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Frayed Knot Theatre Company

At the Court Theatre, Pendley, Tring

April 30th - May 3rd 2014

THE WORLD PREMIÈRE OF ...

Marreau

and the

Killer

Rabbit

By

Rob Farrow

Programme £1

**GILBERTS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

would like to wish

**FRAYED KNOT
THEATRE COMPANY**

every success with their production of

**Marreau
and the
Killer Rabbit**

*Will the Killer Rabbit
be held to account ?*

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE CO.

**Marreau
and the
Trilobite of Rheims**
aka

**Marreau
and the
Killer Rabbit**

By

Robert Farrow

A detective comedy in two acts. The eleventh Marreau adventure.

Revision 1.10e 21.03.14

First performance run: Wednesday 30th April to Saturday 3rd May 2014

The Court Theatre, Pendley, Tring

Directed by Rob Farrow
Produced by Sarah Amsden

MARREAU AND THE KILLER RABBIT



Marlon - Marreau



Jenny - Gwendolyn



Nigel - Simpson



Vi - Victoria



Adrian - Kenny



Lindsay - Doris



Mark - Prof. Finn



Sue - Emma



Jake - Lewis



Regina - Countess Annuska



Andy - Doc Protheroe



Rob - Supt. Farmer



John - Sgt. Treadworthy



Sarah - Producer

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

- 1991 Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman
- 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
- 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 & Fall of Little Voice
Hang On A Minute Lads I've Got A Great Idea
- 2012 Talking Heads
Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell
- 2013 Jerusalem

MARREAU AND THE KILLER RABBIT

The Cast

Hemlock Marreau
Gwendolyn Smith
Simon Simpson

The famous continental detective
Secretary and Friend of Marreau
Friend of Marreau

Marlon Gill
Jenny Booth
Nigel Froment

Victoria Knight
Kenneth Cross
Dr Protheroe
Dr Doris Crabbe
Prof. Algenon Finn
Emma Chancellor
Countess Anruska
Lewis P. Lewis

Researcher at Tring Institute
Researcher at Tring Institute
A medical doctor known to Marreau
Senior Researcher at Tring Institute
Head of Tring Institute
Researcher at Tring Institute
Hungarian noblewoman (Party guest)
Palaeontologist at Tring Institute

Vi Malcolm
Adrian Burroughs
Andy Faber
Lindsay Stafford-Smith
Mark Wainwright
Sue Fuchter
Regina Dobbs
Jake Arkell-Hardwick

Superintendent Farmer
Sgt. Teddy Treadworthy

The ubiquitous policeman
A police sergeant

Rob Farrow
John Francis

The Crew

Director Rob Farrow
Producer & Stage Manager Sarah Amsden
Lighting & Sound Chris Cooper
Props construction & EX Nigel Froment &
Rob Farrow
Other props and set dressing The Cast & Crew

Many thanks to the production team and crew of "God of Carnage"
for allowing us to recycle their set, which saved us a lot of time.

Thanks also to John and Jake for transport, and to Ian Wells
and the cast and crew for set modifications.

I would also like to thank Matthew Homes Ltd
for their continued sponsorship of Frayed Knot
for over twenty years.

MARREAU AND THE KILLER RABBIT

The Play

Most of the action takes place in the drawing room of the
Tring Zoological Institute. It is late January 1936

Act I

Scene 1 - The Drawing Room - Early evening

Scene 2 - Immediately afterwards

Scene 3 - A quarter of an hour later

** INTERVAL of 15 minutes **

Act II

Scene 1 - A small roadside park - half an hour later

Scene 2 - The Drawing Room - about the same time

Scene 3 - a little while later

Scene 4 - a little while later still

Scene 5 - later still

Scene 6 - The Denouement - a couple of hours later

Director's Note

Well here we are again for yet another Marreau - the eleventh - and rather alarmingly
twenty-three years since the first performance of Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman.
Once again it has been a pleasure to direct this show, even if getting a cast of thirteen
together is akin to herding kittens - but they have worked hard and I hope you will enjoy
the results - everyone seemed to enjoy the rehearsals.

