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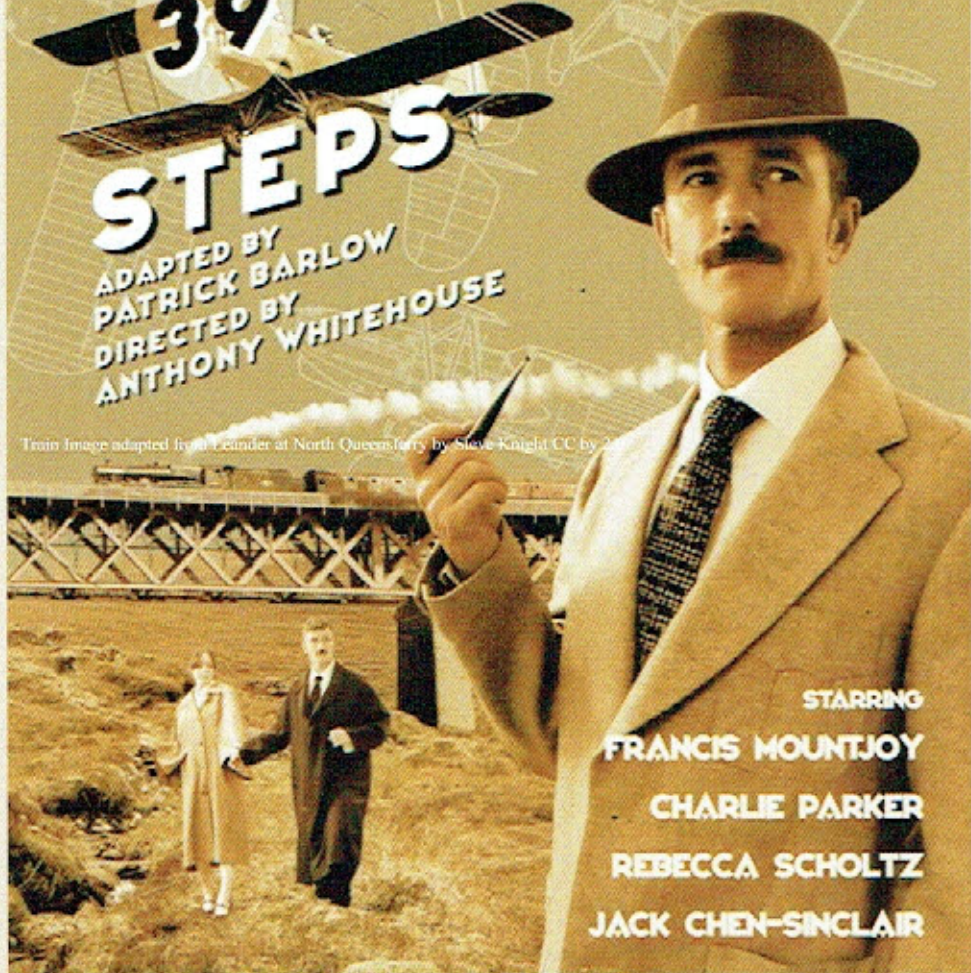
39

STEPS

ADAPTED BY
PATRICK BARLOW
DIRECTED BY
ANTHONY WHITEHOUSE

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
CLASSIC COMEDY
THRILLER

Train Image adapted from Lander at North Queensferry by Steve Knight CC by 2.0



STARRING
FRANCIS MOUNTJOY
CHARLIE PARKER
REBECCA SCHOLTZ
JACK CHEN-SINCLAIR



2ND TO 16TH AUGUST
ROSE CENTRE, BELMONT



ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S • THE 39 STEPS



Welcome from Stephen Hood—

PRESIDENT OF COMPANY THEATRE



Thank you for coming in from the cold to see “The 39 Steps” – the thrilling, heartwarming and side-splitting play in the winter slot of our 2025 season at the Rose Centre! Following on from our popular staging of “Out of Order”

The script, along with the vision of director Anthony Whitehouse and our cast & crew, blends humour into a country-spanning 1930s spy thriller that features a stiff-upper-lipped English gentleman in all sorts of outlandish situations, lead female roles Annabella, Pamela & Margaret who are all striking in their own ways while bearing a striking resemblance to each other, and the play’s many other characters who for the life of me all appear to be the same two people quickly donning different hats, costumes and dramatically different personas. A great time’s being had by all, and you’re invited!

