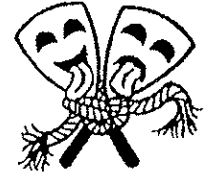


Frayed Knot Theatre Company Presents

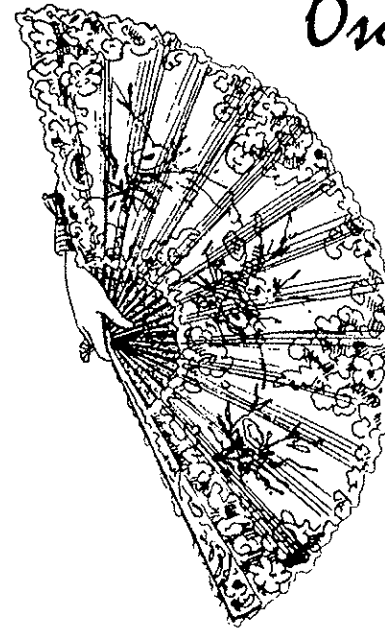


LADY WINDERMERE'S

*By
Oscar Wilde*

FAN

**April 17-20
2002**



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Frayed Knot Theatre Company

Welcome to the Court Theatre for our production of Lady Windermere's Fan. This is our second play as a company by Oscar Wilde, the former being *The Importance of being Earnest* five years ago. If this production is as well received as the earlier one we will be very happy - and so I hope will you as the audience.

2001 was a rather strange year for Frayed Knot. We started off with yet another Marreau play - the seventh to date (an eighth is planned for this November) - which got a particularly good review in *The Gazette* - but then the rest of the year was marked by difficulties in getting shows organised. The result was that for the first time in our history we only produced one play last year. Hopefully normal service has now been resumed.

With regards Lady Windermere's Fan, I would particularly like to thank Lindsay for her unstinting efforts in getting this production to the theatre. Having originally "signed up" simply to play the part of Mrs Erlynne, we asked her if she would consider directing the production when the original director found he was over committed. Not only did she take on this job with alacrity but she has imbued the entire production with her enthusiasm and determination. The fact that we have this show on at all is largely down to her efforts.

This praise of Lindsay however is not intended to take anything away from the cast, who I know have worked hard and intensively to bring you the performance that you will see tonight. The Company's thanks go as always therefore to everyone involved with this play, for their time, effort and dedication in bringing this show to the stage. Any production such as this involves a large number of people : Apart from the director and cast there are all those who rally round to find props and set requirements, the lighting, stage and front-of-house management, make-up, costumes etc. Every one of these "cogs in the machine" is essential, and though often overlooked their input is essential.

I would like to express my thanks to Matthew Homes Limited for sponsoring us again this year, and to our other advertisers for their contributions which help us to survive as a theatre company at a time of ever-increasing costs.

As always, I, the committee, cast and company hope that you thoroughly enjoy tonight's show. I hope that our interpretation of Wilde's work matches or exceeds your expectations. We look forward to seeing you at our next production - and hope that you will become a "Frayed Knot" regular.

Rob Farrow, Chairman
April 2002

Frayed Knot Theatre Company

presents

Lady Windermere's Fan

By Oscar Wilde

Previous Productions

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1991 | Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman
(co-production with Phoenix Theatre Company) |
| 1992 | Marreau and the African Moon |
| 1993 | Marreau and the Curse of Cardiff
D.F.C. / Moby Dick : Double Bill |
| 1994 | Marreau and the Bloody Carpet
Blithe Spirit |
| 1995 | Marreau and the Sword of Carthage
Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber |
| 1996 | Farndale Avenue Macbeth
Marreau and the Clouds of Death
Party Piece |
| 1997 | The Importance of Being Earnest
Knightsbridge / Never the Twain / Pastiche : Treble Bill
Farndale Avenue Christmas Carol |
| 1998 | Arsenic and Old Lace
A Murder Has Been Arranged
Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman (revisited) |
| 1999 | How the Other Half Loves
Trivial Pursuits |
| 2000 | Habeas Corpus
They came from Mars Farndale Avenue |
| 2001 | Requiem for Marreau |

