

Frayed Knot Theatre Company

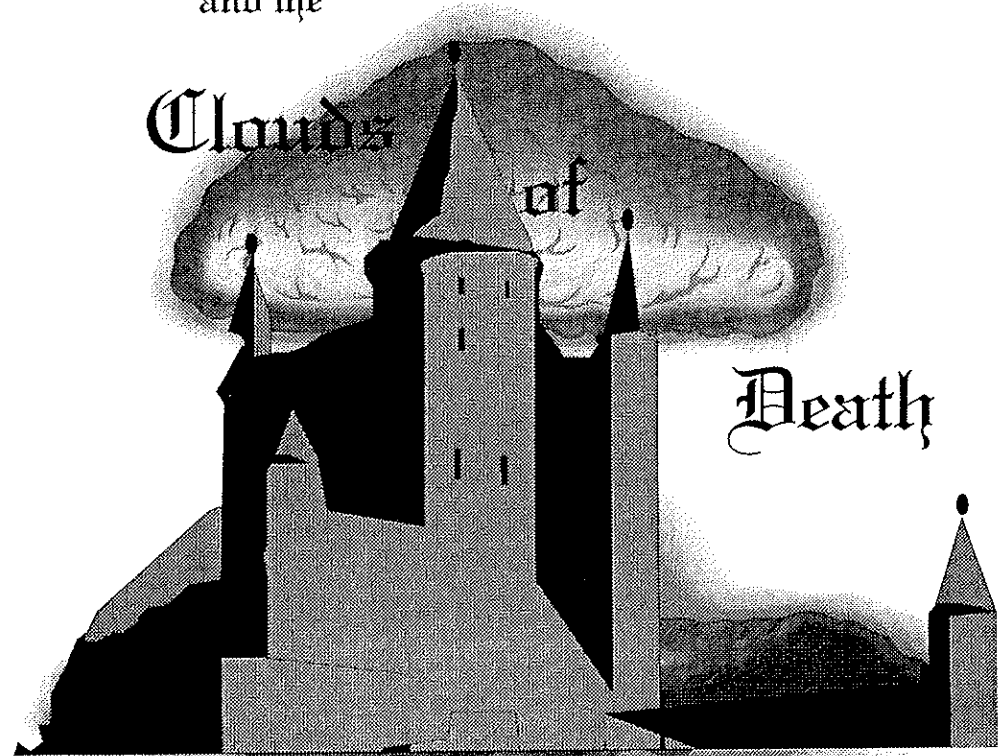
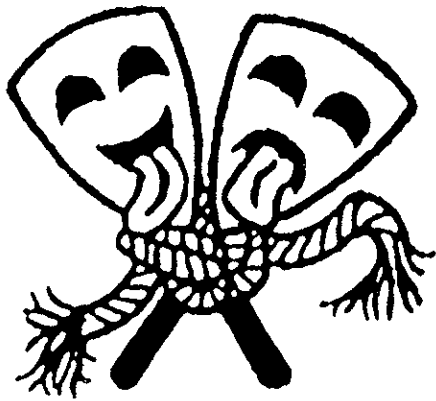
Marreau

and the

Clouds

of

Death



By Robert Farrow

*The Court Theatre, Pendley
4th - 7th September 1996*



Matthew Homes Limited



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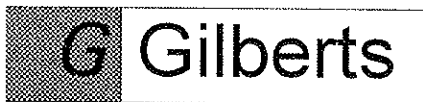
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Chartered Accountants

would like to wish

Frayed Knot Theatre Company

every success with their production of

Marreau and the Clouds of Death

*(Please note we are accountants -
not a Count's aunt !)*

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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. 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, **Moby Dick**, 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**. Last year saw the fifth of the Marreau sequence and our first melodrama, **Sweeney Todd, the barber**. 1996 is an adventurous year for the company, as we are performing three productions; in April we staged a production of the **Farndale Macbeth** - our most technically tricky show to date - which was very well received. Now we are performing this the sixth - and probably final **Marreau** and in November we're doing a comedy entitled "**Party Piece**". The company is continuing to grow steadily, along I am pleased to say with our audience figures which have increased with every show.

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

PARTY PIECE

27th - 30th November 1996

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY

presents

Marreau and the Clouds of Death

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

1995

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

1996

Farndale Macbeth

Forthcoming Productions

1996

27th - 30th November : **Party Piece**

1997

The Importance of Being Earnest
and two more shows yet to be decided

All at The Court Theatre, Pendley.

