

REPERTOIRE AUGUST 2024

TICKETS
ON SALE
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Hobart Repertory Theatre Society

proudly presented by Arrangement with Original Theatre, an imprint
of Samuel French Inc. A Concord Theatricals Company.

THE HISTORY BOYS

written by Alan Bennett

directed by Beck Goldsmith

28 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER

book at playhouse.org.au

 THE
PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE
106 Bathurst Street, Hobart

Butler, McIntyre & Butler
Lawyers Est. 1824

de New
Sydney Hotel



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome again Hobart Repertory Society members.

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to spring around the corner.

This is just a short report this time as there hasn't been much time pass since the last report in July.

Our last production was *The Unexpected Guest* (Agatha Christie), directed by Jeremy Pyefinch that opened on the 10th of July.

It was a great success with Jeremy's interpretation and vision being supported with some fantastic performances and a great set.

I thoroughly enjoyed the show and had some great feedback.

Well done to everyone involved.

Our next show opening August 28, is *The History Boys* directed by Beck Goldsmith.

It is set in a grammar school in Sheffield England in the 1980's following eight pupils preparing for their entrance exams to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

It explores some interesting themes that are relevant even today.

I am looking forward to opening night.

We have a quiz night coming up on Saturday 21st September at the Rosny Park Bowls Club with Quiz Master Peter Gee.

Cost is \$20 per person.

Make up a table or join a table.

OneFest is next on from the 4th – 5th October, directed by Ros Peck

Don't forget to book for this and our other shows.

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, 16-26th October.

Panto- the Princess and the Pea, 1-8th December.

We are shortly finalising our shows for 2025 That will be announced in our 2025 launch in November.

Thanks to the Production committee for their work on this.

We will become 100 years old in 2026 and planning is well underway for various events for this year.

We are still actively looking to find a place to relocate our operations from Creek Road.

Thank you for your suggestions and keeping an eye out for potential properties.

We had our new Patron Meg Webb attend her first production in this position on opening night of *The Unexpected Guest*.

I would like to welcome her again and thank Rob Valentine for his service in the role for many years who also attended.

As always I would like to thank the Board, all the members of the various Rep committees and the volunteers for their repeated hard work and dedication.



Yours in Theatre

David Clements

President HRTS

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david@playhouse.org.au

The Hobart Repertory Theatre Library/Archives **Wants Your Donations!**

Many Rep members would be unaware that we have a library of plays and archival material at our Creek Road location. This is open for browsing on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, between 10am to 1pm.

We would welcome donations of any play scripts and Rep archival material, in particular old programs, photos and video recordings of previous productions.

Please feel free to contact Meredith on 0400 121 471 if you want further information.

THE HISTORY BOYS: A CHALLENGING HISTORY

It is rare to find a work of theatre with quite so many complex themes woven through it as Alan Bennett's 'The History Boys' which is set for a Tasmanian debut at The Playhouse Theatre this month.

The show mixes the youth and exuberance of a coming of age comedy, with an intellectual clash of the generations as the classical confronts the modern, there is however a darker undertone. The play takes on controversial and sometimes raw topic of inappropriateness between educators and pupils, something that remains depressingly pertinent in modern day Tasmania.

Set in the 1980s in Yorkshire, the play follows 8 boys (played locally by a talented and gender diverse cast) as they return for one final term at school to try and win access to study history at Oxford and Cambridge university. They are taught by three very different styles of teacher, the utilitarian Mrs Lintott (played by Di Richards), the classical Hector (Played by Paul Levett) and the contemporary (played by Rhys Prestedge). The show explores the changes to education in the Thatcher years and the change to the post modern (and increasingly post truth) era of education. A truly challenging work.

Hobart Rep have entrusted the play to the direction of a teacher in Beck Goldsmith, whom is capable of understanding not only the educational nuance, but also the safeguarding required to sensitively and safely handle material of this nature. Goldsmith said of the work "It questions the techniques and intentions of the teaching profession and the nature of relationships between educator and pupil. It really encourages the actors to think about the difference in time between now and 30-40yrs ago and how perceptions of what is acceptable behaviour have changed."

