Membership of Company Theatre
 phone Sheila on 445.6580.

Our EMAIL LIST IS FREE!

Our next production

An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley.

Directed by Helen Cooper.

28 August - 11 September.

www.companytheatre.co.nz

Company Theatre presents a compelling drama



From June 12 to 26, Company Theatre presents the wonderfully well written, moving and accessible play 'Kindertransport' by Diane Samuels, directed by Graham Wagstaff as the second of four productions in their 2004 season.

Seven skilled actors and a creative production team recreate the story of 'Eva', based on the experiences of 10,000 Jewish children forcibly repatriated from Germany to England in 1938-1939.

The Nazi persecution of the Jews started in earnest on November 9, 1938, the 'Kristallnacht' or Night of the Broken

Glass, when mobs destroyed synagogues, smashed Jewish stores and beat up and humiliated Jews.

The British House of Commons agreed to admit to England an unspecified number of children aged between 5 and 17. A fifty pound bond had to be posted for each child 'to assure their ultimate resettlement'. The children were to travel in sealed trains.

The first transport left barely six weeks after the Kristallnacht on September 3, 1938, the last on September 3 1939, just two days before war broke out.

When the children arrived in England, some were taken in by foster

families, some went to orphanages while some worked on farms. Mostly the children were well treated and grew up to develop close ties to their British hosts. Most of the children never saw their parents again.

Though spared the horrors of the death camps, they were uprooted, separated from their parents and transported to a different culture where some converted to the religion of their English hosts.

Diane Samuels' play follows the journey of nine year old Eva Schlessinger as her mother puts her on board a train for her flight from Nazi Germany, through to her life as Evelyn, a



quintessential English-woman who hides her origins from everyone including her own daughter Faith.

Past and present are inextricably wound together through the device of flashbacks as one family's secrets and tragedies emerge to reveal a shattering truth. We see Eva torn between her German Jewish heritage and her desire to wipe the Kindertransport experience from memory.

'Kindertransport' will be presented at The Rose Centre,

School Road, Belmont from June 12 to 26. Evening performances are Wednesday to Saturday at 8pm and there is a matinee at 2pm on Sunday June 13.

To book phone Kathy Gent on 445 6447.

In the photos we see Eva (played by Emma Fenton) being challenged by a Nazi border official (played by David Fitchew), and Evelyn (played by Lesley Locke) trying to explain her background to her daughter Faith (played by Jo Baylis).

