

REPERTOIRE APRIL 2025

A 3D animated white mouse character with large pink ears, wearing a red hoodie, standing against a blue sky with clouds and a city skyline in the background.

E.B. WHITE'S
Stuart Little

School holiday fun
for the whole family

9 - 19 April
playhouse.org.au

Specsavers
Kingston

 **THE
PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE**
106 Bathurst Street, Hobart

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome again to all of our Hobart Repertory Society members.

Our second show for 2025 is the family-friendly *Stuart Little* - which opens on Wednesday, 9 April and runs through until 19 April. This is a great play about the adventures of a delightful mouse who is born into a New York family. It is directed by Heather Heron.

There are four matinees in the season, and the evening shows are at the family-friendly time of 7pm, so make sure that you check it out. (I'm told the costumes are amazing and along with the fantastic cast, it will make this a must-see production.)

Our first production, *Folk*, was directed by Natalie Venettacci and featured a three-person cast of Elise Bagorski, Tam Bloomfield and Andrew Holmes. It was one of the best plays I have seen in a long time and everyone involved should be justifiably proud of the production.

Our other shows for 2025 are:

- ♦ *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, a musical directed by Justin Turner, 9 to 19 July
- ♦ *The Lord of the Flies*, directed by Ben Armitage, running 27 August to 6 September and,
- ♦ *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* which has its run from 15 to 25 October.

Don't forget that we also have OneFest and our annual Pantomime!

WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

On 22 February, I attended the Tasmanian Theatre Awards in Launceston, where I was very privileged to present Louise Stubs the Award for Best Lighting or Video/Film Design in the Community Theatre category for her work on *Last Cab to Darwin*. Congratulations and well done Louise, from all of us at Rep!

Congratulations also go to our other Rep nominees in the 2025 Awards, Community Theatre and Community Musical Theatre categories:

- ♦ Best Stage Design, Carolyn Whammond for *Last Cab to Darwin*
- ♦ Best Sound Design, Iestyn Perry for *Last Cab to Darwin*
- ♦ Best Female Leading Performance, Emma Skalicky for *The Unexpected Guest*
- ♦ Best Female Leading Performance, Clare Pearson for *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*
- ♦ Best Female Leading Performance, Meophy Smith-Williams for *Anne and Gilbert, The Musical*.



RENOVATIONS UPDATE

As everyone is probably well aware, we have installed the long-awaited air conditioning and heating system in the theatre. I would like to personally thank Matt Andrewartha for his tireless work in coordinating and overseeing this project. It was a massive effort!

(I think Matt basically slept at the theatre for three weeks!)

Grateful thanks also go to David Szoka for all his hard work on the project.

Thanks also go to everyone who helped move the seating!

DONATIONS

A reminder! Rep is a fully-fledged charitable organisation & donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. There is an option to donate on our website and again, when you purchase tickets online. After our recent expenditures, all and any donations will be more than gratefully accepted!

At the same time as these renovations were taking place, we took the opportunity to repair, sand and stain the auditorium floor. When you next come along to the theatre to see a show in our new **temperature-controlled** environment, I think you'll agree it has come up a treat!



Before the renovations, and as the repair, sanding & staining of the Theatre floor took place.

OUTCOMES FROM THE RECENT AGM

- ◆ Donna Powell was reappointed as Treasurer (*pictured right*) delivering her Treasurer's Report,
- ◆ Meredith McQueen was reappointed as Theatre Convenor, and
- ◆ Suzen Parnell was appointed as the new Marketing Convenor. I would like to congratulate and welcome Suzen to the Board.
- ◆ I was also reappointed as President for another two years.

As always, I would like to thank the Board, Committee Members and all of our volunteers for their ongoing hard work and dedication.



