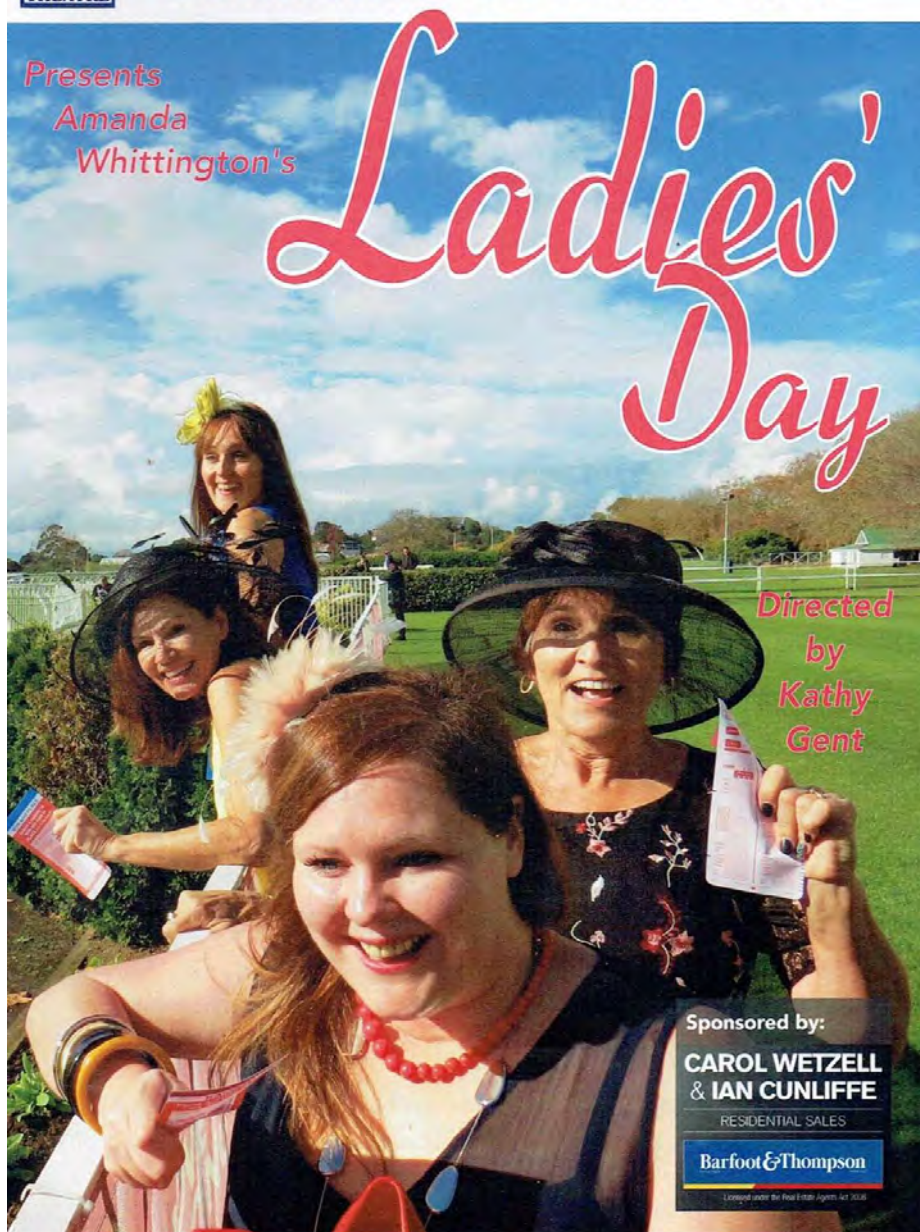




# COMPANY THEATRE

## Welcome from Company Theatre



### Linda Camplin President of Company Theatre

Welcome to Company Theatre's Production of "Ladies Day".

We are delighted to bring you this fun yet moving play directed by our passionate and hard-working Kathy Gent. Kathy has brought together a wonderfully talented cast and crew which includes some newcomers to Company Theatre. A huge welcome to Sarah Dettwiler, Tom Calver, Suzy Sampson, Katie Fullard and Skyler Van Daal.

It is pleasing to see that the Rose Centre renovations have now been completed and we can all enjoy the upgrade of this fabulous centre. A special mention to all the volunteers who turned up to the various working bees to support the Rose Centre during this difficult and extended period of renovation.

Thank you to the dedicated cast and crew of Ladies' Day who have worked so very hard over the last three months to ensure the play is of the highest standard.

Company Theatre is moving with the times to provide a better booking experience so that patrons can easily see availability, choose and book their seats.

This is a special year for Company Theatre - the 25th anniversary of staging productions in the Rose Centre.

I hope you enjoy this show and spread the word.

