

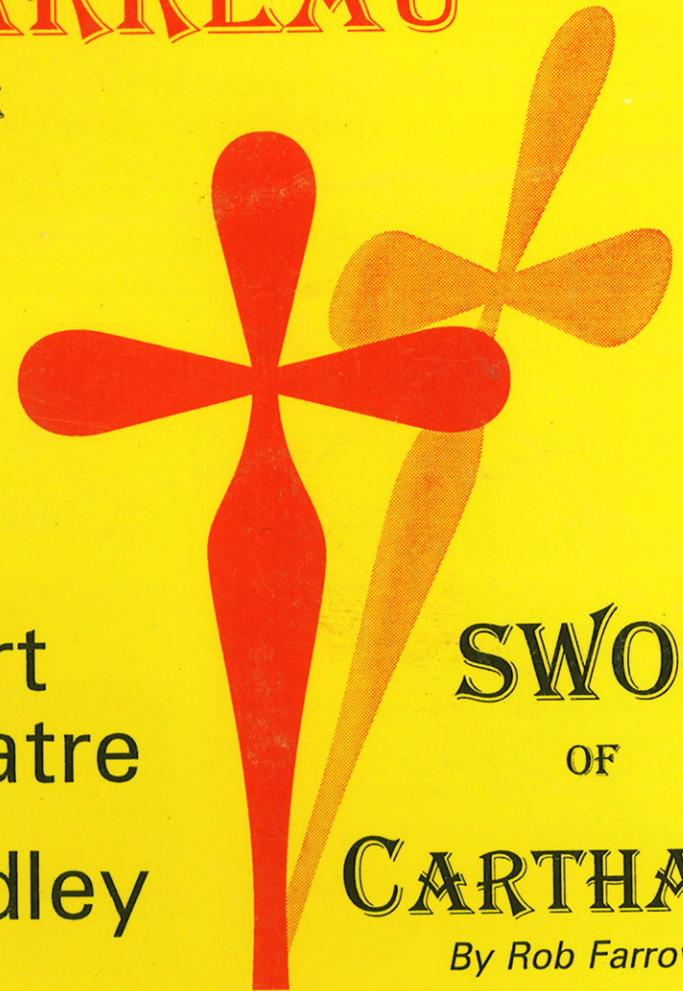


Frayed Knot Theatre Company *Presents*

**MARREAU**

AND THE

The  
Court  
Theatre  
  
Pendley



**SWORD**  
OF

**CARTHAGE**  
*By Rob Farrow*

26th - 29th April 1995

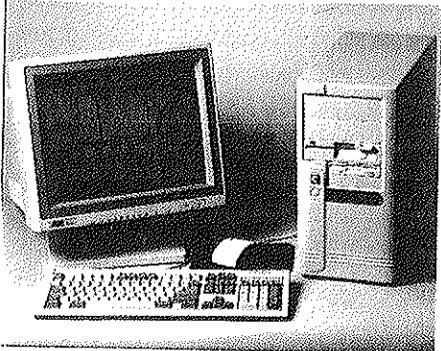
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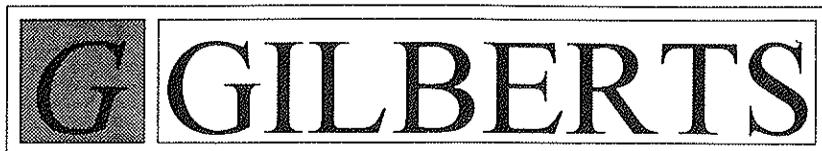


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**Frayed Knot Theatre Company**

every success  
with their production of

**MARREAU**

AND THE

**SWORD OF**

**CARTHAGE**

*Perhaps there may be a rôle for us in  
"Marreau and the Clouds of Death"  
as accountants to Simon Simpson Esq.*

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# Frayed Knot Theatre Company

## A Brief History

Frayed Knot Theatre Company was established in 1991 and is therefore now in its fifth year. A lot has happened in those five years and the company has come a long way. Our name has caused some interest - and a number of spelling mistakes - not to mention enquiries about its origin. Apart from the obvious pun, the "frayed" refers to our intention to perform some plays of the "Coarse Acting" genre - of which **Moby Dick** is to date our only example, while the "knot" signifies an amalgamation of people from a number of other companies, towns and villages.

