















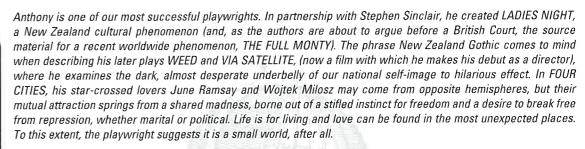




Supporting the Arts in New Zealand

FOUR CITIES

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Anthony McCarten's FOUR CITIES, the fourth production of Auckland Theatre Company's 1998 Montana Season SEVEN PLAYS OF PASSION.



We are privileged to welcome to an Auckland stage, two New Zealand comedy icons, Ginette McDonald and Brian Sergent, reprising their roles after a sell-out season of the play at Wellington's Circa Theatre. ATC continues its commitment to providing opportunities for our young artists by welcoming on stage, Claire Dougan, (a graduate of UNITEC's School of Performing Arts) and backstage, T.O. Robertson, making his debut as Lighting Designer. Cathy Downes (SOCIAL CLIMBERS/MARKET FORCES) returns as director, and we take this opportunity to congratulate her on her recent "gong": the Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, announced in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours List. Designer John Harding (ALL MY SONS/UNCLE VANYA) and Costume Designer Lesley Burkes-Harding (THREE TALL WOMEN/ALL MY SONS) complete a first-class team.

ATC salutes our cultural partners, particularly Production Sponsor The National Bank and our Principal Sponsor Montana Wines. We gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of TVNZ, The Carlton Hotel, Air New Zealand, Arthur Andersen, BDO, Alternative Rentals, Canon and NewstalkZB. Tonight's performance is made possible through major funding from Creative New Zealand and Auckland City's Arts Alive Programme. Similarly, we extend our thanks for the support of Greg Innes and his team at the Aotea Centre.

I trust that you enjoy tonight's performance and invite you to join us for a silver anniversary of sorts: ATC's 25th production and first Shakespeare, JULIUS CAESAR, which opens at Sky City Theatre on 24 July.

Fron D

Simon Prast PRODUCER







Dear ATC Patron

Often to achieve fruitful results risks must be taken.

Moving beyond the status quo is, at best, fraught with challenge. This story reveals that with much to lose there is probably more to gain. In a courageous move, leaving all that she knows, a suburban housewife embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

Montana as a company is well familiar with risk-taking in the pursuit of excellence. Bold initiatives pave the path of history and at Montana we take lessons of history to heart.

Montana is proud to continue its partnership as Principal Sponsor with the Auckland Theatre Company in this drama where one woman faces her fears only to discover them fade away.

The fourth in the series of SEVEN PLAYS OF PASSION that make up the 1998 Montana Season, FOUR CITIES is a comedy that never loses sight of the human factor. We trust that you will enjoy this play about an ordinary woman with an extraordinary story.

Peter Hubscher

It WILL



MANAGING DIRECTOR Montana Wines Ltd.

Dear Auckland Theatre Company Patron

Welcome to Auckland Theatre Company's production of Anthony McCarten's comedy FOUR CITIES. This play promises to provide you with an entertaining evening as you are taken on a trip to Paris, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow where two strangers find love in the most unexpected places.

The National Bank is delighted to be associated with this production and I have every confidence, in both the work of one of New Zealand's most successful playwrights and the Auckland Theatre Company, that you will thoroughly enjoy FOUR CITIES.

Kind Regards

John Gran

John Anderson CHIEF EXECUTIVE



ANTHONY McCARTEN



Born in New Plymouth, Anthony is currently attending the Cannes International Film Festival for his recent film, which he wrote and directed (debut), VIA SATELLITE. He has received much publicity of late due to the controversy surrounding his play LADIES NIGHT and the film THE FULL MONTY.

Anthony began his writing career in the 80's at Victoria University while he studied for an Arts Degree. After a six month stint as King Lear with a Wellington Theatre in Education Company, he began and abandoned two novels, wrote poetry and finally wrote his first play in 1984 CYRIL ELLIS, WHERE ARE YOU?. After being selected for the 1986 NZ Playwrights' Workshop for THE YELLOW CANARY MAZURKA he teamed up with Stephen Sinclair to write LADIES NIGHT, one of the most popular NZ plays of the 80's which has been translated into six languages. Other plays include WEED, VIA SATELLITE, F.I.L.T.H. and LET'S SPEND THE NIGHT TOGETHER.

