

An Hilarious Farce

COMPANY
THEATRE
PRESENTS

By
Philip
King

SEE HOW THEY RUN



31 July to
14 August
at 8pm
1999
Sunday matinee, 2pm (Aug 8)
Rose Centre, School Rd
Belmont

Adult \$15
Conc. \$12

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Cast (in order of appearance)

IDA, a maid	Michelle Parish
MISS SKILLON	Heather Levack
The Reverend LIONEL TOOP	Richard Johnson
PENELOPE TOOP, his wife	Sarah Thompson
Lance-Corporal CLIVE WINTON	Richard Parmee
The INTRUDER	Oli Campbell-Calder
The BISHOP of LAX	Peter Smee
The Reverend ARTHUR HUMPHREY	John Burton
SERGEANT TOWERS	Doug Annan

Production Team

DIRECTOR	Kathy Gent
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Sheila Stevens
STAGE MANAGERS	Moirra Coote, Alistair Fletcher
COSTUMES	Cathie Sandy, Gail Carran
SET CONSTRUCTION	Tony Sandy assisted by: John Burton, Richard Johnson, Richard Parmee, Anthony Whitehouse, Sue Gross, Glyn Amor, Peter Smee, Alastair Fletcher, Sheila Stevens, Kathy Gent, Helen Davis
SET DESIGN	Angie Holmes, Glyn Amor
PROPS	Maureen Kenny
PUBLICITY	Sherry Ede
LIGHTING	Phil Searle
SOUND	Elisse Edwards
POSTER	Gerard Southam
PROMPT	Sue Gross

The action of the play takes place during the early years of World War II in the hall at the vicarage, Merton-cum-Middlewick, a small village in England.

Act I

An afternoon in September.

Act II

The same night.

INTERVAL

Act III

A few minutes after Act II.

Director's Comments

I have always avoided directing farce as it is the most difficult and challenging form of drama, but have been tempted by the potential for hilarity with *See How They Run*, a classic farce requiring fast pace and excellent timing. I am delighted with the result, a product of real teamworking by experienced actors and eager newcomers, together with a hugely committed crew. We have been concerned to create 'real' characters who lose all control in a series of ridiculous situations and succeed in entertaining audiences of all ages.

Kathy Gent (the Director)

Kathy has been a member of Company Theatre since arriving in New Zealand in 1995; she directed 3 one act plays (*Three of A Fummy Kind*) in 1996 and *Blithe Spirit* in 1997. She appeared in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and *The Real Inspector Hound*. She has been directing plays, revues, pantomimes and musical (cabaret) since university days and includes as her all-time favourites, *Stepping Out*, *Rebecca*, *When we are Married*, *A Chorus of Disapproval* and *Bedroom Farce*.

THE CAST

Michelle Parish (Ida)

Having only left Carmel College last year, this is Michelle's first production since school. She has had principal roles in many school productions: the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Baptista in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Maui in *Maui*. She hopes to continue her involvement in the performing arts while completing her degree at AIT which will help her with a career in film production.

Heather Levack (Miss Skillon)

Heather is delighted to be in the cast of *See How They Run*. She previously appeared as Woman in Dario Fo's *Female Parts*, a student production for the Climeria Acting School in Perth. Last year she assisted with wardrobe for Company's production of *Hedda Gabler*, but she prefers an acting role.

Richard Johnson (Reverend Lionel Toop)

Richard has been treading the boards from a young age. His first roles included the Artful Dodger in a school production of *Oliver*; he continued to be involved in many productions in his home town of Stoke on Trent. He enjoyed a brief appearance in the Children's Royal Variety Performance at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, and as a narrator for an international scouting folk festival at the Royal Albert Hall. In New Zealand he was recently playing Tom in Alan Ayckbourn's comedies *Table Manners* and *Round and Round the Garden* with Torbay Drama Society.

Sarah Thompson (Penelope Toop)

See How They Run is Sarah's fourth play with Company Theatre. She has previously appeared in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *A Kind of Alaska*. Before joining Company theatre, Sarah was involved in many musicals and plays with United Players, a favourite being Juliette in *Daughters of Heaven*.

