



presents

# The Ghost Train

by Arnold Ridley

Directed by Graham Wagstaff

Written in 1925, "The Ghost Train" retains all its charming fascination for today's audiences. It has all the ingredients that were uppermost in the public's mind just after World War 1, with spies and terrorists that are still a worry today! Mix these in with a remote railway station late at night, six passengers stranded in the waiting room until morning tonight of all nights! A station master tells them the tale of twenty years earlier when a railway accident resulted in death, madness & haunting. Hold onto your seats this will be one ride you'll never forget!

## CAST

(In order of appearance)

Saul  
Elsie Winthrop  
Richard Winthrop  
Peggy Murdock  
Charles Murdock  
Miss Bourne  
Teddy Deakin  
Julia Price  
Herbert Price  
John Sterling  
Jackson  
Policeman

Ian Anderson  
Sue Gross  
Richard Parmee  
Rebecca Jones  
Rob Holland  
Penny Skyrme  
Richard Johnson  
Dahlia Phillips  
Michael Prentice  
John Currie  
Fred Gould  
Rob Searle

There will be one 15 minute interval during which fine wine and other beverages will be available.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Graham Wagstaff
Production Manager	Sue Gross/Molly Clarke
P.A./Prompt	Molly Clarke
Stage Manager	Lizzie Tyson
Set Designer	Graham Wagstaff
Lighting Design/Operation	Scott Thomas
Sound Design	Terry Smith
Sound Operation	Holly Winter
Properties	Fred & Doreen Gould
Costumes	Cathie Sandy, Gail Curran, Molly Clarke
Special Effects	Caroline Parker
Publicity	Kathy Gent
Photos	Anne Rimmer
Programme Production	Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent
Set Construction	Tony Sandy with Caroline Parker, Richard Parmee, Kathy Gent, Holly Winter, Anne Rimmer, Malcolm Green
Front of House & Bar Manager	Tony Sandy
Box Office & Front of House	Members of Company Theatre

## DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Graham trained as a director at Theatre Corporate under Raymond Hawthorne. He has experience in film, television and acted in most theatres in Auckland including Titirangi, Dolphin, Stables, Maidment and the Aotea Centre. Graham's last directorial outing was Diane Samuels "Kindertransport". Set in the 1920's "The Ghost Train" with it's ingredients of steam trains, ghosts, a lonely railway station, a stormy night and a random group of stranded passengers captures the atmosphere of its time & setting; a time when life seemed simpler and the language was quietly restrained.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OPSM Browns Bay, Coopers Creek, Dolphin Theatre  
Mairangi Players, David Fitchew, Animal Ark, Firewatch,  
Glenbrook Steam Railway, Carol Evans, North Shore Music Theatre

## COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

For Membership of Company Theatre phone Sheila on 445-6580.  
companytheatre@gmail.com    www.companytheatre.co.nz

### CAST PROFILES

**Ian Anderson** – Ian has had a lifelong interest in live theatre and was delighted to be chosen for the part of the inarticulate stationmaster in this famous play. Throwing caution to the wind Ian has grown a beard especially for the part.

**Sue Gross** – Sue has been a happy and contented member of Company Theatre for many years. Happy to lend a helping hand backstage and content to occasionally tread the boards, particularly in a spiffing English play like "The Ghost Train".

**Richard Parmee** – Last seen in *Caught in The Net* earlier this year and a past president of Company Theatre, Richard is never happier than when he is on the boards at The Rose Centre.

**Rebecca Jones** – This is Rebecca's second time at Company Theatre having played 'Sharon' in *Outside Edge*. She has also performed at Howick Little Theatre and Shoreside Theatre while studying for her degree in Performance Art at NASDA in Christchurch and is now finishing her Degree in Design at Lthtec.

**Rob Holland** – A relative newcomer to amateur theatre this is Rob's second treading of the boards having been in ShoreSide Theatre's production of "Halfway Up A Tree" earlier this year.

**Penny Skyrme** – Penny has been an active member of Company Theatre for the last 18 years taking part in many productions. Her last appearance was 'Vi' in *The Memory of Water*.

**Richard Johnson** – Richard arrived from the UK in 1996 & has been involved in a number of North Shore productions. These include Alan Ayckbourn's *The Norman Conquests* and *See How They Run* with Company Theatre. After a 3-year break from acting, he is really enjoying playing Teddie.

**Dahlia Phillips** – It's a pleasure to be back at Company Theatre but a far cry from the last time I was here - playing a cocaine-snorting bi-sexual & swearing like a trooper - but just as challenging. A lovely cast and fabulous crew to work with, so I hope you enjoy the play as much as we do!

**Michael Prentice** – *The Ghost Train* is Michael's second foray into theatre this year after his debut with Company Theatre as Gavin in *Caught in the Net*. "It was so much fun I just couldn't wait to get back into it." Prior credits include various roles in Takapuna Grammar musicals.

**John Curry** – Despite having trodden the boards for many years now this is John's first time at Company Theatre. John says he is enjoying his time with his fellow travellers at Fal Vale Station immensely.

