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April 2010

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Visit our Web Site at <http://www.matthew-homes.com> or E-Mail sales@matthew-homes.com
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Frayed Knot Theatre Company

presents

WWW.FKTC.ORG

MARREAU

AND THE

GREY DAGGER



The Tenth

Marreau Adventure

by Rob Farrow

21ST - 24TH APRIL 2010
AT THE COURT THEATRE, PENDLEY, TRING



Frayed Knot Theatre Company

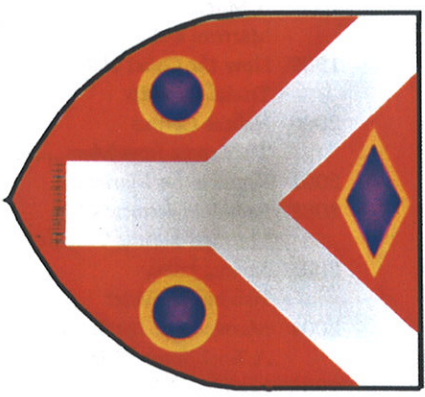
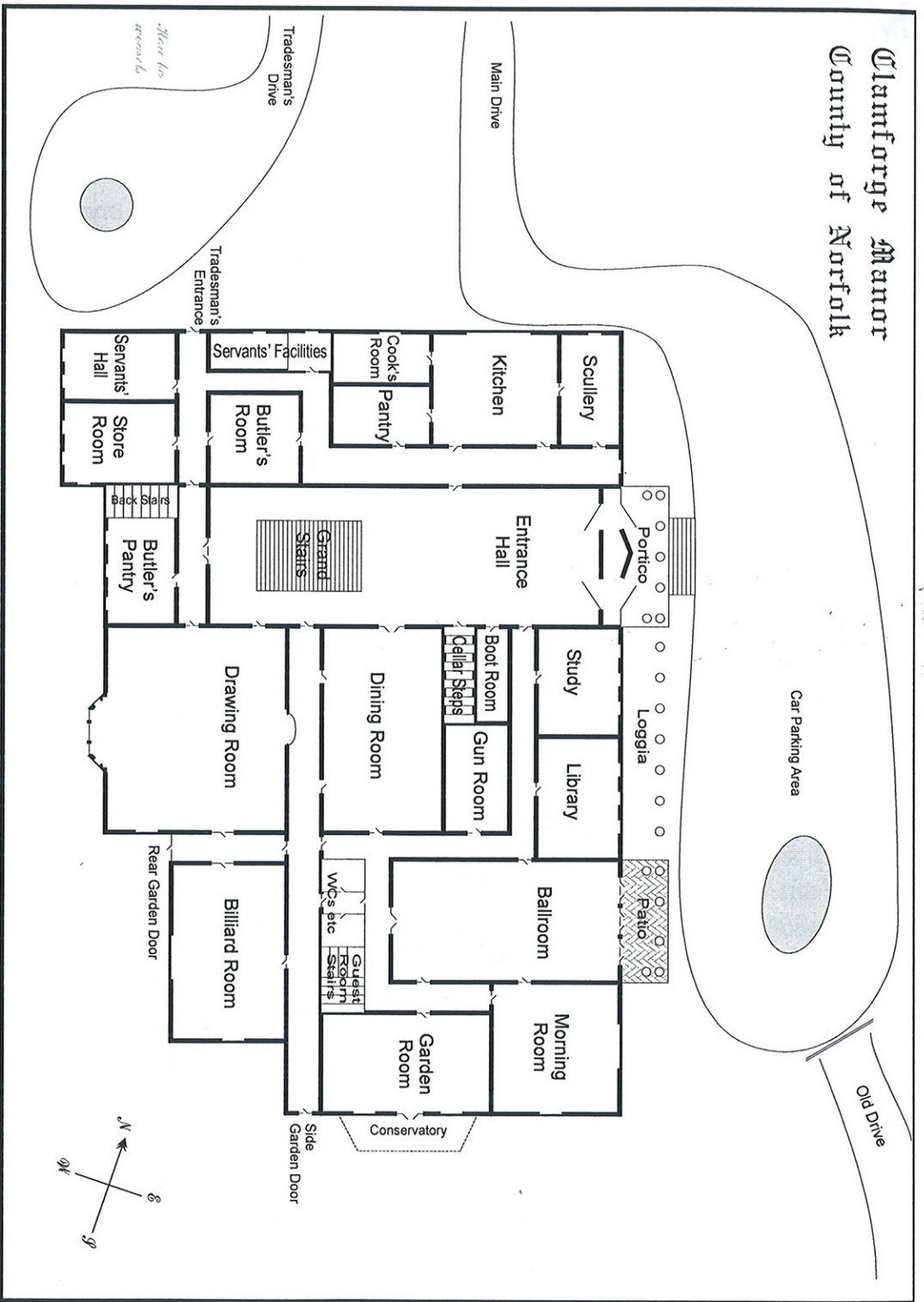
Our previous productions

