

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE  
NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

Presents

IT'S THE 'BRITS' LAID BARE  
-LIKE SEASIDE-POSTCARDS!



# HABEAS CORPUS

A Comedy by: ALAN BENNETT

Directed by: JON TARLTON



February 26th - March 7th 92

1992



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-LIKE SEASIDE-POSTCARDS!





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## **JON TARLTON - (Director)**

I was keenly involved in theatre at school (Oakham School in the now defunct country of Rutland), where my enthusiasm led me to not only act and direct but also to study stage design (as part of my 'A' Level art course).

I started work in professional theatre in 1970 and worked both as an actor and in stage management. I began directing in 1974 at the Theatre Royal in Lincoln and, after six productions there, left to join the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry as a resident director. In the three years I worked at Coventry I directed productions as diverse as "Hamlet" and "Endgame" at one end of the spectrum, and devised entertainments to be performed in clubs and pubs at the other. During the 1980s I have worked as a free lance director. Since that time I have directed productions across the length and breadth of the British Isles including "Joking Apart" at Milford Haven in Wales, "St. Patrick's Day" for the David Theatre, Galway, in the West of Ireland, for productions at the Edinburg Festival in Scotland and many productions in London and other parts of England.

This is my fourth production for the Nairobi City Players, the others being the pantomimes of the last three years. "Robinson Crusoe", "Sleeping Beauty" and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves"



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## **A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s**

Moira and Jim Turner for Director's accommodation

Esquire Ltd. for hire of costumes

Greengates School for rehearsal facilities

The Manager and staff of Kenya National Theatre

Nairobi City Players are grateful to all those people and organisations who gave assistance after this programme went to press

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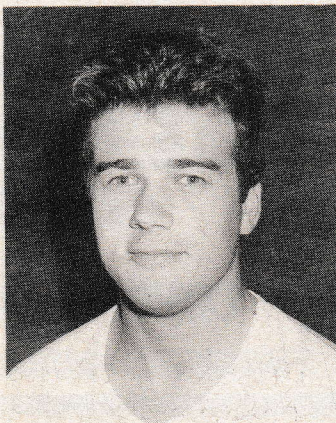
## **MIK MAGNUSSON - (Arthur Wicksteed)**



Mik Magnusson trained in drama at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music (drama department) in Glasgow. He was a founder member of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh where he stage managed a number of productions including "Huis Clos", "Two for the Seesaw" and "Tales of New York". He has also appeared in Restoration Comedy at the Citizen's Theatre in Glasgow and in Shakespeare in Iceland. He spent a season at Dundee Repertory Theatre and appeared in the Royal Command production of "Rob Roy" at the Edinburgh Festival. He has appeared as an actor in numerous television plays in Britain and in a number of films. He has been involved in directing since 1966 with productions including "Charly's Aunt", "The Fire Raisers" "The Mousetrap", "Murder in the Cathedral", "Major Barbara", etc. He also devised and directed a cabaret-theatre style dinner-theatre show which ran for fourteen years. He has also worked in television documentaries. He returned to the theatre proper in last year's NCP Production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

## **JENNY DUNNET - "Muriel Wicksteed"**

Jenny Dunnet comes from a theatrical family in Dorset, England. She has appeared in many productions in the UK, including Principal Girl and Principal Boy in pantomime. One of her most successful productions in England was "Judith Bliss" in Noel Coward's "Hay Fever". While in Cairo her productions in dinner-theatre included "Billy Liar", "Tomb with a View", "Someone Waiting", "Absurd Person Singular", "The Wizard of Oz" and many revues. During her one year back in Nairobi, after twenty-one years, she has appeared in "Halfway up the Tree" for Phoenix Players and in "Fiddler on the Roof" for NCP.



## **JIM PYWELL - (Dennis Wicksteed)**

Jim Pywell is a relative newcomer to the Nairobi theatre scene, his interest stemming from a number of production he took part in while still at school. Last year he appeared as "Motel" in NCP's "Fiddler on the Roof" and also directed the musical "Tin Pan Ali" at Starehe Boys' Centre. Jim is an excellent musician and plays in many of the Nairobi Orchestra concerts and recitals.



