



presents

WATLER'S WAR

by C.G. Wilson



at the Prospect Playhouse, Red Bay
12—28 June 2008

Mrs. Mariko Jack—Honorary Patron

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DIRECTOR & AUTHOR'S MESSAGE

It has finally happened. “Watler’s War has made it to the stage. I never got to meet the great Caymanian, Major Rodriguez (Roddy) Watler, but after reading and especially listening to the people who did know him, I was quick to realize what a wonderful and special person he was. I don’t believe there is another Caymanian who ever held the rank of Major. His seven medals including The King’s Award for Bravery, plus many years of service to the people of our Islands should have marked his place in our official history book. Amazingly there is no mention of him (apart from a photograph with others).

Joan (my wife and Roddy’s youngest daughter) told me about Roddy finding a German spy here and “Watler’s War” was born. She had watched the arrest from a star apple tree so, I added this incident with other tit-bits Joan had told me, kite flying, incident at the well, look-out tower, American Navy, Home Guard drill, Joan’s eldest brother (Laddie) who was at sea in the British Merchant Navy, teenage pregnancy, boyfriends, etc. I placed the time around Christmas, 1942 and wrote the play from Joan’s eyes (she was eight at the time). I had to make this a fictional account as opposed to a factual account, therefore, not all is true. However, most of the incidents actually happened if not exactly as portrayed and had to add a few years to Joan and her friend Sarah’s age. Apologies to the two living sisters (Helen and Marjorie) who had to be eliminated from the script because of cast restraints. They do get honourable mentions.

Space, alas has stopped me from saying more but it would be remiss not to praise my wonderful actors who have worked so hard these past seven weeks. Young adults working with the more mature and even very old mature could have been a recipe for disaster, but not here. Grateful thanks to the husband and wife duo, Peter and Penny Phillips, who headed up the production team (including set building and painting) and the rest of the talented team listed in the programme. Lastly, thanks to you, for coming here and supporting us.

C.G. Wilson

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you to the Cayman Drama Society's production of

Water's War



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Chairman's Message

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to "Watler's War" by C.G. Wilson, the winning entry in the 2003 CNCF Playwriting Competition. When it became apparent that CNCF were not going to be in a position to present the play in the foreseeable future, the Cayman Drama Society was asked if it would be prepared to put it on, a suggestion at which we jumped. Although we have brought local (and by that I mean West Indian) plays to the Playhouse stage before, we have never staged one in which the plot is quite literally played out in the front yard of a Caymanian house. It has been a challenge for the set design and construction team to bring what is almost a complete house to our stage, and we are very proud of their achievement.

The playwright/director and his cast and crew have been working tirelessly for weeks, and I am sure that you will agree their efforts have been well worth it. Thank you for your support of our community theatre, and we look forward to entertaining you both tonight and in the future.

Penny Phillips, Chairman 2008

A message from the Theatre Manager

As I am sure everyone in our audience will be pleased to see, we have finally found ourselves in a position to purchase new seating for the auditorium. The impetus for this bold move was brought about by an anonymous donation towards their purchase, and considerable time and thought was taken by the Executive Committee to make a final decision on which chair to buy. The internet was thoroughly researched by everyone and eventually we narrowed our choice down to the chairs you see tonight. To give you some idea of the improvement: the chairs now have 3 inch padding (as opposed to 2 inch before) and are approximately 3 inches wider overall than our previous chairs.

There are other ideas being considered to make your Prospect Playhouse experience one you will enjoy, but space constraints prevent me from enlarging on them in this message. Suffice it to say that the new chairs are only the beginning. Sit back in comfort tonight as we bring you the original production, Watler's War.

Peter L. Phillips, Theatre Manager

THE STORY BEHIND “WATLER’S WAR”

“Watler’s War” was the 2003 Cayman National Cultural Foundation’s Playwriting Competition winner, having been judged overseas, and has been published in the United Kingdom by New Theatre Publications under the title “Walter’s War”.

Under normal circumstances, the Cayman National Cultural Foundation would have presented this play in late 2004 but of course this was to prove impossible because of the destruction to Grand Cayman caused by hurricane Ivan. Although the Prospect Playhouse was also severely damaged, the Cayman Drama Society had its theatre up and running comparatively quickly, performing on a temporary, small stage whilst repair and building works were taking place behind it. Not so the Harquail Theatre, where repair works were only completed in 2007, resulting in a backlog of productions which were taking priority over “Watler’s War”. As the two groups have done so many times in the past, we worked together as a team to put the play together and premiere it at the Prospect Playhouse this June.

