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A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE INC. 1975
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

presents

SLEUTH

by Anthony Shaffer

TONY AWARD WINNER, BEST PLAY 1970-1971

"Sleuth has all the ingredients of a top-class thriller, which it undoubtedly is — a plot whose twists and turns are breathtakingly audacious and fiendishly cunning: suspense and excitement galore: and a staggering denouement. Yet it is far more than just that: it is also a brilliant parody of the Agatha Christie country-house thriller, mercilessly satirising the genre at the same time as using its technical devices to the full."

Cast in order of appearance:

ANDREW WYKE Don Ewer
MILO TINDLE Henry Hoffman
INSPECTOR DOPPLER Frank Ewbanks
DETECTIVE SERGEANT TARRANT Alex Sinclair
POLICE CONSTABLE HIGGS Ralf Blair

Directed by James Higgins

"Sleuth" was first presented on November 12, 1970 at The Music Box, New York City.

Action takes place in Andrew Wyke's country home in Wiltshire.

ACT I: A Summer Evening

ACT II: Two days later

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

For the enjoyment of future audiences it would be greatly appreciated if you would not disclose the plot of this play.

Settings by Bill Forrester
Lighting by Phil Schermer
Costumes by Sally Richardson
Properties: Faye Kreinberg

Technical Director: Michael Lowther
Stage Manager: Eileen MacRae Murphy

Acknowledgments: Fireplace by The Globe Antiques, A & B Business Repair, A House Of Clocks, The Fish Factory, Charles Koppell Company, Salvation Army Antique Shop, Smith Furniture, Tall's Stereocenter, Tom Wells Golf Shop.

"Sleuth" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

RALF BLAIR is a recent graduate of the professional training program at the California Institute of the Arts, where he won an award as the best acting student in 1973. He has appeared at the Santa Madre Dinner Theatre and the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

FRANK EWBANKS is a veteran of Canadian and English theatre. He has played in most of the regional Canadian theatres, notably The Crest in Toronto, The Playhouse in Vancouver and the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford where he played "Antonio" in *MERCHANT OF VENICE*, "Yorick" in *HAMLET* and the title role of *HENRY III*. He attended the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, after which he joined The West of England Touring Company and later performed for two years at The Glasgow Citizens Theatre. Now a native of Vancouver, where he is also a contractor, this is his first American appearance.

DONALD EWER will be remembered by ACT audiences in last summer's *IN CELEBRATION*. Since he was last here, he directed *HARVEY* and *SEE HOW THEY RUN* at Meadowbrook Theatre, Rochester, Michigan and played in *RIEL* with the National Arts Center, Ottawa. He came to Canada in 1954 from England and has played in over 150 radio and television plays in Canada. He directed *THE CARETAKER* at A.C.T., San Francisco, in which Henry Hoffman (in "Sleuth") played Mick. An Obie Award Winner in 1970 for *SAVED*, he has played major roles at Stratford, Ontario, including *HADRIAN VII* with Hume Cronyn. He also toured with Don Ameche in *GIRL IN MY SOUP* and played *ALFIE* on Broadway.

HENRY HOFFMAN is making his ACT debut. In San Francisco's A.C.T., he played the role of "Milo" in Ellis Rabb's production of *SLEUTH* and co-starred with Jose Ferrer in *THE SUNSHINE BOYS*. Other theatre credits include 18 Shakespearean roles with several major Shakespeare Festivals and important roles with the Berkeley and Hilberry Repertory Theatres and the Mark Taper Forum. He was also on the widely-acclaimed "Theatre In America" television production of *CYRANO de BERGERAC*. A published author, he has studied with Peter Brook and Harold Clurman and has a consuming interest in teaching boxing to underprivileged children. A Fulbright and Woodrow Wilson Scholar, he has also recorded a theatre album for CBS Records.

ALEX SINCLAIR created the role of "Tarrant" in the first national tour of *SLEUTH*, which he played for two years. He has been seen as "Gramp" in *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU* and "Dr. Rank" in *WHAT THE BUTLER SAW* with the Mad Anthony Players in Toledo, Ohio. He played for three seasons with the Champlain Shakespeare Festival including "Claudius" in *HAMLET*, "Kent" in *KING LEAR* and "Baptista" in *TAMING OF THE SHREW*.

