

# Natural Causes

by Eric Chappell  
Directed by Leroy Lingwood

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Vincent.....Stephen Burns  
Walter.....Geoffrey Stansfield  
Angie.....Beckie Leedham  
Celia.....Xandra de Vos  
Withers.....Trevor Cooper

## Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in the study/library of Walter Bryce's country house.

### ACT ONE

Scene 1 – A morning in late Spring  
Scene 2 – Midday

### ACT TWO

Scene 1 – Mid - afternoon  
Scene 2 – Evening

Time – The Present

There will be an interval of 15mins between acts.

## ABOUT THE PLAY / DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Eric Chappell's "Natural Causes" is a highly original Black Comedy by the author of "Rising Damp". We are introduced to Vincent – who has an unusual occupation: his discovery of an odourless, tasteless, all-natural poison has turned him into a professional suicide merchant. Contracted by Walter Bryce, he arrives at the Bryces country house and mistakenly assumes that his product is for Walter's consumption. It becomes clear that Walter's wife Celia is the client – or is she? Why are all her suicide letters typed and unsigned? After several thwarted attempts to poison various characters (resulting in the multiple poisonings of a rubber plant), will anyone actually manage to drink the poison?

The cast includes established Salon regulars, Stephen Burns, Geoff Stansfield, Beckie Leedham and Trevor Cooper and introduces talented newcomer Xandra de Vos. An evening of mistaken identities, hilarious consequences and some great laughs is promised.

I would like to thank the cast and stage management for working under such stifling conditions during August, SALVA for letting me direct another play for them, and Eric Chappell for writing such a great piece! Enjoy!

Lee Lingwood  
Director

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eric Chappell took up full time writing in 1973 after his first stage play, The Banana Box, was produced at the Apollo Theatre, London. The play later inspired the classic TV comedy Rising Damp, winner of the BAFTA award for best situation comedy. In 1979 Eric's screen version won the Evening Standard Film award for best comedy.

Other television successes include The Squirrels, The Bounder, Home to Roost (all of which won PYE TV awards), Only When I Laugh, Duty Free, Singles, Fiddlers Three and Haggard.

Eric has written over 200 television comedy scripts and more than 20 stage plays, including 'Natural Causes', which are performed worldwide. He is unquestionably one of the top writers of comedy in Britain today.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager.....Phyllis Vosper  
A.S.M. ....Alan Hogarth  
and Ray Fry  
Prompter.....Catrina Helsby  
Property Master.....Pauline Naylor  
Set Design.....Leroy Lingwood  
Set Construction.....John Pyne  
Paul Butler  
Tony Morton  
Sound Engineer.....Dave Steve Mills  
Lighting Design / Engineer....Dave Carney  
Wardrobe.....Siân Hopkins & Cast  
Poster and Programme.....John Gale

## FOR SALVA

Technical Stage Manager John Pyne  
Lighting Engineer Dave Carney  
Sound Engineer Dave Steve Mills  
Property Master Gina Foster  
Publicity Co-ordinator Lynn Halliday  
Front of House Norma Wilson  
Box Office Manager Brian Hindley

For any production enquiries  
e-mail us at:  
[info@salonvarietestheatre.com](mailto:info@salonvarietestheatre.com)

## GRATEFUL THANKS TO

Talk Radio Europe, Central FM Radio,  
ACE Radio