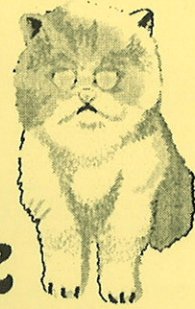
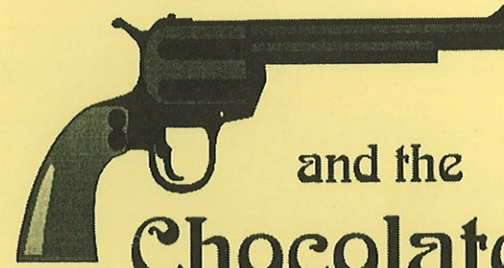




**Frayed Knot Theatre Company**  
presents

**Marreau**



and the  
**Chocolate  
Policeman**

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**Rob  
Farrow**

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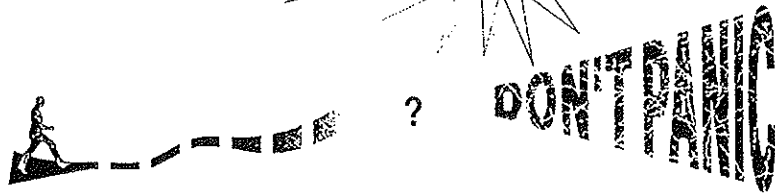
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Adventure  
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Official Programme**

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# Frayed Knot Theatre Company

Frayed Knot Theatre Company was established in 1991 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Initially, lacking resources and a known name we had to be modest in our productions, performing to a few dozen people in village halls in Herts, Beds & Bucks.

With the reopening of Pendley Theatre (as the Court Theatre) we decided to take the quite bold move to this larger venue, and happily it paid off. We have been able to increase from one show a year to two and, for the last couple of years, three.

The general trend, with only slight setbacks, has been an increase in audience numbers with every show, and our membership has grown too, particularly attracting members from the Aylesbury area.

We have until now, almost exclusively produced comedies, and have perhaps found a little niche in the busy Arts schedule in the area by doing so. Our last show however was not a comedy, but a ghost story. Unfortunately *A Murder Has Been Arranged* was certainly not our most successful production, and perhaps underlines our aptitude for Comedy.

Now in our eighth year, we have become established as one the foremost companies in the area, with a dynamic approach and flexible attitude and are set to continue for many more years, hopefully gaining in experience and popularity all the time. We are always on the look-out for new recruits in every aspect of production - Acting, Directing, Back-stage, Technical and Management. So, if you'd like to have a bash yourself, why not get in touch with one of the members and join our society.

Recently our three shows have effectively been such that the Spring show is a well known play, our Autumn show of a new or more adventurous kind and the show near Christmas being something quite jolly ! This cocktail seems to have worked well, and may well continue. Our first play this year, *Arsenic and Old Lace* of course, fell into the first of the above categories - and was highly successful. I hope that this re-run of *Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman* lives up to our growing reputation and up to the original performance of 1991. I trust that you will have a thoroughly enjoyable evening ... and can't wait to come to see our next production .... whatever it is !!!

**Rob Farrow, Chairman**

# Frayed Knot Theatre Company

presents

## Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman

By Rob Farrow

### 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 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

## The Cast

Hemlock Marreau	The continental detective	<b>Ian Wells</b>
Gwendolyn Bayne	His assistant	<b>Jenny Booth</b>
Simon Simpson	His friend	<b>Graham Double *</b> <b>Rob Farrow †</b>
Bertie	Eldest son of Lady Eustace	<b>Nigel Froment</b>
Edward	His younger brother	<b>Dave Reece</b>
Isabel	Edward's wife	<b>Bernadette Kearney</b>
Lady Jane	Sister of Edward & Bertie	<b>Jackie Farrow</b>
Major Trubolt	Nephew of Lady Eustace	<b>Terry Baker</b>
Angela	Wife of Major Trubolt	<b>Regina Dobbs</b>
Dr. Protheroe	Family Doctor	<b>John Ross</b>
Cummings	The Butler	<b>Colin Bryer</b>
Mrs. Farley	The Cook	<b>Jan Jones *</b> <b>Vi Malcolm †</b>
Vincent	The valet	<b>Mick Sane</b>
Daisy	The maid	<b>Paula Maxwell</b>
Sgt. Farmer	Local bobby	<b>Rob Farrow *</b> <b>Dave Reece †</b>

\* Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th † Saturday 5th only

# Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman

The play is set in the drawing room of the country residence of Lady Eustace, it is late in the evening after a day's pheasant shooting. The period is early 1930s.

