

graham greene

travels *with my* aunt

giles havergal



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Welcome to *TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT*, the second production of the 1996 International Season.

Graham Greene called *TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT* one of his "entertainment's", and in adapting the novel for the stage, Giles Havergal has embraced the author's sentiment. Greene's highly organised sense of sin remains deliciously intact, leaving us with a tough comedy about moral choice: "Is a life spent in amoral passion preferable to a conventionally moral one that never risks anything?" We cannot help but cheer Aunt Augusta along on her one-"woman" quest to drag her "nephew" into life. Her unquenchable thirst for experience, an "international amorality", is irresistibly attractive, (though perhaps we share more of Henry's Victorian restraint than Augusta's Romantic freedom). She is a force, not of nature, but of will and art. In *THREE TALL WOMEN*, Edward Albee posited that "anything less than dangerous participation is an absolute waste of some rather valuable time". Graham Greene, through Aunt Augusta, would wholeheartedly agree.

ATC welcomes some new faces to the *TRAVELS* creative team. Peter Hambleton and Ian Watkin are two of the country's most accomplished actors. Ian has been seen in Auckland in the Berkoff plays *KVETCH* and *GREEK*. He has just completed a sell-out season of *MARKET FORCES* in Wellington and will appear as Jim in the upcoming ATC production of the same name. Peter, probably best known as the rain-soaked owner of Fluffy the cat in that famous airline ad, has become one of Wellington's most popular actors through his regular appearances at Circa. He recently completed two smash-hit seasons of *ARCADIA* for Circa. We welcome him and Ian to the Company, and to Auckland. Completing the quartet is Raymond Hawthorne, fresh from his success as Director of *THREE TALL WOMEN*, and Ross Duncan, last seen as Michael, the narrator in *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*. This play sets a challenge for the actors: realise 24 different characters of all ages (and both genders) dressed only in a suit. These four can do it. We wish them all "Happy Travels". Behind the scenes, we welcome Melbourne-based director James Beaumont, and Wellington-based designer Dorita Hannah, who complete a first-class creative line-up.

ATC is indebted to our sponsors listed in the back of the programme, and especially thanks to Mercury Energy for its generous support as production sponsor for *TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT*. We gratefully acknowledge the continuing assistance of Creative New Zealand.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT is ATC's twelfth production. We are in the process of finalising plans for the rest of 1996 and 1997, which marks our 5th anniversary. Over the next nine months we hope to introduce new initiatives that will enhance your experience of a night at the theatre. Until then, we wish you "Happy Travels".

Here's to dangerous participation.



Simon Prast
PRODUCER

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Graham Greene was born in 1904 and educated at Berkhamsted School, where his father was headmaster. On coming down from Balliol College, Oxford, where he published a book of verse, he worked for four years as sub-editor on The Times. He established his reputation with his fourth novel, **Stamboul Train**, which he classed as an 'entertainment' in order to distinguish it from more serious work. In 1935 he made a journey across to Liberia, described in **Journey Without Maps**, and on his return was appointed film critic of the Spectator. In 1926 he had been received into the Roman Catholic Church and was commissioned to visit Mexico in 1938 and report on the religious persecution there. As a result he wrote **The Lawless Roads**, and later, **The Power and the Glory**.

Brighton Rock was published in 1938 and in 1940 he became literary editor of the Spectator. The next year he undertook work for the Foreign Office and was sent out to Sierra Leone in 1941-3. One of his major post-war novels, **The Heart of the Matter**, is set in West Africa and is considered by many to be his finest book. This was followed by **The End of the Affair**, **The Quiet American**, a story set in Vietnam, **Our Man in Havana** and **A Burnt-Out Case**. Many of his novels and short stories have been filmed and **The Third Man** was written as a film treatment. His other publications include **The Pleasure Dome** (1972), **The Honorary Consul** (1973), **An Impossible Woman**, **The Memories of Dottressa Moor of Capri** (edited 1975), **The Human Factor**, **Doctor Fischer of Geneva** or **The Bomb Party** (1980) **Monsignor Quixote** (1982) and **J'Accuse: The Dark Side of Nice** (1982). His first volume of autobiography was published in 1980. He was made a Companion of Honour in 1966.

