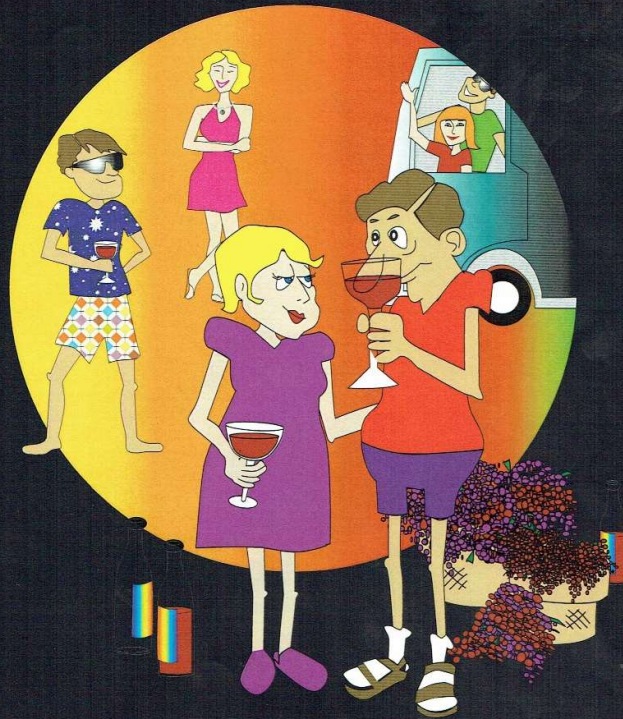


21 APR 2006 28 MAR 2006

Spreading Out

a comedy by Roger Hall
Directed by Kathy Gent



25 March to 8 April 2006
Tuesday - Saturday performances 8pm, Sundays 2pm
Tickets \$18, Concessions \$15

The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont
Bookings (09) 445 6447



CAST PROFILES

Jacqué Mandeno – A drama teacher by day, Jacqué enjoys going over to the “other side” to show that teachers *can* do. To that end, she has directed and acted in many local productions. Her favourite roles tend to be pantomime-style villains so it is a great challenge to do a “straight” role for a change. Having known Roger Hall many years ago in Dunedin, it is a great pleasure to be acting in one of his plays, and to be working with such a marvellous cast and crew.

John Curry – Despite having trodden the boards for many years now this is only John’s second time at Company Theatre, his previous outing was playing Sterling in *The Ghost Train*. Last year he also played a retired General who became a hippy in *Halfway Up The Tree* with ShoreSide Theatre. John says he is thoroughly enjoying his time in the Wairarapa with his fellow cast members.

Dianne Lamont – Dianne returns to the stage after acting in management training videos and in *Orange Roughies*’ an upcoming drama series on TV One. Playwright Roger Hall’s *Middle Aged Spread* introduced Dianne to the role of Elizabeth in the 70’s. All these years later, Elizabeth is still defining herself through her family’s achievements. In *Spreading Out* disappointment lies ahead – a role to relish.

Michael Posner - Michael trained at The Guildhall School Of Music & Drama in the Barbican, London. Upon leaving he co-formed a comedy act called *The Identical Quads* which achieved great success on the London alternative comedy scene. Since arriving in New Zealand he has appeared in Legacy Shakespeare Co.’s al fresco production of *As You Like It* at The Parnell Rose Gardens and played the central character, Arnold, in *Torch Song Trilogy* at The Lopdell House Theatre, Titirangi.

Max Golding – This is Max’s fourth show for Company Theatre at The Rose Centre, having first appeared in *Habeus Corpus* the original Company production here – some time last century! Latterly he has been on stage at the Stables Theatre (Gaston in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*) and Dolphin Theatre (Sir Robert Morton in *The Winslow Boy*). *Spreading Out* is the first time he and Sue have actually appeared on stage as husband and wife – and what an outcome!

Sue Golding - Sue’s recent acting has been with Dolphin and Stables Theatre groups. Most recent performances: East-European Freya in *Body Language* and Grace Winslow in *The Winslow Boy* (Dolphin Theatre 2005 Best Female Performer) plus Constance in *The Constant Wife* and Italian diva Eleanora Duse in *The Ladies of the Camellias* at Stables Theatre. Isobel has provided an interesting challenge to portray – definitely acting against type!

Elizabeth McGlenn – This is Elizabeth’s first time on stage with Company Theatre. She has appeared at The Pumphouse and in a number of productions at The University of Auckland including playing Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Elizabeth took time out from her Marketing & Media Studies at Uni to travel and act in an American TV series that was shot in Wellington.

AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

Auditions for GYM AND TONIC by John Godber directed by Lesley Locke
At 2pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 7 May 2006
Enquiries phone Lesley on 836 6232
Production Dates 20 July - 5 August 2006

COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

For Membership of Company Theatre phone Sheila on 445-6580
companytheatre@gmail.com www.companytheatre.co.nz

SPREADING OUT

by Roger Hall

Directed by Kathy Gent

This sequel to the highly popular 'Middle Age Spread' of the 1970's plunges us into mid- life career crisis, terminal illness and impending divorce, all gloomy topics in any family. How we personally deal with these life-changing events, how we communicate them to those dear to us and how we save ourselves from suffering in the process, this is all portrayed through the very strong characters in Roger Hall's black comedy of bad manners and bad taste.

Being essentially English with no family in New Zealand, I frequently ask myself 'Where is Home?' 'What is it that attracts me to New Zealand?' For each and every one of us, the lure of this wonderful country is very different and very personal, it can cause conflict and tension, yet the overriding emotion is that it allows us to be 'free'.