SYNOPSIS

June Ramsay opted for the "Four Capitals Off-Season Special" over the "Kontiki package" because of her interest in art, ruins and culture. But, while still in the tour's first city, Paris, she realises that she's been mislead by a brochure bearing no resemblance to the actual accommodations of the tour: the food is terrible and the room's got no balcony! So, the brochure's editor let one too many stars slip by...

On the verge of bailing from the tour and heading back to her home in New Zealand, her plans are disrupted by the arrival of the charming tour guide, Wojtek Milosz...who takes his job very seriously.

After presenting June with the itinerary for the remainder of the tour, he clarifies her ultimate choice: her husband Moses and his refrigerator business in Auckland, or the allure of Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.

Her husband Moses and his refrigerators is the reason she embarked on the tour to begin with!

Berlin. Starting with a bus accident and a bottle of wine, June and Wojtek begin a friendship fraught with the pain and hilarity borne into any love affair anywhere. As they travel, their love affair ascends towards an ultimate choice of its own during their last moments in the fourth city.

FOUR NEW ZEALANDERS, FOUR CITIES

Eager to give substance to a cultural heritage imported and slipped to us surreptitiously, Europe has long been the destination of New Zealanders like June. Fabulous far away places, cities, food, languages, all referred to with a taken-forgranted familiarity in our literature.

New Zealanders call it "The Big OE". The big clearly confirming that the reality of the "E" is always a shock. The naïve Kiwi is deeply impressed. But a strong sense of individuality doubtless holds us from being overwhelmed and contributes to the quality of our observations.

In a new found isolation they have often been found writing on more than a postcard.

Darling

I went to Chartier to lunch and had a macquereau grillé et Épinards à la crême. It was very strange to be there alone - I felt that I was a tiny girl standing on a chair looking into an aquarium. It was not a sad feeling, only strange and a bit 'femme seulish' - as I came out it began to snow. A wind like a carving knife cut through the streets - and everybody began to run - so did l'into a café and there I sat and drank a cup of hot black coffee. Then for the first time I felt in Paris. It was a little café & hideous - with a black marble top to the counter garni with lozenges of white and orange. Chauffeurs and their wives & fat men with immense photographic apparatus sat in it - and a white fox terrier bitch - thin and eager ran among the tables. Against the window beat a dirty French flag, fraying out in the wind and then flapping on the glass. Does black coffee make you drunk? I felt quite enivreé (Oh Jack I won't do this. It's like George Moore. Don't be cross) and could have sat there years, smoking & sipping and watching the snow flakes.

¹ From a letter to John Middleton Murry Katherine Mansfield 1915



Best time to Visit: Paris June 23°C & September 21°C, Berlin May 28°C & October 21°C

So often travel is a quest. In Berlin in 1983, another New Zealand writer James McNeish² searched for clues left by Kiwi, Jack Lovelock.

Forty-seven years earlier, amid pre-war Nazism, the enigmatic Lovelock had appeared from nowhere, winning a gold medal for New Zealand in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He died later in New York in mysterious circumstances.

Here the McNeish trail leads to a famous Berlin park. His diary

9 October

I find myself in the Tiergarten again, actually on the edge of the Tiergarten near Brandenburger Tor, behind the old Pariserplatz. I am staring with odd fascination at the goldfish pond. Asking myself, Did Lovelock come here? To meet Peltzer?

Anyone reading this will assume that I am becoming as obsessed as Lovelock, that, lacking an interpreter, I am reduced to wandering about Berlin in Lovelock's shadow like a demented bloodhound. It is not that however. Until a few minutes ago I had no intention of coming here.

Mark Twain proffered the advice that travel is "fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness." I guess he allured to the way our views may be ambushed on the way. New Zealand writer Maurice Shadbolt³ highlights this experience in accepting an invitation to Poland.

"...There was a guide and interpreter waiting for me when my train shunted into Poland. His name was Jerzy Szkup. He was a translator, university lecturer, and literary critic. He had been at pains to get the job of guiding me through Poland. He was completing a doctoral thesis on Katherine Mansfield; he needed a New Zealander in his life. Meanwhile I needed a Pole. "Welcome to the socialist paradise," he said sardonically."



Moscow June to Mid-September 20°C to 15°C, Warsaw May to October 20°C to 17°C

- Source 'A Place in the World Called Paris: edited by Steven Bar
- Chronicle Books, San Francisco USA,1994.
- Source The Man From Nowhere by James McNeish
- Godwir, Auckland New Zealand, 1991.
- ³ Source *One of Ben's* by Maurice Shadbolt David Ung Publishing, Auckland New Zealand, 1993.