Graham Greene died in 1991. Among the many people who paid tribute to him on his death were Kingsley Amis: 'He will be missed all over the world. Until today,



GRAHAM GREENE

he was our greatest living novelist; Alec Guinness: 'He was a great writer who spoke brilliantly to a whole generation. He was almost prophet-like with a surprising humility'; and William Golding: 'Graham Greene was in a class by himself ... He will be read and remembered as the ultimate chronicler of twentieth-century man's consciousness and anxiety'.

THE GENIUS OF GRAHAM GREENE

Travels With My Aunt is one of Graham Greene's lighter novels - what he called "entertainments". Yet it shares with his more serious work the same preoccupation's with the human condition and the spirit. He is

interested in sin and redemption, loyalty and its corruption, the squalor of ordinary life and the possibility of grace. His characters are always flawed - criminal, amoral or paralysed by an inertia of the soul. But to Greene, a left-wing Catholic with a muscular but unconventional theological perspective, the sinful is the sympathetic: Without sin there is no suffering, and without suffering there can be no genuine redemption. Greene's penetrating psychological insight was based on an extraordinary life that took him from Balliol College, Oxford to Liberia, Mexico, Sierra Leone and South East Asia. No wonder he writes of tyrants and despots with such authority, and no wonder he is so often listed among the favourite writers of journalists. His writing is also suffused with humour, is indelibly modern in that he has been influenced by the cinema and 20th Century events, and always exists to serve his themes, never for its own sake. Watching fusty Henry Pulling abandon his dreary suburban existence to be swept up in his aged aunt's twilight world of CIA agents, pot smokers and war criminals, one is forced to laugh, as well as to think. Not many writers achieve that as well as Greene.

Finlay Macdonald

GILES HAVERGAL - THE ADAPTOR

Giles Havergal, the long time director of the innovative and prestigious Glasgow Citizens Theatre, could not foresee the extent of the success of the theatrical creation he brought to life with his dramatisation of Graham Greene's masterpiece.

The earlier movie version centred on the role of the Mame-like Aunt Augusta, whereas in this instance, Giles considered the play would be faithful to Henry Pulling's journey.

Havergal's script presents audiences with a tour de force, where



four actors embrace the 24 characters, including a slaving wolfhound. And all four of them play Henry Pulling! The success of the play was both immediate and sustained. **Travels with my Aunt** toured the UK, before moving to The Lyric Hammersmith and subsequently the West End for two highly successful seasons. Australian producer, Gary Penny, recently presented a highly successful national tour of **Travels with my Aunt** throughout Australia.

JAMES BEAUMONT - Director



James studied Fine Arts & Drama in Victoria, Australia in 1974. He trained at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, N.I.D.A., Sydney 1975 and attended The Ensemble Theatre School in N.S.W. in 1977 in 1979 moved to Auckland studying with Theatre Corporate Drama School, in 1980. James has worked professionally in theatre since, initially as an actor, then as a playwright, director and designer. In 1990 he became Director-In-Residence at Taki Rua-Depot Theatre, and was awarded National Playwright-In-Residence in 1991. In late 1992 he returned to Australia.

James has won many Wellington Critic's Awards including Best Play, Best Design, Best New Play and Best Director for **WILD CABBAGE** (1985), Best Actor - **ROMEO & JULIET** (1986), Best Director & Best New Play - **BLACK HALO** (1988), Best Production, Best Director & Best Design **THE BITTER TEARS OF PETRA VON KANT** (1990) and Best Design for **THREE SISTERS** (1991).

Currently based in Melbourne, James last visit to New Zealand was in 1994 to direct the world premiere of an original opera **BITTER CALM** which was performed as part of the 1994 International Festival of the Arts in Wellington. **BITTER CALM** was the first professionally produced full length opera from New Zealand (Score by Christopher Blake and Libretto by Stuart Hoar).

