

REPERTOIRE JULY AUGUST 2023



 THE
PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE
106 Bathurst Street, Hobart

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2023

Hello again Hobart Repertory Society members and welcome to the eve of another Rep show for 2023, *Lets Kill Agatha Christie*, opening on Friday 28th July and running until 12 August.

Director Jenifa Dwyer has assembled a great cast and the creative team are bumping in preparing for opening night.

It's about Prudence wanting to become the next Agatha but her crime stories are disasters. She decides to stage a murder and invites her three worst enemies for a weekend.

She then gives them all a good reason to murder her to provide a foolproof plot.

I am looking forward to opening night. Our last play *The Winslow Boy*, was a great production, well directed by Meredith McQueen.

It had a fantastic cast and I thoroughly enjoyed opening night, with many patrons providing me with such positive feedback. I extend our thanks again to Meredith and her cast and crew for such a great production.

Don't forget our One Act Festival is on from Friday night the 25th August with two Saturday sessions on the 26th.

Festival Director Ros Peck has secured well respected theatre personality Ivano Del Pio as our adjudicator this year.

Check the website for Entry Forms and place it in your diary.

The Glass Menagerie has been cast and rehearsals have started as well for opening on 13th October.

The productions for 2024 are well on the way to being finalised and approved in the coming months.

As I have mentioned in the last report we have been actively looking to find a place to relocate our operations from Creek Road once our lease expires with the Salvation Army on 31/12/2023.

I have been asked by many of you as to the progress of our relocation.

While you can appreciate we can't go into specific details of a site we have been looking at for confidentiality reasons, I can provide the following update.

We do not currently have an active contract on a site we were looking at, but we are currently still working with Hobart City Council on progressing approvals for this site.

As a consequence we will be still looking for alternatives as well, and I encourage all our members to keep actively looking and providing the Board with ideas and suggestions.

If you are aware of a possible location let us know. The clock is ticking.

Hobart Rep has achieved Charity status and we are in the process of having us listed as a Tax Deductible organization.

This will make it more attractive for sponsorship and donations to be made to us.

As **our 100 year anniversary is looming in 2026** and if we are to secure a replacement site for Creek Road, we will be looking for support and ideas for raising funds that will be needed in addition to our strong financial position.

I would like to thank all the members of the various Rep committees and the volunteers for their repeated hard work and dedication again. Don't forget to register for volunteering for upcoming events.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions moving forward.

Yours in Theatre

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DIRECTOR JENIFA DWYER (2ND FROM RIGHT) AT THE 2023 HRTS SEASON LAUNCH WITH FELLOW DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENT DAVID CLEMENTS

Cast

Laura White plays Prudence Sykes

Brendon Flynn plays Harry Harringay

Pip Tyrell plays Marjorie Field

David Bloomfield plays Sir Frederick Belting

Leigh Faulkner plays John Harvey Miles

Camilla Best plays Gladys the maid

Kyle Ennis plays Tombs the butler

Tay Lowry plays Angela

Jonty Hilton plays PC Crockett

AN INTERVIEW WITH “LET’S KILL AGATHA CHRISTIE” DIRECTOR

JENIFA DWYER



Repertoire: What led to you directing this production?

I moved to Tassie in 2015 to run a B and B at Fentonbury... when I sold the business in 2021.. I was feeling at a bit of a loss and got involved with Rep...the first production I was involved with was *Go Back For Murder* , and I helped with costume, hair and makeup.

R: How’d you get involved in Theatre?

I have been involved with theatre since high school. When I left school I studied Acting at the Ensemble Studios and at NIDA and pursued a professional career for some years.. I always say as an actress I was a great waitress!

R: What’s your background?

After marrying and then having a son I separated from my husband (who I had met playing a young married couple in Alan Ayckbourn’s *How the Other Half Loves*). I decided I needed a reliable source of income and so trained as a teacher. I’d always loved working with young people and had thought of being a teacher. It was when I was doing a Masters in Education I interviewed the Head of the Drama department at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and ended up teaching and directing there for 20 years!

R: Is there a particular favourite “theatre moment” (or more) for you?

