AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE AUCKLAND Kensington THEATRE COMPANY SEASON OF BY STEPHEN SINCLAIR AND ANTHONY MCCARTEN









FOR MANY YEARS VOLVO HAS BEEN A PLATINUM SUPPORTER OF THE AWARD WINNING AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY. THIS YEAR WE'VE EXTENDED OUR SUPPORT TO INCLUDE A NEW

VOLVO'S MEASURE

A special message to all the men in the audience. If watching five unemployed mechanics take their clothes off was not at the top of your entertainment wish list for tonight, I'd like to offer you these comforting thoughts.

- None of the five mechanics ever worked for a Volvo Service Department. If they did, they'd be called 'highly trained technicians' for a start.
- 2 While their bodies appear to be perfect, it is only a trick of the stage lighting.
- Any of us could dance like they do if it wasn't for those wretched sports injuries we so stoically carry.
- Any women in the audience cheering and squealing are only doing that because they are paid to by theatre management.
- And finally, by being here tonight you have earned hundreds, possibly thousands of brownie points. So tomorrow you could buy yourself a new Volvo sedan, wagon or SUV without any need for discussion at all.

Enjoy the show.

Robert Nash

General Manager, Volvo

HENSINGTON SWAN'S MESSAGE

We love sponsoring the Auckland Theatre Company's performances.

It's a delight each season to laugh, cry or otherwise emote and enjoy the work of New Zealand's finest playwrights, designers, directors and actors.

Ladies Night looks to be among the best of them all. We're proud to be part of it, and hope you have a fantastic evening.

Tim MacAvoy Partner Kensington Swan



Why would a law firm sponsor 5 naked men?**

BECAUSE THEY NEED TO **COVER THEIR BACKS**

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By Arrangement with Playmarket

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Rov Snow Sara Wiseman **Oliver Driver** John Verryt Steve Morrison Elizabeth Whiting Natasha Stewart Mikey Havoc Caroline Bell-Booth Frith Walker Josh Hyman **Arthur Turner** Ray Pafalani **Rhed Clift** Bryan Spittle Siua Tongapuna Sarah Briggs and

Stuart Devenie

Adam Gardiner

Cohen Holloway

Robbie Magasiva

Cameron Rhodes

David Fane

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Associate Director Production Manager Marketing Manager Marketing Assistant **Corporate Partnerships Box Office Manager Box Office Assistant Accounts** Reception **2ECOND UNIT Development & Education Sarah Peters** Literary Directors in Development Colin Mitchell AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

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Level 2/54 Wellesley Street West **Auckland Central** PO Box 6513 Wellesley Street Auckland 1015

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Ladies Night has been a sensational way to end a year of great change here at ATC. In February Simon Prast took on the challenge of bringing an arts festival to Auckland city (didn't he do well) and in doing so left ATC in the hands of an incredibly strong team more than capable of continuing to produce world class theatre. It has been my pleasure, frustration, awe and occasional anger to act as Artistic Director for 2003 and I wish to thank the staff for their astounding work this year. Such a thrill to see us all rise to the challenge, Alison, Andi, Helen, Colin, Amie, Maria and especially Frith, Sarah, Alex and T.O bravo, a standing ovation from myself and the audiences of today and of the future.

To Colin McColl, ATC's new Artistic Director, the warmest of welcomes, ATC is the sum of its staff and they are ready to work with you as we grow, hopefully in to a home venue and out to the stages of the world.

Ladies Night has been such a joy to direct; a brilliant cast who have brought such passion and determination to the process and have made me laugh till I have nearly wet myself. Stephen, who has leapt back into the script with both boots on and brought it to a place few thought it could go, you owe me that three course dinner buddy. John and Elizabeth, who while still my mentors are now also my friends and peers, both of

whom, with a word or a look can show me where the path is when I have wandered from it. Steve. Natasha, Josh and Stafford who do their jobs so bloody well that I strive to match their skill. Mike, my excellent friend and finder of music so perfect it becomes another character in the show and to Bell-Booth my stunning assistant director, who along with Mitchell reminds me just how exciting tomorrow is going to be. To all of you, to the staff and to the crew what a brilliant thing we all just made for the thousands of people now reading this programme. To those of you who paid the seven bucks, although you may never realise how much each of us has done, you will remember the combined result forever, isn't that cool.