I am delighted to welcome Marlon to the title rôle - he has certainly taken to the part with
enthusiasm and has added an interesting Welsh slant to this complex character !
As well as welcoming back many familiar faces and regular "Marreauers", we have two
actors making their debut in this show and I am pleased that the Marreaus have been the
proving ground for many actors who have gone on to act in many shows - not least our
Chairman, Naomi who made her first acting appearance for years in "Requiem for Marreau"
and has never looked back since!

Will Marreau return ? Well, eleven is a funny sort of number to stop at really :-)

Rob Farrow - April 2014

MARREAU AND THE KILLER RABBIT

Marlon Gill - Hemlock Marreau

Marlon has been a keen amateur dramatist for over seven years and has trodden the boards at the Court Theatre in several productions including *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Guards Guards* and *Damages*. The rôle of Marreau is like a trip down memory lane, as his first lead rôle was as Renee Artois in 'Allo 'Allo at Hemel Hempstead. It was during the run of 'Allo 'Allo, that he developed his outrageous Frelsh accent (a flirtatious and possible dangerous combination of the Welsh and French accents) which will be very much evident during tonight's show. He is also not normally seen sporting a moustache and the presence of said facial horticulture has been the cause of much ribbing at his place of employment during the run up to the show; how the man suffers for his art! So have several drinks at the bar (hopefully impairing your rotten fruit throwing abilities,) sit back and enjoy the show (and the moustache).

Jenny Booth - Gwendolyn Smith

Jenny says "I was a founder member of Frayed Knot and was the first person to play Gwendolyn. I would like to say the only person but had to miss a turn or two down the way. She feels like mine and I am very much enjoying this one - possibly my favourite to date. I have appeared in numerous plays for numerous societies in Tring and Cheddington playing anything from a nude to a bundle of rags on stage - but I have a real soft spot for the Marreaus and with those we have been known to perform in even more exotic locations!"

In fact the only Marreau that Jenny missed was *Tregalleon Inheritance* in 2002, although in *Bloody Carpet* she played her own sister - if you see what I mean.

Nigel Froment - Simon Simpson

Another founder member of Frayed Knot, Nigel was in most of the early F.K. productions, and has appeared in many of the Marreaus, playing various rôles including the fearsomely unpleasant "Raging" Ranulph and Gwendolyn's former love interest and husband, "New Mexico" Smith. His last Marreau saw him as "Wombat" Arbroath in *Requiem for Marreau*. He is now enjoying playing Marreau's trusted friend Simpson for the first time as well as creating various props for use in this production. Nigel has acted with most of the theatre groups in Tring at one time or another including recreating the character "Private Walker" in *Dad's Army* here at Pendley some years ago.

Vi Malcom - Victoria Knight

Vi was privileged to have been part of the cast of the very first Marreau production as well as many of the others and is absolutely delighted to be doing so again. Over the years she has also enjoyed appearing in numerous productions at the Court Theatre with Frayed Knot and others, but in more recent years has been indulging herself directing shows that include *The Sound of Music*, *King and I*, and *My Fair Lady* with Cheddington Panto Group and MASH Productions.

Adrian Burroughs - Kenneth Cross

Adrian is thrilled to be in the cast of "*Killer Rabbit*" which is his first performance in Amateur Dramatics and he is looking forward to the show and getting involved in future productions. His only experience in theatre has been playing a brother in a school production of "*Joseph and in the amazing technicalour dreamcoat*" many years ago!

Andy Faber - Dr Alan Protheroe

Andy is certainly no stranger to this Pendley stage, as he has appeared in countless productions for many societies in the area, though this is his first ever Marreau. He has appeared in several previous Frayed Knot productions however including *Talking Heads* and most recently as "The Professor" in FK's acclaimed production of *Jerusalem* last November. Andy was on stage here just a few weeks ago in *Murder in the Manse* ... and here he is again in another murder mystery, though playing a somewhat different rôle from the spoon-stealing detective he played then!