Yours in Theatre
David Clements
President HRTS 0417 059 002



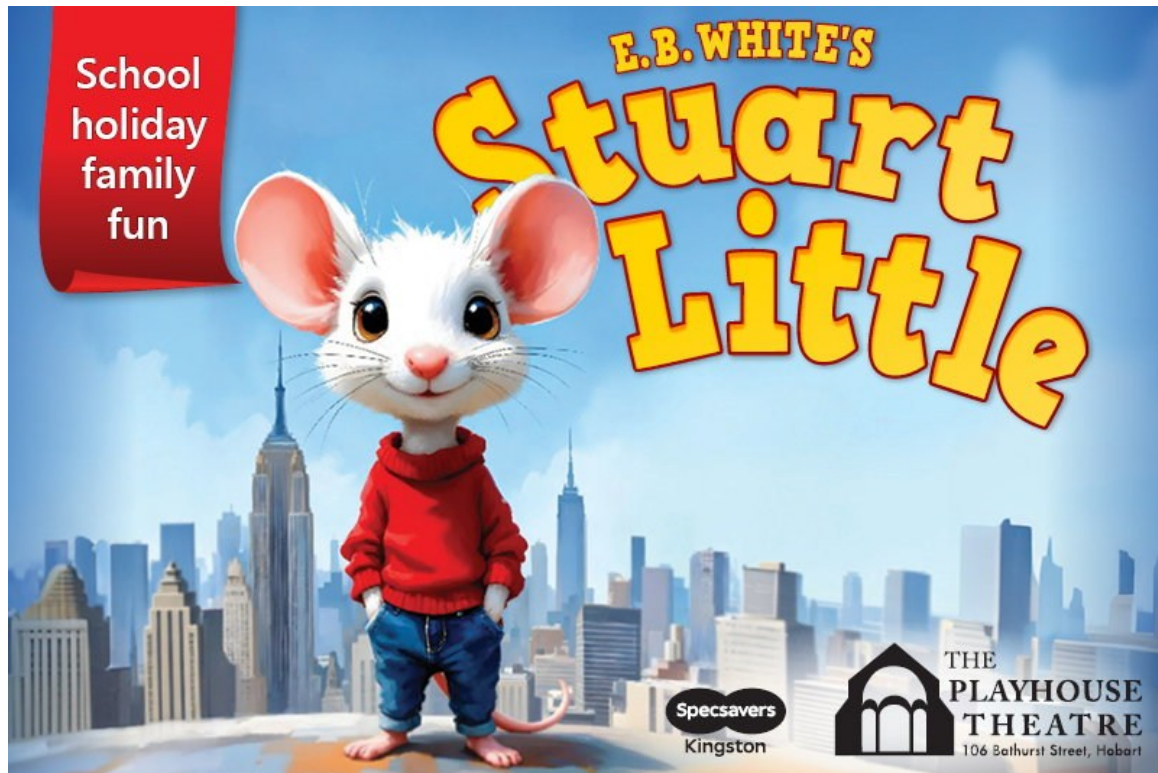
L-R: Wayne Wagg, Wayne & David, and David Clements



At the recent AGM a couple of long-term volunteers were rewarded with Life Membership:

- ◆ **Wayne Wagg**. A longtime volunteer on the Marketing Committee who has done photography for more than 48 productions. A well-deserved recognition of his work over many years.
- ◆ President, **David Clements**. Again, well-deserved recognition after many years of dedicated work on countless productions.

Editor



The little mouse from New York is coming to The Playhouse on 9 April, just in time for the April school holidays!

The Hobart Repertory Theatre Society (Rep) is bringing to life the magical tale of *Stuart Little*, a mouse born into an ordinary New York family. How will brother George and Snowbell the cat cope with the new addition? What adventures will they all get up to?

This family-friendly production will take audiences on a journey across the American countryside as Stuart embarks on a hero's quest to find his fortune and his dearest friend, Margalo the bird. It's a heartwarming story of growing up, leaving home for the first time, and discovering oneself.

Hobart local and Director, Heather Heron will bring an authentic New York feel to the show having lived and worked in the city for several years.

"I've acted at Hobart Rep in the past, but this is my first directing role with the company and I'm excited that it's *Stuart Little*," she said

"I am very passionate about children's theatre in general, how it engages children and takes them on a journey through the characters," Heather said.

A writer, director and actor, Heather has directed *Therapy Hour* and *Perfect Timing* for Manhattan Repertory Theatre's One Act Festival in New York City. She directed *The Love Potion* for Cabrini One Act Play Festival and *Help wanted: Pirates!* for Magnet Theatre in New York City. Locally she may be known for her direction of the musical *Dragon Girl* for Bagdad Primary School.

The production features Abbey Udovicic, Aiden Cruise, Anita Planchon, Jemima Walters, Jerome Phelps, Louise Stubs, Poppy Lennon, Tay Lowry, Scott Leonart, and River Davies as Stuart Little. A talented cast of local actors who bring the story to life with energy and enthusiasm.



Heather Heron

Don't miss this enchanting production that promises to delight audiences of all ages.

***Stuart Little* opens on Wednesday, 9 April 2025 and will run until Saturday, 19 April 2025.**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!!

BOOKINGS can be made :

◆ **ONLINE via playhouse.org.au**

OR BY CONTACTING The Playhouse Box Office

◆ **Email: boxoffice@playhouse.org.au**

◆ **Phone 6234 1536 (leave a message outside office hours)**

Photos from full Dress Rehearsal for Stuart Little. With thanks to Suzen Parnell.



From the Archives

70 Years Ago

The Lady's Not For Burning – April 1955

Seventy years ago this month, Hobart Rep was presenting a production of Christopher Fry's romantic comedy *The Lady's Not For Burning*. This historical play, set in the Middle Ages, was directed by Rep stalwart, Cecily McKinley, and starred (amongst others) Roger Jennings who went on to become Tasmania's Solicitor General. Check out these impressive photos of set, cast and crew.

With thanks to Meredith McQueen.



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