The actors have enjoyed examining the issues for young, middle aged and ageing New Zealanders on their voyages of self discovery.

Director's Profile

This is the sixth production Kathy has directed for Company Theatre, the most recent being another Roger Hall play 'Take A Chance On Me'. preceded by 'Three of a Funny Kind', 'Blithe Spirit', 'See How They Run' and 'Straight & Narrow'.

As a director with several groups in the UK, her productions there included 'Cabaret', 'Stepping Out', 'Rebecca', 'Charley's Aunt', 'When We Are Married', 'Chorus of Disapproval', 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' and 'Bedroom Farce'. She loves directing comedy, paying particular attention to timing and characterisation.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1 - December 30 Morning	Scene 5 - December 31 Night
Scene 2 - December 30 Afternoon	Scene 6 - January 1 4.30am
Scene 3 - December 30 Evening	Scene 7 - January 1 Morning
Scene 4 - December 31 Morning	

There will be a 15 Minute Interval after Scene 3

CAST

In order of appearance

Jane	Jacqué Mandeno
Colin	John Curry
Elizabeth	Dianne Lamont
Roddy	Michael Posner
Reg	Max Golding
Isobel	Sue Golding
Megan	Elizabeth McGlenn

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Kathy Gent
Production Manager	Penny S kyrme
Stage Manager	Richard Parmee
Set Design	Janet Williamson
Set Dressing	Beth Harris
Set Construction	Ernie Caley with Richard Parmee, David Theager, Des Ritchie, Tony Sandy
	Caroline Parker, Elizabeth Deuchar, Kathy Gent, Sian Davis
Set Painting	Phil Searle
	Terry Smith
Lighting Design/Operation	Tina Charles
Sound Design	Maureen Kenny
Sound Operation	Gillian Howard, Jenny Howard
Properties	Cathie Sandy
Costumes	Kathy Gent
Publicity	Jenni Holland
Poster Design	Anne Rimmer
Photos	Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent
Programme Production	Lynne Davey
Front of House Manager	Tony Sandy
Bar Licensee	Members of Company Theatre
Box Office & Front of House	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Coopers Creek, North Shore Music Theatre, Lion Nathan, Auckland Landscapes, Junk & Disorderly, Somervell Presbyterian Church, Doug Annan, Mark Higgins, Kathryn Trounson

Paintings by Julia Henderson, a local artist specialising in original contemporary Pacific Art
Julia can be contacted on 445 2819 or juliahenderson@mac.com

NORTH SHORE TIMES, Tuesday March 21, 2006 Page 19

Spreading Out

Entertainment

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Times a-changing in dark comedy

Roger Hall's plays always resonate with New Zealanders and no production more so than *Spreading Out*.

The play is the sequel to the highly popular *Middle Age Spread*, written in the late 1970s.

Set in the present day at the home of Colin and Elizabeth in the Wairarapa over the New Year holiday, it is a comedy with some dark moments that go to the heart of how families really feel about each other.

The feeling of mid-life crises, the realisation that time is running out and the "it's now or never" syndrome propels this couple's children and friends to make life-changing decisions they find difficult to accept.

Families of New Zealanders are indeed spread out around the world and New Zealand holds different at-



Hey babe: Reg (Max Golding) tries to persuade Megan (Elizabeth McGlenn) to forsake her beloved bottled water and 'quaff' wine instead.

tractions for different generations.

Playgoers can watch Colin (John Curry) and his son Roddy (Michael Posner) enjoying a

Steinlager on the terrace, while the two couples Reg and Colin

with wives Elizabeth (Dianne Lamont) and Isobel (Sue Golding)

are not quite sure what to make of their reunion.

Kathy Gent directed Roger Hall's *Take a Chance on Me* for Com-

pany Theatre two years ago and is delighted to direct a second Roger Hall comedy for this successful local theatre company.

Last year was Company Theatre's 25th anniversary year and the group goes from strength to strength, presenting sell-out productions.

They include a New Zealand play each year. Last year it was *Trick of the Light* by Ken Duncum and next year it is set to be *The Bach* by Devonport playwright Stephen Sinclair.

The play will run from March 25 to April 8 at The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont; between Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm, matinees at 2pm on Sunday, March 26, Sunday, April 2, and Saturday, April 8.

Tickets are \$18 or \$15 for concessions and can be booked on 445-6447.

MARCH 23 2006

THE DEVONPORT FLAGSTAFF PAGE 27

Spreading Out takes off at Rose Centre this week



Middle aged and spreading out...Dianne Lamont and Jacque Mandeno on left, and above, Max Golding and John Curry ,

Two years after staging Roger Hall's popular play *Take A Chance on Me*, Company Theatre presents *Spreading Out*, the sequel to *Middle Age Spread* at the Rose Centre from 25 March - 8 April.

Above Reg (played by Bayswater resident Max Golding) tempts Colin (played by John Curry) to some of his own Pinot Noir,

and Dianne Lamont from Devonport who plays Elizabeth, is shocked by her daughter Jane's revelation. Jane is played by Jacque Mandeno.

Spreading Out is a comedy about relationships between friends and families, played out over the New Year Holiday and set in the Wairarapa. It is both entertaining and very

true to modern day New Zealand.

Many performances look set to sell out before opening night.

• *Spreading Out* at the Rose Centre, Belmont, performances Tuesday – Saturday are at 8pm, matinees at 2pm on Sunday 26 March, Sunday 2 April and Saturday 8 April; to book phone 445 6447.