I have seen some amazing theatre, moving and inspirational, over the last 40 years, but probably some of my favourite moments have been on opening night of my students productions. I just loved seeing my students “nail it”

R: How has your experience been Directing this production? (Surprises/problems/setbacks? Learnings)

So far.... And we haven’t got to tech week in the theatre yet!.... I’ve had a fabulous experience directing the wonderful and talented cast of LKAC.

The production support team production assistants, designer, lighting designer, stage management team, costume ladies ...everyone .. has been so supportive and it’s been a great experience.

**LET’S KILL AGATHA CHRISTIE RUNS FROM JULY 28 THROUGH TO
AUGUST 12 TICKETS FROM : PLAYHOUSE.ORG.AU**



(L-R) Camilla Best, Leigh Faulkner, Kyle Enniss, Tay Lowry, Jonty Hilton, Brendon Flynn, Laura White, David Bloomfield and Pip Tyrrell at rehearsals for 'Let's Kill Agatha Christie'

Who would try to kill the Queen of Crime?

IS Hobart Rep about to kill the golden goose?

Hobart audiences love an Agatha Christie mystery; they always have.

In fact, the whole world loves them, with Christie's 'The Mouse Trap' being the longest-running show in history!

So why produce a play called 'Let's Kill Agatha Christie'?

Written by English screenwriter and producer Anthony Hinds after he retired from making horror movies for Hammer Studios, 'Let's Kill Agatha Christie' is a comedy thriller that

pays homage to Christie's popular works, with murder and mystery mixed with a liberal dose of humour.

Full of fading film stars and self-made millionaires, and evoking the style of playwright Ben Travers' 1930s farces, the play follows a wannabe author named Prudence, who fancies herself as the new Agatha Christie.

Sadly, all her crime stories are disasters. So she decides the only way to write a foolproof plot is to stage a murder.

Prudence invites her three worst enemies

over for the weekend, and gives them all a good reason to kill her.

Things, it's fair to say, go downhill from there.

Directed by Jenifa Dwyer, 'Let's Kill Agatha Christie' is a thoroughly enjoyable romp starring a talented cast of local players who promise to give audiences a fun and entertaining evening in the theatre.

The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society presents 'Let's Kill Agatha Christie' at the Playhouse Theatre from 28 July to 12 August. Tickets are available from playhouse.org.au



David Bloomfield sporting his whiskers for this production

“SETS AND VIOLENCE”-THE PERFECT COMBINATION FOR ANYTHING AGATHA



We know we're in for a great time at The Playhouse with these characters on stage!

BELOW: BUMP IN



A couple of interesting snippets from newspaper clippings in the late 1960's:

***Dream of a Wedding* by local playwright Pat Clements – May 1965.**

Rep archives record a brief but intriguing article on this locally written play.

Apparently Channel 6(TVT6) filmed the production and screened it on local television at 10pm one evening. The cast included Terry McSweeney, Freda Elliott, Amanda Cruickshank, John Honey, Stan Hart, Lucy Henty, Beverley Will and our very own **Bill Dowd!** The production was sponsored by BP Australia and Hobart Repertory Theatre Society. Bill – we need some more details please! Was the play filmed in the Playhouse or at the Channel 6 studios? Was televising local Rep plays a common occurrence in the 60's? More information please!

Free as Air - a musical – August 1967. This musical was directed by Win Newport and the cast included Ken Short, Michael Edwards, Sheila Spargo, Elizabeth Collyer, Judy de Sousa and Hugh McIndoe. However, one particular cast member received a rave review in *The Mercury*. This OTT(Old Theatre Tart) cannot resist detailing the performance of another OTT – Miriam Cooper! Here is an edited copy of the review:

“‘Free as Air’, which opened at the Playhouse last night, had little to recommend it until halfway through the first act when Miriam Cooper appeared on the stage – then the play took off like a rocket...

Hobart has had few genuine surprises in recent years but Miriam Cooper's appearance ... was one...

At the moment she appeared on the stage she took complete command of the scene, increased the tempo, and forced everybody to go into high gear. This was a phenomenal achievement and the effect was lasting. It may be that Miriam Cooper drew on her recent experience on the London stage and, if that was the case, Hobart should be grateful. The outstanding impression one received was that she can act and that she is a first-rate comedienne and a capable singer.”

(I think we are going to need some more details from Miriam on her London stage experiences – stay tuned!)

Special thanks to Meredith McQueen

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