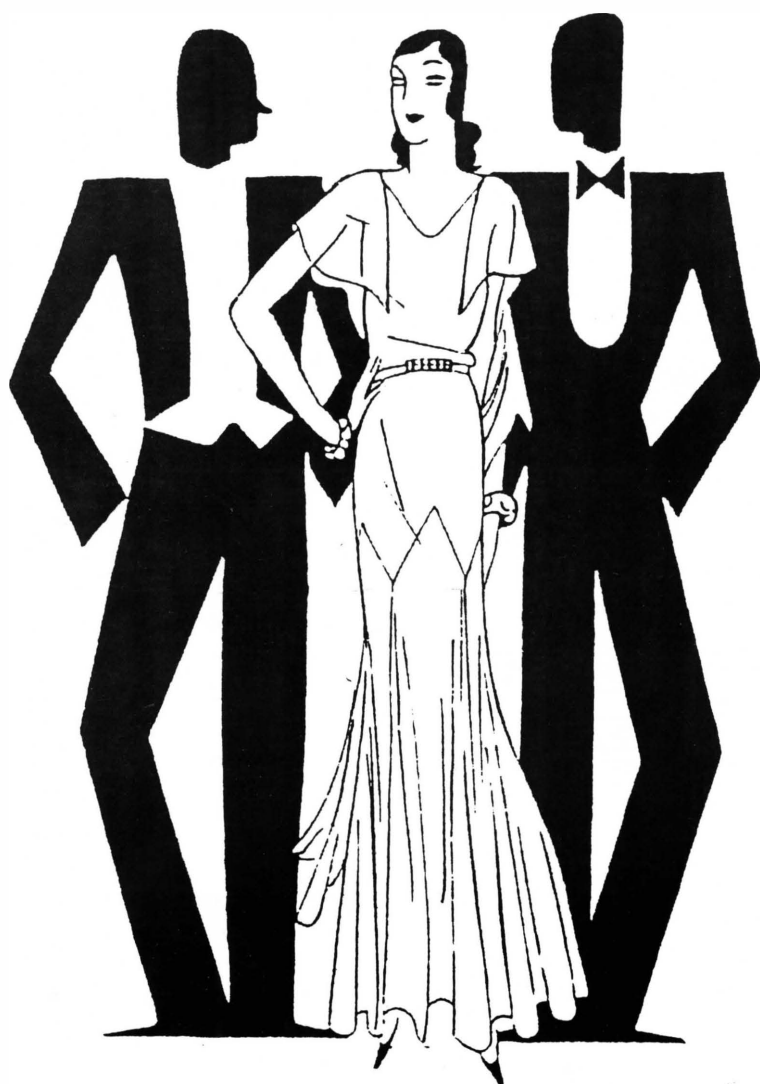


Noel Coward's  
**Private Lives**



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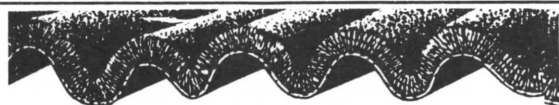
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# PRIVATE LIVES

by Noel Coward

Director ..... Michael Booth\*  
Set Designer ..... Michael Meloche  
Lighting Designer ..... Jennifer Brumer  
Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Mari Crozier  
Costume Designer ..... Irene Pieper\*  
Assistant Costume Designer ..... Teona Bisson  
Sound Designer ..... Michael Hessler  
Movement ..... Kaz Piesowocki\*

\*Theatre Department

## The Cast of Private Lives

Amanda Prynne ..... Florence MacGregor  
Victor Prynne ..... Matthew J.H. Bissett  
Louise ..... Miranda Duffy  
Sibyl Chase ..... Bernadette McKelvey  
Elyot Chase ..... Tim Crofton

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### Act II

Amanda's flat in Paris. A few days later. Evening.

### Act III

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The Department is not an academy for the training of professionals. Only two or three postgraduate directors and designers receive a professional qualification each year - the M.F.A.

The great majority are undergraduates in a liberal arts program where applied theatre studies are supplemented by courses in theory, theatre history and electives in other disciplines. While many graduates become professional actors, others will be teachers, designers, scholars, technicians and arts administrators.

The Phoenix Theatre is not a professional theatre. Its productions serve the academic requirements of B.F.A. and M.F.A. programs of the Department. What you will see will be the performers and technicians of tomorrow. Enjoy the performance!

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# A New Look...

Over the Summer of '94, the Theatre Department undertook a special project - to design and build a uniform for the front of house staff, (box office staff, concessions staff and ushers) who deal with the public attending our shows. Our objective was to have a professional look easily identifiable by the audience.