This coming spring, Kathy Gent will be directing November’s “The Cemetery Club”, a comedy to die for as three lively widows meet up once a month to, among other things, sometimes “helpfully hinder” each other as their lives develop. It would be great to see you there!

YOUR CAST

Richard Hannay

† **Francis Mountjoy**

Annabella, Margaret & Pamela

† **Charlie Parker**

Madam Memory, Mrs. Higgins, Salesman, Paperboy, Policeman, Pilot, Mrs. Jordan, Inspector, Mrs. Dunwoody, Gangster., Mrs. McGarrigle

† **Rebecca Scholtz**

Compere, Milkman, Salesman, Policeman, Porter, Crofter, Pilot, Professor, Sherrif, Mr. McQuarry, Gangster, Mr. McGarrigle, Albright.

† **Jack Chen-Sinclair**

ACT ONE

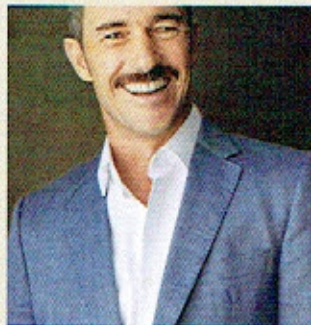
15 MINUTE Interval

During the Interval refreshments, ice creams, and a variety of drinks will be available.

ACT TWO

Set in 1935, there is a wide variety in settings for the play The events of both Acts occur in numerous English and Scottish locations.

Meet the Players



Francis Mountjoy

Francis is a North Shore local. He recently played Pierre in "Murdered to Death" at Dolphin Theatre. He is excited to be involved with "The 39 Steps". He hopes you enjoy this fast-paced, character-driven comedy.



Charlie Parker

Charlie is delighted to be performing her first show with Company Theatre.

Charlie picked up theatre again last year for the first time in six years since her high school drama days. Debuting as Benvolio in a University rendition of *Romeo and Juliet* last August, she's reignited a whirlwind romance with being back on the stage.

The 39 Steps will be her fifth show since her debut, continuing the trend of never having to use her normal accent for a role.



Rebecca Scholtz

Rebecca has wanted to be an actor ever since she worked out that it's just the grown-up version of playing pretend. After completing a BA majoring in Classics and Theatre at Victoria University of Wellington, she's returned to the Shore and continued having fun on stage.

Recent roles include Northumberland in *Hal v Hotspur* (an adaptation of Henry IV Part 1), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*, all with the Arden Ensemble. After this run of Shakespeare, she's excited to take on something completely different while getting back to what performing is really about – wearing a lot of hats and doing silly voices. When she's not performing, she works in accessibility, editing and producing closed captions for broadcast TV.



Jack Chen-Sinclair

Welcome to the show! My name is Jack Chen – Sinclair, I'm 22 years old and have been acting since I was 16. As a creative I have been involved in a lot of fun projects.

I've done musical theatre (*Chess the Musical* at Aotea Centre), lots of community theatre with companies such as Stray Theatre (The UOA Theatre Company) or the Arden ensemble. (Had a great season as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*), as well as some voice over (*For The Hand That Locks the Holding Pen*, in the fringe festival last year). On the production side I prop master (which is how I justify my tendency to hoard cool things), write plays and do a little directing! (I have a real knack for writing short plays).

It's my first theatre performance on the Shore and it's a joy to work with Company to put on *The 39 Steps*. I've had so much fun over the past couple months crafting and creating all of my many roles into interesting characters. Whether large or small, every character is a delight to play and the cast are fantastic to work with. So sit back, relax and get ready to unravel the mystery of *The 39 Steps* with us



Jason Moffatt
Anthony Whitehouse

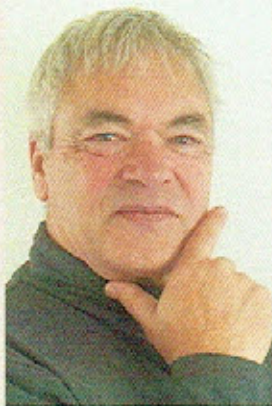
Jason has been thrilled to be involved in this exciting production. He has played the role of Hannay twice previously, under the direction of James Bell, and won Best Actor at the 2013 ACTT Awards for his portrayal. Jason has a long association with Shoreside Theatre's annual Shakespeare in the Park.