## Act I

Scene 1 : After midnight

Scene 2: Early the next morning

## Act II

Scene 1 : Somewhat later the same day

Scene 2 : A little later.

Scene 3 : The denouement : A little later still !

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## For the production

Director	<b>Rob Farrow</b>
Producer	<b>Lynn Devonshire</b>
Producer's Assistant	<b>Jayne Tardieu</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Kate Harvey</b>
Make-up / Hair	<b>Paint by Numbers</b>
Lighting	<b>Gary Stratton</b>
Front-of-House Manager	<b>Colin Hunt</b>
Wardrobe	<b>Jayne Tardieu &amp; Lynn Devonshire</b>
Programme & Publicity	<b>Rob Farrow</b>

# Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman

## Director's Note

When I first wrote "*Dashed strange don't you think*" as the opening line of a sketch I was writing back in 1990, I little thought that I was in fact writing the first words of a sequence of six plays. And creating some (modestly and locally) popular characters in Marreau, Simpson, Gwendolyn, Protheroe and Farmer. Originally it was only meant to be a ten-minute sketch spoofing detectives such as Poirot, Holmes and Lord Peter Wimsey. But it grew ... and it grew until I had a play on my hands. Not a very long play, but a play nonetheless. At the time a group of us had been putting on "flying" shows around village halls with Phoenix Theatre Company. So with Phoenix' help we put on Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman. That first night we played to an audience of thirteen at Marsworth Village Hall on 24th April 1991. I wonder if any of you watching tonight were one of those thirteen ! We did four performances in four different village halls and then in the June we did it once more in the Crystal Rooms for Festival Fringe. The audiences seemed to appreciate it - and the cast enjoyed performing it ... and so a sequel seemed a good idea. With the sequel was born *Frayed Knot* and the rest is history ... well our theatre company's history at any rate !

It has been a pleasure - and a slightly strange experience - to direct this play once again. Despite the seven year interval everyone who was in the original found the words remarkably familiar at the read-through for this re-run, thus giving the feeling that 1991 was very recent ... but for several of us the intervening years have actually seen considerable changes. Frayed Knot has grown remarkably in this period too, and is now one of Tring's leading dramatic societies, with about twenty plays "under our belts" and hopefully dozens more to follow in the coming years.

I would particularly like to thank Lynn and Jayne for their unstinting help and hard work with this show - having a producer (let alone two !) is a wonderful boon. **Rob Farrow**

# Frayed Knot Theatre Company

## Join the happy bunch !

A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join our society.

Whether you've been "treading the boards" for sixty years or have never appeared before an audience in your life ... or anywhere between the two ... you'll be welcomed by our society.

Or perhaps you have no interest in acting but would like to help out backstage .... or constructing the set .... or operating the lights or the sound effects .... we've got plenty for you to do too !

Or maybe you're a good organiser who could help run the company .... committee posts are "up for grabs" at most AGMs so if that's what you fancy join the society and get elected ! (You probably will, unopposed !)

So, with one of the cheapest membership rates you're likely to find for any society anywhere (just £5 a year) why not give one of us a ring, or collar any member of the society.

### Here are some contact numbers :

Society : Web Site	www.btinternet.com/~enquiries.mh
email	rhf.mh@btinternet.com
Rob & Jackie Farrow	(01707) 655550 {Work} (01442) 381739 {Home}
Jacqui Meadows	(01296) 662732 {Home}
Kate Harvey	(01442) 826600 {Home}

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would like to wish

*Frayed Knot Theatre Company*

every success

with their production of

*Marreau*

and the

*Chocolate Policeman*

Will the culprit be called to account ?