



2008 'ALLO 'ALLO

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COMPANY THEATRE
presents...

Allo 'Allo

by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

Directed by Kathy Gent



9 - 23 August 2008

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 8pm &
Sundays 10 & 17 August at 2pm

\$20 Adults • \$15 Concessions

Bookings 445 9900 or email rosecentre@xtra.co.nz



STAGE MANAGER'S CORNER
Saturday 9th August.

PROPOSAL for Cast PLEASE READ.

Company Theatre would like to ask all cast and crew if they can be available for an extra performance on Sunday 17th August at 7.00pm.

Company Theatre will provide a good meal to be served at 5.00pm, after the 2pm Matinee. This meal will not be just fish and chips or pizza. We are looking at catering options and to provide something tasty and substantial to properly nourish our wonderful dedicated cast and crew.

The meal should be finished by 6pm, to give you all one hour to prepare for a 7.00pm start.

Richard Parmee (in his role as bookings manager) will take bookings for this **NEW time slot**. If by next Friday, there is insufficient interest, we may consider cancelling the show as we release it is very tiring, however, with the way the phones are ringing, we anticipate that we can easily fill another 100 seats if you are willing.

Please let me know if you have any problems with an extra performance on Sunday 17th August at 7.00pm.

TONIGHT

Tonight, just before the show starts, Kathy will speak on stage, to the Gala Night Audience and welcome them to Café Rene. I would ask that Act 1 Beginners wait in the wings during this short 2 minute welcome, so that the show can commence as quickly as possible after she has finished her speech and the doors are closed.

Well done everyone on a fantastic Pre View Night.
Keep concentrating. Keep looking at your scripts.

Sherry xx



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by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

Directed by Kathy Gent



August 2008

'ALLO 'ALLO

By Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

Directed by Kathy Gent

Sitting in cafes in St Germain des Pres in Paris last Christmas I started planning this production of 'Allo 'Allo; I adore everything about French cafes from the smell of the Gaulois to the taste of warm French bread and croissants, to the feelings of warmth and bonhomie amongst the very vocal patrons, and of course the grouchiness of many cafe proprietors in these cafes many of which have probably changed little since the 1940's. I began to develop my vision of a bustling Cafe Rene, dominated by the well meaning Edith trying to control her tormented husband Rene amidst the demands of Germans, Italians, Resistance workers, sexy waitresses and British airmen, and to become excited by the prospect of bringing the wonderful stage version of the TV series to life. In the process we have become a very close-knit team of eighteen experienced actors and as many stage crew; the mutual support has been amazing and the rehearsals have been filled with laughter with the greeting 'Allo 'Allo resounding round the Rose Centre! I thank everyone who has worked so very hard to bring Cafe Rene to life.

There will be a 15 Minute interval between the two acts

CAST

THE FRENCH

René	Karl Buckley
Edith	Julie Collis
Yvette	Emma Codd
Mimi	Anna Sheridan
Leclerc	Graham Wagstaff
Michelle	Kate Orgias
The Piano Player	Richard Ellsworth
Peasants	Barbara Farron Emma Service Mark Higgins Steve Green

GERMANS / ITALIANS

Colonel Kurt Von Strohm	Steve Wright
Captain Bertorelli	Scott Hayden
Herr Otto Flick	Richard Parmée
Helga	Janine Hugo
Lieut. Gruber	Nick Shallish
General Von Schmelling	John Clarke
Soldier	Emma Service

THE BRITISH

Crabtree	Richard Johnson
1 st Airman	Steve Green
2 nd Airman	Mark Higgins

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Kathy Gent
Production Manager	Lynne Davis
Production Assistant	Emma Service
Stage Manager	Sherry Ede
Assisted by	Emma Service, Mark Higgins
Set Design	Kathy Gent
Set Construction	Ernie Cayley
Assisted by	Richard Parmée, Tony Sandy, Mark Higgins, Richard Thomas, Kiran Solanki, Steve Wright, Steve Green, David Thesiger, Sian Davis
Set Manager	Caroline Parker
Set Dressing	Anne Rimmer
Lighting Design	Scott Thomas
Lighting Operation	Richard Thomas
Sound Design	Terry Smith
Sound Operation	Kiran Solanki
Programme	Lynne Davis
Properties	Fred & Doreen Gould
Costume Design	Nadine Gibson
Wardrobe Assistant	Ruth Chapman
Publicity	Kathy Gent, Richard Parmée, Lynne Davis
Group Bookings	Kathy Gent
Photography	Sherry Ede
Front of House Managers	Sheila Stevens, Sue Gross
Bar Manager	Jane Edwards
Box Office, Front of House & Bar Staff	Members of Company Theatre

