

family ties



new writing
by susan hodgetts

21 to 24 September 2011

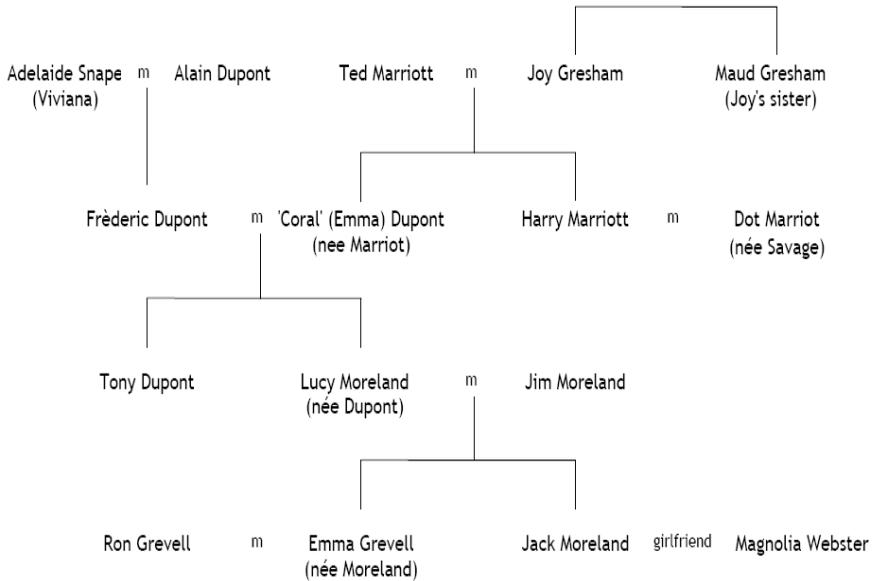
Doors open at 7pm - show starts at 7:30pm

Network Theatre, 246A Lower Road, London, SE1 8SF

www.networktheatre.org

Network
Theatre
Company

Family Tree



The Action of the Play takes place at the Moreland family home.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts I and II during which time the bar will be open for refreshments.

Message from the Chairman

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Network Theatre and our production of Family Ties, written by Susan Hodgetts and directed by Jordana Berk. I am always pleased to be able to welcome new members to the cast and backstage, and it's always a pleasure to see some familiar faces too. Tonight's production explores the ties - sometimes strong, sometimes tenuous - between members of the family past and present, and Susan Hodgetts' play skillfully reveals the family relationships.

Thank you for supporting us tonight and helping to keep non-professional theatre alive in Central London. We are continually developing our programme of events, and details of our activities and membership can be found on our fliers and website. Please contact us if you would like to know more about becoming involved with Network.

Of course, there is always the opportunity to socialise in the Green Room bar before, during the interval, and after tonight's show, and on behalf of Network Theatre Company, we wish you a very pleasant and entertaining evening.

Kay Murray
Chairman
Network Theatre Company
September 2011

Company biographies

Amy Barker - Coral & Joy

This is Amy's second Network performance and the second time she has played a woman. Previous performances include Helena in *Revenge of the Amazons*, Tau in *Mill on the Floss*, the Artful Dodger in *Oliver Twist*, and a Gingerbread Man in *Hansel & Gretel!*

Emma Byrne - Emma

Emma has recently appeared in *Time for Love* and *Revenge of the Amazons* (Network Theatre) and the independent feature film *The VivaVoce Virus* (SurviveTheKarvotiCave Productions). She also adapted and directed the audioplay *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (Network Theatre).

Lisa Clayton - Maud

This is Lisa's second role in a Network production. The first, as a mute faerie/scowling Amazonian in *Revenge of the Amazons* proved magickal enough to entice her back for this rather more spectral appearance. With thanks to all + YouTube & HRH Lizzie for the countless lessons in RP dickshunn...wotwot

Judith Denwood - Lucy

Judith got the acting bug in her native Cumbria whilst playing Bottom. More glamorous roles followed including at the Network where she has played a doctor, policewoman, inn-keeper, cardinal's guard, nun and grandma. She loves family drama and has enjoyed the challenge of toning down her dulcet Northern accent to bond with her latest North London family.

