



COMPANY THEATRE

Deathtrap
By Ira Levin

A Comedy Thriller
Directed by Kate Birch

Sponsored by:
CAROL WETZELL & IAN CUNLIFFE
RESIDENTIAL SALES
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11 - 25 November, 2017

IRA LEVIN'S DEATHTRAP

Seemingly comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student in the seminar he has been conducting at a nearby college - a thriller which Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway hit. Sidney's plan, which he devises with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student, an idea which the younger man quickly accepts. Thereafter, suspense mounts steadily as the plot begins to twist and turn with devilish cleverness.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Kate Birch

I'm a great believer in seizing opportunities when they arise, and pushing outside of my comfort zone. This can sometimes lead me into all sorts of trouble! However the opportunity to direct a play for the first time has been a fabulous experience. This is largely due to the amazing support I've received from the team at Company Theatre, but most of all the great cast who have now become an integral part of my family!

The journey of this November production has had nearly as many twists and turns as the play itself, but we've managed to survive rehearsals with only a few cuts and bruises!

I clearly remember when I first saw Deathtrap many years ago in the UK. It's the kind of play that really sticks in your mind. One of the things that sets this play apart from other thrillers is the clever mix of tension and humour. Deathtrap is Levin's best known play, holding the record for being the longest running thriller on Broadway and awarding Levin his second Edgar Allan Poe Award in 1980. It also was made into a film in 1982 starring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve. I sincerely hope you enjoy our production as much as we have enjoyed making it for you. Hold onto your seats - it's going to be a bumpy ride!

THE CAST

Sidney Bruhl	Reg Williams
Myra Bruhl	Chloe Smith
Clifford Anderson	Adam Pomeroy
Helga ten Dorp	Ruth Hyde
Porter Milgrim	Ian Birch

THE CREW

Director	Kate Birch
Production Managers	Linda Camplin Kathy Gent
Stage Manager	Jan Judson
Lighting & Sound Design	Stephen Hood
Properties	Katie Vincent
	Annie McGrath
Set Design/Construction	Ian Birch
	Anne Rimmer
Set Construction	Caroline Parker
	James Carrick
	Scott Thomas
	Tony Sandy
Costume Designer	Sarah Dettwiler
Photos / Posters / Programme	Ian Birch
Publicity	Kathy Gent Katie Vincent
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher

THE PLAY

The action takes place in 1978 in Sidney Bruhl's study, in the Bruhl home in Westport, Connecticut.

ACT I

- Scene 1: An afternoon in October
- Scene 2: That evening
- Scene 3: Two hours later

15 minute interval - refreshments available in the foyer

ACT II

- Scene 1: Two weeks later, morning
- Scene 2: A week later, night
- Scene 3: A week later, afternoon

Bar and Front of House assisted by Company Theatre volunteers

BIOGRAPHIES



Reg Williams

Reg is delighted to return to Company Theatre following last year's debut as Joe Keller in Sian Davis' acclaimed production of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. His favourite recent roles include Frank in *Educating Rita* (The Vic), Kipps in *A Woman in Black* and Freddie Fellowes in *Noises Off* (both with Centrestage Theatre). Back in the UK, he toured in *The Killing Game* and Jeffrey Barnard is Unwell with The Ubiquitous Theatre Company, had many roles in Shakespeare with the Cliveden Festival Company and he has also had major roles in musical theatre in the UK and here in Auckland. Reg trains and mentors students taking their Trinity College Drama qualifications as a part of his wife's dance school in Gulf Harbour.



Adam Pomeroy

Adam has been working in theatre for the better part of a decade now, particularly on stage and behind the scenes with Devonport Drama. His catalogue of roles spans a range from comic relief sidekick to the literal devil. In 2017 Adam has appeared in a student adaptation of Brandon Thomas' *Charley's Aunt*, Shoreside Theatre's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*. This is Adam's first production with Company theatre and he has very much enjoyed the process of bringing this wonderfully macabre and meta-textual play to life.

BIOGRAPHIES



Chloe Smith

Chloe is a local intermediate school teacher with a passion for theatre and acting. She studied theatre in high school and was the director of her school production *The Tempest*. Before life as a teacher, she worked behind the scenes on a television current affairs show and had a weather presenting role. This is Chloe's second production at The Rose Centre, having appeared as Ann Deever in *All My Sons*. She looks forward to continuing her interest in stage acting for many years to come.



Ruth Hyde

This is Ruth's second production with Company Theatre and she is again delighted to work with such a fine cast and crew. During the 1970's and 1980's she studied drama at Victoria University and continued studying overseas in London. She took time off to raise a family and tread the boards of a classroom whilst continuing further university studies. She first performed with Company Theatre in 2014 in *A Shortcut to Happiness*. Since then she has enjoyed having more time to pursue all things theatrical and has appeared with Ellerslie and Dolphin theatre groups. When not learning lines, she might be found trying to navigate her way through the bush or the ocean.



Ian Birch

Ian can usually be found behind the scenes or building the set. However, the opportunity to work under the direction of his wife was an opportunity he was unable to refuse. Ian has performed with Company Theatre previously in *Don't Dress for Dinner* and *More Fawltly Towers*. He has been involved in amateur theatre since 1983. Playing Lord Arthur opposite Kate, his wife, in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime* (when they were much younger!) stands out as his favourite role of all time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Company Theatre would like to thank:

Alexander James Holloway of the New Zealand Stage Combat School

Coopers Creek

The Rose Centre

Torbay Theatre

Howick Little Theatre

Company Theatre celebrates 25 years at The Rose Centre

This is a special year for Company Theatre as we have recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of staging productions at the Rose Centre.

Company Theatre took the opportunity to thank all our volunteers and supporters who have not only contributed to our success over the last 25 years here in the Rose Centre but also since Company Theatre was established in 1980. A special mention was made to those Directors who have directed more than half of the 80 plays produced by Company Theatre, at the Rose Centre. They are Kathy Gent, Sian Davis, Sherry Ede, Richard Parmee and Steve Wright.

Many of our volunteers have been with Company Theatre prior to our move to the Rose Centre and/or are part of our core group of volunteers since the mid 90's. They include Scott Thomas, Alastair Fletcher, Cathie Sandy, Caroline Parker, Anne Rimmer, Fred and Doreen Gould, Gail Carran, Phil Davis and Tony Sandy.

I would also like to acknowledge our hard-working and dedicated Committee. Thank you to our team of nine who work all-year round and with such passion, to ensure that our productions are of the highest standard.

We hope you enjoy this fabulous show and remember to tell your friends.

Linda Camplin
President of Company Theatre



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