



TRICK OF THE LIGHT

Two interlinked plays by Ken Duncum, both set in a motel unit close to Pukekawa, Franklin County.

TRICK - The Midway Motel - Present Day
LIGHT - The Midway Motel - February 1973

Playwright's Notes

I found a quote the other day – 'any marriage is more interesting than any murder.' True. But what's more fascinating and tantalizing for me in the case of the Crewes is the possibility that understanding the marriage may be the same thing as solving the murders. Along with Clare in the first play, I think the great modern mystery is what goes on inside other people's marriages. What used to be called "behind closed doors" - but which can actually go on right in front of you and where you are still none the wiser. Why do people split up? Or conversely why do they stay together? Are love, faith and trust lined up like dominoes so that if one topples it sends the others flying? If so, what order are they standing up in? What's the first to go? What starts the rot?

Trick introduces two mysteries - why Bevan and Clare's mother wanted her ashes brought to this motel room, and why their mother's marriage broke up. The second play *Light* probes the workings of that marriage at a crucial point. And also brushes up against one other puzzle - a home-grown riddle - wrapped in an enigma which most people over a certain age in New Zealand have probably contemplated at one time or another. Who killed the Crewes? Thanks for coming to Trick of the Light

Ken Duncum

Director's Notes

I returned to NZ at the beginning of 1971 and lived for a while in Papakura, close to the scene of a crime that was to bulk large not only in local consciousness but nationally as it came to dominate the 'news' for a long time to come: the Crewe Murders case is officially still unsolved. After the Arthur Allan Thomas pardon that finally resulted from the very pertinent questions posed by a number of Thomas supporters, and especially from the furore generated by David Yallop's *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*, the major focus shifted dramatically. No longer was it simply about who the guilty party may have been (there were plenty of ideas on that, too), but how it was possible for an innocent man to have been convicted, and to have been so on police-planted evidence. As, I suppose, for most NZers at the time, my belief in the 'force' as intrinsically honourable, incorruptible, moral well, it received a shaking. In *Light*, Duncum's exploration of the policeman's lot at the time is succinct, beautifully-written, and totally relevant today.

However, *Trick of the Light* is very much more than a revisiting of the 'Crewe Murders'; it is a wonderfully layered play: amusing and sad, mysterious, even macabre, and provocative....I hope you will find it as engrossing as I and my talented cast have while working on it.

Sian Davis

CAST

Ngaire Jones Nial Greenstock Des Smith

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Sian Davis
Production Manager	Kathy Gent
Stage Manager/PA	Joanna Craig
Stage Manager	Lizzie Tysoe
Set Designer	Janet Williamson
Set Dressing	Beth Harris
Lighting Design/Operation	Phil Searle
Sound Design/Operation	Terry Smith
Properties	Maureen Kenny
Costumes	Cathie Sandy
Special Effects	Caroline Parker
Publicity	Lynne Davis
Photos	Peter Robertson Miller
Poster Design	Emma Love
Programme Production	Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent
Set Construction	Tony Sandy assisted by Jim Murphy, Janet Williamson, Doug Williamson, Heather Williamson, Bob Stevens, Elizabeth Deuchar, Richard Parmee, Jack Willetts, Kathy Gent Tony Sandy
Front of House Manager	Heather & Owen Campbell, Donna Franks, Bob & Sheila Stevens, Caroline Parker, Colin Balmer, Jean Adkins, Mary Cavanagh, Beth Harris, Lynn Brocklebank, Elaine Hayde, Sue Gross, Lynne Davis
Front of House	Penny Skyrme, Molly Clarke, Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent
Box Office	Alastair Fletcher, Tony Sandy
Bar Managers	

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Junk and Disorderly
 Devonport Garden Centre
 Timber Recycle, Archers Road,
 Sovereign Industries
 Ngaire McDonald
 Gail Lockie

PROFILES

Sian Davis (Director) – Sian has previously directed *Hedda Gabler*, *Eugenia*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Cherry Orchard* for Company Theatre. She has a strong penchant for something provocative, preferably from New Zealand, and also the 'classics'. *Trick of the Light* is Sian's second Ken Duncum play having previously directed *Horseplay* for 'Tall Poppy Theatre' at The Rose Centre in 2003. Sian is not averse to 'strutting the boards'; last year she played Lil in Company Theatre's production of *Kindertransport*.

Janet Williamson (Set Designer) - Janet has been a freelance theatre designer in Auckland, Wellington and Toronto, Canada. Among her recent productions in Auckland are designs for *Horseplay*, *Twelfth Night* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Currently she teaches Drawing at AUT and Mairangi Arts Centre and exhibits her paintings at various galleries. In a previous life she was Creative Director at TVNZ for several years.

Ngaire Jones – Ngaire first appeared with Company Theatre in 2000 as Richard Pearse's girlfriend in *The Pain and the Passion*. Her most recent Company Theatre performance was as the art dealer "Simone" in *Up for Grabs* last year. Over the years she has performed with many of Auckland's theatre groups including Dolphin Theatre where she was seen earlier in the year as Angie in *Body Language*.

Nial Greenstock - This is Nial's eighth production for Company Theatre, having appeared most recently as the "on coke" Kel, in *Up For Grabs*, and the multi-faceted "Eric" in *Take a Chance on Me*. Although Nial considers Company Theatre his home, he has also performed with Covert Theatre, Dolphin Theatre and Mairangi Players. His film and television appearances include the feature *1 Nite* opposite Bruce Hopkins, which was recently nominated for a Screen Guild Award.

Des Smith - Des is delighted to be making a return to Company Theatre as it was here that he made his theatrical debut in Alan Ayckbourn's *Tons of Money*. Since then he has been very busy playing many roles from "Puck" in *Midsummer Night's Dream* to "Einstein" in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* as well as doing some TV work. Des has found this latest role 'interesting and challenging' to say the least and there is no truth in the rumour that he has asked if he can keep his costume when the production is finished.

AUDITIONS
 Auditions for *GHOST TRAIN* by Arnold Ridley directed by Graham Wagstaff
 will be held at 1.30pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 21 August 2005.
 6 male roles, 6 female roles - Enquiries phone Graham on 478 7102
 Production dates 12 - 26 November 2005

MEMBERSHIP
 For Membership of Company Theatre phone Sheila on 445.6580.
www.companytheatre.co.nz

