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GRASS  
ROOTS

COURT THEATRE

AT  
PENDLEY  
TRING

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD  
FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

ONE  
MAN  
TWO  
GUVNORS



20-23 April

£8-£12 8pm

Saturday Matinee

2.30pm

BY RICHARD BEAN



The Grass Roots Court Theatre,  
Station Road, Tring, Herts HP23 5QY

**TICKETS**

[www.courttheatre.co.uk](http://www.courttheatre.co.uk)

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# History of Commedia dell'arte

Commedia dell'arte originated mid-16th Century in Italy with companies travelling with ten or so players. They performed stock characters that were instantly recognisable and drawn from the levels of status within society. Characters were driven by basic human desires such as hunger, greed, sex, love etc. All the emotions that are still alive within us today and still instantly recognisable with all the foibles attached and that is why it is as funny today as it ever was.

Go to the National Theatre website for a full explanation and list of Commedia characters. A video film by Didi Hopkins – an inspiring authority on the genre – explains it wonderfully and there is everything you could possibly want to know about the making of this play.

An example of a classic Commedia dell'arte scenario "Zanni and the walnuts"  
Commedia companies were run by the actors in the company. They were very democratic and performances were based around a stock set of very specific scenes. Zanni and the walnuts is just one example of a classic scene with the potential for the actors to devise a huge amount of comic character business from the scenario.

Scene 1. Master enters very excited with the letter that has just arrived. He opens it and reads it and shares it with us. It goes from good news to bad. He is beside himself. Calls servant. Enter servant and the master gets him to deliver a box of pickled walnuts to the woman who lives over the hill. Exit master.

Scene 2. Servant goes off but gets tempted on way to eat one walnut. Then another and another in inventive ways until there are none left and suddenly the servant is scared of what he has done, so hides the evidence or destroys it and goes back home to the master – ready to lie. At that moment....

Scene 3. The master enters, looking for the servant, out of breath and asks if he has delivered the walnuts.

"Yes," says the servant, "and I'm on my way home."

"Did she eat them?!"

"Yes," says the servant, "And her husband and the mayor and the mayor's wife."

At each answer from the servant, the master gets more and more agitated and upset and is convinced that he will be hung drawn and quartered.

"Why?" asks the servant.

"Because the walnuts were poisoned and she will die and so will the others," replied the master.

At which point the servant starts laughing. The master begins to describe what will happen to the woman – her eyes will pop out, her throat will get tight, she will start to lose her tongue.... As he goes through the horrid description, the same things start to happen to the servant. Eventually the master realises that the servant ate the walnuts and now he has the upper hand. Will the master give the antidote for the poison to the servant or will he make him suffer further as punishment?

## Cast

Charlie 'The Duck' Clench	Malcolm Emms
Pauline Clench	Jo Wright
Harry Dangle	Steve Berry
Alan Dangle	Ben Churchill
Dolly	Becky Knight
Lloyd	Derek Rookley
Francis Henshall	Dan Clucas
Rachel Crabbe	Lucy Palmer
Stanley Stubbers	Alex Chard
Alfie	Liam Burgoyne
Gareth	Callum Harbour
Ensemble	Susannah Bance; Roger Emery; Malcolm Stubbs

## Background

The original National Theatre production of this show is an adaptation of *One Servant Two Masters*, written by Goldoni in 1740s and set in Florence. *One Man Two Guvnors* is set in Brighton and keeps much of the original. High status characters from Goldoni's world such as the aristocracy are replaced with 1960s London and Brighton gangsters, who although not posh still have the power of life and death over low status characters such as servants.

Commedia is the source of great comedy throughout the ages: influencing Shakespeare, restoration comedy, Chaplin, Marx brothers, classic and current TV sitcoms: wherever there is a master/servant scenario. (Think Basil Fawlty and Manuel!!!)



**Susannah Bance:** Ensemble  
Susannah holds a LAMDA  
Acting Award and works  
with theatre classes for 5-  
10 year olds. Last year's

Court Theatre appearances  
included "Jesus Christ Superstar" and as  
Kitty in "Murder To Remember". Susannah  
plans to continue formal study of the  
Performing Arts at college, and hopes you  
enjoy the show.