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Kathy has been on the committee of Company Theatre since arriving in New Zealand thirteen years ago, and this is the 7th production she has directed for them. Her most recent productions were 'Take A Chance on Me' and 'Spreading Out' by Roger Hall. Back in the UK she directed plays and musicals for drama groups in the Royal Navy and for Putney Players in London. Kathy loves directing comedy, with the emphasis on timing and characterisation.

CAST PROFILE

Karl Buckley - (Rene) Karl's last stage outing was performing as Gary in Company's production of "Noises Off". Now playing the iconic role of Rene made so famous by Gordon Kaye has been an enjoyable challenge, and he is glad his wife Claire encouraged him to help hide the portrait of the fallen Madonna with the big boobies! Karl is more often found in the director's chair, and also serves on the PumpHouse Trust committee and the Auckland Community Theatre Trust.

Julie Collis - (Edith) "People actually pay to come and see a diverse bunch get together and have such a lot of fun! From discussions about which sausage goes where to how many paintings there really are, it has been a laugh a minute. Julie's last appearance for Company Theatre was as the very elegant 'Hilda' in 'Daughters of Heaven' and she regularly appears in various TV dramas and commercials.

Emma Codd - (Yvette) Emma is delighted to have been given the opportunity to "play" in 'Allo 'Allo, and what fun she has had uncovering her latent sexy French "serving" girl persona! Previously Emma has been seen in "Top Girls", "1789", "Little Women", "Rent", "By Jeeves", and most recently "The Producers".

Anna Sheridan - (Mimi) Anna has been performing in the Rose Centre since she was five, and at present is completing her degree in English and Drama at Auckland University. Anna has been in numerous musicals, plays, TV series, feature films and adverts. Anna loves playing the character of Mimi and says it's a nice excuse to go blonde and be silly for a few weeks!

Graham Wagstaff - (Leclerc) It's great to see Graham back on stage at Company; he has appeared in most theatres in Auckland and recently a role in Shortland Street. He was a compere/manager in Buddy for North Shore Music Theatre, and a gondolier in The Gondoliers for Centrestage. Graham says that he finds Leclerc's memory loss catching and feels quite at home with the character!

Kate Orgias - (Michelle) Listen very carefully...Kate has been in as many roles in radio, as Michelle is in disguises. From being creator/producer for Radio NZ National's "Summer Noelle", radio news reporting, documentary, acting, directing radio drama, to being the weekday morning host on RDU in Christchurch. Now back in Auckland, back to her love for theatre. Kate is delighted she gets to play Michelle 'more than once'.

Richard Ellsworth - (The Piano Player) Richard spent his childhood as a member of the Rhyd Children's Theatre in North Wales later adding music to his list of misdemeanours. After gaining zero for the French test at school his teacher wrote "Improving" so he's relieved to have a non-speaking role as the French piano playing peasant!

Steve Wright - (Colonel Von Strohm) Steve has over twenty years experience in community and professional theatre and was last on stage at Company Theatre as Mr Rieper and Mr. Geeson in "Daughters of Heaven". While in Oxford he played Stephano in "The Tempest" at Trinity College Gardens and was Nim in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at Merton College Fellows Garden. Steve has directed "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me""The Memory of Water", "Social Climbers""Outside Edge" and "Curtain up on Murder" for Company Theatre, and is delighted to be involved in such a fun production as 'Allo'Allo

Scott Hayden - (Captain Bertorelli) "Funny Money" marked Scott's Company Theatre debut he now makes a welcome return to the Rose Centre venue where he previously performed as Colonel Jessup in Mairangi Players' "A Few Good Men". Scott's stage experience ranges from the serious "And Then There Were None" and "The Talented Mr Ripley" to the comedic with "Ghost Writer" and "The Darling Buds of May", and he is delighted to have had the opportunity to work with the talented cast and crew on this production."