Lady Windermere's Fan

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lady Windermere	Jackie Farrow
Rosalie	Kate Blanchard
Lord Darlington	Jeremy O'Gorman
Duchess of Berwick	Ginny Faber
Lady Agatha	Maxine Reece
Lord Windermere	Stephen J. Davies
Sir James Royston	John Ross
Mrs Cowper-Cowper	Claire McKnight
Lady Plymdale	Regina Dobbs
Mr. Hopper	Roger Hughes
Lady Stutfield	Rebecca Smith
Lady Jedburgh	Margaret Sabatini
Mr. Dumby	Andy Faber
Lord Augustus	John Waldram
Cecil Graham	Colin Garvey
Mrs. Erlynne	Lindsay Smith
Extras :	Evie Carter, Peter Carter, Betty Hutton

Lady Windermere's Fan

London 1928.

Act I : Morning-room in Lord Windermere's house.

Act II: Drawing-room in Lord Windermere's house.

An interval of approximately 20 minutes

Act III : Lord Darlington's room

Act IV: Morning-room in Lord Windermere's house.

The action of the play takes place within twenty four hours.

beginning on a Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock and ending the next day at 1.30pm

.....

Director's blurb.

Oscar whiled away many moments scribing pieces for the stage. There are several from which to choose. We could have done "The Duchess of Padua" – all the death and gloom of your standard grand opera (minus the music of course). Then there's "Salomé" – a truly comic little saga as we all know, or "Vera, or The Nihilists" – I think the title says it all - what was Oscar *on* when he penned these masterpieces of misery? There should be a government suicide warning on the title page of each one!. No, on balance I think Frayed Knot let you off lightly with 'Lady Windermere's Fan'.

It is often said that many writers only ever write one book or one play and you could be forgiven for dismissing 'Lady Windermere's Fan' as an early, less meaty version of 'An Ideal Husband' or 'A Woman of No Importance'. After all so many of the characters in 'Lady Windermere' appear in whole or in part in these later plays. However whilst it may lack some of the comedy of "The Importance of Being Earnest" and the weightiness and wit of those later pieces, it does have an appeal of its own.

Due to circumstances some of which were totally beyond this director's control one or two (or even more) liberties have been taken with this production. (Sorry Oscar, but 'needs must' – one simply could not handle one's lines without tripping oneself up over the number of times one referred to oneself -or everybody else - as 'one'! One apologises for one's high-handedness but there one is!) Hopefully -despite all such wanton interference – one hopes the piece retains its essential character and charm.

Lindsay Smith

Lady Windermere's Fan

For the production

Director	Lindsay Smith
Assistant Director	Ginny Faber
Producer	Rob Farrow
Stage Manager	Colin Hunt
Crew	Colin Hunt, Colin Winter, Mark Palmer, Josephine Betton
Make-up / Hair	Paint by Numbers
Lighting	Gary Stratton
Front-of-House Manager	Lynda Hunt
Wardrobe	Jean Byegate & Jean Bishop
Publicity & Posters	Image House
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Programme	Rob Farrow, printed by Almar

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Jackie Farrow (Lady Windermere)

This production marks Jackie's first major rôle since playing 13-year-old Tobias in "Sweeney Todd" nearly seven years ago. She can regularly be seen in Vale Gilbert & Sullivan productions, but a young family and work as a Radiographer keep her very busy. Other Frayed Knot productions with her husband Robert include some of the earlier Marreau plays, "A Murder has been arranged" and "Never the Twain"

Kate Blanchard (Rosalie)

Kate's first production in Tring was with Frayed Knot - as tab operator for Marreau & the Clouds of Death in 1996. Subsequently she went on to Stage Manage a couple of productions then produced F.K.'s previous Wilde play, "The Importance of being Earnest". She has been involved, acting and backstage in several other productions both for F.K. and other companies.

Jeremy O'German (Lord Darlington)

Jeremy's debut performance was in last year's "Requiem for Marreau". He has recently appeared in "The talented Mr. Ripley" but is better-known locally for his family pub connections !