CATHY DOWNES

Directing: Auckland Theatre Company: Social Climbers, Market Forces. Sydney Olympic Games: White Baptist Abba Fan. Playbox Theatre (Melbourne.) & Glen St Theatre (Sydney): Waking Eve. Tours: A Long Undressing (NZ), Oracles and Miracles (NZ), Eugenia (NZ, UK, AUST). Circa Theatre: Closer, Lady Windermere's Fan, Three Tall Women, The Sisters



Rozensweig, The Woman in Black. Downstage Theatre: Purapurawhetu, One Flesh, Tzigane, Good Works, The Rivers of China. Acting: International Tours: The Case of Katherine Mansfield, Joyful and Triumphant, Sweet Corn, The Heartache and Sorrow Show. Playbox Theatre: The Glass Mermaid. Downstage Theatre: Falling From Grace, MacBeth, Serious Money, Othello. Circa Theatre: Farewell Speech, Torch Song Trilogy, The Secret Rapture, Away. Sydney Theatre Company: Extremities. Nimrod Theatre (Sydney): Three Sisters, Cloud 9, Welcome the Bright World. Film: The Intruder, Hunger, Monkey Griv. Winter of Our Dreams. Television: Cover Story, Joyful and Triumphant, Ray Bradbury Theatre, Waterloo Station, A Country Practice, Mother and Son, The Case of Katherine Mansfield, Epidemic. Buck House. Awards: 1998 NZ Order of Merit (MNZM) for Services to the Arts, 1997 Chapman Tripp Best Taki Rua Production Purapurawhetu, 1996 Chapman Tripp Award Best Director and Best Production for Tzigane, Best Circa Production Three Tall Women, 1995 Chapman Tripp Award Best Downstage Production for Good Works, 1993 Chapman Tripp Award Best NZ Play for Farewell Speech, 1992 Chapman Tripp Award Best Production Joyful and Triumphant, 'Sammy' Australia 1980 Best Supporting Actress for Winter of Our Dreams. Training: NZ Drama School.



JOHN HARDING Designer

Theatre: ATC: Oleanna, Three Tall Women, Molly Sweeney, All My Sons. NZ Musical Theatre Consortium: West Side Story. Watershed Theatre: Hamlet, Cabaret, Macbeth, Othello, Braindead — The Musical. Downstage Theatre: Lysistrata. Mercury Theatre: Via Satellite, Weed, The Crucible, The Merchant of Venice. Opera: Hawkes Bay Opera: Tosca, Lucia de Lammermoor. National Opera: Otello. Outdoor Events: Jose



Carreras at the Springs, Christmas/Opera/Symphony in the Park 1995-

T.O. ROBERTSON Lighting Designer

Theatre: ATC: debut. Angel Theatre Productions: Within A Magic Prison. New Pacific Underground: Dawn Raids. Selwyn Performing Arts School: The Naked King. Aotea Centre Art Education: Pandora's Box. Positions: ATC Technical Manager 1998 & Lighting Operator: Molly Sweeney, All My Sons, Skylight, Master Class, Production Manager for Supergroove.



LESLEY BURKES-HARDING

Costume Design

Theatre: ATC: Three Tall Women, All My Sons. Mercury Theatre: Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Share Club, Beauty and the Beast NZ Musical Theatre Consortium: West Side Story. Watershed Theatre: Hamlet. Television: Shortland Street, Raider of the South Seas. Short Film: I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry. Positions: Head of Wardrobe Mercury Theatre 1985-1989, Director La Sposa Design.

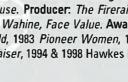


GINETTE MCDONALD June Ramsay

Theatre: Acting: ATC: debut. Downstage: My Vote Belongs to Daddy, Private Lives, The Real Inspector Hound, Knickers, American Hurrah, Salve Regina, Tango, Precious Moments from the Family Album, You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running, Knackers, The Philanthropist, Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs, Absurd Person Singular, Travesties, The Merchant of Venice. Circa Theatre: Glorious Ruins, Four



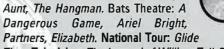
Cities, The Dresser, King Lear, Decade Decade. Royal Court Theatre (London): Dons Party. Television: NZ: Glide Time, Pukemanu, Close to Home, Visual Symphonies, In Search of the NZ Male, Face Value, Dead Certs. UK: The Katherine Mansfield Series, Lord Peter Wimsey, Jack the Ripper, North and South, Bedtime Stories, Angels, Helen A Woman of Today, Australia Fair. Film: Brief Encounter. Directing: Close To Home, Shark in the Park, Open House. Producer. The Fireraiser, The Champion, Peppermint Twist, Nga Wahine, Face Value. Awards: 1979 Feltex Best Actress It's Your Child, 1983 Pioneer Women, 1987 Feltex Best Children's Drama The Fireraiser, 1994 & 1998 Hawkes Bay Speaking Union Best Speaker.



