



COMPANY THEATRE

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PRIDE & PREJUDICE

By Jane Kendall

Jane Austen's classic directed by Karl Buckley

26th March - 9th April 2011

At The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont

Evenings Tuesday - Saturday at 8pm

Matinées - Sunday 27th March & 3rd April at 2pm

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Company Theatre offered me the opportunity to direct *Pride and Prejudice* for them, I leapt at the chance. I had directed the show with senior secondary students five years ago and, since then, had been looking for a community theatre group that would take it on.

Of course, my real introduction to *Pride and Prejudice* came long before that – back beyond being required reading for a university paper, to the iconic BBC mini-series that propelled Colin Firth to stardom as the definitive Mr Darcy.

There are lots of really interesting elements in *Pride and Prejudice* that have helped it endure as a story and, especially since the 1990s BBC version, receive something of a revival. There is the wonderful contrast between private and public – things said behind closed doors that dare not be mentioned in front of guests. I think a great deal of the story is told during the pauses and silences. There is a strong sense of duty among all the characters – the daughters' duty to their parents; Mr Darcy and Mr Bingley's duty to their social status; Lady Lucas and Mrs Bennet's duty to their daughters.

And then there is the fantastic dialogue... What actor would not want to say "Mr Wickham has a way of making friends - whether he may be equally capable of retaining them is less certain?" And "That odious Mr Darcy"!

I would also like to clarify that this production is not meant as a documentary. The setting is a fictional time and place that represents England in the early 1800s. We have adapted (or ignored or created) some historical elements – clothing, furnishings and social graces— to suit our own purpose, which is telling the story of the relationships between these characters.

Finally, the *Pride and Prejudice* team have been truly wonderful to work with. I take complete credit for casting the ones onstage. I have been lucky enough to work with so many great people I have worked with before. And this show has also given me the opportunity to work with some very talented people I have not met before. Thanks everyone! I hope to be undisturbed in the library...

KARL BUCKLEY, DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Pride and Prejudice marks Karl's 29th production as director. He is no stranger to The Rose Centre stage, having directed shows such as *Silly Cow* and *A Few Good Men* here for Mairangi Players and appeared in *Noises Off!* and *'Allo' 'Allo* for Company Theatre. He has served as President of Mairangi Players, on The Pumhouse board and is currently President of Auckland Community Theatre Trust.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action takes place in the living-room at Longbourn, the Bennet's home, in Hertfordshire, England about 1800

Act One		An afternoon in spring
Act Two	Scene I	Two weeks later
	Scene II	The next afternoon
Act Three	Scene I	An afternoon in July
	Scene II	Morning, a week later

There will be a 15 minute interval after Act Two, Scene I

AUDITIONS "Four Flat Whites In Italy" by Roger Hall, Directed by Richard Parmée

2pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 10 April 2011

2 Males 55 - 65; 2 Females 35-65; 1 Male & 1 Female 25-35

Phone Richard @ The Rose 445 9900 or email rosecentre@xtra.co.nz

Production Dates: 1 - 16 July 2011

CAST

Mr Bennet , <i>an easygoing man</i>	Allan Mathews
Mrs Bennet , <i>his flighty wife</i>	Claire Buckley
Jane , <i>their gentle daughter</i>	Lily Cooney-Wilson
Elizabeth , <i>their independent daughter</i>	Hayley Baines
Mary , <i>their bookish daughter</i>	Emma Service
Catherine , <i>their fretful daughter</i>	Anna Northey
Lydia , <i>their flirtatious daughter</i>	Amy Maclaine
Mr Collins , <i>a pompous young clergyman</i>	Ian Vincent
Mr Bingley , <i>a friendly young man</i>	Chris Bath
Miss Bingley , <i>his haughty sister</i>	Toni Tippett
Mr Darcy , <i>a proud young man</i>	Stephen Lunt
Lady Catherine de Bourgh , <i>his overbearing Aunt</i>	Ann Baxter
Lady Lucas , <i>a neighbour</i>	Merrin Cavel
Miss Charlotte Lucas , <i>her daughter</i>	Phoebe Quinn
Mr Wickham , <i>a young officer</i>	Andrew Harrison
Hill , <i>a servant</i>	Cliff Harrison

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Karl Buckley
Production Manager	Richard Parmée
Production Assistant	Claire Bailey
Stage Manager	Lynne Davis
Assistant Stage Manager	Phil Davis
Set Design	Karl Buckley, Phil Davis
Costumes	Anne Rimmer
Costume Assistants/Dressers	Irene Argent, Dianne Burtenshaw, Gail Carran, Lois Graham, Margaret Koller, Eris Malcolm, Cathie Sandy, Kayla Setter, Rayma Wills
Set Construction/Painting	Phil Davis assisted by Richard Parmée, Max Golding, Caroline Parker, Tony Sandy, Cliff Harrison, Alastair Fletcher, Karl Buckley, Chris Bath, Kathy Gent, Oliver Gent
Set Dressing	Caroline Parker
Hair & Make-Up	Claire Bailey
Properties	Kathy Gent
Lighting Design	Scott Thomas
Lighting & Sound Operator	Kath Hair
Publicity	Kathy Gent
Photos	Sherry Ede
Programme	Richard Parmée
Bookings	Richard Parmée
Front of House Manager	Gail Carran
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Front of House & Bar Teams	Members of Company Theatre

CAST PROFILES

Allan Mathews - "Mr Bennet" My first play with Company Theatre was "Brassed Off" just last year. I had such a blast doing it that I almost immediately auditioned for "Pride and Prejudice". Once again it's a fantastic cast & crew. It's an absolute delight to be working with such a talented and exuberant bunch of people. We've all enjoyed preparing for this production, and I'm sure you'll enjoy the fruits of our labours.