## The Director

## Director's Note



### Kathy Gent

This is the thirteenth production that Kathy has directed for Company Theatre, following the box office successes of *Fawlty Towers*, *More Fawlty Towers*, *Calendar Girls*, *Brassed Off* and *'Allo 'Allo*. She absolutely loves directing comedies, especially plays with strong characters and just a touch of melancholy. Before arriving in New Zealand in 1995, she directed revues, plays and pantomimes for companies in Sheffield, Leicester, Portsmouth and London with all-time favourites being *Cabaret* and *Stepping Out*.



*The Queen arrives to a tumultuous welcome at Royal Ascot, York, June 2005*

Originally written for Hull Truck Theatre Company, *Ladies Day* has been produced by many theatre companies since its premiere in 2005. There are many good reasons for this, not least because it offers four brilliant substantial parts for women. There are men too, in fact the script suggests that all six male roles can be played by one actor. However I decided against this as the play really does focus on the women and to risk bringing more attention to one male actor would imbalance the piece. I was also lucky enough to have talented men audition for the production to play the small but lovely and important male roles.

In 2005 Ascot racecourse was being refurbished and so the whole Summer event of Royal Ascot was relocated to York racecourse which provided the stimulus for the story of four women working in a fish plant in Hull putting on their best hats and setting off to Ladies Day. Taken away from their normal relentless routine and into an unfamiliar and glamorous environment, they have the chance to pursue their own dreams and ambitions – be that meeting Tony Christie, rubbing shoulders with celebrities in the hope of making it as a star, catching a glimpse of the Queen or taking one last shot at a dream which is almost over. In their own ways, the ladies are all close to a boundary in their own lives and either pushing to break through or anxiously holding back. By the end of the play, nothing will ever be the same again.

This has really been a very happy rehearsal process and is a testament to the gorgeous people on board both on stage and back stage. We've had fun playing with ways to show the essence of a fish factory (complete with the smell of very smelly fish boxes from the fish market), discovering the bookie's tic-tac signals and immersing ourselves in the music of Tony Christie whose songs are the inspiration for the choice of racing horses and feature heavily between scenes in the play. The Hull accent has posed no problem to the actors under the wonderful coaching of Laura Naylor but has instead provided humour when discussing 'cans of kirk' and 'Er my Gerd'. It didn't take long for Amanda Whittington's wonderfully drawn characters to emerge and speak for themselves and I was soon convinced of this play's warm heart.

The cast and crew have had a ball rehearsing this show and we wish you the same joy in watching it.

## The Play

The action of the play takes place in a fish-packing factory in Hessle near Hull, Yorkshire and at the Ladies Day races at Royal Ascot in York, June 2005

### ACT 1

- Scene 1 Fish packing factory. Morning in June
- Scene 2 Getting ready for Royal Ascot.
- Scene 3 Main Gate, York racecourse
- Scene 4 In the enclosure, York racecourse
- Scene 5 At the racecourse

*15 minute interval - refreshments available in the foyer*

### ACT 2

- Scene 1 In the paddock
- Scene 2 York racecourse hospitality tent
- Scene 3 In the enclosure
- Scene 4 At the racetrack
- Scene 5 Fish-packing factory. Next morning

## Biographies



### Suzy Sampson - Jan

Suzy, a professional actor, director and producer, trained at LAPA and RADA in London, the Stella Adler Academy in NY and TVI Studios in LA. She has been acting for TV, Stage and Screen for over 15 years and her company Twice as Good Productions has produced theatre in London, Prague, Hong Kong Australia and NZ. Recent stage roles include Titania, Jaques, Simonides and Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare's plays, Anne Hathaway in her award winning one woman show Shakespeare's Will and Elizabeth in Carl Nixon's The Birthday Boy. She is delighted to be working with Company Theatre for the first time on this lovely comedy that also pulls at the heartstrings.



### Katie Vincent - Linda

This is Katie's second performance with Company Theatre having previously played Pauline in One Man Two Guvns. Her theatrical experience ranges from Shakespeare to musicals and she's enjoying being back with Company playing the role of Linda, juggling the comic character with more emotional scenes.



### Trudy Thumath - Pearl

This is Trudy's fifth play directed by the wonderfully talented Kathy; she has previously enjoyed being in Fawly Towers (1 and 2), Calendar Girls and Brassed Off. By day, Trudy works as a Primary School teacher where teaching drama is one of her passions. She is sure you will enjoy the play as much as she has enjoyed being part of such a magical team.

## Biographies



### Katie Fullard - Shelley

Katie is an English actress and has worked in touring theatre, fringe festivals, film and youth theatre for twenty years. She came to New Zealand four years ago from the UK and has had varying roles in the Legacy Project and more recently How to be Happy and The Graduate. In the UK Katie has been Co-creative Director of Define Theatre and Kaebide Theatre performing in productions such as: Henceforward; Can't Pay, Won't Pay; Love Song; Low Level Panic & Mistro Buffo to name a few. She has helped devise, directed and produced for Children's Youth Theatre. After completing a degree Katie trained with Neale Birch at Derby Acting Academy for 5 years.