Paul D'Orly - Harry

Paul has been active in Network since 1996. His first role was as a Nazi Officer in *Good* and 20+ plays later he appears as Harry in this production.

When not treading the boards, he makes a mean cup of tea and has been known to make 'noises off' in the sound box.

Company biographies

Anna Finnemore - Viviana & Young Maud

This is Anna's first Network production, but unfortunately the fourth time she has played a hooker! Other roles have included Yoda, a munchkin and a monkey; her family are increasingly bemused.

Lisa Greenwood - Magnolia

Since graduating with a First Class in Music Theatre, Lisa has been involved with numerous projects and has just started a Drama PGCE. This is her first Network production. She would like to give special thanks to her family and friends, in particular her boyfriend Dan, for his continued support.

Paul Hoskins - Monsieur Loubert, Mr Miles & Protester

Paul is back on stage for the first time since 1998 when he appeared in Peter Harness' Black Monk at the Edinburgh Fringe. Previous roles include John of Gaunt in Richard II, Guildenstern in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, Marco in A View from the Bridge and Aunt Martha in a cross-dressing production of Arsenic & Old Lace.

Juliet Ingram - Lorry Girl & Protester

Hailing from a far-off land known as Australia, Juliet has honed her love of theatre by studying improvisation for the past six years with Impro Melbourne. With a strong passion for comedy and character acting, she has also been involved in The Melbourne International Comedy Festival and voice acting.

Peter Kershaw - Fred, Sir Edmond Monson & Protester

This is Peter's first performance at Network Theatre. He has performed in several amateur productions, including The Odd Couple, Woman in Mind, Straight and Narrow, Love on the Dole and Waiting in the Wings. Peter has also trained at the City Lit in Improvised Performance.

Company biographies

Michael Mayne - King Edward VII & Cannon John Collins

Michael has played a large variety of parts at Network and elsewhere, most recently Jake in Jake's Women and Caesar in Julius Caesar. He is a classically trained actor, graduating from LAMDA where he gained an MA Hons diploma. He worked in the professional theatre for 20 years before family commitments moved him into the commercial world; now he is working his way back into the Business. He has a dark secret; think confectionary...

Kay Murray - Dot

Being a longstanding member of Network, Kay still finds it a delight and a satisfying challenge to appear in a Network production, and this play is no exception. Over the years she has performed in numerous roles in plays ranging from Shakespeare to new writing, and has enjoyed them all. She is looking forward to being part of her current stage family.

Jerome Quiles - Jack

Jerome is an up and coming actor from London. He made his stage debut with Six Characters In Search Of An Author and Some Explicit Polaroids with Chelsea Players and went on to appear in several short films and videos such as The Hollow Men by Ashley Denton and The Door by Nathan Booth. Family Ties is his first production with the Network Theatre.

Martin Smith - Alain & Ted

Martin is making his first appearance with Network Theatre; his previous experience was gained some years ago at university, where he racked up credits in The Importance of Being Ernest, Mansfield Park, A Dolls House and The Merchant of Venice.

Tiru Thiruvigam - Albert, Street Rogue & Guru Russell

Tiru made his stage debut in 2011 in Revenge of the Amazons Network, followed swiftly by an earth-shattering performance in Romeo and Juliet as Sampson. He is playing three roles in 'Family Ties'. Keep your eyes peeled. He spends the rest of his days raising money for a children's charity.

Company biographies

Gary Whittaker - Tony

This is Gary's third production at Network having made his debut in 2009 in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Previous credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Network), *Alfie*, *Double Falsehood* and *The Visit*. He trained at City Lit and Central and is a member of Third Person Theatre, an improvisation company.

Jordana Berk - Director

Jordana is originally from the US, where her directing credits included: *Haiku*, *Man of Steel*, *Zanni*, *Doctor by Force*, *The Smell of the Kill*, *Drone*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Lucid* (Assistant Director). She is the winner of the 2007 ACTF Directing Award. This is her second show at Network, where she assistant directed *Revenge of the Amazons* last March.

Cathy Neeson - Assistant Director / Sound Operator

Cathy joined Network last year for *Time for Love*, and quickly became indispensable, providing sound for *Outward Bound*, running social events and producing the audioplay *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*. She is enjoying assistant directing on *Family Ties* and will be in full charge for next April's production of *Harvey*.

