

COMPANY THEATRE
PRESENTS
THE FLUFFIEST PIECE
OF FUN IN YEARS!

WOP WOP WOP

TUESDAYS
TO SATURDAYS
MAY 29 - JUNE 12

DARLING!

ST. PETER'S HALL,
KILLARNEY ST.
TAKAPUNA

BOOKINGS
PHONE 467 791
EVS. & WEEKENDS

ADULTS \$4 STUDENTS & SEN. CIT. \$3

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TUESDAYS
TO SATURDAYS
MAY 29-JUNE 12
8.15pm

ST PETER'S HALL
KILLARNEY ST
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DARLING!

BOOKINGS PHONE 467-791
EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

ADULTS \$4 STUDENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS \$3

*Tuesday
10 paper*

The title 'NOT NOW DARLING!' is rendered in a large, bold, 3D block-letter font. The letters are white with black outlines and are arranged in a perspective view, appearing to recede into the distance. The word 'NOT' is at the top left, 'NOW' is in the middle, and 'DARLING!' is at the bottom right. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up and down the length of the letters.

BY RAY COONEY AND JOHN CHAPMAN

" NOT NOW DARLING ! "

Arnold Crouch Mark Rassic
 Miss Whittington Bridget Laurence
 Miss Tipdale Dyan Ripley
 Mrs. Frencham Patricia Scott
 Gilbert Bodley Norm Isherwood
 Harry McMichael Pete Segrove
 Janie McMichael Sylvia Ronayne
 Commander Frencham Garry Jenkin
 Sue Lawson Kathy Burnett
 Maude Bodley Mary Reid
 Mr. Lawson David Kemp

The action takes place at midday, on the fourth floor salon of the exclusive furriers in the West End of London, BODLEY BODLEY AND CROUCH.

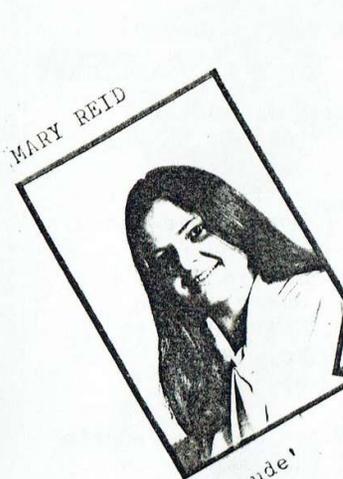
ACT 1 interval ACT 2

Production secretary Anne Potter
 Properties Supervisor Margaret Rose
 Publicity Norm Isherwood
 Stage Management Peter Kither
 Front of House Management Cynthia Scott-Kenny
 Catering supervision Joan Hunt

Designed and directed by John Dylan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

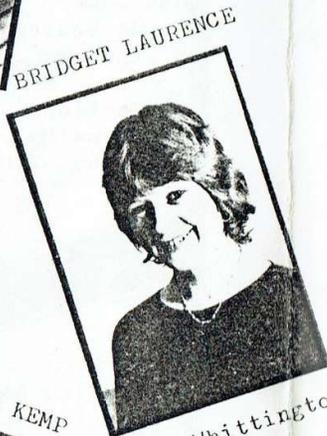
North Shore Operatic Society
 Parish of St. Peters
 Radio 1ZM
 Farmers Trading Company
 Television New Zealand
 'The Prospector and the Fireplace', Titirangi



'Maude'



'Gilbert'



'Miss Whittington'



'Sue'



'Mr. Lawson'



'Harry'



'Janie'



'Arnold'



'Miss Tiptdale'



'Commander Frencham'



'Mrs. Frencham'

INTRODUCING US

COMPANY THEATRE began in April 1980 when nine people gathered in a front room and decided to form a new-style theatre group - new, at least, to Auckland's North Shore. They all felt the need for something additional to existing dramatic outlets. Not competitive, but complementary.

So, COMPANY was formed, with the threefold aim of presenting as much good drama as possible; to take theatrical productions "to the people" as well as waiting for the people to come to the productions; and to allow its members freedom of expression and to encourage their creativity.

The logo which adorns COMPANY programmes was designed to represent the nine founder members as a circle or group, with a space for both people and ideas to pass freely in and out.

The first two years were extremely hard work! We had come to a suitable compromise between doing just the plays and styles of theatre that we had wanted to do in the past and had not had the opportunity to do, and doing the kind of productions that would bring us in a little money! And it was hard to stretch that minimal income to purchase and make the equipment that is generally so necessary to "do" theatre; lighting and control equipment, scenery, costumes and so on; and to keep up with ever-present administration and advertising costs. And we played egerewhere from the tiny Plunket Rooms to the Mairangi Arts Centre. In short, we were a young group learning how to survive!

As we enter our third year, with over 50 financial members, we are very conscious of the fact that it will be a make-or-break year for us. We are devoting the first part of the year to fund-raising in the most pleasant ways we can (Pancake Parties and Champagne Breakfasts are decidedly pleasant) and to publicising ourselves as a friendly, sociable lot who enjoy having fun as well as working hard. And our four productions planned for 1982 (major ones opening in May, August and December, and a minor one in September) have been selected to appeal to a large number of people. And we MUST ensure good audiences if we are to approach 1983 with enough money and a large enough following to include all the original and experimental drama to which many of us are dedicated.

