



PRESENTS

CHAPTER TWO

By NEIL SIMON

DIRECTED BY PERRY CAMERON

THE ROSE CENTRE THEATRE
SCHOOL ROAD, BELMONT.

GALA OPENING NIGHT
16th April 1999 at 8.00pm
AND THEN A SEASON
UNTIL 24th APRIL, 1999.

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* **by NEIL SIMON** *
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Director's Notes

Perry Cameron writes...

Neil Simon injected much of himself into "Chapter Two". It was first presented in New York City in December 1977 and this version has been updated to present day. Sometimes labelled merely a 'romantic comedy', with a simple plot, I feel the play is a sincere attempt at catharsis for the playwright, as through these four characters, there are many complex issues and a corresponding search for answers - a search which could be echoed in many places and many situations. I feel that the script has laughter, strong humour and only a touch of sit-com. The cast is young, vital, real, and I hope the show is very entertaining.

THE SCENE

The action of Chapter Two takes place in George Schneider's Lower Central Park West apartment and Jennifer Malone's Upper East Side apartment. The play begins on a late February afternoon and continues through to midspring.

There will be an interval of
15 minutes, during which
refreshments will be
available in the foyer.



Next at Company Theatre: "See How They Run" by Philip King. An hilarious farce, set in a Vicarage. Auditions Sunday May 9th, 4.00pm at the Rose Centre. For more information phone the Director, Kathy Gent on 445.6447



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 * **APRIL 16 - 24, 1999** *
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THE DIRECTOR - Perry Cameron

Perry Cameron first directed for Company last year, for the One Act Play season. This is his first major production. He was last seen on stage as *Conrad* in Company's August '98 production of *Money and Friends*. He says his directing style comes chiefly from an actor's perspective. He believes in economy of traditional set trimmings and an abundance of timing and tone. The play itself is the thing!

THE CAST

Philip Spencer-Harris (Leo Schneider)

Philip's first stage appearance was in his home town of Canberra, Australia, as *The Artful Dodger* in a school production of *Oliver* at age 7. At age 18 and with sights firmly set on a professional acting career, he moved to Goulburn, NSW where he played in over thirty productions. The bright lights of Sydney were next to beckon and after several stage, television and movie appearances, it was true love that drew Philip to the Land of the Long White Cloud and his greatest challenge to date - learning to speak with a kiwi accent! Luckily we do not need to hear his attempts, as this play is set in New York!

Anthony Whitehouse (George Schneider)

Anthony has been involved with theatre for many years, around the country. Since coming to Auckland he has acted with Torbay Dramatic Society and has been involved with Company for the past 5 years. He is presently Treasurer of Company, and his recent theatrical interest has moved more to Directing, and so this is a welcome return to the acting side. His family is also involved in theatre, (his wife Linda was in Company's Hedda Gabler, and his son Aaron has performed in many productions in the Bays.) Anthony intends to direct for Company at the end of this year.

Erica Kröger (Jenny Malone)

Erica fell in love with theatre at the age of six playing "Winnie The Pooh." For the remaining eleven years of school she was involved in school plays, musicals and Children's Theatre. She did her Trinity College drama exams every year and has up to Grade 8. After school came a Drama Degree at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She has been in New Zealand for only a year but has fitted in four productions already. (*Dangerous Corner* by J.B. Priestley for Milford Playhouse; *Twelfth Night* for Shakespeare in the Park; *Henry V* at the Pumphouse and Company's November '98 production of *Hedda Gabler*.)

Karen Blackbourn (Faye)

Karen first appeared on stage at the age of 12, in the role of Oliver, for her school production of *Oliver Twist*, the musical. Now aged, 25, she has worked up the courage for a second appearance on stage! She is looking forward to the challenge of her first female role. She hopes to be spotted by a talent scout and whisked off to fame and fortune in Hollywood. Please ask for her phone number from a member of staff in the foyer.



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 * **CHAPTER TWO** *
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THE CAST in order of appearance:

Leo Schneider.....Philip Spencer-Harris
 George Schneider.....Anthony Whitehouse
 Jenny Malone.....Erica Kroger
 Faye.....Karen Blackbourn

THE CREW

Director.....Perry Cameron
 Set Design.....Sian Davis
 Production Manager.....Kathy Gent
 Lighting Design and Operation.....Phil Searle
 Sound Operation.....Phil Searle
 Stage Manager.....John Burton
 Properties Manager.....Maureen Kenny
 Wardrobe by.....Laura Worrall
 Assisted by.....Cathie Sandy
 Set Construction.....Tony Sandy, Doug Bourke
 Set Painting/ Decoration.....Anne Rimmer, Angie Holmes, John Burton
Anthony Whitehouse, Grant Thomas, Sian Davis, Kathy Gent
 Publicity.....Helen Davies, Kathy Gent
 Poster Design.....Sam Corbett
 Photography.....Sherry Ede
 Programme.....Sherry Ede
 Front of House.....Doug Bourke
 Bar Manager.....Tony Sandy

With Thanks to:
 Emma Reynolds; Clinique and *Hayden Optometrists*, Takapuna.





Left to right, Philip Spencer-Harris and Karen Blackbourn as the side-kicks to lead characters Jenny (Erica Kroger) and George (Anthony Whitehouse)

SECOND TIME AROUND

A 1970 Neil Simon comedy has been re-written for the 90's and opens in Belmont tomorrow, April 16.

Company Theatre presents "Chapter Two", a story about two people starting again - he a widower, she a divorcee.

"Both of them are looking to start again and that's what Chapter Two refers to too, says Company spokesperson, Sherry Ede.

"I think it's very relevant to the 90s. The 90s is definitely the era of second relationships" she adds.

Simon fans will enjoy "his very clever dialogue which is really for thinking people. It's not having a jibe at anyone but they (the leads) have to resolve their central issues."

Not helped by sidekicks with decidedly different values egging them on to play the

field. Staging offers something of a split personality.

"We've done it on a split stage - his apartment, her apartment, which is quite a nice way to watch." says Sherry.

This is the first major production directed by Devonport's Perry Cameron and it plays the Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont until April 23. Bookings phone 445-9900, 489-8069.