***The History Boys* Opens on the 28th of August and runs until the 7th of September.
Tickets are available from Playhouse.org.au.**



Director Beck Goldsmith

THE HISTORY BOYS: COMING TO THE PLAYHOUSE



Above: The Hobart cast



Above: Playwright Alan Bennett

MEET THE BOYS WHO ARE MAKING HISTORY!
THE BRITISH STORY THAT CONQUERED THE WORLD IS NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE



Right: The Movie Adaptation

MEET THE SPONSORS: BUTLER McINTYRE AND BUTLER

How and when did BMB get involved with HRTS?

Butler McIntyre and Butler has a long and proud relationship with HRTS and has supported the Society and its productions over many years. Although we cant find any records to support how long, the relationship was first cemented by former partner Phil Kimber at least some 20 years ago and the relationship has continued following Phil's retirement from the partnership in 2020.

The BMB partnership are very proud of their long association with HRTS, the actors, production teams, theatre supporters and family and friends.

The sponsorship also provides BMB staff with an opportunity to attend productions which are always thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. *Charlottes Web* was a hotly contested favourite but we are also looking forward to the production of *The History Boys*.

The productions not only showcase the extensive acting talent in Hobart, but the myriad of talent, skills and expertise of production assistants, marketing and public relations, costume and set design and the hard work and commitment of family and friends supporting those on the front line of the productions.

In 2024, Butler McIntyre and Butler is celebrating 200 years of continual practice. The firm commenced in 1824, by Gamaliel Butler, who arrived in Hobart in 1824 with his wife Sarah and quickly commenced legal practice. At that time, the legal community of the then Van Dieman's land was very much in its infancy, with the Supreme Court of Tasmania having been established in May earlier that year. The firm commenced practicing from 22 Murray St in 1888 and remains practicing from 20, 22 and 24 Murray St today.

Since Gamaliel Butler commenced practice in 1824, the law firm has been operated by 40 partners, with some serving as long as 55 years. Butler McIntyre and Butler is the oldest and one of the most respected law firms in Tasmania.

The firm is currently operated by 11 partners and employs over 50 staff. Butler McIntyre and Butler is very proud of its history and connection to the Tasmanian community and in particular its support of community and sporting organisations.

The staff at Butler McIntyre and Butler are able to assist in legal matters including property and commercial transactions, litigation and dispute resolution, estate planning, wills and probate, family law, employment law and criminal law. Our approachable and expert staff are committed to continuing to provide legal serves to the Tasmanian community based on integrity service and excellence for decades to come.



MEET THE SPONSORS: THE NEW SYDNEY HOTEL



A Conversation with Ashan Rodrigo (General Manager)

The New Sydney has been a part of the Playhouse Theatre/Hobart Repertory Theatre Society for many years. How long have you been involved with the hotel?

For four years now.

Have you been to many of the productions?

I personally have not been but my family has been to a few and always enjoy!

Have you had any theatrical experience yourself? (if so, please tell us!)

Ha ha! I was more a sportsman during my school days. The principal caught me skipping classes and as a punishment made me take part in the inter-school Shakespeare competition. I played the role of a guard in Richard the 3rd. I did enjoy this small role and went on to play a part in the school's production of Romeo and Juliet the following year too. I played the role of Cupid.

You've had some great live acts yourself at the New Sydney over the years. Any favourites?

The dancers trained by Bronwyn Kelly of Hobart Irish Dancing are always nice to watch on St Patrick's day.

What makes a pub authentically "Irish"?

In the example of the New Syd I think it's the customers. We attract the whole Irish community of Hobart and some families include two or three generations. This is really brought to life on a Saturday during our famous Irish Trad sessions.



Ashan ("Ash") Rodrigo in the bar at The New Sydney Hotel just across the road from The Playhouse Theatre.

An ideal venue to meet with friends before a play.

Play Reading Achievement

It was something of a pleasant surprise when we realised that the Rep Playreading series had passed its eighth birthday! The first play reading in the current series was presented in May 2016 which kicked off with the script for *We Are Gathered Here Today*, written by Bill Pearson. The most recent playreading, *Fleur Fleur*, was written by LA Web and presented in late July 2024 to an audience of over 30 people.

