

# REPERTOIRE

Newsletter of The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society Oct Nov 2014



Hobart Repertory Theatre Society presents  
BY IRVING LLOYD WITH COLONN' SHERIDAN, ON BEHALF OF ARMYL' THEATRE CO.

*See*

IN THE  
NEXT  
ROOM

~ OR ~

*The  
Vibrator  
Play*

*See*

NEW SYDNEY HOTEL

Bertoz

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE  
[www.playhouse.org.au](http://www.playhouse.org.au)

*See*

*A hilarious and heart-warming  
story of self-discovery and the  
power of one woman.*

**24 OCTOBER to 8 NOVEMBER**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Rep friends,

I can't believe that we are about to see our final season production. The year has gone so quickly. It has been an exciting year with something for everyone. Still to come is the children's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Check the programme of *In the Next Room* for the dates and times of the two public performances.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped in any way. There are too many to mention by name. Whether you have ushered, done box office, set painted or designed sets or costumes or if you have directed we have valued your contributions and could not have managed without your help and support.

A sincere thank you to our sponsors – Bertoz Jewellers, Butler, McIntyre & Butler Lawyers, Heather and Christopher Chong and The New Sydney Hotel. Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Special thanks must go to Amy Crosby. For the past five years Amy has made sure each show, our own and also Lets, have had the appropriate front of house and bar staff. Amy is taking a well-deserved break from organising the rosters. Thank you Amy.

Our 2015 season promises to be a great one. There is certain to be something there to entertain everyone. We will be launching our new season in early November.

Thank you for your patronage this year. I look forward to seeing you at our productions next year.

*Liz*

Don't forget to RSVP me for the Glitz and Glam

Dinner by October 27th. See back of Newsletter.



## OPENING NIGHT : JOURNEY'S END



Journey's End was a superb production in every way. A riveting drama with an excellent cast , masterfully directed by Robert Jarman. Bill Dowd's set (below ) highlighted the drama. Congratulations to all involved



## Our Next Production: In The Next Room

### Premiere Buzz for Hobart Rep

The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society is proud to present the Tasmanian premiere of Tony Award-winning play *In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* at the Playhouse Theatre this month.

Set in the 1880s, the play tells the story of Dr Givings – who treats “hysterical” women using a fascinating new electrical device – and his wife Catherine, who is desperate to know what her husband is up to in the next room.

Director Steven Jones says he fell in love with American playwright Sarah Ruhl’s script when he first read it, and is therefore delighted to be bringing the play to Hobart audiences.

“*In The Next Room* demonstrates how women suffering from hysteria – basically a catch-all diagnosis for those suffering from symptoms such as faintness, nervousness and sexual desire – were treated by doctors using the earliest forms of vibrators,” Steven says.

“However, rather than a piece of sexual titillation, the play is ultimately a love story that looks at how much control men had over women’s lives, bodies and thoughts – and even their most intimate sensations.”

Steven has assembled a strong cast of Hobart actors to take on this daring and challenging play, including Quinn Griggs, Hannah Just, Kath Uziallo, Roger Chevalier, Anne Cordiner, Luke Leitch, Blancy Otto and Jessica Davies.

In addition, Nicole Ottrey has created some spectacular period costumes and vintage underwear to evoke the era.

“It is certainly a bold production for Hobart Rep to undertake, however audiences can be expected to be both amused and moved by this beautiful play,” Steven says.

“I am sure they will also come away with a greater appreciation of the progress that has been made in women’s health treatment!”

***In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* is at the Playhouse Theatre, Bathurst Street, Hobart from 24 October to 8 November 2014.**

**Performances are 8:00 pm Wednesday to Saturday, with matinees on Sunday 2 November at 3:00 pm and Saturday 8 November at 2:00 pm. Book at Centertainment on 6234 5998 or [www.centertainment.com.au](http://www.centertainment.com.au).**



The cast at their first read through get together



Authentic period costume ?



All concentration as cast members look over the script

# BEHIND THE SCENES: The Perspective of the Production Manager

The opportunity to be involved in a show for Hobart Rep always has appeal and can be an interesting challenge, taking you out of comfort of the audience's seats and puzzle.

When the show is called *In the Next Room* (or *The Vibrator Play*), how could you say no.

*Next Room* is a show that on the surface appears to be more akin to a saucy Benny Hill revue, but the reality is that it is very far from that. In reality it's a story about people, about relationships and about love. Not perhaps packaged as the usual Rep fare?, but rather refreshing.

It is a truly unique and special production that will help us mark the end of our 2014 season.

The first elements of a production like this occur a year or two before the curtain rises.

Prospective Directors and the Production Committee confer on suitable show for a given season and every effort is made to ensure the right "mix" to ensure that each season has someone to offer everyone, where ever this is possible.

A Director and Production Manager are then confirmed and the show has the start of the production team, who will nurture the show.

A Director coordinates the creative side of delivering a production, while the Production Manager coordinates the administrative and non-creative side of things. Roles can be fairly flexible and the Stage Manager and various designers soon become a key element of the team.

Casting then occurs. Advertisements are placed and actors of various levels of skill and age are given an opportunity to audition for a part. Once casting is confirmed the other crew members start to be confirmed and the cast begin their rehearsals a couple of times a week.