Meet the Director Anthony Whitehouse

We are delighted to welcome back Anthony Whitehouse as Director for this year's production of *The 39 Steps*. A long-standing member of Company Theatre, Anthony has contributed both on stage and behind the scenes over many years. His previous directorial work for the company includes *Just Between Ourselves*, *How the Other Half Loves*, and *The Sex Fiend*.

Beyond Company Theatre, Anthony's recent directing credits include the acclaimed *Noises Off*, which earned him the NAP-TA Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play, and the high-energy production of Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, winner of the 2024 ACTT Award for Outstanding Musical.

With *The 39 Steps*, Anthony has embraced the unique challenges and playful creativity the show demands. Usually known for his attention to realism on stage, he relished the opportunity this time to lean into theatricality and imaginative staging—crafting a world where a few props and a whole lot of ingenuity bring a whirlwind spy adventure to life.



CREW FOR THE 39 STEPS

Director	Anthony Whitehouse
Production Managers	Stephen Hood & Vettinia Ross
Stage Manager	Vettinia Ross
Production Assistant & Understudy	Jason Moffatt
Stage Crew	Bradon Houston, Lucas Laurent, Lucy Stuart, Geoff McPhail, Ez Piñero
Set Design	Scott Thomas
Set Construction	Scott Thomas, Phil Searle
Painting	Caroline Parker, Tony Sandy, Anne Rimmer
Lighting & Sound Design/Operation	Stephen Hood,
Props	Vettinia Ross
Dresser	Kate Finlay
Costumes	Kate Finlay
Wig mistress	Cathie Sandy
Poster	Jason Moffatt
Social Media	Stephen Hood
Programme	Paul Thompson
Website	Sherry Ede
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Box Office	Kathy Gent, Sarah Dettwiler

Acknowledgements

Thanks to:

To our sponsors Ian Cunliffe of Bayleys Devonport, and Dils Funeral Services.

For support from Rose Centre, Torbay Theatre, Shoreside Theatre, and Auckland Music Theatre



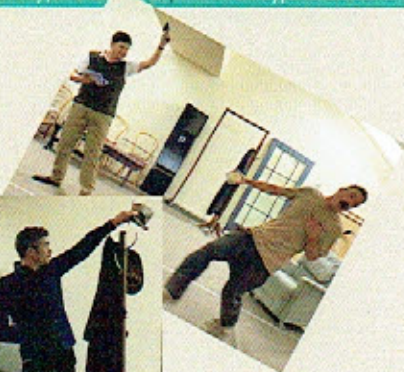
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ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S - THE 39 STEPS

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"Chocks away, Professor!"

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S - THE 39 STEPS

Background to the Play

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*I'm afraid that I am from a generation that remembers that it was John Buchan who wrote the novel *The Thirty-nine Steps* and all subsequent films and plays were adapted from his original story.*



John Buchan, aka 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, (1875-1940), ventured into politics in 1911 when he was adopted as the Unionist candidate for Peebles and Selkirk. He supported some Liberal causes, such as free trade, women's suffrage, national insurance, and curtailing the powers of the House of Lords. However, Buchan was later described as being "overtly antisemitic" by author Anthony Starr. A view that was much disputed.

Buchan wrote the novel in 1915, a spy-thriller set just prior to the First World War, while he was a journalist for the *London Times* in France, while also working for the Foreign Office. The book was published in the same year. Having served in the Army during the 2nd Boer War (1901-02), where incidentally, he became friends with Edmund Ironside, whose character partly became the base for Richard Hannay, and in Western Front during the First World War as part of the Intelligence Corps. Recognised for his abilities, the War Cabinet, under David Lloyd George, appointed him Director of Information in 1917, essentially leading Britain's propaganda effort. In early 1918, Buchan was made head of a Department of Intelligence within a new Ministry of Information under Lord Beaverbrook.