The Tring area is remarkably well endowed with Amateur Dramatic societies and the nascent Frayed Knot had to work hard to establish itself. As we were an unknown company with very little working capital, customary wisdom may have suggested that our best course of action was to perform a very well-known play to attract the largest possible audience - 'fraid not! The at-that-time unnamed Frayed Knot performed **Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman** an unknown play by an unknown author - with the help of Phoenix Theatre Company. The first performance being at Marsworth Village Hall, to an audience of about fifteen. The play was well received and the cast enjoyed performing it and so it was decided that the sequel, **African Moon** would be the next production. Frayed Knot produced this in Spring 1992 as the company's first solo venture. 1993 was an important year for the company, firstly because we performed two shows in the year, secondly because we performed our first "Course Acting" play, and thirdly because we were able to put the show on at Pendley, something which would have been financially unthinkable a couple of years before. In 1994, as well as the now customary **Marreau**, we staged our first well-known play **Blithe Spirit**. The company is continuing to grow steadily, along I am pleased to say with our audience figures which have increased with every show. We are hoping to increase our shows per year to three quite soon and eventually to four. I hope you will become one of our regular viewers and enjoy tonight's and all our future shows.

Rob Farrow, Chairman.

### Our Next Production

SWEENEY TODD, THE DEMON BARBER

Blood, Gore & much, much more!

The Court Theatre, Pendley, Tring.  
November 15th - 18th

## Frayed Knot Theatre Company

presents

### MARREAU AND THE SWORD OF CARTHAGE

A detective comedy by  
Rob Farrow

#### Previous Productions

1991

Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman

(A 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

#### Current & Future Productions

1995

Marreau and the Sword of Carthage  
Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber

1996

Marreau and the Clouds of Death  
Second show yet to be decided

## Marreau and the Sword of Carthage

### The Cast

<b>Hemlock Marreau</b>	The famous continental detective	<b>Colin Bryer</b>
<b>Simon Simpson</b>	His trusted friend	<b>Graham Double</b>
<b>Gwendolyn Smith</b>	Marreau's former assistant	<b>Jenny Booth</b>
<b>"New Mexico" Smith</b>	Her husband of a few months	<b>Nigel Froment</b>
<b>Havelock</b>	The butler	<b>Peter Cherry</b>
<b>Mrs. Scrimp</b>	The cook	<b>Linda Clayden</b>
<b>George "Bunny" Hopper</b>	An acquaintance of Mexi & Simpson	<b>Richard Uttley</b>
<b>Holly Jenkins</b>	A friend of Bunny's	<b>Maria Cook</b>
<b>Polly Cartwright</b>	Another friend of Bunny's	<b>Jacqui Hildreth</b>
<b>Dolly Tindle</b>	Yet another friend of Bunny's	<b>Belinda Rose</b>
<b>Gerald Harris</b>	An acquaintance of Mexi	<b>Stephen Gilson</b>
<b>Victor Pemberton</b>	An acquaintance of Mexi	<b>Ian Wells</b>
<b>Deirdre Pemberton</b>	Victor's wife	<b>Vi Malcolm</b>
<b>HRH the Prince of Wales</b>	The future Edward VIII	<b>Wayne MacLaughlin</b>
<b>Dr. Protheroe</b>	The ubiquitous doctor	<b>Terry Baker</b>
<b>Chief Constable Farmer</b>	Promoted to the top job	<b>Robert Farrow</b>

*Written & Directed by* **Rob Farrow**

*Produced by* **Rob & Jackie Farrow**

*Stage Manager* **Johann Meadows**

*Lighting* **Jeff Yates**

*Publicity* **Colin Bryer**

## Marreau and the Sword of Carthage

### Scenes

**ACT I Scene 1** *Mexi & Gwendolyn's Home : Mid Morning*

**ACT I Scene 2** *The Same : A little later*

**ACT I Scene 3** *The Same : Later still*

== Interval of 20 minutes ==

**ACT II Scene 1** *Still at Mexi & Gwendolyn's Home : Somewhat later*

**ACT II Scene 2** *.... and a bit later*

**ACT II Scene 3** *.... later still !*

### Director's Note

*Welcome to this, the fifth - and penultimate - Marreau story; which finds Marreau and Simpson visiting their erstwhile colleague, Gwendolyn at the home she has made with New Mexico Smith, the American adventurer she met in The Curse of Cardiff. As well as these four familiar faces, this episode sees the return of both Dr. Protheroe and Havelock, the stately butler from African Moon.*

*To those of you who have seen previous Marreau's, I hope you enjoy this one as much and thank-you for your continued support; to newcomers I hope you find it an entertaining evening and that you too will become Frayed Knot regulars.*

