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Cayman Drama Society

(Patron: Suzanne Smith)

presents

GOOD GRIEF

by Keith Waterhouse

At the Prospect Playhouse,
Red Bay

September/October, 2000

Director's Message

Good evening, and welcome to the Cayman Drama Society's production of *Good Grief*. The play, a "bittersweet" comedy written by Keith Waterhouse, takes us through the life of a widow during her "mourning period." It genuinely reflects June Pepper's life over a period of months, and the interaction with her step-daughter Pauline, a stranger "The Suit", and last but by no means least, the snappiest dresser around, Eric Grant.

When the play was first handed to me as a suggestion for my directorial debut, after having my original suggestion put on hold "until I am much more comfortable directing", I read it several times thinking to myself, "What am I getting into?" Well, as you'll see, several months later and with a solid appreciation of the work that goes into directing a show, I'm awfully glad that Colin, *Good Grief's* producer, talked me out of doing "'Allo, 'Allo". (Maybe next year??)

The chosen players for this production, Penny, Ann, Roland and Colin (somewhat under duress) are to me the greatest actors within the Society. I know that this will sound like typical director spiel, but for someone who has spent the last seven years in the theatre either in the sound/lighting booth or backstage, I know that a director is only as good (or tries very hard to be) as the show's actors.

Well, it seems that I'm running out of space here, and before I do there are several more people to thank. The first being Peter Phillips, the best stage manager around. Peter commandeered a set construction crew who worked tirelessly to produce the wonderful set you'll see this evening. His very able assistants were Paul de Freitas, Peter Webster and Bill Mervyn. My gratitude goes to them for all their hard work, for a job well done.

After Peter and his crew were finished, Gina Hew and Steve Knox spent two weekends designing and painting the "Duke of Clarence". I don't think that I have enough space here to thank them for all their hard work and excellent set painting. Other painters to thank are Peter Webster, Martin Wicks, Phil Pace, Anne Hetley and Peter's friend Roxanne. I must also thank the greatest Property Team of Ruth Boddien, Judy Sheppard and Lisa Shemwell. Many thanks go to the technical team of Valerie Cottier for lighting and young John Godfrey for sound. Also to Marjorie Godfrey for make-up. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

It would be remiss of me not to thank my husband John for his undying support during the past three months.

It has certainly been a very exciting time for me, and lately I've been thinking, maybe, just maybe, I'll do one more!

ENJOY THE SHOW. REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP TONIGHT AND VOLUNTEER!!

Regina Oliver, Director

Good Grief

by Keith Waterhouse

The action takes place in June Pepper's home in the London suburbs, and in the garden of The Duke of Clarence pub. The time – a few months in the present.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

- SCENE 1: The house. Late winter
- SCENE 2: The house. Morning, a few days later
- SCENE 3: The house. A late winter afternoon
- SCENE 4: Outside the pub
- SCENE 5: The house. Immediately following
- SCENE 6: The house. Morning
- SCENE 7: Outside the pub, Sunday
- SCENE 8: The house. A short while later

ACT II

- SCENE 1: The house. Early morning.
- SCENE 2: Outside the pub. Lunchtime.
- SCENE 3: The house. Morning.
- SCENE 4: Outside the pub. Lunchtime.
- SCENE 5: The house. Evening.
- SCENE 6: The pub. Late evening.
- SCENE 7: The house. Night.
- SCENE 8: The house. Evening.
- SCENE 9: The house and pub. Mid-morning
- SCENE 10: The pub. Sunday evening.
- SCENE 11: The house. Immediately afterwards.

THERE WILL BE A 15-MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN ACTS,
EXCEPT ON DINNER THEATRE NIGHTS, WHEN DINNER WILL BE SERVED.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

JUNE PEPPER	Penny Phillips
PAULINE	Ann O'Connell
ERIC GRANT	Colin Wilson
THE SUIT	Roland Stacey

The Crew

DIRECTOR	Regina Oliver
PRODUCER	Colin Wilson
STAGE MANAGER	Peter Phillips
LIGHTING	Valerie Cottier
SOUNDS	John Godfrey
SET CONSTRUCTION	Peter Phillips, Paul de Freitas, Peter Webster, Bill Mervyn
SET DECORATION	Regina Oliver, Gina Hew, Steve Knox, Peter Webster, Martin Wicks, Phil Pace, Anne Hetley and Roxanne.
PROPERTIES	Ruth Bodden, Lisa Shemwell, Judy Sheppard
MAKE-UP	Marjorie Godfrey
BACKSTAGE ASSISTANT	David Godfrey
FRONT OF HOUSE	Elizabeth Isles
BOX OFFICE	Omeria Gordon, Phillips Electrical
CATERING	The Cracked Conch by the Sea

About the Cast

PENNY PHILLIPS – June Pepper

Born somewhere an extremely long time ago, Penny is still wondering where she is and what she's doing in this play. And who is this June Pepper, anyway? Having to portray a sarcastic, vodka-swilling, border-line alcoholic is not exactly type-casting, but Penny rose to the occasion like the trooper she is. She has never met the playwright, so any similarities between her own character and the one she takes on here are, without any shadow of a doubt, the figment of an overworked imagination.