If this all seems like a bit of a rave, I make no apologies for it, for I have a fantastic job in this vibrant, thrilling industry and I get to do it in the best country in the world...rock on with your good selves.

OLIVER DRIVER

Acting Artistic Director
Auckland Theatre Company

Whiters Modes



STEPHEN SINCLAIR

Ladies Night was my first professional production. It premiered at the Mercury Theatre, Auckland, in 1987, and has been playing more or less continuously somewhere in the world ever since.

It's been quite a ride. I've seen more male striptease than I ever needed to, but the income it has generated has given me creative freedom to write what I like, when I like. And I've had the pleasure of seeing some great productions of our play around the world. My favourite will always be the first; the Mercury did us proud and launched us on the world stage. But there have been other fine productions: the Italian version in an old theatre in Rome, across the road from the Forum; and an award winning season in Paris. There have been the NZ, Australian and English tours, and many more productions I didn't managed to catch, in Canada, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina,

Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, Russia... I guess the international success of the play is testimony to fact that when it comes to women and sexuality, men are uptight, repressed – and ridiculous! – the world over.

Most writers would blanch at having to revise something they wrote sixteen years ago, but I've enjoyed reworking the script. Writing new lines for the characters has been a bit like catching up with old friends. And it's been a blast watching it come together in rehearsal. Oliver has breathed new life into the piece, and brought it back home to where it all started: the Western suburbs, 1987, a bunch of emotionally repressed Kiwi blokes, a desperate money-making scheme... let the lunacy commence!



Planninghis

STEPHEN SINCLAIR

Stephen is one of New Zealand's most successful playwrights and screenwriters. In addition to Ladies Night he has written many plays including The Sex Fiend (co-written with Danny Mulheron), which premiered in 1989 and continues to be performed in New Zealand and Australia. Also Blowing It (cowritten with Stephen Papps) which had a successful season at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. and will be touring Britain, Germany and Ireland in 2004. In June of 2002 his historical drama The Bellbird was produced as a main bill for Auckland Theatre Company, Peter Calder of the NZ Herald called it "a play of heart and soul and a valuable addition to our literature". The Bach was performed in October this year as part of the ATC Literary Unit's Final Draft Programme, and has been programmed as a main bill in the ATC 2004 season.

Sinclair has had a long screenwriting partnership with

Academy Award nominees Peter Jackson and Frances Walsh (Heavenly Creatures, The Frighteners), most recently on The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. In 1990, he co-scripted the feature film Meet the Feebles, and in 1991, Braindead (aka Dead Alive), which won Best Screenplay at the 1993 New Zealand Film and Television Awards.

Stephen's one-hour television comedy *Love Mussel*, starring the late Kevin Smith, screened in 2001. The NZ Listener cited it as the best one-hour television comedy-drama for the year. Last year he directed his short film *Ride*, a twelve-minute comedy thriller set in the Coromandel.

His children's novel *Thief of Colours*, was published by Penguin Books in 1995. His adult novel *Dread*, published in July 2000, was described in the review in the NZ Listener as "an impressive debut". His collection of poetry, *The Dwarf and the Stripper*, will be published in December.