Although a work of fiction, the play is based on a true story that took place in the Cayman Islands during the second World War. The Watler referred to in the title is the Watler family of George Town whose patriarch, Major Rodriguez “Roddy” Watler, is one of Cayman’s forgotten and unsung heroes. He was born on 3rd March 1880 in Red Bay and passed away in April 1965 at the age of 85. He served as Inspector of Police for nearly thirty three years, and was also Lighthouse Keeper, foreman of Public Works, Boarding Officer of Vessels, and Warehouse Keeper. In 1942, he was appointed Officer in Charge of the Cayman Islands company of the Jamaican Home Guard until 1945 when the war ceased. In the raging hurricane of 1932 he exhibited much bravery in rescuing people who were marooned in Red Bay, and for this service was awarded the King Edward VII Police Medal for Bravery.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play, with the exception of the Prologue and Entr'acte, takes place in the front yard of the Watler family home in George Town, Grand Cayman, December 1942

PROLOGUE

ACT 1

- SCENE 1***LATE AFTERNOON
SCENE 2 EVENING, SAME DAY
SCENE 3..... THE FOLLOWING MORNING
SCENE 4LATER THE SAME DAY

ENTRACTE

ACT 2

- SCENE 1***FOUR DAYS LATER
SCENE 2.....LATER THAT NIGHT
SCENE 3..... TWO DAYS LATER
SCENE 4..... CHRISTMAS EVE. LATE AFTERNOON
SCENE 5CHRISTMAS DAY. EARLY MORNING

CAST
(in order of appearance)

EMILY WATLER.....Angelica Borden
HAROLD ARCH.....Zak Quappe
JANET WATLER.....Danielle Borden
SUSAN THOMPSON.....Abigail Ebanks
SAM WATLER.....Athelston Watts
RACHEL WATLER..... Brittany Borden
SVEN ERICKSONBob Geddes
RODDY WATLER Dennis Hue
HUBERT MERREN Roland Stacey
BLANCH WATLER Teri Quappe
DAISY EBANKS Keiko Yamamoto
AUNT HILDREDGE (HE HE)..... Maria Kennedy
DARLENE ERICKSON Cyndy Ebanks
JOHNNY O'BRIEN..... Shay Miller





ANGELICA BORDEN—*EMILY WATLER*

No stranger to the stage, Angelica has been participating in productions since 1998. She thoroughly enjoys acting and is proud to say that this is her 7th Cayman Drama Society production. As an aspiring Caymanian actress, she is happy to have been cast with two of her younger sisters to play characters based on members of their actual family! Angelica is especially excited to play her cousin David's favourite aunt.



ZAK QUAPPE—*HAROLD ARCH*

Zak is no stranger to the Cayman stage, having performed with St. Ignatius in "Spellbound" and with the Cayman Drama Society in "The Wizard of Oz" and "Magna Carta". His most recent endeavour was backstage, running the followspot for the CDS production of "Mort". Zak is happy to be back with the CDS in another wonderful production.



DANIELLE BORDEN—*JANET WATLER*

Danielle is 13 years old and is in her last year at Leading Edge High School. "Watler's War" marks her fifth production with the Cayman Drama Society. She is honoured to be cast as Janet and has described the character to be full of life, funny and very exciting to play. Danielle absolutely loves falling down the well, and can't wait to do it again...NOT!



ABIGAIL EBANKS—*SUSAN THOMPSON*

This is Abigail's first appearance for the Cayman Drama Society, and we are really happy to have her with us. In her own words she tells us "I knew I was born to be famous! I'm not scared to try anything Except climb the water tower (shudder)."



ATHELSTON WATTS—*SAM WATLER*

Athelston (more popularly called Gerald) is making his second appearance on the Prospect Playhouse stage, having previously portrayed the village Chairman in "Miriamy" last year. He also played the role of Holofernes in the St. George's Anglican Church production of "The Judith Code" (also written by Colin Wilson) and we hope we'll see more of him with CDS in future.



BRITTANY BORDEN—*RACHEL WATLER*

Currently in her last year at St. Ignatius High School, 16 year old Brittany is appearing for the ninth time on stage. She was last seen performing in her high school musical "Bye Bye Birdie" where she was cast as Spanish Rose. Brittany is particularly thrilled with the fact that this character does not require salsa moves!



BOB GEDDES—*SVEN ERICKSON*

Bob comes to us from Vancouver, British Columbia. This is Bob's third appearance for the CDS, having portrayed General MacKenzie in Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None", then as the somewhat sleazy lawyer in "Unoriginal Sin". He was most recently seen as the undercover cop in "Find the Lady" earlier this year. Bob's living his dream on our beautiful little island and plans to be here for quite a while, so we're sure to be seeing more of him.

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We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following for their support of this production:

Nancy Rohleder

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DENNIS HUE—*RODDY WATLER*

Dennis has been involved with the stage for some time, having become National Drama Champion of Jamaica in 1979. In addition to roles in such diverse productions for CDS as “Magna Carta”, “Elmina’s Kitchen”, “The Judith Code” (both productions), “Miriamy” and “Annie Get Your Gun”, he has also involved himself with set construction, painting, props and backstage—a real all-rounder.



ROLAND STACEY—*HUBERT MERREN*

This is Roland’s twentieth season—but who’s counting? He brings his own special flair to the role of Hubert, and we are delighted to be working with him again. For all his loyal followers, he reminds all two of them that he will be in Fred Astaire mode next month in “A Night of Broadway”.



TERI QUAPPE—*BLANCHE WATLER*

Teri has been in numerous productions with the Cayman Drama Society. While in college in New York she was a lead in Shakespeare’s “The Tempest”, as well as performing in a professional production of “Godspell”. Teri is having a blast in yet another Colin Wilson original play—she loves to do things no one else has done before!