Ginny Faber (Duchess of Berwick)

Although Ginny has appeared with many societies and is no stranger to the Court Theatre, "Lady Windermere's Fan" marks her debut with Frayed Knot. Ginny has played a wide variety of rôles, including Truvy in "Steel Magnolias", Barbara in "Billy Liar", Lady Macbeth in "Macbeth", The Witch in "Into the Woods", Nanny Ogg in "Wyrld Sisters" and Sarah in "Company".

Maxine Reece (Lady Agatha)

Maxine made her stage debut for Frayed Knot last year in "Requiem for Marreau" as Lily the Maid. Having performed in many TFC shows since the age of five starting with "Half a Sixpence". She is currently rehearsing for three TFC shows during this year's festival. She works as a Nursery Assistant in Wendover.

Stephen J. Davies (Lord Windermere)

Steve has played numerous rôles including John Proctor in "The Crucible", James Leeds ("Children of a Lesser God"), the MC in "Cabaret" - and the title rôle in "Barnum". He has sung with the London Philharmonic Choir for three years and is a graduate in Performing Arts. He has both directed and musically directed shows in Tring.

John Boss (Sir James Royston)

It is a rare occurrence to find a person for whom being cast in a play is contingent upon them having nothing to say. Before John would agree to take the part of Sir James Royston, we had to promise faithfully that he would not be prevailed upon, or be in any way coerced to give voice to a single syllable. We kept our promise.

Claire McKnight (Mrs. Cowper-Cowper)

Claire has lived in Tring for over ten years and has been actively involved in the following Phoenix, Frayed Knot and TFC productions : Pygmalion, Moby Dick, Sweeney Todd, Requiem for Marreau. Little Shop of Horrors. Hello Dolly and South Pacific.

Regina Dobbs (Lady Plymdale)

Regina has enjoyed participating in most of the Marraeus with Frayed Knot as well as memorably playing Helga in TFC's production "Allo 'Allo"

Roger Hughes (Mr. Hopper)

Roger has mainly appeared in musicals with Tring Festival Company and operettas with Vale G&S for whom he is currently rehearsing "The Gondoliers". This is his first production with Frayed Knot.

Rebecca Smith (Lady Stutfield)

Rebecca trod the boards for the first time at the age of six when she sang in Lilliput Opera's 'Hansel and Gretel'. She has performed in a number of musicals, plays and pantomimes over the years. More recently she has appeared in 'Richard III', 'Lysistrata' and 'Post Mortem' with Prospect Theatre.

Margaret Sabatini (Lady Jeddburgh)

In Margaret's own words she has been "involved in AmDram for many years, too many some would say". In that time she has done everything from dogsbody to director and played the full gamut of parts from old lady to harlot ! She has appeared in several Frayed Knot productions and has produced, directed and starred in a play she co-wrote herself.

Andy Faber (Mr. Dumby)

Andy has appeared with many societies playing hugely diverse rôles in a wide variety of shows - ranging from musicals to panto, and farce to Shakespeare. Amongst his favourites are the title rôles in "Macbeth", "Richard III" and "Mort"

John Waldram (Lord Augustus)

This is John's second performance with F.K. He is a familiar face to many having appeared in the Pendley Shakespeare Season for 25 years. His other comedy rôles include "Oklahoma", "Wind in the Willows", "Oh what a Lovely War" and "Kiss Me Kate"

Colin Garvey (Cecil Graham)

A newcomer to F.K., Colin is nonetheless an experienced actor having performed in plays since he was 12. Previous rôles include parts in "Stags & Hens", "The Rivals", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Wyrd Sisters" and numerous others.

Lindsay Smith (Mrs Eryllyne)

Lindsay has performed with a number of operatic and dramatic societies in the area over the years. She's been 'the old bag' in more Gilbert and Sullivan operettas than she cares to remember, she has played various roles for the Aylesbury Opera company and more recently has turned her hand to plays. Recent 'outings' include Comedy Night for the Tring Fringe, M'Lynn Eatenton in "Steel Magnolias", Ruth in "Broadway Pirates" and Tyrell in "Richard III". Lindsay also writes and performs her own material on a professional basis including musicals working with children and has acted as musical director with various adult companies. This however, is her first (and unintended) effort at directing at Pendley.

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