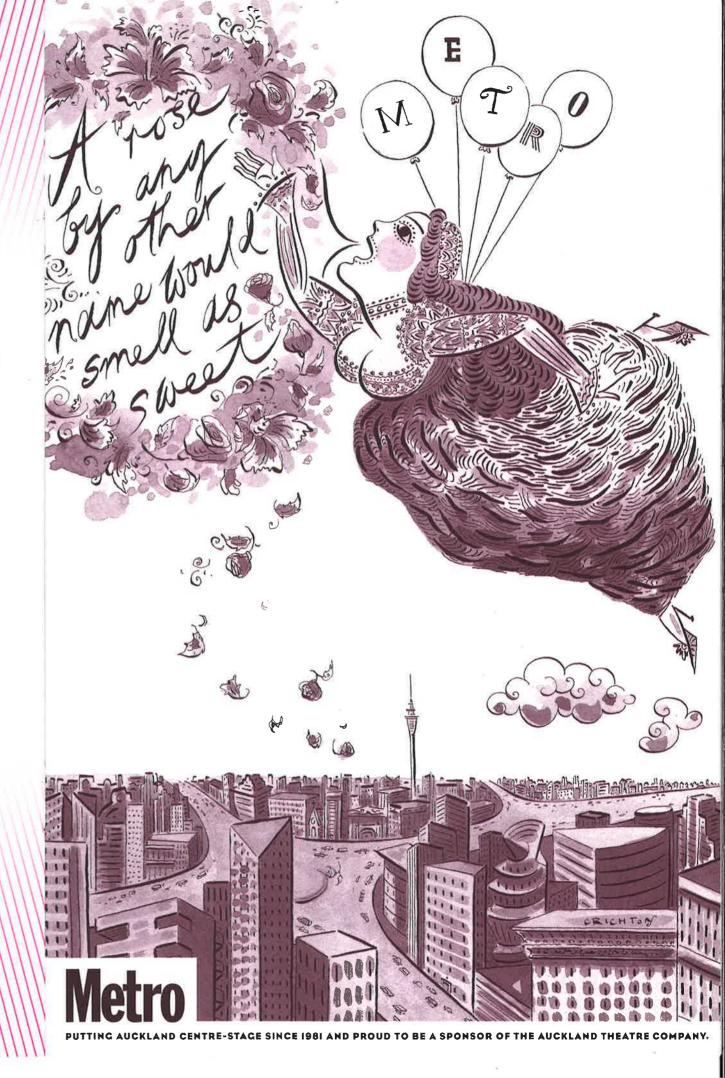
ANTHONY MCCARTEN Subsequent plays include; Pigeon English, Weed and Via Satellite.

Anthony McCarten co-wrote Ladies Night with Stephen Sinclair. His first play, Invitation to a Second Class Carriage, premiered in 1984. Yellow Canary Mazurka was selected for the 1986 New Zealand Playwrights' Workshop, at which he met Stephen Sinclair. Together they wrote Ladies Night in 1987.

Via Satellite premiered as a feature film at Cannes in 1999. Anthony has also directed two short films:

Nocturne in a Room (1992) and Fluff (1995). Anthony's first novel Spinners was published in 1999. His second novel, The English Harem (2001) won France's Molière Comedy Prize in 2001. Anthony's latest novel Brilliance was published this year.





Colste & Original



BERNIE — Stuart devenie

Stuart Devenie is one of New Zealand's most accomplished actors with a career spanning over three decades. Most recently, he directed The Orderly Business of Life, an ATC Literary Unit Final Draft production at the SiLO Theatre. Earlier this year, Stuart appeared with ATC in Middle Age Spread. In 2002 he performed in the world premiere of Tom Scott's The Daylight Atheist and ATC 2econd Unit's Small God by Jacques Strauss. Small God featured as ATC's first radio play on National Radio.

Other ATC theatre credits include
Take A Chance On Me,
Copenhagen, Serial Killers, The
Cripple of Inishmaan, Twelve Angry
Men, Uncle Vanya, Molly Sweeney,
ATC 2econd Unit's The Atrocity and
director for The God Boy.

Stuart has appeared in numerous television shows including Jack of all Trades, Hercules, Market Forces, TVOne's comedy series Willy Nilly and TV2's Shortland Street. He recently undertook a North Island tour of The Daylight Atheist.

"Congratulations to Stephen on writing a brand new 'old' play. I think it's got legs."

GRAHAM — David fane



Dave has an extensive list of acting credits to his name. He is most well-known for his roles in *The Strip* and *Naked Samoans*. In 1998, Dave

was awarded the Actor of the Year Chapman Tripp Theatre Award.

"It's exciting to be part of this new reworked kiwi classic. It makes me feel less of an immigrant and part of the rich tapestry that is New Zealand."

CRAIG — Adam Gardiner

Adam makes his first appearance in the ATC Mainbill with Ladies Night. Earlier this year, Adam performed with ATC's 2econd Unit in Play 2.03 and in the Final Draft production New Gold Dream. He has worked on The Strip, Lovebites, Duggan and Market Forces. Film credits include For Good (dir. Stuart

McKenzie, 2001) and Hopeless (dir. Steve Hickey, 1998). He is also a founding trustee of WACT: Wellington Artists Charitable Trust and produces theatre, film and radio through his production company, Damned Ventures.



"It's been a great pleasure working with such a fabulous bunch of ladies, swapping protein recipes and counting carbs. However I would kill any of them in a heartbeat for that cheeseburger and beer."