Marreau and the Clouds of Death

The Cast in order of appearance

Hemlock Marreau	The famous continental detective	Colin Bryer
Simon Simpson	His trusted friend	Graham Double
Gwendolyn Smith	Marreau's assistant	Jenny Booth
Sprote	Butler to the Simpsons	Matthew Barrett
Stanley Longbottom	Bishop of Macclesfield	Stephen Gilson
Chief Inspector Jones	A Policeman	Wayne MacLaughlin
James Frederic Simpson	Simon Simpson's father	Peter Cherry
Emily Simpson	Simon Simpson's sister	Vi Malcolm
Anne Simpson	Simon Simpson's other sister	Jacqui Hildreth
Lawrence Simpson	Simon Simpson's brother	Nigel Froment
Prof. Maurice Hearty	Marreau's arch-enemy	Ian Wells
Carstairs	Butler to Count Otto Podrovski	Richard Uttley
Maximillian Podrovski	Nephew to Count Otto	Reg Dobrovulska
Maria Carstairs	Cook to Count Otto Podrovski	Linda Hunt
Farmer	The ubiquitous policeman	Rob Farrow
Belinda Bligh	Accomplice of Maurice Hearty	Jackie Farrow
Lady Catherine de Tavare	Betrothed to Count Otto	Jan Jones
Doctor Protheroe	Making yet another appearance	John Ross

<i>Written & Directed by</i>	Rob Farrow
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Johann Meadows
<i>Rehearsal Prompt</i>	Sue Tummelty
<i>Lighting</i>	Jeff Yates
<i>Sound</i>	Norman Ward
<i>Props</i>	Sue Fuchter
<i>Make Up</i>	Paint by Numbers
<i>F.O.H. Manager</i>	Colin Hunt
<i>Crew assistant</i>	Kate Harvey

Thanks to all who helped with set construction

Marreau and the Clouds of Death

Scenes

ACT I Scene 1 *Simpson's father's place in Derbyshire*

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

= = Interval of 20 minutes = =

ACT II Scene 1 *The Great Baronial Hall of Wildboar Castle, Derbyshire*

ACT II Scene 2 *The same : A little later*

ACT III *Still there for the denouement*

We would like to thank our sponsors, Matthew Homes Ltd. for their support

Author's Note

When I first started writing the original "Marreau" in 1989, it was simply intended as a five minute sketch. It grew however. And my first play was written and performed in 1991. There was never any intention of there being a sequel - but due to various comments (mostly favourable) a second and soon after that a third, were written. It was at this point that I decided that six was a nice sort of number !

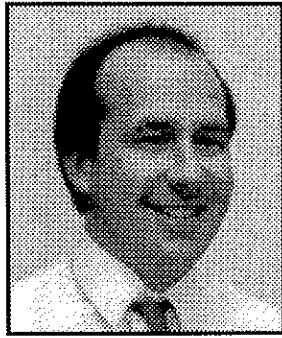
So here we are with the sixth and - probably - final Marreau. I hope that this one is up to standard - whatever standard you have come to expect from them that is ! If this is your first ever Marreau, I trust that there are not too many "in" jokes from the earlier ones and that you still enjoy it. A number of suggestions have been made for possible "spin-off" plays - e.g. "Simpson - the early years", "Legume of the Yard" (Marreau's grandfather) and "Protheroe M.D." to name but three - time will tell if any of these come to fruition.

Once again, I would like to say how pleased we are as a company to be able to use this excellent little theatre for our shows - and we look forward to presenting many more productions here over the coming years; "Party Piece" being our next offering, just before Christmas - our third show this year.