- 1991 *Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman* (co-produced with Phoenix T.C.)
- 1992 *Marreau and the African Moon*
- 1993 *Marreau and the Curse of Cardiff*
D.E.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 *Farnedale Avenue Macbeth*
Marreau and the Clouds of Death
Party Piece
- 1997 *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Knightsbridge / Never the Twain / Pastiche : Treble Bill
Farnedale Avenue Christmas Carol
- 1998 *Arsenic and Old Lace*
A Murder Has Been Arranged
Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman (revisited !)
- 1999 *How the Other Half Loves*
Trivial Pursuits
- 2000 *Habeas Corpus*
They came from Mars Farnedale Avenue
- 2001 *Requiem for Marreau*
- 2002 *Lady Windermere's Fan*
Marreau and the Tregalleon Inheritance
- 2003 *Saving Ardley*
Fish out of Water
- 2004 *Marreau and the Terror of Tring*
A Tomb with a View
- 2005 *Lend Me A Tenor*
- 2006 *The Full Monty*
Neville's Island
- 2007 *An Inspector Calls*
See How They Run
- 2008 *Black Comedy / Darlings, You Were Wonderful! : Double Bill*
Guards, Guards
- 2009 *The History Boys*
The Titfield Thunderbolt
- 2010 *Glengarry Glen Ross*

This production is dedicated to the memory of Peter Cherry, first Life Member of F.K.T.C. who acted in countless shows at Pendley including nearly all of the Marreau plays, the Company misses a real gentleman and friend.

Frayed Knot are always on the look-out for new members, both as actors and behind the scenes. Be assured of a friendly welcome. Contact Naomi or Rob via the Frayed Knot website at www.fktc.org

Wlamforge Manor
County of Norfolk



קודם יך קמייקישעל פ פד פדנ
 קד ידג פדנפ יד קמילפזמחה קדכפדש
 ידננ עקדג גי מדמני ידדחפ עמעש
 מילדנמ מני ^{THE} פדמחמ עמחמ
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 קדעל ידנפ מני חמחפ פדכמח
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MARREAU AND THE GREY DAGGER

The Cast

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Hemlock Marreau Gwendolyn Smith Simon Simpson | The famous continental detective Friend of Marreau Friend of Marreau | Colin Bryer Jenny Booth Dennis Fugard |
| Prof Maurice Hearty Timothy Telford | Marreau's <i>bête noir</i> . A criminal genius Hearty's partner in crime | Ian Wells Rob Farrow |
| Millicent Clamforge Prof Arnold Dipworthy Stanley Tregalleon Amelia Tregalleon Diana Pringle | A legatee of Sir Crispin Tregalleon Fiancé of Millicent Clamforge Head of the Tregalleon family Sister of Stanley Tregalleon A legatee of Sir Crispin Tregalleon | Lindsay Smith Roger Emery Kelvin Hunter Regina Dobb's Naomi Glasser |
| Peter Snodgrass Philippa Poppet | Hired-in butler to Miss Clamforge Hired-in cook to Miss Clamforge | Edward Farrow Emma Blyth |
| Inspector Crunch Chief Inspector Farmer | Local police detective Crunch's boss, well known to Marreau | Dan Clucas Rob Farrow |



The Crew

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Director | Rob Farrow |
| Producer & Stage Manager | Sarah Amsden |
| Costumes | Emma Blyth |
| Lighting & Sound | Chris Cooper |
| Assistant Lighting & Sound | Adam Stokes |
| Props, Programme & Publicity | Rob Farrow |
| Transport & Assistance | Nigel Froment |
| Set construction | The cast & crew |
| Box Office | Kate Blanchard & Derek Rookley |

MARREAU AND THE GREY DAGGER

The Play

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Act I | |
| Scene 1 | Home of Prof. Maurice Hearty | Monday morning |
| Scene 2 | Marreau's Apartment | Wednesday morning |
| Scene 3 | Home of Prof. Maurice Hearty | Wednesday morning |
| | Act II | |
| Scene 1 | Clamforge Manor, North Norfolk | Sunday morning |
| Scene 2 | Clamforge Manor | Sunday a little later |
| | Interval of about 15 minutes | |
| | Act III | |
| Scene 1 | Clamforge Manor | Sunday afternoon |
| Scene 2 | Clamforge Manor | Sunday late afternoon |
| Scene 3 | Clamforge Manor | Sunday early evening |
| Scene 4 & Denouement | Clamforge Manor | Sunday just before 9.00pm |



It's been a pleasure to direct this, the tenth of my Marreau plays. I think we've all enjoyed the rehearsals, and I hope that you now enjoy the show. Little did I think when I wrote the first few lines of "Chocolate Policeman" that I'd still be writing sequels twenty years later, but that first play was well received and so a second adventure seemed like a good idea ... and so it has continued. This is the longest break between episodes, it being precisely six years since the last instalment ("Terror of Tring") - if things go well it may be a shorter interlude to the next one! A lot has happened to the characters over the years - both Marreau and Gwendolyn have been married and widowed - and Simpson has had numerous liaisons ... including a spell being engaged to "Gwenders" - sit back and find what this adventure holds for them.