John Clarke - (Gen. Von Schmelling) 'Allo'Allo will be the 9th play that John has appeared in for Company Theatre. "I've played everything from drunks to taxi drivers, to policemen, to the Frankenstein monster's double, to sex maniacs. It's a great life at Company Theatre". John also appears occasionally in various television dramas and films, and can be seen in television and internet commercials.

Richard Parmée - (Herr Flick) Richard has been involved with Company Theatre for 13 years including two years as President and three as Vice-President. This is his 23rd time on stage and he is enjoying it as much as he has all the previous 22. Thank you Kathy for the opportunity and to the rest of the fabulous cast & crew for their patience!

Janine Hugo - (Helga) 'Allo'Allo is Janine's 3rd show in NZ and she is excited about her first performance for Company Theatre. Helga is a funny, sweet and very passionate character. Janine studied acting at the University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa, and was part of a fantastic team who wrote their own musical and performed it during one of South Africa's biggest arts festivals. Janine specializes in physical theatre and wrote her own One-Woman-Show in 2005.

Nick Shallish - (Gruber) Nick hails originally from Hastings and returns to the stage after a 7-year break in foreign-speaking countries where no one appreciated his accent. He was an active performer on stage in Adelaide during 1998-2001 and was primarily involved in comedy and farce. An exception was his most recent role as Napoleon in War and Peace at the State Theatre, South Australia.

Richard Johnson - (Crabtree) Richard has been treading the boards since the age of twelve in a variety of roles in musicals, plays and dance productions. Since moving to New Zealand from the UK in 1996 he has been involved in a number of productions with Company Theatre including "See how they Run" and "Ghost Train". Richard appeared as Tom in Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy "The Norman Conquests" for Torbay Theatre.

Barbara Farron - (Peasant) Following six years as a cast member with 'Older Women's Theatre' performing at venues around Auckland, Barbara is thoroughly enjoying her first experience with Company theatre. "Kathy and her team are just fabulous."

Emma Service - (Soldier / Peasant) 'Allo'Allo is Emma's first attempt at theatre since leaving school, please be kind. Having hung around a few TV cameras and acting classes she felt it was time to tread the boards. Emma is very grateful to be gaining experience on stage, as well as behind the scenes in the production crew.

Mark Higgins - (2nd Airman / Peasant) "In company theatre's new play I'm finally getting my say, stick my head in the hole, shout a great big hello, and end up a Hitler,OK." Treading the boards at company for the fourth time is as much fun as the first.

Steve Green - describes himself as front man for the rock band Guilt Edged, spokesmen for the moderately obscure & bewildered". This is his fifth show for Company having previously played a gay singer, a cabaret artist, a dead body and now an international man of mystery – is there a pattern emerging here?

JOIN COMPANY THEATRE!

Phone Sheila on 445 6580 Email: companytheatre@gmail.com Web: www.companytheatre.co.nz

AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

"Boeing-Boeing"

A non-stop Comedy!

Boeing-Boeing puts a seriously sexy and funny twist on a classic farce. Bernard is a successful architect living in Paris happily juggling three airhostess fiancées who don't know of each others existence.



AUDITIONS - are at The Rose Centre 2pm on Sunday August 24th

Cast Required:

- 2 Males (an Architect & his witty friend – no accents and both roles are of similar size) Age 25 – 45 (flexible)
- 3 Females 3 Air Hostesses Age 18 – 35 (flexible) (one American, one German, one French but could change depending on accents)
- 1 Female Concierge/Maid Age 40+ (flexible)

PRODUCTION DATES - Saturday 16th November to Saturday 29 November.

For more information please contact director Richard Parmee on 445 9900 or 021 659 800

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Torbay Theatre • Care Pharmacy Albany • Ace Engravers • United Players
- Glen Eden Playhouse • Pack'n Save Albany • North Shore Music Theatre
- Soar Print • Timber Recycling Co.





'ALLO 'ALLO
DURING THE INTERVAL
LIVE MUSIC
Lissen very carefully, I shall say
this only wunce!!
During the middle of the
INTERVAL there will be
LIVE MUSIC playing in
Cafe Rene.
ENJOY!

Sherry's Rules and Reminders

LISTEN Very Carefully I vil say these only wunce.

- I will be here from 7pm.
- All actors and crew to arrive by 7.30pm at the latest.
- On arrival, please TICK off your name on the ROLL CALL list.
- PLEASE note my **cellphone 021 34 34 72** and text me if you are running late.