Rob Farrow



Colin Bryer - Hemlock Marreau



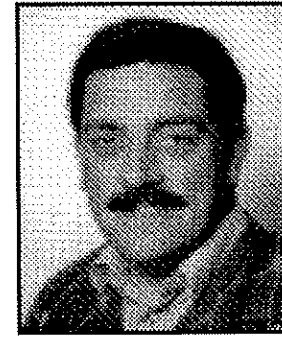
Graham Double - Simon Simpson



Jenny Booth - Gwendolyn Smith



Nigel Froment - Lawrence Simpson



Ian Wells - Prof. Maurice Hearty



Richard Uttley - Carstairs



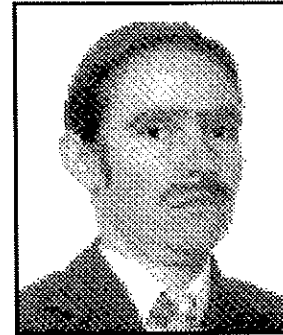
Matthew Barrett - Sprote



Stephen Gilson - Stanley Longbottom



Wayne MacLaughlin - D.C.I. Jones



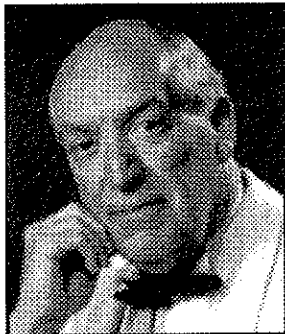
Reg Dobrovulska - Max. Podrovski



Linda Hunt - Maria Carstairs



Rob Farrow - Farmer
Author & Director



Peter Cherry - James F. Simpson



Vi Malcolm - Emily Simpson



Jacqui Hildreth - Anne Simpson



Jackie Farrow - Belinda Bligh



Jan Jones - Lady Catherine de Tavare



John Ross - Doctor Protheroe

Character	Actor(s)	Marreaus	
Aspre', Eleanor d'	LC	4	Fiancee of Charles Framell
Bayne, Gwendolyn	JB	1,2,3,4,6	Marreau's assistant, married New Mexico Smith, widowed.
Beale, Georgina	JB	4	Gwendolyn's sister, m. to Henry
Beale, Henry	--	(4)	(Unseen) missing husband of above
Bletherington, Guy	--	(3)	(CTM) (Dead) Choked on a pea
Bligh, Belinda	JF	6	The Brazen Bank Burgler of Bakewell Having a relationship with Hearty.
Bostock	--	(6)	(Unseen) servant of Simpson family
Carstairs	RU	6	Servant to Podrovski's
Carstairs, Maria	LH	6	Cook ditto, wife of above
Cartwright, Polly	JH	5	Undercover Intelligence Agent An "olly" : Former belle of Simon Simpson
Cummings, Clarence	PC	1	Butler to Eustace family.
Daisy	BF	1	Young maid in Eustace family Actually Little Jimmy in disguise
Dalglish, Victor	IW	3	(CTM) Engineer. Dies : Poisoned by fungi.
Danvers, Emily	NK	3	(CTM) Artefact expert.
Edward, Prince of Wales	WM	5	The future Edward VIII
English, Samuel	--	(6)	(Unseen) footman to Simpson family
Eustace, Bertie	RU	1	Heir to Eustace family
Eustace, Edward	TS	1	Brother of above. m. to Isabel Dies : Impaled on croquet mallet
Eustace, Isabel	VM	1	Promiscuous wife of above. Former belle of both Marreau & Simpson
Eustace, Lady Jane	SW	1	Unmarried mother of Little Jimmy from affair with Doctor Protheroe.
Eustace, Little Jimmy	--	(1)	(Disguised as Daisy (q.v.))
Eustace, Lady	--	(1)	(Unseen) Dies : Shot up the nose.
Farley, Mrs.	KM	1	Cook to Eustace family
Farmer, Sgt. -> Ch.Const.	RF	1,2,3,4,5,6	Rapidly promoted ubiquitous policeman.
Framell, Charles	PC	4	Merchant Banker. (F&P) Snr. Partner.
Guile, Hermione	VM	4	Replacement assistant for Marreau Former aide to Lord Stringmoor (decd)
Harris, Gerald	SG	5	Slimy acquaintance of New Mexico Smith Dies : Poisoned dart from blowpipe.
Havelock	PC,DR	2{PC,DR} 5{PC}	Stately butler, firstly to Smedlings then to Gwend & Mexi, Sword/Carthage leader.(SCM)
Hearty, Prof. Maurice	IW	4,6	Marreau's bete noir, an evil genius.
Hohenausen, Countess Catherine	RD	2	Apparently wealthy widow of "Fluffy" former belle of Simpson.
Hohenhausen, "Fluffy"	--	(2)	(Dead) Suicide : Shot up nose.
Hopper, (George) Bunny	RU	5	(SCM) "Bohemian" friend of Mexi & Simpson Entourage of female friends the "ollies"
Iris	JM	3	Village girl, suspected of being Little Jimmy
Jenkins, Holly	MC	3	An "olly" : Silly young thing.
Joe, (Old)	CT	3	A mysterious tramp. Dies : Squashed
Johnson, Mrs.	MC	2	Cook to Smedling family.
Jones, (Chief) Inspector	WM	3,6	Welsh policeman. Promoted to Chief Insp.
Leeding, Angela	VM	3	Daughter of Prof. Leeding, former fiancee of Percy Palgrove.
Leeding, Professor	PC	3	(CTM) Leader of Ramhaken Expedition
Longbottom, Bishop Stanley	SG	6	Suffragan Bishop of Macclesfield
Marchmain, Alexander	--	(3)	(CTM) (Dead) : Suffocated in sarcophagous.
Marreau, Hemlock	CB	1,2,3,4,5,6	The great continental detective himself.
Unknown past; has claimed to be French, Belgian, Luxembourgais, Swiss, Andorran and Monegasque. Hearty claims that he's English !			
Napier-Smith, Percival	--	(3)	(CTM) (Dead) : Drowned in Toilet
Palgrove, Percy	CT	3	(CTM) "Brains" behind CTM; apparently squashed.
Parkhurst	GB	2	Footman with a past : Dies : Shotgun blast.
Pemberton, Deirdre	VM	5	Manic-Depr. wife of Victor, sent mad by him.
Pemberton, Victor	IW	5	(SCM) Sadistic bigot : Dies : Shot by Farmer
Penrose, Oliver	--	(3)	(CTM) (Dead) : Tripped (Pushed ?) down stairs