RHF April 2010

The Actors

Colin Bryer (Marreau) has played Marreau in all but one of Rob Farrow's series of plays since the first was staged in 1991. He is convinced he only gets the part because he has the worst French (Belgian/Luxembourgian?) accent! Colin is a regular at the Court Theatre and has been in many plays with Pendley, Ad Hoc, Frayed Knot and Springboard theatre companies. He is an adult leader at Cheddington Youth Drama Group, which will be staging a musical version of Treasure Island in the village hall at the end of June, and will be playing the Doctor in Springboard's production of Blithe Spirit at The Court in November.

Jenny (now commonly known as Jenders) **Booth (Gwendolyn)** is one of the founding members of Frayed Knot and has been "Gwenders" for nearly every Marreau production, although she has also played many other characters along the way for Frayed Knot and other drama societies. She has enjoyed resurrecting the "know it all" secretary for Marreau but thinks it is about time that she fell in love again. New Mexico Smith was killed by the newt a long time ago now and things with "Simmykins" just didn't work out as they hoped!

Dennis Fugard (Simpson) says "This year marks my 20th anniversary of treading the andram boards. I started up North, and seem to have settled down South. I've appeared in many a Pendley production, ranging from Shakespeare to Sondheim, Godber to 'The Goon Show'. Last year, you may have seen me in Ayckbourn's 'How the Other Half Loves'. This is my first venture with Frayed Knot. I hope that it won't be my last!"

Ian Wells (Maurice Hearty) is a stalwart member of Frayed Knot who has appeared in many of our shows, including numerous Marreaus - indeed he played Marreau himself in Tregalleon Inheritance, though he is more usually cast as his arch-enemy, the fiendish Professor Maurice Hearty. Ian has also appeared with various other companies, in particular for many years he was to be seen taking leading roles in Vale's productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operettas.

Rob Farrow (Telford & Farmer) is another founder member of Frayed Knot and has been involved in most of the company's shows in one way or another. He started acting in the late 80s and was soon writing sketches for Festival Fringe. One such sketch grew out of control - and became the first Marreau play. He has also appeared in shows for Phoenix, Vale, Pendley and TFC. He last appeared in Frayed Knot's very popular Titfield Thunderbolt, and before that he played Mr Birling in their highly successful production of "An Inspector Calls"

Lindsay Smith (Millicent) has been acting with various theatre companies for longer than she cares to remember, as well as writing and performing in her own one-woman shows. She is also involved with many musical activities, such as Vale's soon-to-be-staged production of Pirates of Penzance. This is Lindsay's second Marreau, and she has appeared in other F.K. shows, most recently playing the pivotal role of Lady Chesterford in Titfield Thunderbolt. She also directed our production of Lady Windermere's Fan in which she played Mrs Erylne.

Roger Emery (Prof. Dipworthy) used to be a regular andram performer a number of years ago, most notably at Little Gaddesden, but had not acted for some time when he "came out of retirement" to be in F.K.'s production of Guards, Guards. He seems to have been bitten by the bug once more as since then he has appeared in Titfield Thunderbolt - and is now braving his first Marreau!

Kelvin Hunter (Stanley Tregalleon) is new to Frayed Knot, indeed this is his first outing with an andram society in the Tring area, as he only recently moved to the town. His former acting has included radio plays, and he writes material for shows and sketches. Kelvin has enjoyed getting to grips with the character of Stanley and is looking forward to his first experience of treading the Pendley boards.

Regina Dobbs (Amelia Tregalleon) has been in most of the Marreaus, and has the unusual distinction of having played both a countess - and a count! She has also appeared in numerous other shows, both with Frayed Knot - most recently as a glamorous Welsh woman in Titfield Thunderbolt - and for various other societies in and around Tring - perhaps most famously playing Helga in TFC's production of 'Allo 'Allo!

Naomi Glasser (Diana) had had a long break from acting when she took on the role of Lara Taft in Requiem for Marreau in 2001, but since then hasn't looked back, being in numerous F.K. productions including a major role in Saving Ardley. In this play, Naomi is reprising her character of Diana Pringle whom she played in Tregalleon Inheritance. Naomi is also very active in the running of Frayed Knot, having been its chairman for several years now, and she directed our very successful An Inspector Calls.