### Rob Campion - Joe

Ladies Day is Rob's third play under Kathy's direction. In his first play, Fawly Towers, Rob played three different characters and from there a passion developed for live theatre. In 2016 and 2017 Rob was nominated for best male actor in a leading role (Kings of the Gym) and best supporting male actor (Gaslight) in the ACTT awards. Since 2012, Rob has performed in 13 plays. Ladies Day rehearsals have been hilarious and he knows you as the audience will LOVE it!



### James Carrick - Jim

A natural entertainer with years of experience in stand-up comedy and as an accomplished guitarist, James only recently dipped his toe into community theatre to be rewarded with leading roles in Humble Boy for Torbay Theatre, Off the Hook and Move Over Mrs Markham for Phoenix Theatre and One Man Two Guvnors for Company Theatre.

## Biographies



### Steve Wright - Barry

Steve has over thirty years' stage and screen experience including professional roles in Hercules and Xena Warrior Princess/ A geriatric OE to England gave him the opportunity to take on roles in outdoor Shakespeare plays in Oxford; back in New Zealand favourite recent Company performances have been in Roger Hall's a Shortcut to Happiness, Who wants to be a Hundred and One Man Two Guvnors



### Skyler Van Daal - Patrick/Ted

Skyler has performed in the musicals Les Miserables and Guys & Dolls, and in many short films and student film projects as a student at South Seas Film & Television School in 2016. He works as a communications consultant for Spark during the day, but outside of that loves performing and entertaining especially on stage. He has really enjoyed working alongside the girls during rehearsals, with their great sense of humour that has really brought the play to life. A big challenge for Skyler has been working with an Irish accent, but it has really helped him bring out the character that is Patrick



### Thomas Calver - Fred/Kevin

This is Thomas' first show with Company Theatre and his first play! He has relished the challenge of taking on two small, but remarkably different roles as well as working with the wonderful cast. In the past Thomas has enjoyed roles in a number of musical productions, most recently Fagin in NYTC's production of Oliver! Thomas is currently working and hoping to move from "amateur dramatics" to a professional level.

## The Crew

Director  
 Production Manager  
 Production Assistant  
 Stage Manager  
 Backstage Assistants

Set Design/Construction  
 Set Artwork  
 Set Painting

Costumes  
 Props  
 Props Assistant  
 Lighting and Sound Design  
 Lighting and Sound Operator  
 Dialect Coach and Choreographer  
 Photos / Programme  
 Publicity

Signage

Front of House Manager  
 Bar Manager

Kathy Gent  
 Stephen Hood  
 Annie McGrath  
 Jan Judson  
 Francis Johnson  
 Sarah Dettwiler  
 Ian Birch  
 Rob Campion  
 Caroline Parker  
 Tony Sandy  
 Anne Rimmer  
 Cathie Sandy  
 Fred and Doreen Gould  
 Barbara Farron  
 Scott Thomas  
 Stephen Hood  
 Laura Naylor  
 Ian Birch  
 Katie Vincent  
 Kathy Gent  
 Alastair Fletcher  
 Sherry and Brendan Ede  
 Lesley Hawkey  
 Alastair Fletcher

## Acknowledgements

All of our Front of House  
 volunteers

North Shore Music Theatre

The Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden



COOPERS CREEK  
 NEW ZEALAND

# Past Plays

## 2013

Calendar Girls by Tim Firth  
 It's Just Sex by Jeff Gould  
 Little Gem by Elaine Murphy

Directed by Kathy Gent  
 Directed by Richard Parmee  
 Directed by Des Smith

## 2014

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde  
 A Shortcut to Happiness by Roger Hall  
 MORE Fawltly Towers by John Cleese  
 and Connie Booth

Directed by Steven Arnold  
 Directed by Sian Davis  
 Directed by Kathy Gent

## 2015

Hautu & Charlie Bloom by Kathleen  
 Gallagher  
 Hayfever by Noel Coward  
 Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti

Directed by Steven Arnold  
 Directed by Julian Harrison  
 Directed by Elena Stejco

## 2016

When Dad Married Fury by David  
 Williamson  
 All my Sons by Arthur Miller  
 One Man Two Guvnors by Richard  
 Bean

Directed by Max Golding  
 Directed by Sian Davis  
 Directed by Kathy Gent

## 2017

Weed by Anthony McCarten

Directed by Mark Jensen

Thank you to our key sponsors Ian and Carol



**Carol Wetzell**

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Contributing to printing costs



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