JAMES HIGGINS, Director, was born and educated in England and on graduation from Cambridge University, was awarded a Mellon Fellowship for graduate study at Yale University. For eight years, he was artist-in-residence and associate director of theatre at Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, where he directed 24 college productions. His directing credits also include over 30 professional stock productions. He had acting roles in **THE ZULU AND THE SAYDA** on Broadway, **THE MAGISTRATE** and **THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK** off-Broadway and was an original member of the Seattle Repertory Theatre Company. Most recently, he was in the **ACT 2** production of **THE HOLLOW CROWN**.

ANTHONY SHAFFER, Playwright, has many credits, but **SLEUTH** is his first stage work. His film scripts include **FOURBUSH AND THE PENGUINS**, **BLACK COMEDY** (written for the stage by his twin brother, Peter Shaffer), Alfred Hitchcock's 1972 thriller **FRENZY** and the film adaptation of his own play **SLEUTH**. Born in Liverpool in 1925 and raised in London, Shaffer attended Cambridge University, where he edited the college magazine. He was a practicing barrister for three years before entering the fields of advertising and television writing. Shortly after leaving Cambridge the Shaffer twins collaborated on a gothic mystery novel, **HOW DOTH THE LITTLE CROCODILE**, ascribing its authorship to "Peter Anthony." Subsequently they wrote two other novels together but used their full names.

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If you have enjoyed this show, why not join us for the entire summer season?

Save your seating stubs and bring them to the ticket office before July 5. We will apply the ticket cost to a season subscription. You will see one play free, enjoy the privilege of free parking, ticket insurance and many other subscriber benefits.

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NEXT AT act . . .

"THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI"

JULY 10-26

by Bertolt Brecht

The characters of Hitler, Roehm, Goehring and Goebbels come to life with startling realism through the figures of characters from Chicago's underworld. In the title, Brecht suggests the rise of both Chicago gangsters and German's Hitler were resistible.

WHEN YOU COMIN' BACK, RED RYDER?

JULY 31 - AUGUST 16

by Mark Medoff

A dramatic, tension-filled play in the tradition of "The Petrified Forest." It is set in a grubby New Mexico diner, with heroes and anti-heroes for our own time, as an incredible young tough drives complacency forever out of those he touches, leaving fragmented lives and wistful fantasies.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT THE BOX OFFICE

A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE INC. 1975

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ACT APPRENTICES

Scott Ballinger, Steve Carlisle, Marian Cottrell, Ruth Davis, Jim Hawkins, Randy Johnstead, Matthew Loper, David McMahon, Gary Myers, Stephanie Noble, Charlie Watters, David Westbay

Acknowledgments

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ACT wishes to thank all the Volunteer Committees and Workers for their tremendous efforts and work on behalf of the theatre's activities.

ART SHOWS: Courtesy of the Polly Friedlander Gallery, 89 Yesler Way, Seattle, Washington 98104. Telephone 682-9385. Dootson/Calderhead, dba Current Editions, 311½ Occidental South, Seattle, Washington 98104. Telephone 623-8431. Linda Farris Gallery, 322 Second Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98104. Telephone 623-1110. Inquiries invited.

DOCTORS expecting calls during performances may give their names and seat locations to the House Manager, and the number 285-5191 to their call service.

LATE COMERS will be asked to stand at the rear of the theatre until the first break in the play.

REFRESHMENTS available in downstairs lobby only, one-half hour before curtain time and during intermissions. No drinks may be taken into the seating area.

SMOKING in downstairs and outer lobby only.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS or making recordings during performance is strictly forbidden.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Performance Days — Daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
except Sunday 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Mondays — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays, preceding each opening — closed.

Mailing Address: 709 First Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119
Telephone: (206) 285-5110

TICKET EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Although no refunds can be made, subscribers may exchange tickets for any other performance of the same show, providing the Box Office receives the tickets 24 hours before date and time printed on the tickets.

Tickets for ACT productions are available to students and senior citizens for \$2.50 during the half-hour prior to curtain time, if the performance is not sold out.