Edward Farrow (Peter Snodgrass) is the son of Rob, and first appeared on the Pendley stage in the previous Marreau, The Terror of Tring - not only playing a young orphan, but also as chief snake operator! Edward is very keen on drama, studying it for GCSE and he played the lead role in Impact's production of "Success". He has also started writing sketches which have been performed by the Youth Theatre group.

For **Emma Blyth (Philippa Poppet)**, this is her first outing on stage for Frayed Knot, although she has previously been found backstage at our productions with needle and thread in hand sewing buttons and breeches, and indeed she has been busy organising the costumes for this production. She also stage managed our recent production of Titfield Thunderbolt.

Dan Clucas (Inspector Crunch) has become very actively involved with Frayed Knot over the last couple of years, both acting and directing. He was the eponymous protagonist of An Inspector Calls and directed both our acclaimed staging of The History Boys and our recent production of Titfield Thunderbolt. Dan has also acted with other societies in the area, most recently in Pendley's production of Art. This is Dan's first Marreau, however - playing a slightly different inspector to the one in the Priestley play!

Marreau - The Back Story

Hemlock Montrachet Etienne Boniface Marreau's first appearance was in **Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman** where we found him investigating the murder of Lady Eustace and subsequently of her son, Edward who was married to Isabel ... the same Isabel who features prominently in the seventh play **Requiem for Marreau**. Marreau is usually ably assisted in his cases by his secretary Gwendolyn and helped or hindered by his affable, noble but rather dim friend Simpson. The second adventure found the trio attempting to recover some fantastically valuable stolen jewellery in **The African Moon** - a case which quickly becomes far more serious with a succession of murders. This play features the fearsomely unpleasant Raging Ranulph a cruel bully who has a very murky past, and we also meet the highly intelligent butler Havelock, of whom more later. Marreau never seems quite sure whether he is French or Belgian ... or indeed from Monaco, Switzerland or Luxembourg ... or any other francophone country for that matter - often changing his mind several times during a play. He considers himself the greatest detective who has ever lived; he is, however probably sadly deluded. Marreau is highly reliant on the intelligence and common sense of Gwendolyn - but in the third episode, **The Curse of Cardiff**, she is far more interested in getting to know one of the suspects, "New Mexico" Smith, than attempting to solve the most mysterious case. Centred around the curse of an ancient Egyptian mummy, this adventure features a number of unusual and mysterious deaths. Gwendolyn is absent from the fourth adventure, **The Bloody Carpet**, as she has married "Mexi" and settled down to a quiet life with him - she thinks. In this episode we first meet Marreau's arch enemy, Professor Maurice Hearty. This evil genius causes many problems for Marreau not only in this play but also in devious ways his influence is felt in later episodes too - not least in this current instalment. Hearty's malevolent activities also have a drastic effect on Gwendolyn and her husband "New Mexico" Smith - as told in the fifth play **The Sword of Carthage**, set in their country home. We also meet Havelock the butler again - whom we had originally encountered in the second play - as he is now butting for the Smiths. By the sixth adventure, **The Clouds of Death**, Hearty's malign influence has become intolerable and in a dramatic final scene Marreau and Hearty face each other in a life and death struggle in Wildboar Castle - where they have been drawn by the mysterious disappearance of an old Silesian count. A well-topped battle results in first Hearty, then Marreau himself plunging down the supposedly "bottomless" cavern. At the start of **Requiem for Marreau**, Marreau is thought to have been dead for a couple of years, and this seventh play finds Gwendolyn and Simpson engaged (to each other!) and investigating alone in the wilds of Western Scotland - where as mentioned above, they meet up again with Isabel, who was widowed in the very first adventure. She has since remarried - to a very peculiar Scotsman ... who turns out to be Marreau himself. Tragically Isabel is murdered, so Marreau, like Gwendolyn before him, is widowed. Cornwall is the setting for the eighth play **The Tregalleon Inheritance**, where Gwendolyn has been invited to an old manor house for the reading of a will - that of a relation she did not realise even existed. Strange sounds and even stranger people are waiting to greet her! The local legend of "Moon-gnashers" causes fear - and the late Sir Crispin had some very unusual hobbies. Four of the characters from this current play were involved in this early play - the Tregalleons themselves, Millicent and Diana. The ninth instalment, **The Terror of Tring** finds Marreau and his friends trying to discover the truth behind what appears to be Vampire attacks! The population of the quiet country town of Tring have been terrified by a mysterious creature which has already claimed four lives ... and hasn't finished yet. All ten plays have featured the rustic policeman, Farmer, who has held every rank in the service from Constable to Chief Constable and back again. Though in **Tregalleon Inheritance**, it is fact his identical twin Walter who helps with the investigation. The other regular character in most of the Marreaus has been Dr. Protheroe, though he is not in this particular adventure. For more about Marreau visit "his" website at www.marreau.co.uk