Susan Hodgetts - Writer

Susan graduated in January this year with a Masters' Degree from Goldsmiths College in Writing for Performance.

Previous credits include *Slash* (RADA), *The Ages of Mankind* from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (translation, Brixton Market) and *The Sky at Night* (Lorgean Theatre, Romania).

Family Ties is Susan's first full-length play. For Network Theatre, she has previously appeared in *Remember Me*, *Time for Love*, and the radio play *The Blue Carbuncle*.

Production credits

Director	Jordana Berk
Assistant Director	Cathy Neeson
Stage Manager	Sue Walker
Assistant Stage Manager	Gail Caplin
Costume Design	Gail Caplin
Hair & Make Up	Christina Houghton
Lighting Design & Operator	Dan Young
Sound Design & Composer	Hannah Taylor
Sound Operator	Cathy Neeson
Set Design	Paul Lunnon
Set Construction	Paul Lunnon, Nigel Williams, Sean McMullan, Dan Frayn & the Cast & Crew
Front of House Manager	Lesley Winterflood

Message from the Writer

The original idea for Family Ties came from a quote in a magazine: "We're rediscovering that the warmth of the kitchen is emotional as well as thermodynamic", and resonated with a situation that was personal to me.

At the same time my Uncle was diagnosed with terminal cancer; what shocked me most was the way in which his immediate family subsequently abandoned him.

This led me to question the notion of family, and how its behaviour can sometimes be the opposite of what the word 'family' itself might suggest. I began thinking not only about the emotional aspect of blood bonds, but the physical, genealogical aspect of them also; what family might mean to each of us, and that even if we sometimes think it means nothing at all, we're all still connected by ties that we can't ignore.

I should mention that this is not a play about my family (as far as I know there are no King-seducing prostitutes hiding in our family closet...) but it could be a play about anybody's family. I hope that you will find something that resonates for you, but most of all I hope that you will be entertained, and enjoy the play as much as I enjoyed writing it.

I'd like to thank the Director, Jordana Berk, who asked the right questions and has been decisive and inspiring, and the whole cast and crew for their enthusiasm and work on the project; and Robert McCann for designing the Family Ties artwork, and for his continuing love and support.

It goes without saying that I also thank my family.

Susan Hodgetts

The Arch 200 Club

Over 70 years ago, Southern Railways founded a theatre group at Waterloo.

The spirit of amateur theatre has survived through changes of name and nationalisation and is now struggling with the costs that came with privatisation. **Please help us to continue to entertain you by becoming a member of the Arch 200 Club.**

The Club exists to help the continued existence of the Network Theatre as a building in the face of ever increasing overheads. Membership subscriptions fund projects that are for the general good of the theatre, not productions themselves.

Membership costs from just £5 a month. Every month three membership numbers are drawn and half that month's subscriptions paid out in prizes.

There is so much more that needs to be done. The staging needs replacing and some parts of the theatre that the audience do not see are in desperate need of refurbishment. If there is a large enough membership it might even be possible to shorten the wait for the gentlemen's toilet!

More details are available from Nigel Williams at
arch200@networktheatre.org

Coming up



Necropolis Now

A new audio-play by Rosie de Vekey.

Premiere launch on 29 October 2011, prior to release.

A ghost story set in the Network Theatre, from the writer of Time for Love.

Written & Directed by Rosie de Vekey



Happy as a Sandbag

Happy as a Sandbag is a musical revue recalling the happier and more memorable moments of wartime Britain between 1939 and 1945.

Within this funny and uplifting show, wartime years are carefully explored through a series of hilarious sketches, speeches, demonstrations and musical medleys.

Happy as a Sandbag is patriotic, funny, nostalgic, joyous and above all, a fantastic evening's entertainment.

Written by Ken Lee

Directed by Michael Mayne

Performances: 30th November to 3rd December 2011

For more information about Network Theatre Company, upcoming readings, auditions and performances visit www.networktheatre.org



More than 70 years of drama

Network Theatre
246A Lower Road, London SE1 8SF
www.networktheatre.org