MARREAU AND THE KILLER RABBIT

Lindsay Stafford-Smith - Dr Doris Crabbe

Lindsay is reprising her rôle of Dr Crabbe that she played in *Terror of Tring* ten years ago; she also appeared as Millicent Clamforge in the last Marreau, *The Grey Dagger*. Lindsay has not only appeared in dozens of productions for various societies in the area, she also writes and performs her own one-woman show and is involved with many other musical activities, such as writing the brand new musical score and musically directing the forthcoming production of *Alice's Adventures* to be performed at this theatre 17th - 21st June.

Mark Wainwright - Prof. Algenon Finn

This is Mark's first production with Frayed Knot and he has greatly enjoyed working with friends old and new. Mark has appeared in several productions at the Court including *The Sound of Music*, *Murder in Secret*, *She Loves Me* and recently *Murder in the Manse* and he will be back at the Court in June in *Alice's Adventures*. Mark saw several of the early Marreau productions in the early 90's and now feels very privileged to be part of the *Killer Rabbit* team

Sue Fuchter - Emma Chancellor

Sue says "I have been involved with Frayed Knot for the last twenty years (although it could be longer or maybe it only feels like it!) as backstage, on stage and Director. I thought I had retired after moving out of the Tring area seven years ago but am delighted to rejoin old friends for this great Marreau production." Sue's last appearance in a Marreau was 13 years ago as Mavis Travis in *Requiem for Marreau*.

Regina Dobbs - Countess Annuska

Regina has appeared in seven of the previous ten Marreau plays, first appearing in *African Moon*, playing ... a countess, but her rôles have been quite varied in the other plays - though it should be mentioned that in *Clouds of Death* she played a Polish count - and you have read that correctly as she played the cross-dressing Maximilian Podrovski. Regina has appeared in many other productions with Frayed Knot and with other companies - perhaps one of most famous rôles being that of Helga in TFC's production of 'Allo 'Allo.

Jake Arkell-Hardwick - Lewis P. Lewis

Jake Arkell-Hardwick who is appearing in the rôle of Lewis P Lewis is delighted to join the Frayed Knot Theatre Company for his first outing in one of Rob Farrow's infamous Marreau productions. Jake has been away from the stage for many years now (since his school days), and is hoping that his performance will see him invited back for future productions!

Rob Farrow - Supt. Farmer / Director

Rob is a founder member and regular performer with Frayed Knot, although he has acted with most of the theatre companies in the Tring area at one time or another, most recently appearing in the VMS production of Dr Dolittle. As well as writing and directing the Marreau plays, Rob has appeared as the policeman, "Farmer" in every one of them - with his rank changing with every show - not always as a promotion! Rob has appeared in dozens of shows over the last quarter century, one of his favourite being Mr Birling in FK's *An Inspector Calls*

John Francis - Sgt. Teddy Treadworthy

John has helped at Pendley over the years as driver and van dogsbody, provider of furniture, props and advertising space at the King's Arms for many of the shows. This will be his second appearance on stage here (the first being in *Dad's Army* as the concertina-playing Private Day), but his first speaking rôle. Having followed Marreau's career from the start, he is honoured to now assist the Great Detective, as a policeman of (very) few words.

Sarah Amsden - Producer

Sarah has had a love of the theatre from an early age. Who can forget her magnificent performance as 'smallest bandit' when, aged ten, she stole the show at Little Gaddesden Players' production of *Aladdin*? Then followed a period of rest until she was lured back by the prospect of acting alongside naked men in Frayed Knot's groundbreaking *Full Monty* in 2005. Since then, she is mostly to be found back stage either producing or stage managing for many Frayed Knot shows.

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE CO.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

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