BRIAN SERGENT

Wotjek Milosz

Theatre: ATC: Uncle Vanya, Circa Theatre: Closer, Four Cities, Market Forces, Moonlighting, I Hate Hamlet, Time of My Life, The Homecoming, Weed, Woman in Mind, Hidden Agenda, Torch Song Trilogy, Crimes of The Heart. Downstage Theatre: Ladies Night II, Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, Arsenic and Old Lace, Greater Tuna, Unsuitable for Adults, Charley's Aunt, The Hangman. Bats Theatre: A Dangerous Game, Ariel Bright,



Time. Television: The Legend of William Tell, The Semisi Family, Mirror

Mirror II, Skitz I, II, III & IV, Coverstory, Pulp Comedy, Ray Bradbury Theatre, Married, The Armchair Shopper, Shark in the Park, Worzel Gummidge Downunder, Country GP, Utes, Gliding On, The Allnighter, Barry. Film: Via Satellite, Chicken, Absent Without Leave, Braindead, Meet the Feebles, Footrot Flats, Carry Me Back. Awards: 1994 Chapman Tripp Best Supporting Actor I Hate Hamlet, 1992 Chapman Tripp Best Actor of the Year *The Homecoming*.

CLAIRE DOUGAN

The Maid

Theatre: ATC: debut. UNITEC Performing Arts School: Macbeth, The End of the Golden Weather, Our Town, King Arthur, The Beggars Opera, Agamemnon, Kabaret. Training: UNITEC Performing Arts School, Royal Academy of Dancing, American Jazz Dance.





Presents

FOUR CITIES

by Anthony McCarten

World premier, The Flight Theatre, Los Angeles April 1996
Fourth Production of the Auckland Theatre Company's 1998 Montana Season
SEVEN PLAYS OF PASSION

Director
Designer
Lighting Design/Technical Manager
Costume Design & Manufacture
Stage Manager
Lighting Operator
Set Construction
Props

Cathy Downes
John Harding
T.O. Robertson
Lesley Burkes-Harding
Gregory Smale
Kerry Marinovich
Third Stage
Gregory Smale/Arts Bandits

CAST In order of appearance

June Ramsay Wotjek Milosz Maid Ginette McDonald Brian Sergent Claire Dougan

There will be a 15 minute Intermission

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Simon Prast

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Today the Wall has gone. As for June and Wotjek, its now possible to travel to Moscow. Tourists are welcome. Glasnost is here. But as with Wotjek, the lasting effect of communism tells us that the mind proves slower to change.

In 1977, Jim Weir⁴, Ambassador for New Zealand in Moscow, mirrored the contrasts in his diary 'Letters from Moscow'.

Department of Letters That Are Never Sent

Astoria Hotel Leningrad 21 May 1977

Elizabeth Arden New York

Dear Madam,

You are probably aware that many visitors to the Soviet Union complain that baths and hand-basins in hotels have no plugs.

You may not be aware that a 50 cc/ml-size container of your Blue-Grass Roll-On Deadorant' fits the plug-hole of a Russian bath perfectly; and the cap fits the hand-hasin

You - and my wife who made this discovery at 7:16 am today - are to be warmly congratulated on this contribution to détente.

Yours sincerely and in gratitude...

Ulan Bator Hotel Ulan Bator Mongolia 27 August 1977 Elizabeth Arden New York

Dear Madam,

On 21 May I wrote with the exciting news that your 'Blue-Grass Roll-On Deodorant' fits the plug-hole of a Russian bath.

You may also be interested to know that, if stuck for shoe polish in out of the way places, your 'Orange Skin Food Cream' does the trick nicely.

Yours sincerely and in gratitude...

When finally the Kiwi returns home, as Shadbolt and countless others confirm, when "The Big OE" is over, it is here we see into who we are. It is here we come to understand and value our culture. What it should mean to us. Here adrift at the bottom of the world. T.S. Elliot sums it up this way:

'We shall never cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.'

Written by David Kayrouz

Source Letters From Moscow by Jim Weir Hodder & Stoughton, Auckland New Zealand, 1988. if you're enjoying this evening's veritable feast, perhaps we can interest you in our home delivery service.



Sundays 8.30pm



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VITA VIRGIПIA MAIDMENT THEATRE 30 September - 24 October



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Cover Photo: John McDermott Title Treatment: In-House - Arch McDonnell Programme: Pix Design - Bill Paynter Compiled by: Amy Drury



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