DORITA HANNAH - Designer



Architecture and Theatre are two principle threads in Dorita's work, weaving through practice, teaching and research. A lecturer at Wellington's School of Architecture and Design, she began designing for theatre at the Mercury Theatre in 1985. After working in Melbourne, Italy and London, she returned to set up a multi-disciplinary design practice in 1990. Before moving to Wellington in 1993, Dorita designed **Shadowlands** (Mercury) and **Henry 8** (Theatre at Large).

Work in Wellington has included: **Farewell Speech**, **Lashings of Whipped Cream** (Circa) and **Henry 8** (Taki-Rua). More recently Dorita has designed **Na Tangata Toa**, **Swamp Dancing** and **Whaea Kairau: Mother Hundred Eater** for Taki Rua Bicultural Theatre

Company - Te Roopu Whakaari). **Nga Tangata Toa** won Best Costume Design - 1994 Wellington Theatre Awards, and the design was exhibited at the Prague Quadrennial in 1995.

Dorita designed costumes for **Ricordi**, which premiered in the 1996 Wellington International Festival of the Arts. Dorita is currently designing **The Visit** for Downstage, Wellington.

Committed to New Zealand Theatre and its exciting potential, Dorita runs a University course on Stage & Theatre Design and enjoys facilitating the involvement of students and graduates in the profession.

JOHN GIBSON - Composer

John Gibson has been writing original music for New Zealand theatre, film, television and dance for 25 years.

This year alone John has composed music for the major International Festival of the Arts production, **RICORDI**, based on the life of Katherine Mansfield; written a score for choreographer Shona McCullagh's new work which premieres at the Watershed Dance Festival, scored two short films **Crab Boy** and **Chameleon**; composed music for Auckland Theatre Company's **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT** and is Musical Director for the Watershed's **ASSASSINS**.

John is also currently writing an original opera with Peta Rutter and Carl Bland, commissioned by the Watershed and collaborating with English director Jonathon Elver in an outreach programme designed to assist school children to compose their own operas.

AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH GARY PENNY

P R E S E N T S

travels with my aunt

By GRAHAM GREENE

ADAPTED FOR STAGE BY GILES HAVERGAL

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28 Almeida Street, London N1 1TD

First Presented at the Citizen's Theatre Glasgow on 10 November 1989

and subsequently presented by Bill Kenwright at the Wyndhams Theatre London on 10 November 1992

New Zealand Premiere - Thursday May 23, 1996
Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre, Auckland

C A S T

RAYMOND HAWTHORNE
ROSS DUNCAN
PETER HAMBLETON
IAN WATKIN

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PRODUCTION MANAGER	TERESA SOKOLICH
STAGE MANAGER	ERIN EFFORD
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RAYMOND HAWTHORNE



Raymond Hawthorne trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (R.A.D.A.), London, from 1957-59. Prior to R.A.D.A., Raymond served his apprenticeship as an actor with the New Zealand Players for nearly 3 years. From 1959 to 1971 he worked in the UK as an actor, singer, director and tutor, frequently returning to R.A.D.A. to teach and direct.

In 1971 Raymond returned to New Zealand and worked at the Mercury as an actor/director. He played Andrei in Chekhov's **THREE SISTERS**, Jacques in **AS YOU LIKE IT**, and Sir Thomas Moore in **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS**.

In 1973 he formed Theatre Corporate and was Artistic Director for 8 years. In 1993 he played Sonia Davies' father in Gaylene Preston's mini-series **BREAD AND ROSES**. In 1994 Raymond directed **ANGELS IN AMERICA** for ATC and later that year played with great

success the role of Michael in **SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME**. Raymond last appeared on stage in the ATC production of **OLEANNA** in early 1995. Raymond has recently directed the hugely popular ATC production of Edward Albee's **THREE TALL WOMEN**.