**Steve Berry:** Harry Dangle  
Harry Dangle is another in  
a long line of quirky  
characters that Steve has  
enjoyed playing over the  
years, including Troy in  
Jerusalem, Flashheart in

Blackadder Goes Forth and Angus in  
Neville's Island. Steve is a member of the  
Court Theatre Board and is Tring's Town  
Crier!



**Liam Burgoyne:** Alfie  
Liam has been performing  
since age 7, taking part in  
clubs such as D.F.L (Drama  
For Life) and Blag Youth  
Theatre. Now a full time  
musician, Liam teaches

drums at JohntheDrumSchool in Chesham  
and was inspired to perform as Alfie  
after seeing Peter Caulfield in the role  
at the Haymarket.



**Alex Chard:** Stanley  
Stubbers

Alex is a frequent  
performer around the  
Berkhamsted and Tring  
area, having taken leading

roles in Jesus Christ Superstar with TFC.  
He has also appeared in Assassins and  
Macbeth at the Minack Theatre,  
Penzance. Alex is currently on his gap  
year in which he has been auditioning for  
various drama schools around the country.



**Ben Churhill:** Alan Dangle  
Having only recently left  
school, I am planning on  
studying acting in 2017. To  
date, playing Raleigh  
(Journey's End) is the  
highlight of my amateur

acting career. Acting's what I love - and  
it's all I can envisage doing in the future.



**Dan Clucas:** Francis  
Henshall

Recent roles at the Court  
include Dan in "Punk Is Not  
Dead" and the Major in  
"The Ladykillers". Direction  
credits include, "See How

They Run", "The History Boys" and "Hang  
On A Minute Lads I've Got a Great Idea".  
Earlier this year he played Charles in  
"Blithe Spirit" for HHTC and last year  
wrote and directed the Limelight Theatre  
pantomime in Aylesbury.



**Roger Emery:** Ensemble  
Roger has taken part in a  
number of Frayed Knot  
productions, including The  
Titfield Thunderbolt,  
Guards! Guards!, Alice's  
Adventures and Jeffrey

Bernard is Unwell. In this production he  
has three parts, (one with words), not as  
many as in Jeffrey B where he managed  
thirteen or so, (all with speech!)



**Malcolm Emms: Charlie Clench**

Malcolm was cast as the Tin Man aged 13 and it got right under his skin.

Producing credits include Revolting Rhymes. Writing credits include Beauty and the Beast, The Frog Prince, Rumpelstiltskin. Touring credits include Silly Cow, The Dumb Waiter. Recently known for playing Dr Bradman in Blithe Spirit.

Spirit at HHTC. Tonight Lucy plays a bloke. With a flick knife. Enjoy!



**Derek Rookley: Lloyd Boeting**

Derek is happy to be back in the Frayed Knot fold once more having been in previous productions including Neville's Island,

See How They Run, Guards! Guards!, The Titfield Thunderbolt, Hang on a minute Lads I've Got a Great Idea and lastly Journey's End. His next production is in August, when he marries...Love you Julie xxx



**Malcolm Stubbs: Ensemble Malcolm** first trod Pendley's boards in 1983, appearing in numerous pantos, musicals and the famous Pendley t.v.comedies, playing Herr

Flick in "Allo! Allo!", corporal Jones in "Dad's Army" and Mr. McKay in "Porridge". Now happy to do the odd small part such as Marley's ghost in "Christmas Carol".



**Jo Wright: Pauline Clench** Jo has thoroughly enjoyed a reconnection with her dramatic roots over the last few years. This year, as well as appearing in Othello, Into the Woods,

Blythe Spirit and Beauty and the Beast, Jo is proud to have assisted direction of the youth production of Jesus Christ Superstar. Jo is looking forward to her first experience of Frayed Knot, playing the somewhat 'intellectually challenged' character of Pauline, difficult as it's so far removed from her actual personality!!