ANN O'CONNELL – Pauline

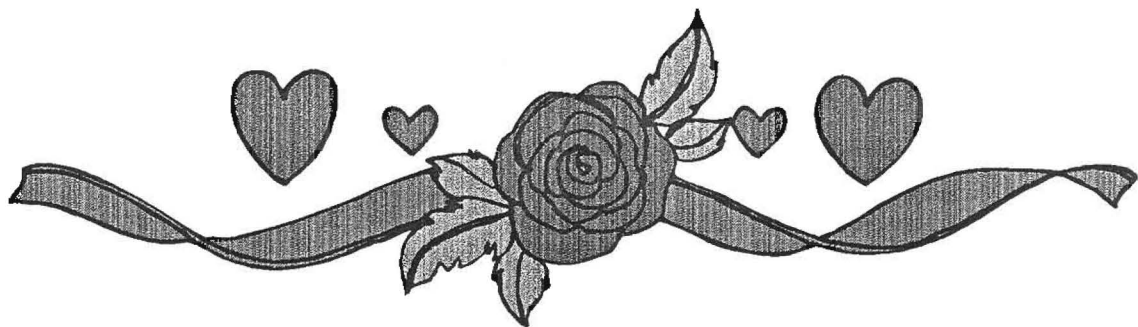
Ann knew this part was made for her when it called for a woman aged twenty-five (all right, thirty-two) which is – spookily – her own age. Any other characteristics that may emerge during the play are purely as a result of brilliant acting, and any similarity to her own character is purely coincidental.

COLIN WILSON – Eric Grant

Colin's wife, Joan, says he is always acting, and it is a welcome change to see him up on the boards again instead of behind the scenes directing operations. It is also a surprise to see him on stage actually being normal. Well, nearly normal – he is at least wearing men's clothes! The role in "Good Grief" came as a surprise – he didn't audition for it and, to use his own words, "I rarely get into a production that I audition for. Which is why I have to direct myself!" This time Regina had the "honour".

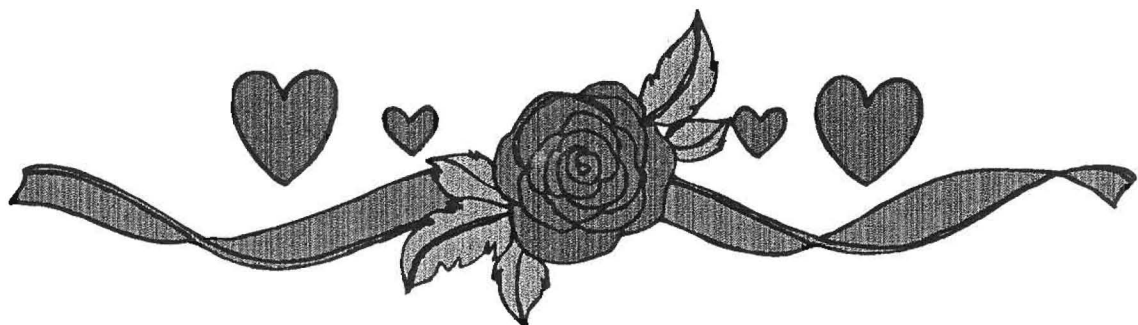
ROLAND STACEY – The Suit

After six years, Roland has finally succeeded in obtaining a principal part by being one of two men attending the auditions for two male roles. His more recent forgettable stage appearances have been in "The Reticence of Lady Anne" and "The King and I". He last appeared in "The Wizard of Oz" as a Munchkin, an Emeralder, a Malicious Monkey and as understudy to Rory Mann as the Mayor of Munchkin Land. Tonight he plays just one part – "The Suit."



Thanks and Acknowledgements

CITN CAYMAN 27
CAYMAN FREE PRESS
PHILLIPS ELECTRICAL
MRS. SHEMWELL (LISA'S MUM!)
THOMAS & THE CRACKED CONCH



Chairman's Message

Welcome to 'GOOD GRIEF', described as a bitter-sweet comedy, mainly because it doesn't really fit completely into a drama or a comedy category. It is an unusual play, brilliantly written by Keith Waterhouse, dealing with a grieving widow who struggles to come to grips that she is now on her own. I say grieving because June (the widow) genuinely is sorrowful at her husband's death, but she has a fine caustic wit which we hear all the time as she "talks" to her dead husband's photograph. To say more would give the whole plot away. This play will most certainly make you laugh, cry a little, and be a moving and entertaining experience for you all.

Two last things on 'GOOD GRIEF'. The first, it marks the directorial debut of Regina Oliver, who has done an excellent job in keeping all the cast in order, and her overall enthusiasm has made my job as Producer very easy, as she has done most of the work herself. Secondly, it has been a great experience working with Roland and Ann in a role I didn't expect to play, and with the star of 'GOOD GRIEF' Penny Phillips, who is on stage the whole time in the role of June. How she has been able to remember all those lines is a mystery. I would not even have attempted it. You never cease to amaze me, Penn.

You will notice that our car parking problems have intensified and this problem is one that is not going to go away. We are in intense negotiations with our landlord, the Cayman Islands Government, and when the building works have been completed, the situation should improve. Thank you for your patience and support.

And what is coming up? In November/December, a musical variety show called "EnTrance", and early next year (with another cast of thousands) "ROBIN HOOD – THE MUSICAL".

Enjoy.

Colin Wilson
Chairman