KEIKO YAMAMOTO—*DAISY EBANKS*

This is Keiko’s debut with the CDS and she is very pleased to be part of this production. She is from Japan and received MFA in acting from Yale School of Drama, Yale University. Some of her roles have included Ophelia in “Hamlet”, Vee in “Orpheus Descending” and Margaret in “Richard III”. She has also travelled in Eastern Europe, studied experimental theatre techniques, and created multi-media solo performance works.



MARIA KENNEDY—*AUNT HILDREDGE (HE HE)*

For regular theatre patrons, Maria’s face will be familiar. Usually she’s busy being funny in the background but, as she says “Once in a while, I get to be up front with the stars.” This time she’s back to doing what she does best—comedy. So look out for her and be prepared to laugh. The play has a serious message but her character helps lighten your spirits and forget your troubles—well, at least while you’re laughing.



CYNDY EBANKS—*DARLENE ERICKSON*

In real life, Cyndy is a Registered Nurse for the USA, but as a veteran of the Prospect Playhouse stage she has appeared in several productions, the most recent of which were “Miriamy”, “The Judith Code”, and “And Then There Were None”. She says: “As ever, it is a pleasure to work with Cayman’s playwright extraordinaire Colin Wilson.”



SHAY MILLER—*JOHNNY O'BRIEN*

If you are familiar with St. Ignatius High School, then you may be familiar with the name Shay Miller. This is Shay’s first production with CDS, but his fifth in total. When not at school, Shay works at RE/MAX Cayman Islands, a real-estate brokerage. When asked for a sentence that best describes himself, Shay replied “I am a financially intelligent investor with the burning spirit of an entrepreneur.”

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR..... Colin Wilson

SCRIPT ADVISER..... Joan (Watler) Wilson

PRODUCER Penny Phillips

STAGE MANAGER Peter Phillips

SET DESIGN..... Peter Phillips

SET CONSTRUCTION..... Peter Phillips, Peter Pasold, Paul de Freitas, Phil Pace

SET DECORATION Penny Phillips, Jackie Balls

LIGHTING DESIGN Peter Phillips

LIGHTING OPERATOR Valerie Cottier

SOUNDS..... Colin Wilson

WARDROBE Violetta Kanarek

MAKEUP Collette Cargill, Tisha Cargill, Regina Oliver, Jackie Balls

PROPERTIES Patricia Bazell-Taylor

FRONT OF HOUSE Ian Morgan, Penny Phillips

BAR MANAGER Phil Pace

BOX OFFICE..... Omeria Gordon

AND MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR WILLING VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS

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Within the professional theatre, producers enlist the help of “Angels”, theatre lovers who support productions financially in the hope of getting a return on their investment if a show is successful and profitable.

The only difference with our scheme, being a not-for-profit association, is that for our “Angels” (known as Patrons) the only return will be a formal acknowledgement, to be listed in each production programme, and to be inscribed on a permanent plaque located prominently in the foyer of the Prospect Playhouse—and the satisfaction of supporting a very worthwhile scheme of community involvement in the performing arts.

Patronage levels are as shown above and, as can be seen, may be in the name of an individual, a family, in memory of a loved one, or simply anonymous. Should you wish to become a Patron, please contact any member of the Executive Committee, or visit our website www.caymandrama.org.ky for more details.

A MESSAGE FROM HENRY MUTTOO, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CNCF

The CNCF Playwriting Workshop and Competition was founded in 1990 to correct the paucity of Caymanian plays by Caymanian writers, available for local production. In the seventeen years since its inception more than 60 scripts have been submitted and are now available royalty free to educational institutions. Several of the winning scripts have been produced by CNCF, in an exercise that is designed to further enhance the skill of the playwright and make him/her familiar with the production process. Among the scripts produced by CNCF are:

"Lavinia Lee and Her Sisters" by Joy Brandon, **"Hurricane"** by Ron Martin, **"De Honeymoon Over"**, **"Duppy Hole"**, **"Fat Chance"** and **"Breaking In"** by Donna Tull-Cox, **"The Weekend"** and **"Bachelor Boy"** by Stephen Pickering, **"My Brother's Keeper"** and **"Secondary Colours"** by Charles D. Bush, **"The Navigation Tree"** by Leonard Christian, **"Pitty Paul"** by Corine Solomon, and **"Duppy Hole"** by Caymanites Drama Group. Still awaiting production is, **"Isabel!"** by Patricia Bent.

It is fitting that "Watler's War" won the 2003 competition and is being produced by the Cayman Drama Society because, Colin Wilson is not only the playwright but he is also a long time member of CDS and one of Cayman's most prolific theatre personalities. Equally fitting is the fact that Colin was one of the two local tutors I selected to run the inaugural playwriting workshop; the other being Dr. Frank Mc Field. So, in more ways than one, "Watler's War" has come home.

CNCF recognises the tremendous body of theatre work produced over the last 38 years by CDS and is delighted to assist in making this production possible.

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Henry Muttoo
Artistic Director, CNCF

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