A former theatre student, **Kristen Bond**, who is presently studying fashion design at Ryerson Polytechnical University took on the project. Kristen designed an attractive uniform consisting of a vest, a shirt and a bowtie to be worn with black pants, shorts or skirts.

The vests were constructed from burgundy fabric, which was donated by **Chintz & Company** of Victoria, and backed by contrasting fabrics that have been used in many of our stage productions. You may recognize some of the fabrics used in the productions of *The Three Sisters*, *Japango*, *Canterbury Tales*, *The Lady's Not For Burning* and *Tartuffe*.

Should you be able to get close enough to study the buttons of the vests - specially chosen by Kristen - they feature the symbol of a phoenix.

The Theatre Department would like to thank Chintz & Company, Karla Stout, Marnie Crowe, Sandra Guerreiro and most of all, Kristen Bond for her dedication and hard work on this project.

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**PHOENIX PHACT:** Noel Coward was born in Teddington, Middlesex, December 16, 1899. His professional acting career began in 1911. He created a sensation as playwright and actor with *The Vortex* in 1924 and followed through with *Hay Fever* in 1925, and the operetta *Bitter-Sweet* in 1929, for which he wrote book, music and lyrics as well as directing. His *Private Lives* in 1930 launched the stage partnership with Gertrude Lawrence which was renewed later in the thirties with *Tonight at 8:30*. *Cavalcade*, *Design for Living* and an autobiography, *Present Indicative*, were the other high-points of this decade. In the early forties, *Blithe Spirit* was produced in London and Coward himself toured, playing the lead in this and in *Present Laughter* and *This Happy Breed* for six months in 1942/3. He also wrote, acted in, produced and co-directed the films *Blithe Spirit* and *Brief Encounter*. In the fifties, Coward began a new career as a cabaret entertainer as well as writing *Relative Values*, *Quadrille* and *Nude With Violin* and publishing *Future Indefinite*, a second volume of autobiography. He left England and moved first to Bermuda and then to Switzerland. In the sixties he turned novelist with *Pomp and Circumstance* and published his *Collected Short Stories* and a book of verse, *Not Yet the Dodo*. His play *Waiting in the Wings* was produced together with the musicals *Sail Away* and *The Girl Who Came to Supper*. He acted his last stage role in his *Suite in Three Keys* in 1966. He was knighted in 1970 and died in Jamaica on 26 March 1973.

## A Night To Remember...

March 26, 1973, in London, England's busy West End, I was sitting in the theatre awaiting the opening of Sir Noel Coward's *Tonight At Eight Thirty*. At the appointed hour, the curtains were opened and the first scene was being enacted when the curtains were dramatically closed. A gentleman, the theatre manager, arrived on stage to announce that Sir Noel Coward had just passed on. The curtains began to part once more as he said "Sir Noel would have wanted the show to go on", so in true tradition the show ran as a tribute to the great playwright. It was a night never to forget. My young guest and I wept as the bowing actors received no applause. It was a unique and moving experience. The show must always go on!

**Barbara Little**

**PHOENIX PHACT:** The play, *Private Lives*, was written in "roughly" four days as Noel Coward was recovering from a bout of influenza. This was while Coward was staying at the Cathay Hotel in Shanghai.