The readings are a part of Rep's ongoing commitment to supporting the development of local theatre, with three or four presented each year at our rehearsal space at Creek Road New Town. Since it started, the series has seen numerous actors and playwrights (and the odd dramaturg) involved, all of whom have generously volunteered their talent and creativity in support of local theatre.

The play reading is an important part of theatre work and one which helps a playwright refine their script to the point that it is ready to be staged. It can also be a good learning opportunity for actors to develop their own skills while also contributing feedback to the writer's creative development process.

The Rep series is generally aimed at first readings which enables a playwright to hear their script read for the very first time. The intention is not only to give the script 'a voice' but also to allow the writer to gain feedback from a very knowledgeable audience and cast. Playwrights are welcome to invite their consulting dramaturg along and plays can be one-act or longer with the total reading time limited to a maximum of two hours for any particular session.

For more information, email Moya on moya.d@hobartrep.org.au



Photo L to R:

Cast and writers from the recent play reading of *Fleur, Fleur*: Rogan Brown, Isabella Duffie, Rob Messenger (aka LA Web), Steve Jones, Laura White, Ian McQueen and Meredith McQueen.

DON'T MISS OUT.

BOOK NOW!

TRIVIA

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
106 Bathurst Street, Hobart

QUIZ
Night

Saturday 21st September
2024

SUPPER PROVIDED : PRIZES & FREE PARKING

STARTS AT 7PM | TICKET \$20
TICKET PURCHASE FROM - PLAYHOUSE.ORG.AU
UP TO EIGHT PER TABLE

TRIVIA : FUN : DRINKS PURCHASED FROM THE BAR

QUIZ MASTER - PETER GEE

Rosny Park Bowls Club
40 BASTICK ST. ROSNY PARK, TAS

From the Archives

Hobart Rep Member – Sir Stanley Burbury



Younger members of the Hobart Repertory Theatre Society may not be aware that there have been many past members who were also prominent community leaders. One of these was undoubtedly Stanley Burbury who went on to be knighted and was Tasmania's first Australian-born governor.

Stanley was born in 1909 in Western Australia but was raised in Hobart by his aunt after the death of his mother when he was two months of age. He contracted polio as a child which left him with a life-long limp. He attended The Hutchins School where he was a prize-winning student, then completed law at the University of Tasmania. In 1934, he married Pearl Barren who was an accomplished local soprano and ballet dancer. By the age of twenty eight, Stanley had been made a partner in a prominent Hobart legal firm.

Stanley and Pearl were active members of Hobart's theatrical scene throughout the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Stanley was an accomplished actor and he also directed no fewer than seven Rep productions in the 1940s, including *The Importance of Being Ernest* (1943), *The Way of The World* (1947) and *Murder on The Nile* (1949). In 1950, Stanley was elected president of the Hobart Rep committee and also served as our patron for many later years in the 20th century.

Stanley was appointed the state's Solicitor-General in 1952 and became Tasmanian governor in 1973, a role he held for nine years. The University of Tasmania has a performance/lecture theatre named in his honour. He died in April 1995. It is worth noting that one of the state premiers who served under Stanley's governorship was Bill Neilsen, who was also a prominent member of Hobart Rep. But that's another story for another day...

(With thanks to Meredith McQueen)

OneFest

hobart's one act play festival

@ Playhouse Theatre, Hobart

4th – 5th October 2024

onefest.com.au

.....
Friday 7.30pm
Saturday 2.00pm & 7.30pm
.....

Single session ticket \$15
Double session ticket \$25
Festival pass (3 sessions) \$30
.....

Bookings at <https://playhouse.org.au/book-now/>

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Hobart's only Tasmanian family
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Mike Gaffney
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SUPPORTING THE ARTS



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with **Dignity**
Tasmania (Inc)

A graphic of a feather with a circular glow at its tip, positioned to the right of the text.

**Heather & Christopher
Chong**



**Rob
Valentine MLC**



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