PARKING

From Weds 6th, there is to be **NO PARKING** in the Rose Centre Car Park. Please park in Harrison Ave (or close to!). I know there are lots of us) and enter via the **BACK DOOR**, that I will leave ajar. At the end of the night, **MEN**, please walk the **LADIES** to their car, or at least **ASK** them if they will be O.K. It is quite dark in Harrison Ave. And also **PLEASE** respect the neighbours when you leave and keep your voices down as you exit the premises.

STARTING THE SHOW

I will give you a 10 minute **CALL** at 7.50pm.
I will give you a 2 minute call, when I have heard that the audience is almost in. (Sometimes it may take until just after 8pm to get a **FULL HOUSE** seated!! xx)
I will then ask for **BEGINNERS** on stage.

DRESSING ROOM—the QUIET AREA.

Because of the large numbers in the cast, - from when you arrive, until the 10 minute call, you are free to move around the backstage area as there are many people to get dressed and made up. However, at the 10 minute call, I will close the door to the kitchen—and the Dressing Room area will become an absolutely **quiet, preparation area**. Anyone who needs to continue a conversation is asked to please go out to the back room. **AT ALL TIMES** during the show the dressing room area is **quiet**. Whispering is allowed, if necessary!
But please respect that some actors need full concentration.

REFRESHMENTS

I will liaise with FOH and ensure you have coffee, tea, biscuits. Please help to keep the kitchen tidy by popping your used cup into the dishwasher after use. (Or rinsing it for **RE-USE** please.) I will also have some mints and jellybeans on hand, for "freshness and energy"! Xx

RESPECT for each other

If you have any issue with something happening on the stage, or any issue with another actor, or member of the crew, **please speak to me** **IN PRIVATE**. Please try to refrain from any negative thoughts or comments if something does not exactly go as you anticipated. Everyone will be trying their best at all times. Any issues at all, I am there for you all! Remember to welcome Kiran and Richard when they come out for their cup of tea at interval. It is sometimes lonely in the Lighting Box and they are both new to theatre.

Here's to a fabulous and wonderful season. As well as having a great time yourselves—you will be bringing a bit of laughter and sunshine into over a thousand people's lives over the next 2 wks.



TimeOut

Dining & Entertainment

Advertising Feature

“Leesen very carefully, I will zay zis only wunce’ Allo Allo is in town

Based on the hugely popular TV comedy series, the stage version of ‘Allo ‘Allo promises to be a real crowd puller, riotous entertainment for a winter’s evening.

It follows the adventures of Rene, the hapless cafe owner in wartorn France; his cafe is full of Germans who he has to be nice to, his wife Edith who he has to be nice to and his two waitresses who he oh-so enjoys being nice to!

He is hiding two British airmen in his cellar, and with the help of Michelle from the Resistance, is trying to repatriate them. However, communications to London through a wireless disguised as a cockatoo add to the many embarrassments he endures.

He and Edith are struggling to keep for themselves the priceless portrait of the Fallen Madonna with the Big Boobies, stolen by the Nazis, which they have been forced to hide in a knockwurst sausage in their cellar. Herr Flick of the Gestapo wants the painting and Colonel Von Strohm also wants the painting.

Matters are made worse by a rumour that Hitler is visiting the town and more particularly Cafe Rene. The new and rather terrifying district commander General



Comedy capers: Renee with Evette and Mimi in the cafe.

Von Schmelling decides he also wants the painting to give to Hitler when he visits the town, for then he is sure to be given a medal.

To find out what happens to the priceless painting, who gets the sausage and whether Rene sur-

vives the worries and crises that torment him, visit the Rose Centre for Company Theatre’s mid-year production.

Hilariously funny, the play is full of classic farce set-ups, physical comedy, visual gags, ridicu-

lously amusing fake accents and fast moving action. In the one photo Richard Johnson as Crabtree and Kate Orgias as Michelle play prominent Resistance characters, while in the other, Karl Buckley as Rene the cafe owner, enjoys flirting with his sexy waitresses.

Director Kathy Gent, whose recent productions for Company Theatre have included the Roger Hall comedies Take A Chance On Me and Spreading Out, has a strong cast of 18 talented actors supported by a large stage crew to bring this comedy alive in the intimate Rose Centre Theatre in Belmont from August 9-23.