Richard Parmee (Clive Winton)

President of Company Theatre, Richard has never been told to "shut up" so often in committee meetings as in this play! With Company he has previously appeared in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *The Odd Couple*, *A Kind of Alaska* and *Money and Friends*.

Oli Campbell-Calder (The Intruder)

This is Oli's first performance for Company Theatre. He was last seen in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, the annual summer Shakespeare at Auckland University. He has been involved with Stage 2, the student-run drama club at the university and has been enthusiastically exploring different styles of drama and performance art.

Peter Smee (The Bishop of Lax)

Peter became an amateur actor rather late in life and purely by accident when he supported his daughter in acting classes in both theatre and television at Carrington Unitec. Earlier this year he played the butler in Papakura Theatre Club's production of *Me and My Girl*. In the late 1960s, Peter appear in several TV commercials.

John Burton (Reverend Arthur Humphrey)

In order to satisfy his ecclesiastical bent, John has once again donned the cloth. He began his religious career as the Dean of Paddington in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, then saw the light as lighting operator in *Hedda Gabler* and delivered sermons from the stage manager's pulpit in *Chapter Two*.

Doug Annan (Sergeant Towers)

Doug has been with Company Theatre for 2 years, but behind the scenes as lighting technician in *Two Play*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Money and Friends*. This is his acting debut as Sergeant Towers. He is enjoying being onstage instead of hiding in the lighting box.

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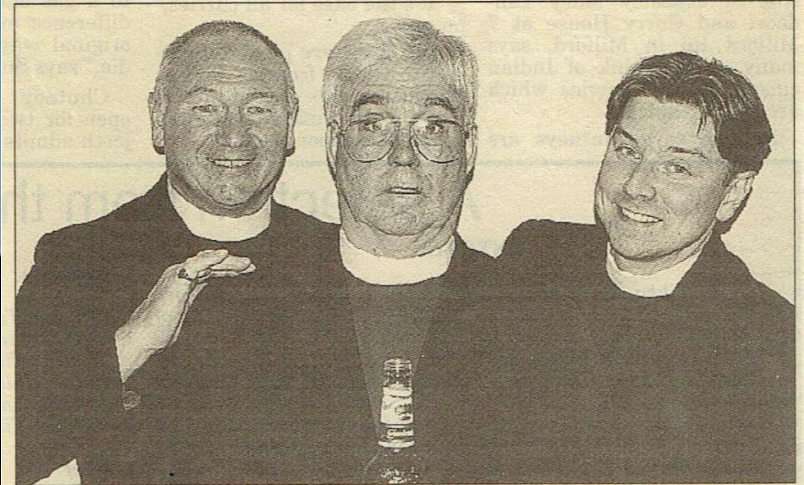
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See how they run



THREE VICARS: John Burton, Peter Smee and Richard Johnson in See How They Run.

See How They Run is a farce set in a vicarage in wartime England when the church was the centre of village social activity. On the day before the Harvest Festival, everything begins to go wrong for the vicar (Richard Johnson) and his new wife Penelope (Sarah Thompson).

A member of the German Luftwaffe has escaped from the internment camp near the village and is discovered by the vicar in his own living room. Pandemonium breaks out when the Nazi demands the vicar's clothes and becomes unrecognisable as a dangerous enemy.

Penelope's uncle the bishop (Peter Smee)

arrives unexpectedly as does her actor friend Clive (Richard Parmee), who agrees to take her out for the evening. Amid all the confusion, local spinster Miss Skillon (Heather Levack) angrily complains about the way Penelope is behaving in the village - and can not resist the cooking sherry left out on the sideboard.

Meanwhile the maid (Michelle Parish) craftily leads Miss Skillon to believe she has done her worst....

See How They Run by Philip King is excellent winter entertainment suitable for all ages. It opened at the Belmont Rose Centre on July 31 and runs until August 14, with nightly performances and a Sunday matinee on August 8 at 2pm.

Some performances are already sold out, so bookings are essential - phone 445-9900 or 445-6447.



Michelle Parish, Sarah Thomson, Heather Levack



Richard Parmee, Sarah Thomson



John Burton, Peter Snee, Richard Johnson



AT EASE: Richard Parmee & Doug Annan .