NORMAN — Cohen Holloway

Since graduating from Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School in 2001, Cohen raced straight into the industry with a directing job directing traffic for the Lynx Ferry in Wellington. Thankfully he has progressed to become a proficient actor – picking up Best Newcomer at the TV2 International LAUGH! Festival this year, as well as appearing on *Pulp Comedy*. He has just finished writing for WNTV this year - and although he appeared as an Orange Tiger on TV3's *The Strip*, he's probably best known for holding a 'Red Lion'.

"Great cast with lots of talent in the right areas! It's been hard work trying to work out how many carbs and protein bars per hour I'm supposed to consume to look the part. Hopefully it all pays off."

WES — Robbie Magasiya

Best-known for his role on *The Strip*, Robbie has a number of acting credits to his name. In 2000, he appeared in the feature film *Stickmen*. Robbie's most recent theatre role was in *Naked Samoans Go Home*, performed as part of the

AK03 festival. Other theatre productions include *Rantatrums* (dir. Colin McColl), *Sons* (Downstage Theatre, 1998) and *Heretic* (Circa Theatre, 1998).



"I auditioned for Ladies Night a long, long time ago and I didn't get the part. I'm alright about it now, it took a few years. And now I have the chance to work with some of the finest actors in New Zealand."



GAVIN — Cameron Rhodes

This is Cameron's first performance in an ATC Mainbill production. His last theatre role was in the ATC Final Draft production, *The Bach*, performed at the SiLO Theatre. Cameron has had an extensive career in film, television and theatre. His film appearances include *Lord of the Rings* (dir. Peter Jackson, 2001) and *Bread & Roses* (dir. Gaylene Preston, 1992). Various television appearances

include Mercy Peak, Dark Knight II and Xena Warrior Princess. Prior to performing in The Bach, Cameron appeared this year in Hamlet (dir. Michael Hurst). Other theatre productions include; Cyrano De Bergerac (Theatre At Large, 1998), A Midsummer Night's Dream (NZ Actors Company, 2000), Serial Killers (Circa Theatre, 2000) and Sweeney Todd (Downstage Theatre, 1999). Cameron is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School.

"It is great to be part of this fantastic new version of a New Zealand theatre classic...enjoy!"

BARRY — ROY SNOW

Roy is recognisable to many from his role as Matt on Shortland Street. He has performed on stage in a number of ATC productions including Middle Age Spread, The

Rocky Horror Show, Hair, Cabaret and Death of a Salesman. Other theatre credits include Les Miserables, Godspell, Blondel, Grease, and The Mikado.

"Ladies Night should be a fun night - enjoy"

GLENDA — Sara Wiseman

Sara is most well-known for her role on the television series *Mercy Peak* for which she was nominated for Best Actress Award at the 2002 and 2003 NZ Television Awards. Other television appearances include *Mataku*, *Jackson's Wharf*,

Xena Warrior Princess, Street Legal and Hercules. She appeared last with Auckland Theatre Company in Collected Stories (2000). Other ATC productions include: Amy's View, Death of a Salesman, and Cabaret.

"Big shout out to Oly and all the boys for making me laugh - a lot, and Ms Bell Booth for her girl power. Too much fun!"

DIRECTOR — OLIVER DRIVER

Acting Artistic Director Auckland Theatre Company Producer ATC 2econd Unit



DIRECTOR

It's in the Bag

New Gold Dream Play 2.03

Stones in His Pockets

The Bellbird

Play 2

Small God

The Vagina Monologues

Atrocities

The Blue Room

Coriolanus

ACTOR

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Serial Killers

Return of the Summer Street 7

As You Like It The Winter's Tale

Snakeskin

Magik and Rose

Topless Women Talk About Their Lives

The Strip

Shortland Street

City Life



SET DESIGN -John Verryt

John Verryt has extensive experience as a designer. Previous ATC productions include; *The* Songmaker's Chair, The Daylight Atheist, Hair, Haruru Mai, The Beauty Queen of Leenane and Twelve Angry Men. For the NBR New Zealand Opera he designed Falstaff, Aida and Lucia Di Lammermoor. John has also designed for Theatre at Large, Indian Ink Theatre Company, Black Grace Dance Company and the Douglas Wright Dance Company.