**Callum Harbour: Gareth** My name is Callum and this is my first production with Frayed Knot. I am looking forward to playing the part of Gareth and have had a great time

rehearsing for the show. Can't wait to perform it after having had a break from shows for a while.



**Becky Knight: Dolly** Becky has been involved in a number of productions in Tring, from 'Alfie' to 'Oliver', 'Stepping Out' to 'Alice's Adventures'. She has particularly enjoyed

being part of the One Man Two Guvnor's cast and playing the part of Dolly, despite her distinct lack of secretarial skills!



**Lucy Palmer: Rachel Crabbe**

Lucy has a BA in Drama, Film & Television and has been involved in am dram locally for years. Recent appearances at The Court

Theatre include Fawltly Towers (as Polly) Bedroom Farce, Jerusalem and Blithe

## Director's Notes

Frayed Knot Theatre Company is delighted to be able to bring to you *One Man Two Guvvors*. Frayed Knot owes its existence to the extremely talented Rob Farrow who set up the company to unleash upon the world his own plays what he wrote featuring the comedy adventures of the famous French detective Marreau. It is from that foundation that the company has in recent years produced other plays with great success, mostly directed by the also extremely talented Naomi Glasser. Shows include, *The 39 Steps*, *Jerusalem*, *Journey's End* and *The Ladykillers*.

I hope that you will enjoy this show as much as all our other successes. As ever, this production could not

possibly have gone ahead without all the amazing help that goes on back stage and behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone involved in designing and making the set, the lighting and sound, props, costumes, marketing and the music! You know who you are - unsung heroes.

Thanks also go to those people 400 years ago who started doing Commedia dell'arte, providing the basis for so much of the comedy that we have enjoyed today and through the ages. It is because of them that this play is so much fun. Rehearsals have been a laugh. Thank you cast and crew for making it such fun too. Enjoy the show!

## Crew

Director	Dan Clucas	Thanks also go to:
Co-Producers	Sarah Amsden Claire Blanchard	Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company <a href="http://www.hhtheatreco.com">www.hhtheatreco.com</a>
Set design	Bruce Sherring-Lucas Paul Stratford	Caroline Colebrook Tring Arts Trust
Stage Manager	Claire Blanchard	Dave Reece
Stage crew, hair and make up	Joyce Miller, Rosie Toner-Blanchard, Ellyse Armstrong and cast	Matt Palmer Simon Blanchard at Image House Tim Amsden
Lights	Chris Cooper	Beechwood Fine Foods Rob Farrow
Sound	Nick Cooper	All our friends who have helped with
Box office	David Wells	building, painting and dressing the set.

# FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY - OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS



- 1991 Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman
- 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 Farnedale Avenue ... Macbeth & Marreau And The Clouds Of Death
- 1997 The Importance Of Being Earnest & Knightsbridge/Never The Twain/  
Pastiche: *Treble Bill*
- 1998 Arsenic And Old Lace & Farnedale Avenue ... Christmas Carol
- 1999 How The Other Half Loves & A Murder Has Been Arranged
- 2000 Habeas Corpus & Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman
- 2001 Requiem For Marreau & Trivial Pursuits
- 2002 Lady Windemere's Fan & Farnedale Avenue ... They Came  
From Mars
- 2003 Saving Ardley & Marreau And The Tregalleon  
Inheritance
- 2004 Marreau And The Terror Of Tring & Fish Out Of Water
- 2005 Lend Me A Tenor & A Tomb With A View
- 2006 The Full Monty & Neville's Island
- 2007 An Inspector Calls & See How They Run
- 2008 Black Comedy/Darlings,  
You Were Wonderful!: *Double Bill* & Guards, Guards
- 2009 The History Boys & The Titfield Thunderbolt
- 2010 Glengarry Glen Ross & Marreau And The Grey Dagger  
& Damages
- 2011 The 39 Steps & The Rise & Fall Of Little Voice  
& Hang On A Minute Lad's I've  
Got A Great Idea
- 2012 Talking Heads & Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell
- 2013 Jerusalem
- 2014 Marreau And The Killer Rabbit & Journey's End
- 2015 The Ladykillers & Dirty Dusting
- 2016 Oscar





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