Some faces will be familiar to Company Theatre audiences in particular Karl Buckley and Julie Collis playing Rene and Edith; newcomers include Janine Hugo playing Helga, Nick Shallish playing Lieutenant Gruber, Emma Codd playing Yvette and Kate Orgias playing Michelle; also Richard Ellsworth who is the cafe pianist.

Demand for tickets has been such that Company Theatre have added a preview performance on August 8 when all tickets have been discounted from \$20 to \$15. Evening performances are Tues-

day to Saturday August 9-23 at 8pm with three matinees at 2pm on August 10, 17 and 23.

Bookings are essential; for more information and to book, phone 445 9900.



Good moaning: Gendarme (Richard Johnson) and Kate.

ENTERTAINMENT

Saying Allo to a new role

Listen very carefully . . . Julie Collis talks to *Sharu Delilkan* about playing the lead role in a theatre production of an infamous French farce that was popular on our television screens for so long

Playing Edith in *'Allo 'Allo* is a big buzz for Julie Collis. "I love comedy and the challenge of getting the timing right," says the Birkenhead resident. "And I love Edith's unshakeable confidence and self-belief."

The Company Theatre's production of the hit BBC comedy *'Allo 'Allo* is set in a small cafe in occupied France.

Edith's husband, the harassed proprietor Rene, is fighting his own war.

With the German Army in residence at the bar, Rene is risking his neck by working for the Resistance. He is also involved in hiding a priceless painting in a garlic sausage, which even now is being sniffed out by the Gestapo.

But, ultimately, his real problem is Edith, and what she'll do when she discovers his affairs with two sexy waitresses.

Despite wanting to give her personal take on Edith, Collis admits she's watched a few episodes of the TV classic "because it's a farce and to have a look at a number of technical things".

"I've certainly picked her brains but would like to think I've made it my own."

Collis, who chose art over drama when she was at



JULIE COLLIS AS EDITH ARTOIS

college, says she resisted the urge to get back on the scene until she had young children at home about 20 years ago.

"I was stuck at home and saw an ad for extras for

a film, *Shrimp on the Barbie*, starring American comedian and actor Cheech Marin. "After being part of the dance scene for the movie, I knew I'd caught the bug.

"It was not long after that I got an agent and decided to go to screen-acting classes."

The glass artist has since trained with noted acting coaches Maggie Eyre, Vicky Yiannoutsos and Raymond Hawthorne.

Her more recent roles include Hilda in *The Daughters of Heaven* at the Rose Centre and Grandma in *Grandma McGarvey* at The Pumphouse.

She also made her mark as the nosy shopkeeper in TV One drama, *Mercy Peak*.

Looking back, Collis admits it was a little daunting trying to return to acting after such a long break.

"It's much harder coming back in because there are the same people competing for a small number of roles.

"But I have no regrets. In fact I consider myself lucky to have two strings to my bow."

■ **'Allo 'Allo, Company Theatre, The Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont, Aug 9-23. Tickets: ph 445 9900 or see www.rosecentre.co.nz**

THE DEVONPORT FLAGSTAFF PAGE 26

AUGUST 8 2008

Allo Allo here's something to warm the winter nights

Karl Buckley and Julie Collis play Rene Artois the patron of 'Cafe Rene', and Edith his wife in Company Theatre's production of 'Allo 'Allo to be staged at The Rose Centre in Belmont.

The stage version of the popular TV series, 'Allo 'Allo is the perfect antidote to this cold wet winter and producers say it is sure to have audiences rolling in the aisles with its double entendres, quick moving farce and hysterically funny characters from the show.

The Colonel, played by Steve Wright, is one of many German and Italian officers to invade Rene's peaceful existence and perplex him with demands for assistance. The Fallen Madonna with The Big Boobies features large as does the all - important knockwurst sausage secreted in Rene's kitchen.

Company Theatre has extended the season as many performances of this popular comedy are already sold out. The production runs from Friday 8 August (preview night) through to Saturday 23 August, Tuesday - Saturday at 8pm and with 2pm matinees on Sundays 10 and 17 August and Saturday 23 August. Bookings are essential - phone the Rose Centre on 445 9900.

What's going on here then...Karl Buckley and June Collis in Allo Allo



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