LIGHTING — Steve Morrison

Steve has lived a double life now for over 15 years. By day he has written and directed short films, music videos, children's television shows, and animated shorts. By night, under a cloak of darkness, he has worked in theatres, clubs and stadiums around New Zealand and across the world lighting up rock bands, musicals, dramas and now, naked men.

Linked to the wave of Auckland music which swept across the country in the Nineties, Steve



Elizabeth is passionate about clothing. What do we wear? Why do we wear it?

As a result of this interest she is responsible for costuming a wide range of performing arts groups, from Black Grace to RNZ Ballet, NBR NZ Opera to Christmas in the Park, AK03 Aladdin to ATC's Waiting for Godot.

At present, her research and energies have been directed towards designing a series of Westie blokes, a Westie chick, drag queens and male strippers for Ladies Night. One reason she says her work is never boring!

designed the rock shows for what turned into a continuous rock 'n' roll circus, with bands like Supergroove, Joint Force, The Hallelujah Picassos, Breast Secreting Cake, Semi Lemon Kola, The Dead Flowers and The Feelers. On those touring days Steve says "I saw a lot of brown bedspreads."

For Steve, Ladies Night is looking forward to creating a naturalistic world where the surreal lurks about like a funny looking dog in the shadows. The ambience will reverberate with echoes of the 1980s and of course Steve will be holding a few tricks up his sleeve for a thong slapping spectacular climax.

Elizabeth has a team of highly skilled costumiers working with her to create the wonderful extravaganzas on stage; Joanne Hawke, a fabulous corsetiere and collector of vintage clothing, Denise Hosty, Wardrobe Supervisor and buyer of bizarre objects, and Natalie Shields, the most meticulous of machinists and an artist in her own right. She is very grateful to her team for their support and creativity.

"Stephen's new look at Ladies Night, 16 years after the first performance, sets the play firmly in 1987 and focuses on the character development of a group of blokes. I have really appreciated being part of the process of script development. I was involved in the very first production of Ladies Night in Mercury 2, so it has been fascinating to notice the social changes in NZ society, which are reflected in the play."

CHOREOGRAPHY — NATASHA STEWART

Natasha has been choreographing for 17 years. From a background of training at Pineapple Studios (London), Broadway Dance Centre (New York) and Bodenweisers (Sydney), Natasha has grown a career as one of New Zealand's most accomplished choreographers.

Natasha has been involved in numerous dance projects over the years including music videos, television projects, sports events, corporate functions and events. Natasha is also the choreographer to NZ's most successful all-male revue, *Kiwimana* which originated from TV2's real-life television programme *Strip Search*.

Ladies Night is Natasha's theatrical debut with Auckland Theatre Company.

(P.S. We would just like to add that Natasha only choreographed the last five numbers and is in no way responsible for the dance in the first Act. Oliver Driver is solely to blame.)

MUSIC — Mikey havoc

Mikey Havoc is one of New Zealand's most colourful and charismatic personalities. A well known face on television, he has fronted and helped create some of the freshest and most original local programming in the last 7 years.

Mikey is also well known to listeners of Auckland's 95bfm, having hosted its *Breakfast Show* from 1996 until 2002. He now gets his radio kicks on bfm weekdays 10 - midday, hosting *Trailer with a Cage*.

In addition, Mikey's musical talents include being one of Auckland's most popular club dj's and, in a past era, the frontman for the rock band *Push Push*.

Mikey appeared in the ATC sell-out season of *The Rocky Horror Show* and also created the soundtrack for ATC's 2econd Unit production *Play 2.03*. He was also one of the creators and quiz master for the recent *It's in the Bag*, part of AK03, a sell-out show attended by 8,000 over 4 nights.

"It's been a giddy pleasure picking just the right music to fit this new production of *Ladies Night*. A round of applause to all involved, another round of applause for all involved! Tops off!"



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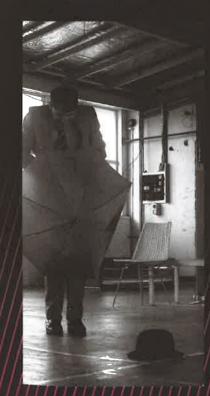
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PLAY INFORMATION

This is the seventh and final production in the Volvo 2003 season of Stage. Ladies Night previewed on Thursday 13 November 2003 at Sky City Theatre. Ladies Night is approximately 2 hours 15 mins, with a 20 minute interval. Please remember to switch off all cellphones, pagers and watch alarms.



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