*One thing is for sure, you should at least be more comfortable than for any of our former shows, thanks to the excellent new seating which has been installed by Grass Roots. To think that just three years ago, Pendley was "dark" and no shows were possible here, the existence and improvement of this excellent theatre is an asset to the town and the area which should not be underestimated. Our thanks, as a small local theatre company go to everyone who has helped bring this about - particularly Grass Roots and Tring Arts Council. I am sure you will agree with these sentiments.*

**Rob Farrow**

## About the cast

**Colin Bryer** *Colin has made the part of Marreau his own, which is just as well because nobody else would be prepared to take on that many lines in such a silly accent !*

*He also directed Moby Dick for us, and is a regular with Pendley Theatre Company.*

**Graham Double** *No-one throws themselves into a Marreau production more violently than Graham ! Simpson, the kindly nincompoop, seems to be a part he readily associates with.*

**Jenny Booth** *Jenny has been in every F.K. show to date. It is to be hoped that she is indeed Gwendolyn in this production as she isn't due back from Florida until the Dress Rehearsal !*

**Nigel Froment** *Anyone who witnessed Nigel's portrayal of Percy Vere in the last Marreau will be interested to find that he survived the experience moderately unscathed ! This adventure finds him returning to the rôle of "Mexi" the amorous American of Curse of Cardiff.*

**Peter Cherry** *Peter has acted with many local theatre companies in dozens of plays over the years, including all five Marreaus to date and D.F.C., one can only assume that he is a glutton for punishment ! In this show he makes a welcome return as Havelock the butler.*

**Linda Clayden** *A regular of Festival and Vale G&S productions, we were pleased to welcome Linda onto the cast of the last Marreau. Undaunted by her experience here she is again !*

**Richard Uttley** *It's been a little while since Richard was last in a Marreau, though he made a very sturdy if somewhat unsteady Captain Ahab in our production of Moby Dick !*

**Maria Cook** *Maria's most famous performance at Pendley was undoubtedly when she accidentally removed her own dress (to wild cheering) when supposedly the arch-baddy in a melodrama. With that kind of pedigree, she is of course a Frayed Knot natural.*

**Jacqui Hildreth** *Jacqui has not only been involved in everything we've done since she joined Frayed Knot to do Moby Dick, but has even volunteered to be our Social Secretary - brave girl !*

**Belinda Rose** *Blithe Spirit saw Belinda in the rôle of Edith the maid, she was also in Moby Dick. Many of you may also have seen her attempting resuscitaion in T.F.C.'s Abigail's Party.*

**Stephen Gilson** *We are very pleased to see Stephen in a Marreau again after a year's absence - during which time he was Lord High Everything Else in Vale's production of The Mikado*

**Ian Wells** *Having played Marreau's bete-noir, Maurice Hearty in the last play, Ian seems to be specialising in playing baddies ! Ian also directed our production of Blithe Spirit.*

**Vi Malcolm** *Blithe Spirit involved Vi in her biggest rôle to date with Frayed Knot as Ruth. Vi has also been in every Marreau, including being Gwendolyn's officious replacement.*

**Wayne MacLaughlin** *Wayne has been very busy doing one man shows all over the place including Edinburgh Fringe. We are very pleased he found time for this cameo rôle.*

**Terry Baker** *Terry made his debut with Frayed Knot as Quequeg in Moby Dick. This is only his second show with us, this time playing the ubiquitous Dr. Protheroe of Marreaus passim.*

**Rob Farrow** *Rob, who also writes and directs the Marreaus (more fool him) became a daddy just two weeks before the first night, when his wife Jackie gave birth to little Edward.*

*Co-incidentally, Jackie's rôle in the last Marreau involved her being pregnant ....*

## Frayed Knot Theatre Company

Why not join us ?

We're on the look out for

Actors

Actresses

Those technically minded

Back-stage crew

A warm welcome awaits anybody who fancies getting involved

We have lots of interesting ideas for the future, but would like more members

Previous experience in Theatre is not required

Why not give one of us a ring

Membership is only £5.00 a year

Here are a few phone numbers

Rob & Jackie Farrow (01442) 824318 {Home} (01707) 655550 {Work}

Colin Bryer (01296) 668033 {Home} (01525) 370013 {Work}

Graham Double (01442) 825422 {Work}

Regina Dobbs (01442) 826324 {Home}



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**THEATRE COMPANY**

every success with their production of

**MARREAU**

and the

**SWORD OF CARTHAGE**