



Frayed Knot Theatre Company



WWW.FKTC.ORG

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.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 (revisited !)
- 1999 *How the Other Half Loves*
Trivial Pursuits
- 2000 *Habeas Corpus*
They came from Mars Farndale 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*
Marreau and the Grey Dagger
Damages
- 2011 *The 39 Steps*
The Rise and Fall of Little Voice
Hang on a minute lads, I've got a great idea !
- 2012 *Talking Heads*

New members always welcome - email rob@fktc.org

THE
GRASS
ROOTS

COURT THEATRE

AT
PENDLEY
TRING

Frayed Knot Theatre Company in association with Samuel French Ltd

Presents an Amateur Production of:

Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell

By Keith
Waterhouse

17th - 20th October 2012

Curtain up: 8pm - Tickets £8-10



Get Tickets on line at:
www.courttheatre.co.uk



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The Grass Roots Court Theatre, Station Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5QY

Welcome to **Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell**. You are here for one of one of three reasons:

- 1) You love good theatre
- 2) You've heard of this through word of mouth or the press
- 3) You know me.

Whatever your reasons I'm glad you're here and seeing as you're here let me tell you a little bit about the show and the man.

Jeffery Bernard was infamous in certain circles as a womaniser, a drunk and a bloody good story teller. He spent most of his professional life as a journalist for various different publications including the sporting life and the spectator. He was a hopeless gambler and alcoholic who spent most his life looking for as much trouble as he could. And he found it. He was married four times but was known to have various mistresses and "female acquaintances". He spent most of his life homeless and because he spent his time in an alcoholic blur he didn't really care where he lived or who he lived with just as long as he had somewhere to crash after a long night at the coach and horses. One of the many people who ended up drinking with him was writer Keith Waterhouse. Keith was so fascinated with him that he decided to write this play.

Jeffrey was originally to be played by John Hurt who was a friend of his but eventually it was Peter O toole who got the gig and it was immediately apparent that he was the right choice. O toole played him twice, once in 1990 and again in 1999 after Bernard had passed away. Various actors including James Bolam and Robert Powell have played him and now it's time for Simon Hill to play him.

Directing this show has been a strange experience for me. Usually as a director you find a show and spend a couple of years in development. I found out about this show three months ago and have since then spent all of my time trying to get to grips with the reality of directing a show that is completely utobiographical. Everyone in this show existed. All of the stories and all of the monologues really happened. This is not fiction, it is fact. But it is one of the funniest and at times most touching pieces of theatre ever written and my only hope is that you dear audience get half the enjoyment of watching it as I have had directing it.

Mike Code October 2012

Many thanks to Tim Amsden and to John & Vicki at the King's Arms

Simon Hill

Simon has been an actor and director for over 40 years, initially in North London, where he was a founding member of Chicken Shed and also played lead roles in *The Winslow Boy*, *Whose Life Is It Anyway*, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, and *The Elephant Man*. Since moving to the Tring area 25 years ago, he has appeared regularly at the Pendley Shakespeare Festival, the Aylesbury Limelight, Little Gaddesden, as well as the Court Theatre, and at the Bridewell, the Lion & Unicorn, and Questors in London. Roles have included as Macbeth, Macduff and Duncan (*Macbeth*), Oswald and Edmund (*King Lear*), Polonius (*Hamlet*, twice), Baptista Minola (*Taming of the Shrew*, twice), Duque Vincentio (*Measure for Measure*), Doctor Miranda (*Death & the Maiden*), the Ratcatcher (*Kindertransport*), Ludwig (*Cabaret*), Lord Illingworth (*Woman of No Importance*), Serebryakov (*Uncle Vanya*) and both name parts in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

Sue Templar

Although a newcomer to the stage, Sue has been involved in a number of productions since 2008 at The Court Theatre. Either backstage, applying make-up or front of house taking tickets she enjoys all aspects of the theatre. She is relishing the opportunity to play several characters in Jeffrey Bernard and hopes to tread the boards again soon.

Jenny Giles

Jenny has been seen in many productions over the years here at The Court Theatre. Most recently she has starred as the Wicked Step Mother in pantomime, Marie in *Little Voice*, and the annual *Murder Mystery*. She has appeared in everything from plays to musicals and can also be found front of house selling ice creams, raffle tickets and programmes

Andy Faber

Andy has been involved with the court for more years than he cares to remember. You name it he's done it. From Musicals like *Sweet Charity* and *West Side Story* to T.V sitcoms like *Vicar of Dibley* to diverse roles like the one he undertook in *Talking Heads*. After this show is finished Andy can be seen in BTC's production of *Guys and Dolls* and will also be directing *Calender Girls* next year.

Roger Emery

Roger started his am-dram career way back in the 50's (yes, he is that old), when he appeared as Fabian in the (then) Gaddesden Society's production of *Twelfth Night*. He was for many years with that company in rôles that reached the giddy heights of Dame in pantomime. This is not his first brush with Keith Waterhouse; he took the title role in *Billy Liar* at Leighton Buzzard some years ago. He joined the *Frayed Knot* company for the production of *Guards!, Guards!* and has appeared in various other productions including the *Titfield Thunderbolt* and *Marreau and the Grey Dagger*. He is currently rehearsing for Panto, back at Little Gaddesden, due for performance in late January 2013

Mike Code - Director

This is Mike's third play as a director having previously directed *Talking Heads* and *Guards! Guards!*. This show has been a lot of fun to be involved with and Mike has particularly enjoyed building his very own pub. As an actor he has appeared in the *39 Steps*, *Christmas Carol* as Ebenezer Scrooge and was very recently to be seen hamming it up wonderfully in *West Side Story* as Gladhand.