While the cast start to learn their lines, explore and develop their character and work on their entrances and exits, all the voluntary crew members behind the scenes start to work on costume design, sourcing and making; sourcing furniture and making props; set design, construction and painting; and confirming all the finer details of hair and set pieces that fit the era. (Below: Costume fitting)



Marketing takes on a greater role as time marches on, with various elements being brought together, based on the work of the show's graphic designer, matching the brief and vision provided by the Director - who as suggested provides overall creative guidance and control.

At bump-in the show prepares to move into the theatre itself. The set is built, painted, appropriate period furniture is added and decorated to fit the show. Changes to set need to be accommodated, as the crew orientate to their new working space, and bit by bit the lighting design, sound scape and other various elements are added, each adding something to the show.

By this time the cast will have learnt all their lines, surely one of the trickiest aspects of a production for many of us to contemplate, and everything else that they need to take into account. They then get to see all the various elements come together in production week.

Production week is the main week that all the various elements come together.

At this point, the cast move into the theatre, the Director pulls all the elements together, involving both cast and crew, and final touches are put to the show's programme and marketing strategy. After all, why do all this work over four to six months if you don't hope to get a decent audience.

Final dress rehearsals and a charity preview, which is one of the things that Rep does with most shows to give something back to the community, are the precursor for an opening night. Opening nights are an opportunity for special guests, sponsors, families and friends to come together and share in the experience that's been worked up over time.

It is usual for a Rep show to have a two and a half week run, and while matinees are usually part of each production. It's always surprising how fast the last show of the production comes around and before you know it it's final night, there's thanks, sadness and relief.

I hope this brief insight into the various elements that make up a show has had appeal and has given you, our reader, some insight into what's gone on behind the scenes to bring a show to you.

### **Pete Smith : Production Manager**



Director  
Steve with  
two of the  
cast





Fri 22 & Sat 23 August 2014  
Playhouse Theatre, Hobart

Old Nick Company and Hobart Rep wish to congratulate all the participants in this year's OneFest. It was a well attended festival where the whole audience enjoyed the fourteen plays on offer.

We're very proud to announce the following winners :

## OneFest 2014 Award Winners

### Best Production

*Dig for the Diggers* (Square Pegs)

### Best Director

Helen Edwards for *The Coat* (Hobart Rep)

### Best Male Actor

David Bannister for *Dig for the Diggers* but also for his cameo roles in *The Green Hill* (both Square Pegs)

### Best Female Actor

Pip Tyrrell for *Sputnik Rising* (Old Nick Company)

### Most Promising Director

Tai Gardner for *Happy Anniversary* (Bad Company). With special comments and encouragement for excellence in writing.

### Best Original Work

*Sputnik Rising* by Scott Hunt (Old Nick Company)

### Adjudicator's Award

Square Pegs for their excellent ensemble work in *Dig for the Diggers* and *The Green Hill*.



**Hobart Repertory Theatre Society  
invites you to our**

**GLITZ  
AND  
GLAM  
DINNER**

**Saturday 15 November, 2014**

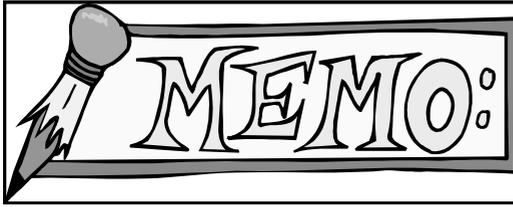
**Derwent Sailing Squadron**

**Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay**

**7.00 for 7.30**

**Cost: \$55 per head**

**RSVP by Monday 27 October  
to Liz Lewinski by completing  
the enclosed form or by email:  
president@playhouse.org.au**



**THINGS YOU NEED TO  
KNOW !**

**HOBART REPERTORY THEATRE SOCIETY**  
is pleased to invite you and a guest to the

**SEASON LAUNCH**



**2015**

**Monday 28 October 5.45 for a 6pm start**  
**Playhouse Theatre Bathurst Street, Hobart**

## **Your Society Needs You!**

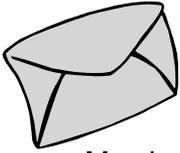
Could you be our next Treasurer?

Would you like to convene the Marketing Committee?

Perhaps you could help Front of House by ushering or working on the bar

The AGM in March may seem like a long way away, but it is not too soon to consider being on a committee, or even nominating for the Executive. You don't have to wait at all to volunteer for the front of house roster

Enquiries to the Secretary email: [secretary@playhouse.org.au](mailto:secretary@playhouse.org.au)



## **IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING FUTURE EDITIONS OF REPERTOIRE !**

Members with an email address are receiving this edition of Repertoire electronically only unless they have indicated a desire to receive a hard copy as well; members with no email are receiving a hard copy in the mail as usual.

Should any member wish to change their arrangement, please contact me either by email at 'secretary@playhouse.org.au' OR by mail to  
The Secretary, Bathurst St. PO Box 4650, Hobart 7000  
Tony Webb Honorary Secretary



### **Repertoire Contact Details:**

Editor: rayq@iinet.net.au

**NEW ! PO Box 4650 Bathurst St Hobart 7000**

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Hobart Repertory Theatre Society Season 2014 supported by



Heather & Christopher  
Chong