Welcome to COMPANY! You will find details of almost all of our productions and activities in this yearbook - but keep a close eye on the North Shore Times Advertiser for fuller details and for the announcements of unscheduled events. Do join our mailing list, free, if you'd like regular information; just give your name and address to any COMPANY member, or write to Box 33-171, Takapuna, Auckland 9.

Far better, though, is to join as an associate or active member!

We invite you, during 1982, to share our COMPANY.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

Plastic in Aspic
Neuroses in Bloom
Lend us your Ears
Simultaneous Broadcast
Oh
One Blast and Have Done
Imperfectly Serious
Strawberry Jam
Lunch Hour
With All My Love I Hate You
The Stone Cage
Krapp's Last Tape
Blue Comedy
Balls
Imported From Canada
They Came To A City
Christmas with Company



Cure for an attack of the miseries

It's very difficult to be cheerful when the main topics of conversation are rising prices, political grumbles, the economic situation, or war.

But a guaranteed cure for an attack of the miseries will be available locally when Company Theatre launches its production of a rollicking farce called 'Not Now Darling'.

First produced at the Strand Theatre, London, in 1968, with such well-known names as Bernard Cribbins, Donald Sinden and Carmel McSharry in the cast — and produced by "Father, Dear Father" himself, Patrick Cargill — 'Not Now Darling' has been a roaring success everywhere it has been played.

Even the usually condescending Daily Telegraph said "... there can't be a particle of doubt about the success of the cheerful romp 'Not Now Darling' — it will run for ever."

Two of the theatre groups on the North Shore obviously agreed — "Not Now Darling" played to packed houses late last month when the Peninsula Players presented it at Whangaparaoa Hall, and bookings are already coming in fast for Company Theatre's opening night at St Peter's Hall, Killarney St, on Saturday.

"Not Now Darling", with a cast of nine of the most spirited performers in the company, is an almost classic demonstration of what a good farce should be.

Set in the salon of west-end furriers with the unlikely name of Bodley, Bodley and Crouch, the furs — and various other garments —



The mink coat appears to be the centre of attention, but is it? Just another confusing scene from Company Theatre's *Not Now Darling*.

change owners at great speed, and the plot proceeds in a spiral of absurdity, hysteria and laughter.

The individual ambitions of some of the characters are enough to whet the appetite: we have a stripper who would do anything to get a mink coat; a casino manager's secretary who would do anything to get a man, but wouldn't mind a mink as well; and a naval commander who yearns for his old youthful vitality and recovers it in a quite sur-

prising way!

"Not Now Darling" is suitable for anyone between the ages of nine and 99 who would like a cheap, simple and very enjoyable cure for the blues.

Bookings can be made by phoning 467-791 evenings or weekends. "Not Now Darling" opens on Saturday at St Peter's Hall, Killarney St, Takapuna, and plays Tuesdays to Saturdays until June 12 at 8.15pm.

We are the best

Director Company

The most successful way of advertising an event on the North Shore is through the pages of the North Shore Times Advertiser.

This is emerging through audience research being conducted by Company Theatre during its current production of *Not Now, Darling!* at St Peter's Hall, Takapuna.

Company Theatre for its present production, deliberately used different kinds of advertising — newsletters, telephoning, personal ticket sales, posters, handbills in letterboxes, brochures at libraries, cut-rate block bookings offered to other clubs and societies, national daily press advertising, a radio campaign that included commercials and giveaway tickets and the NSTA.

Figures for the first six performances of *Not Now, Darling!*, show that most of the audience were there because someone who had already been to the show had recommended it.

But three-quarters of those who came in response to some form of advertising gave the North Shore Times Advertiser as their source of information — "more



Mr Dylan . . . "unsurprised"

than three times as many as an expensive national press coverage, and 60 times as many as the radio commercials.

Survey results halfway through the season of *Not Now, Darling!* are:

Word of mouth 52.7%; posters, 0.6%; radio, 0.6%; national press, 10.6%; North Shore Times Advertiser, 35.5%.

One person who is not particularly surprised at these figures is Company Theatre director, John Dylan, who remembers getting almost the same result several years ago when he was North Shore Theatre and Arts Trust publicity chairman.

Perfect ingredients in farce

("Father, Dear Father")
Cargill to numerous pro-
ductions all over the world.

It has been presented on
the North Shore — by the
Peninsula Players, at
Whangaparaoa — and it's a
guaranteed evening of non-
stop laughter, from the mo-
ment that the house model
in the exclusive fur salon of
Bodley Bodley and Crouch
gets mistaken for a dummy
to the final scene when a
casino secretary's
boyfriend, having been
searching in vain for a non-
existent milk-bar called
"The Poor Cow", hauls
her out of the salon wearing
someone's else's dress —
and without the fur coat her
boss gave her!

"Not Now Darling" is
suitable for family au-
diences, and the spirited
cast of nine promise an
evening packed with so
much hilarity that the au-
diences will stagger out
weakly with aching ribs!

Bookings for "Not Now
Darling", directed for
Company Theatre by John
Dylan, can be made at 467-
791 evenings and weekends.
Performances start at
8.15pm.

Y THEATRE
ST. NEWTON



This photograph illustrates just how complicated and funny, *Not Now Darling* is.

On the right is David Kemp. He has just found his de facto wife, Kathy Burnett (middle) being "played up to" by Mark Rassie.

However Mark meant to kiss Dyan Ripley (left). Confused? Now you'll just have to go and see it.