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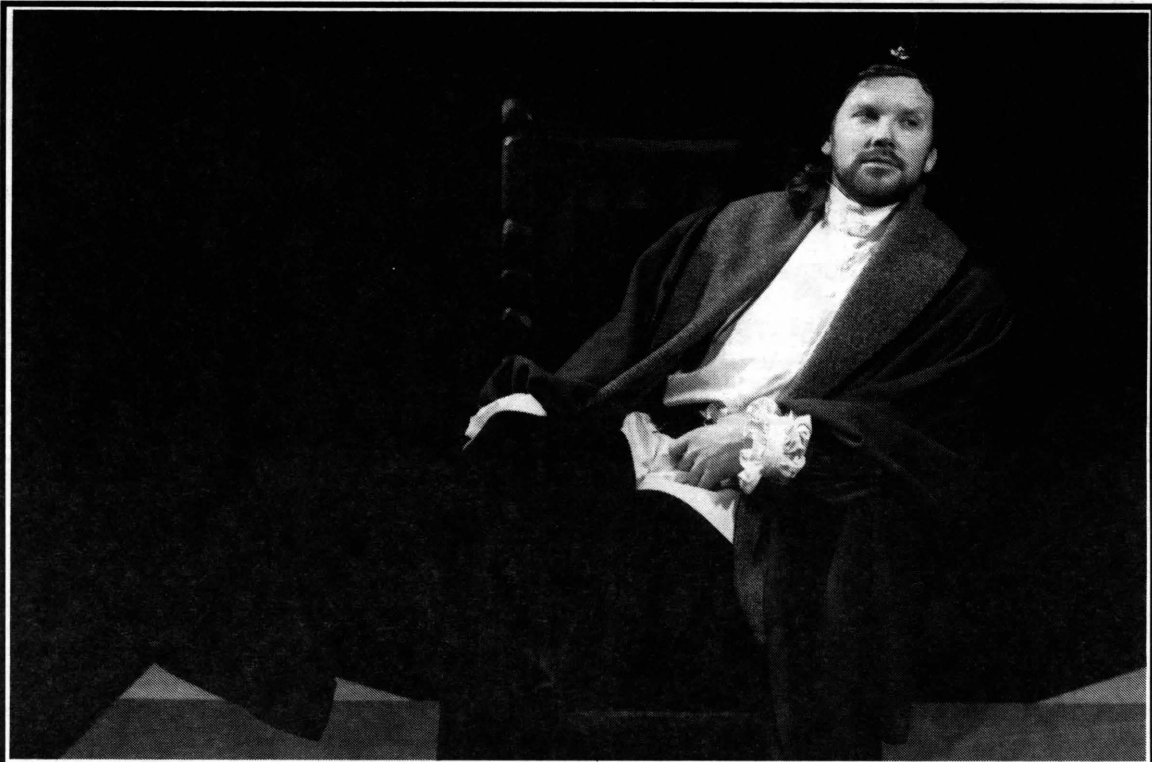
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It is with great regret that we announce the untimely death of one of our former students, Bentley Nichvolodoff, affectionately known to all as Ben.

Ben was a transfer student from David Thompson University and spent a good portion of eight years with the University of Victoria and the Theatre Department.

Ben died the morning of August 27th, as a result of a serious car accident. He had been performing at the theatre in Barkerville.

We shall remember Ben with great affection, for his humour and his presence. We shall also remember him for the many roles he created for the Phoenix Theatres.

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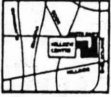


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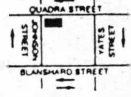
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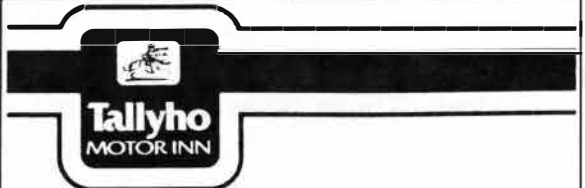
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**The Phoenix Theatres would like to thank the following  
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## PRODUCTION TEAM FOR PRIVATE LIVES

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Assistant to Production Manager .....	Deanne Collinson
Technical Director .....	Steve Vrooman*
Stage Manager .....	Jennifer Andrews
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Eve Landers, Richard Stille
Electrician .....	Todd Skinner
Lighting Board Operator .....	Galen Olstead
Sound Board Operator .....	Brit Small
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### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE ON THE PRODUCTION OF PRIVATE LIVES

**A PHOENIX PHACT:** Noel Coward wrote the play specifically for his dear friend Gertrude Lawrence who originated the role of Amanda. Adrienne Allen (Mrs. Raymond Massey) played Sibyl and Laurence Olivier played the role of Victor and of course Noel Coward played Elyot.

**A PHOENIX PHACT:** *Private Lives* opened at the Time Square Theatre in New York, January 1931.

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

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Morgan Gadd  
Sandra Guerreiro  
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**A PHOENIX PHACT:** A poet and a painter, Noel Coward wrote verses with wisdom, wit irreverence and occasionally with venom.

**A PHOENIX PHACT:** After a short provincial tour in London, *Private Lives* was opened in what was termed "a brand new theatre", (and coincidentally) **The Phoenix Theatre** in Charing Cross Road in the fall of 1930 for a limited engagement of three months. A huge success, it sold out in the first week.

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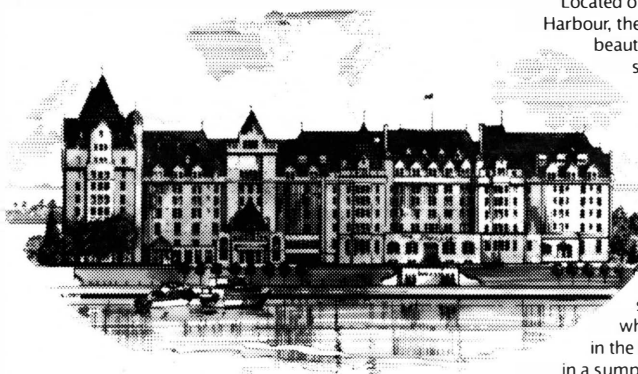
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