Hitchcock signed with Gaumont-British in 1934, and his first film for that company, *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934), was also his first international success. Leslie Banks and Edna Best star as the Laurencés, a married couple on vacation in Switzerland with their daughter Betty (Nova Pilbeam). They inadvertently become enmeshed in a plot to assassinate a diplomat when the conspirators kidnap Betty to ensure the Laurencés' silence until the deed is accomplished by the lethal Abbott (German actor Peter Lorre in his first English-speaking role). In just 75 minutes, culminating with the classic Royal Albert Hall finale, Hitchcock established himself as the new master of the sinister.



Hitchcock built on that foundation with *The 39 Steps* (1935), an adaptation of John Buchan's thriller. Robert Donat played the archetypal Hitchcock protagonist: an innocent vacationer unwittingly drawn into an elaborate scheme hatched by a nest of spies. On the run, handcuffed to a young woman (Madeleine Carroll) whom he has just met, they are hunted while they try to decipher the meaning of the film's mysterious title. This was a premier example of a genre Hitchcock virtually invented—the romantic thriller. Following its initial release, the film has been widely acknowledged as a classic. Filmmaker and actor Orson Welles referred to it as a "masterpiece".

The 39 Steps was remade in 1959. A British thriller film directed by Ralph Thomas and starring Kenneth More and Taina Elg. Produced by Betty Box, it was loosely based on the 1915 novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps* by John Buchan. It is the first colour version of the Buchan tale, and, unlike the mainly studio-bound original, features extensive location shooting. Several large set pieces (such as Hannay's escape from the train on the Forth Bridge and the music hall finale) and much of the dialogue are taken from the original film. As with the Hitchcock version, the scenario was contemporary rather than the pre-First World War setting of Buchan's original.

The 39 Steps is a parody adapted from John Buchan's novel, and the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock. The original concept and production of a four-actor version of the story was written by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon, and premiered in 1996. Patrick Barlow rewrote this adaptation in 2005.

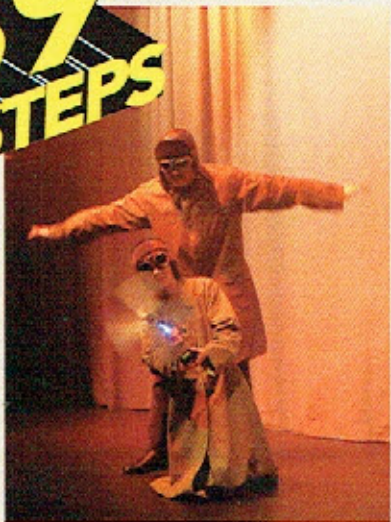


The 2005 concept calls for the entirety of the 1935 adventure film to be performed with a cast of only four. One actor plays the hero, Richard Hannay, an actress plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements; and two other actors play every other character in the show, each occasionally playing multiple characters at once.

Bearing all that in mind, I wonder if this should be called Patrick Barlow's, *The 39 Steps*! Maybe a discussion point over your Interval refreshments?

Paul Thompson

THE 39 STEPS



ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S - THE 39 STEPS



A Note From The Director

Anthony Whitehouse

Directing *The 39 Steps* has been a wonderfully rewarding experience. I've been fortunate to work with a small but passionate and dedicated group of people who have brought energy, humour, and boundless creativity to every rehearsal.

As with any production, a great deal of hard work goes into bringing a show to the stage, and this one is no exception. But along the way, we've had a lot of fun, enjoying the inventiveness, experimenting, problem-solving, sharing and trying ideas.

The cast have thrown themselves into their roles with enthusiasm, and real skill. I'm immensely proud of what they've achieved—not only in performance, but in the ideas and flair they've contributed throughout the process. I hope you enjoy watching them as much as I've enjoyed working with them.

So, for the next little while, leave the real world outside. Sit back, relax, and let us take you on a fast-paced ride through 1930s espionage. Will our hero outwit the spies? Will romance blossom? And what exactly *are* the 39 Steps?

Enjoy the show!

Anthony Whitehouse
Director

NEXT AT COMPANY THEATRE

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BY IVAN
MENGHELL
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