Claire Buckley - "Mrs Bennet" This is Claire's second performance for Company Theatre having previously appeared in "Straight & Narrow". Her recent adventures onto the boards were as Woman in "This Is How It Goes" earning her an Auckland Community Theatre Trust Best Actress nomination and as the drunken Georgeanne in "5 Women Wearing the Same Dress". Mrs Bennet has certainly been an exhausting but highly enjoyable return to Company Theatre.

Lily Cooney-Wilson - "Jane Bennet" Lily is a member of B&M Creative Artists and has been in many shows. Most recently she was Cinderella in "Fairytale The Musical". For 4 years she was involved in the Devonport Drama Group.

Hayley Baines - "Elizabeth Bennet" Hayley was last seen at Company Theatre playing Juliet Hulme, in "Daughters of Heaven" (2007). She jumped at the chance to return and play the classical Elizabeth Bennet, and has loved every minute of it. "Every girl dreams of a Mr Darcy proposal!" To her surprise, playing the likeable Lizzy has been every bit as challenging as the psychotic Juliet. Far less blood this time... but just as much fun!

Emma Service - "Mary Bennet" "Pride & Prejudice" is Emma's 4th production with Company Theatre and she is thrilled to be back. She loves the fact "P&P" requires English accents, after months of practising an American accent at Acting School in Canada.

Anna Northey - "Catherine Bennet" "Pride and Prejudice" has given me reason to celebrate because for the first time in 7 years of amateur theatre I am playing a part my age and gender. The resemblance to my character ends at that, I hope. Kitty may want to marry an officer and strangle herself with ribbons but I'd prefer a commitment to engineering and half a dozen comfortable pairs of jeans."

Amy Maclaine - "Lydia Bennet" "Pride & Prejudice" is Amy's first show with Company Theatre and she's enjoying it immensely! She is usually found behind the scenes or on stage at Mairangi Players but was last on stage in Shoreside Theatre's "As you Like It".

Ian Vincent - "Mr Collins" This is Ian's second role for Company Theatre, following his debut in last year's production of "Brassed Off" as Andy Barrows. Ian also had a cameo role in Galatea Theatre's "Speed daters" as Pete the bartender. Now Ian brings his own spin on Mr Collins in "Pride & Prejudice".

Chris Bath - "Mr Bingley" Chris has been involved in theatre since 2007 enjoying roles like Tybalt in "Romeo and Juliet" & Canon Throbbing in "Habeus Corpus". He is greatly enjoying the role of Mr Bingley and the chance to work with Company Theatre and perform at The Rose Centre.

Toni Tippett - "Miss Bingley" Toni Tippett is studying Postgraduate Drama at Auckland University. Recently, she has performed as a member of the university's improvisation troupe in the Fringe Festival and in the Maidment's Vagina Monologues. Toni is currently co-producing Auckland University's production of "Noises Off".

Stephen Lunt - "Mr Darcy" Steve has spent many years as a professional actor & writer in the UK. He has only been in New Zealand for a year and this is already his fourth show. After playing Tripp in "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" and Albert in "Albert Make Us Laugh" (for which he has been nominated for best actor in the ACTT awards), he has recently produced, directed and written "The Wrong Side" for Auckland Fringe Festival. Steve is still hoping to emerge from a lake shaped paddling pool in "Pride & Prejudice".

Ann Baxter - "Lady Catherine de Bourgh" Last appeared at The Rose Centre in Company Theatre's "Steel Magnolias" and has a long history of acting, writing and directing plus some feature roles in Shortland Street, Xena and Hercules.

Merrin Cavel - "Lady Lucas" Since playing Sneezzy in "Snow White and the Seven Bikies" 20 years ago, Merrin has been hooked on theatre. She has since performed in over 100 productions and today performs, talks to kids about, and teaches theatre as her day job. Merrin loves meeting new people and has found the cast & crew of "P&P", charming!

Phoebe Quinn - "Charlotte Lucas" This is Phoebe's first time on stage at The Rose Centre and in New Zealand! Previous roles in the UK include Nancy in "Oliver Twist" and Maria in "School For Scandal" with the West Cornwall Theatre Group. Phoebe says it's been great getting back on stage and an honour to perform in this timeless classic.

Andrew Harrison - "Mr Wickham" "Pride and Prejudice" is Andrew's debut performance with Company Theatre. In the last few years, he has been performing in Northcote College productions and was awarded a Year 13 Drama Scholarship. In 2010 he had the opportunity to perform at the Globe Theatre, London, as part of the NZ Young Shakespeare Company.

Cliff Harrison - "Hill" Normally behind the scenes, this is Cliff's first performance in front of a paying audience.



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 Evergreen Books (Devonport), Centrestage Theatre,
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COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP
 We welcome new members. Please contact Richard on 445 9900
 or go to our website www.companytheatre.co.nz



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