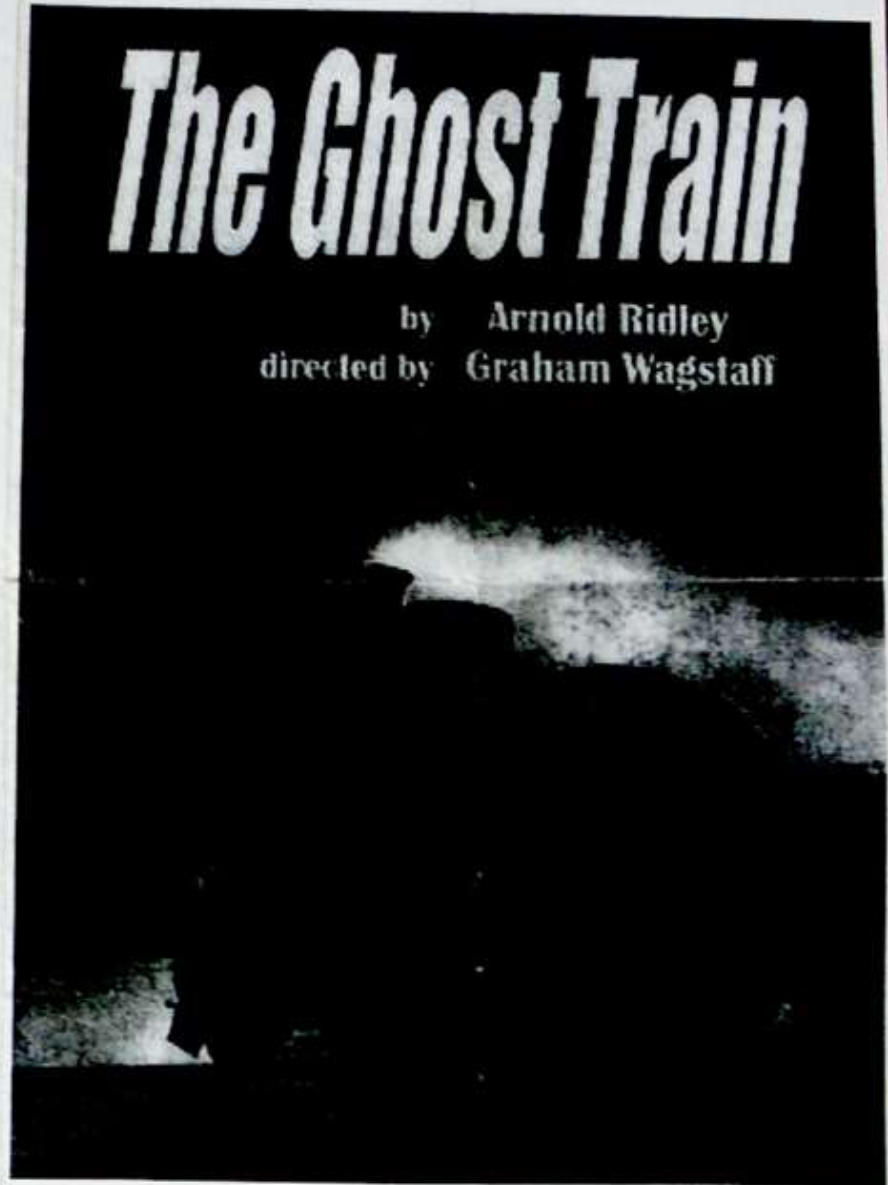
**Fred Gould** – Having played the shadow in Company Theatre's *Kindertransport* last year, Fred decided that it was time to come out of the shadows into the limelight and the rest, as they say, is history!

#### AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

Auditions for *SPREADING OUT* by Roger Hall directed by Kathy Gent will be held at 2pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 4 December 2005  
7 Roles (3 Males, 4 Females) 20's to 80's - Enquiries phone Kathy on 445 6447  
Production Dates 24 March - 8 April 2006

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# e Out

Entertainment

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Ghostly goings on at the Rose Centre

One night in the 1920's Arnold Ridley who played Private Godfrey in the wartime sitcom *Dad's Army*, was sitting on the platform at Mangotsfield station near Bristol in the UK.

He sat for four hours waiting to change trains from the Avon Valley Line to the Midland mainline, when strange acoustics made the trains on one platform sound as if they were passing along the other platform. This set his mind off and during his wait he wrote the classic comic mystery *The Ghost Train*.

A dark and stormy night, winter 1925. In the dingy waiting room of Fal-Vale station in Cornwall, six passengers have missed their connection. Now they are stranded until the following morning, on tonight of all nights.

Into this one room the characters have been brought by the foolish actions of Teddie Deakin who pulled the emergency cord, bringing their train to a sudden halt. The station master tells them a tale of 20 years earlier when a railway accident resulted in death, madness and haunting — "it be said that to look on the ghost train means death".

"Bah humbug" is the reply of the worldly



**Ghostly business:** Come and see this chilling comedy at the Rose Centre.

metropolitan travellers ... but then weird things begin to happen. As the plot thickens the blood thins.

Company Theatre presents *The Ghost Train* as the final production in their 25th anniversary season.

Graham Wagstaff directs the large cast of

12 experienced actors in this vintage play. Terry Smith has produced eerily spooky sound effects, Scott Thomas who recently designed the lighting for *Seussical the Musical* at the Pumphouse, transforms the theatre into a dingy waiting room, and Cathie Sandy, Molly

Clarke and Gail Curran show painstaking detail in the costuming of the play.

The *Ghost Train* is very funny, a little bit scary, and absolutely spiffing entertainment. For a relaxing well-performed evening of comedy with a few chills, this is just the

ticket.

The play runs nightly except Sundays and Mondays from November 12-26 at the Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont. There are two matinees at 2pm on Sunday November 13 and 20. Bookings are essential, phone Kathy Gent on 445 6447.