# HABEAS

A Comedy by: AD

THE

In order of

Music arranged and played by  
**NIGEL KYNASTON**

Arthur Wicksteed, a General Practitioner  
Muriel Wicksteed, his wife  
Dennis Wicksteed, their son  
Constance Wicksteed, the doctor's sister  
Mrs. Swabb, a cleaning lady  
Canon Throbbing, a celibate  
Lady Rumpers, a Colonial lady  
Felicity Rumpers, her daughter  
Mr. Shanks, a sales representative  
Sir Percy Shorter,  
a leading light in the medical profession  
Mr. Purdue, a sick man

The action takes place in and around the

DIRECTED BY

Stage

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# S CORPUS

y: ALAN BENNET

## THE CAST

In order of appearances

Practitioner	MIK MAGNUSSON
	JENNY DUNNET
	JIM PYWELL
Doctor's sister	RUTH SHERWIN
	WENDY PENROSE
	ROGER CORFIELD
dy	CHRISTINE DAVIS
er	CAROL COX
ntative	LESLIE CARDILLO
	ANDY KEOGH
profession	GERRY McCRUDDEN

Choreography by  
**WENDY PENROSE**

d around the Wickstead's house in Hove, England

CTED BY: JON TARLTON

Stage Manager

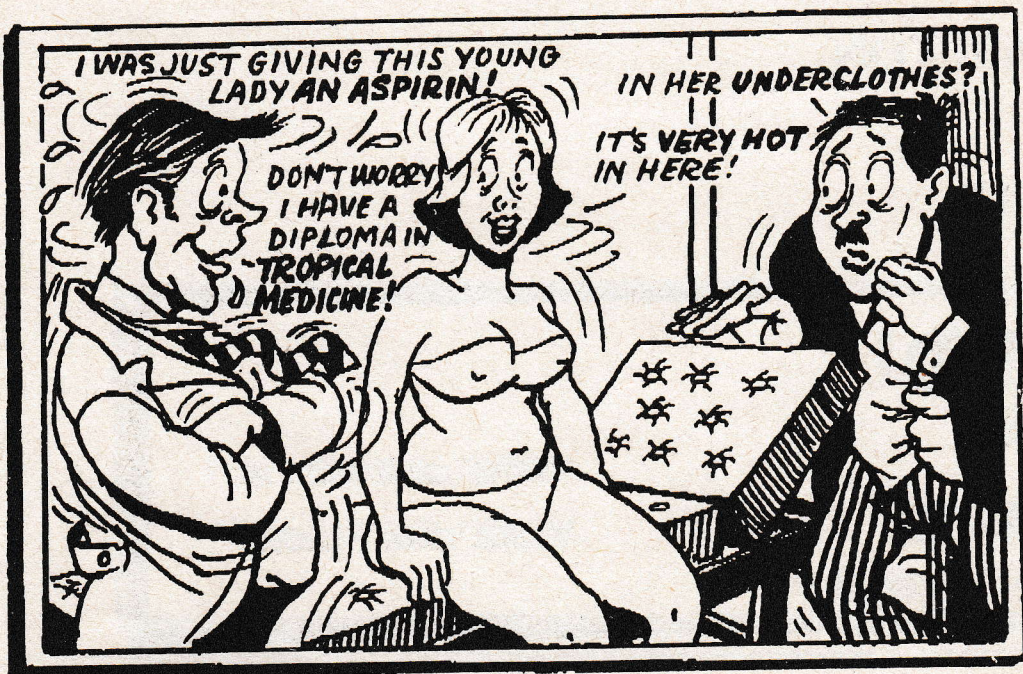
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## **RUTH SHERWIN - (Constance Wickstead)**

Ruth says "This is the third show I have done with Nairobi City Players and all of the parts I have played for them have been very different. I was the middle-aged, affected, finicky "Vera" in "Stepping Out" (1990); a romantic young bride in "Fiddler on the Roof" (1991); and now I've degenerated into a drab, flat-chested maiden aunt in this play! Not an ego trip, this part!

## **WENDY PENROSE -(Mrs. Swabb)**

Wendy Penrose has considerable experience in theatre in the UK as a dancer, singer and actress with many appearances on stage, television and in concerts and cabaret. Since her arrival in Kenya some six and a half years ago she has taken part in a total of no less than thirty productions with Nairobi City Players, Lavington Players, Braeburn and Phoenix Players. Truly an outstanding contribution to theatre in Nairobi which included some very fine and memorable performances. Wendy says "I wish to say a very big 'thank you' to Peter and my daughter Niki for their tolerance and understanding and for doing without me through all those long evenings of rehearsals and performances"



