



## GLOBE THEATRE

104 London St

Dunedin

P.O. Box 5334

Phone:

4773274

### Programme for 2004

**February 19-28**

**by Alan Ayckbourn**

**ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR**

**director Brian Beresford**

Christmas parties can be the stuff of nightmares, especially in moments of sober recollection. Ayckbourn's three couples (together with their unseen other guests and dog) celebrate the occasion over three successive years during which time their changing social situations are mirrored by their party behaviour. While you might not want to have any of them as guests in your house, you will fall about laughing as you watch them on stage, comfortable in the knowledge that you could not possibly know anyone like them – or could you?

**April 15-24**

**by Joe Musaphia**

**MOTHERS AND FATHERS (2003)**

**director David Manley**

Joe Musaphia's comedy is one of New Zealand's most commercially successful plays. The play's theme was much ahead of its time (mid 1970s) because it dealt with a couple's desperate desire for parenthood and their decision to satisfy that desire through surrogacy. At that time, however, there was no artificial way of ensuring pregnancy of the surrogate mother; fertilisation had to be accomplished by conventional means – and did not always occur at the first attempt! The effect of this 'connection' on the characters, two couples, forms the heart of this play. Musaphia has recently updated his script and characters to make them more relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Nevertheless, the play's themes of love, despair – and can you really trust your wife or husband? – remain as pertinent as ever.

**June 10-19**

**by John Gay**

**THE BEGGAR'S OPERA**

**director Louise Petherbridge musical director Brian Beresford**

MacHeath is the antihero of John Gay's satirical anti-opera in which the rich characters are corrupt and the poor not much better but have more fun - provided they are not being thrown into prison for stealing (or not stealing enough) or being taken on their last journey to the gallows. Love and sex are heavily satirised, as are the government and its officials. Not surprisingly, the work was an instant hit when it premiered in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sadly, its targets are as visible, as risible and as recognisable today as they were then.

**August 5-14**

**by Oliver Goldsmith**

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

**director David Corballis**

Our second 18<sup>th</sup> century work for this year is comedy with a more gentle thrust. While money and social status are of prime importance to the older characters, it is love rather than sex that occupies the minds of the younger generation (on stage anyway). This is a comedy of errors, of confused identities, romantic confusions and, of course, happy endings.

**October 21-30**

**by David Mamet**

**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

**director Andrew Morrison**

Mamet's skill with words is again to the fore in this black comedy about a man who considers that he has been cheated by the dealer who had purchased a nickel coin from him, knowing it to be the rare American buffalo and thus worth a great deal more than he had paid. The junk shop owner, with two of his friends, plots to rob the dealer and thus make him pay - but things do not go to plan...

**December 2-11**

**by Scott McPherson**

**MARVIN'S ROOM**

**director Emily Duncan**

The final production for 2004 is this bittersweet comedy about family life and death in America. While this might not seem the stuff of comedy, the play is full of warmth and laughter is shown to be the best medicine (which is just as well because the family includes an invalid aunt, a stroke victim and an arsonist as well as a person who has just been diagnosed with leukaemia!)