Podrovski, Maximillian	RDO	6	Heir presumptive to Count Otto
Podrovski, Count Otto	--	(6)	(Missing presumed dead) Polish Count with a pas
Priggs, George	MBu	4	Merchant Banker : (F&P) Jnr. Partner
Priggs, Jane	JH	4	Wife of George.
Protheroe, Dr. Alan	JR,BT,IW,TB	1{JR,BT},2{JR,BT},3{IW},5{TB},6{JR}	Ubiquitous doctor, father of Little Jimmy.
Quest, Randolph	SG	3	(CTM) Co-financier of CTM
Quest, Zeta	RD	3	Snooty wife of Randolph
Rose	KM	2	Excitable Irish maid.
Scrimp, Mrs.	LH	5	Put-upon cook to Gwendolyn & Mexi.
Simmel, Larkspur	JJ	4	A highly theatrical actress. (F&P) Investor
Simpson, Anne	JH	6	Sister to Simon. A flirt.
Simpson, Emily	VM	6	Sister to Simon, even more of a flirt.
Simpson, James Frederic	PC	6	Simon's father. Very wealthy it would seem ...
Simpson, Lawrence	NF	6	Simon's religious-maniac brother.
Simpson, Simon	GD	1,2,3,4,5,6	Marreau's amiable - if stupid - friend. Revealed as having been a hero on a number of occasions. Very well connected and apparently wealthy.
Smedling, Lord	--	(2)	(Unseen) Dies : Arsenic poisoning
Smedling, Viscount Alexander	RU	2	Tubby to his friends, heir to Maquessate.
Smith, Gwendolyn	----->		See Bayne, Gwendolyn
Smith, New Mexico (Herbert)	NF	3,5	(CTM) U.S. adventurer. Pal of Simpson, m. Gwendolyn : Dies : Newt down windpipe.
Smith, (Raging) Ranulph	NF	2	Sadistic bigotted misogynist : Dies : Decapitated
Smith, Lady Theresa	VM	2	Ranulph's wife. Devoted despite his defects.
Sprote	MBA	6	Butler to Simpson family.
Stark, Agnes	RD	4	Officious (F&P) office manager, m. to Geoffrey.
Stark, Geoffrey	--	(4)	(Unseen) (Dead) Stabbed with swordfish.
Strange, Henry	--	(6)	(Unseen) Footman to Simpson family
Stringmoor, Lord	--	(4)	(Unseen) (Dead) Head stuck in lift : Decapitated
Tavare', Catherine de	JJ	6	Fiancee of Count Otto
Timms, Felicity	JF	4	Nervous (F&P) office secretary, having affair with Geoffrey Stark. Half-sis. of Hermione Guile
Tindle, Dolly	BR	5	(SCM) An "olly" : former belle of Marreau.
Trubolt, Angela	BK	1	Outspoken wife of Major Trubolt
Trubolt, Major Peregrine	WM	1	Stuffed-shirt army type, with gambling debts.
Vere, Sir Percy	NF	4	(F&P) Investor with serious tic : Dies : Stabbed
Vincent the Valet	GB	1	Valet to Eustace family. In love with Isabel.
Williams, Mrs.	JJ	3	Housekeeper & Cook to Prof. Leeding.

Note: (CTM) = Curse of Cardiff Ramhaken Expedition Team Member
(F&P) = Framell & Priggs Merchant Bank
(SCM) = Sword of Carthage Member

Code	Actor/ess	Code	Actor/ess
BF	Barbara Fawcett	LH	Lynda Hunt (formerly Clayden)
BK	Bernadette Kearney	MBA	Matthew Barrett
BR	Belinda Rose	MBu	Mike Buckle
BT	Bob Theaker	MC	Maria Cook
CB	Colin Bryer	NF	Nigel Froment
CT	Clive Triolaire	NK	Natalie Knill
DR	Dave Reece	PC	Peter Cherry
GB	George Bird	RD	Regina Dobbs
GD	Graham Double	RDO	Reg Dobrovulksa
IW	Ian Wells	RF	Rob Farrow
JB	Jenny Booth	RU	Richard Uttley
JF	Jackie Farrow (nee Mason)	SG	Stephen Gilson
JH	Jacquie Hildreth	SW	Samantha Warden
JJ	Jan Jones	TB	Terry Baker
JM	Jackie Mason (now Farrow)	TS	Tim Scott
JR	John Ross	VM	Vi Malcolm
KM	Kathryn Mills	WM	Wayne MacLaughlin
LC	Lynda Clayden (now Hunt)		

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