## **ROGER CORFIELD - (Canon Throbbing)**



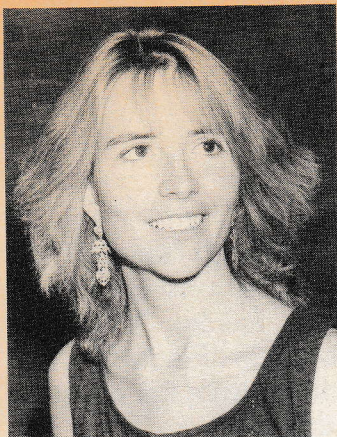
Roger Corfield started acting whilst at Kenton college in Kenya in the 1950s and continued at school and agricultural college in England. Returning to Kenya from studies abroad he was involved in a number of productions including "La Serva Padrona" and "A Servant of Two Masters" for the Donovan Maule Theatre; "Hedda Gabler" and "Murder with Love" for the Theatre Group; "The Beggars' Opera" at Kenya National Theatre; "the Odd Couple" (twice, in 1983 and 1989) for Phoenix Players; "The Fantasticks" and "Cinderella" for Nairobi City Players; "Old Time Music Hall" at the Norfolk Hotel.

## **CHRISTINE DAVIS - (Lady Rumpers)**

Christine Davis arrived in Nairobi in 1980 and in that year played in two productions, "The Beaux Stratagem" and in "Crown Matrimonial" for Nairobi City Players. Since then she says that her only productions have been two sons and her only dramas two car accidents and seven operations. Welcome back to the boards, Christine!





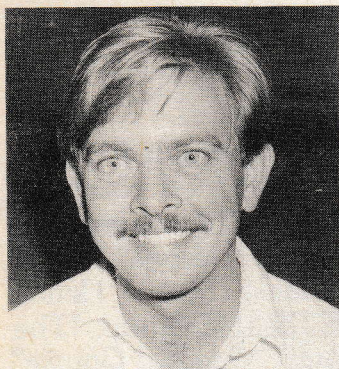


## **CAROL COX -(Felicity Rumpers)**

Carol Cox has been in Nairobi since 1988 where her occupation is a teacher of special needs/EFL. She first appeared in theatre in Kenya in Phoenix Players' production of "Halfway up the Tree" in 1991

## **LESLIE CARDILLO - (Mr. Shanks)**

Leslie Cardillo first came to Nairobi in 1985 and since then has appeared in a number of productions including "Stage Manager" in "Noises off" for Phoenix Players, "Juror No. 12" in "Twelve Angry Men" and "The Rabbi" in Fiddler on the Roof", both for NCP.

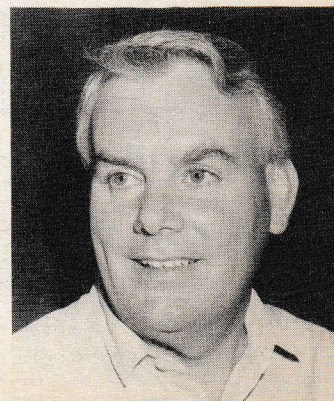


## **ANDY KEOGH -(Sir Percy Shorter)**

Before arriving in Kenya in 1981 Andy Keogh had been involved in many shows in his native Scotland as both actor and singer, including tours and appearances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Since his time in Kenya he has worked with most of the Nairobi based drama groups. This is his fourth production for Nairobi City Players who, he says, "let me use foreign accents".

## **GERRY McCRUDDEN - (Mr. Purdue)**

This is Gerry McCrudden's stage debut in Kenya. A First Secretary with the British High Commission, he tries to find time to get involved with theatre wherever in the world he is posted. He has been involved in productions in Mexico City, Bahrain, Brussels, Tristan da Cunha, Pretoria and in Barbados where he also did some television work. His first production, long years ago, was in his home province of Northern Ireland; a play in the Gaelic language. As he is not a Gaelic speaker he had to learn the part phonetically. Gerry is the father of three teenage children. he enjoys reading and dabbles in creative writing—especially short stories.





# The Production Team

Stage Manager	Frances Cattermole
Assistant Stage Managers Scenery Flying	Moira Turner, Sasha Ronsky Daniel Mbugua
Lighting Follow Spot	Neil Davidson, Mark Sherwin, Jason Mwai Mark Sherwin
Set Design by Set Construction by Painting	Jon Tarlton Daniel Mbugua Lily Mudasia Vihenda
Sound	Jim Turner, Simon Young
Properties	Moira Turner
Costumes	Janet Tonks, Julie Epsom
Prompt	Denise White
Front of House	Joan Greene
Publicity Programme Programme Printing	Bryan Epsom Bryan Epsom Man Graphics Ltd.
Photographs	Roger Athaide of Foto-Unique

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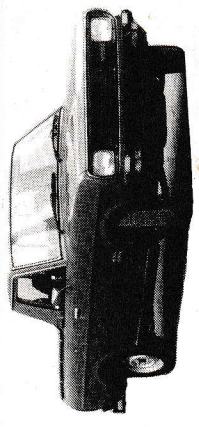
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