ROSS DUNCAN



In 1971 Ross attended New Zealand Drama School in Wellington. In 1972 he became an apprentice Actor with Mercury Theatre. Between 1974 and 1980 Ross appeared in and directed many plays around New Zealand. In 1981 Ross joined Theatre Corporate not only conducting a full year performing in schools with the community theatre company but also appearing in such plays as **WAITING FOR GODOT**, **THREE SISTERS**, **KING LEAR**, **A WINTERS TALE** and **TOM & VIV**, plus many more.

Between 1986 - 92 Ross appeared in many Mercury Theatre productions such as, **BREAKING THE CODE**, **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**, **HAMLET**, **WEED**, **SINGLE SPIES**, **THE CRUCIBLE** and **SHADOWLANDS**.

Television appearances include: Hunters Gold, Kurt Vonnegut: Monkey House, Shortland Street, Marlin Bay, Plain Clothes, Hercules. And recent stage work My Fair Lady - Colonel Pickering, Daughters of Heaven (ATC - Watershed) and Ladies Night - Raging On, Michael in Dancing at Lughnasa (ATC - Herald Theatre, 1995).

PETER HAMBLETON



Peter graduated in 1981 from the New Zealand Drama School and has been one of Wellington's busiest stage actors in recent years.

During 1995 he toured with Tim Balme, Katie Wolfe and Michael Galvin in Ken Duncum's hugely popular **BLUE SKY BOYS**, then played Malvolio in Murray Lynch's **TWELFTH NIGHT**, partnered Brian Sergent in Harold Pinter's **MOONLIGHT**, and featured in two smash-hit seasons of Tom Stoppard's **ARCADIA** at Circa Theatre in Wellington.

Last year he won Best Supporting Male Actor at the New Zealand Film and Television Awards for his performance in the feature film **THE LAST TATTOO**, starring Kerry Fox and Rod Steiger. However, most television watchers will remember him as the rain-soaked owner of Fluffy the cat in the popular airline television commercial.

IAN WATKIN



Ian has performed extensively in theatre throughout New Zealand since 1970, with the latest plays including Berkoff's **EAST** and **KVETCH**, directed by Roger Morton, and even more recently the sell-out premiere season of the new Roger Hall smash-hit play **MARKET FORCES**, in Wellington.

Ian has appeared in many outstanding films including **SLEEPING DOGS**, **UTU**, **GOODBYE PORK PIE**, **JUST ME AND MARIO**, and **BRAINDEAD**. He has appeared in many television productions, including **CLOSE TO HOME**, **MARLIN BAY**, **SAVAGE PLAY**, **COUNTRY GP**, **WHITE FANG**, **ENID BLYTON SERIES**, **HERCULES** and **SHORTLAND STREET**.

Ian Watkin is also a writer of comedy and drama.

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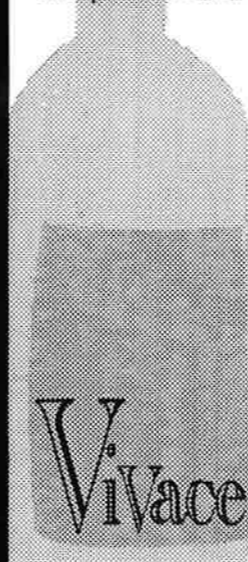
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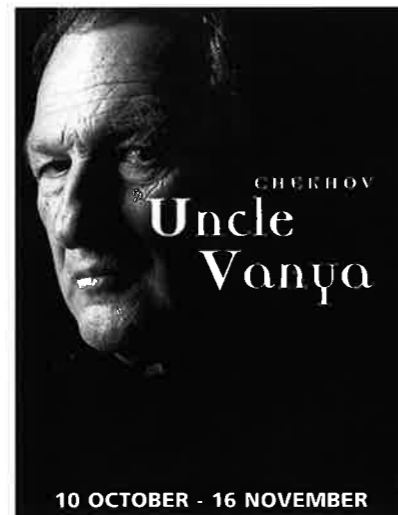
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