



Official Newsletter of
St. Jude's Players inc.
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Spotlight

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Rose's Dilemma



The Variety reviewer, as quoted in Playbill, wrote: "there's a big audience for a work like this, especially when it's in the hands of these four fine actors"

He was writing about *Rose's Dilemma* in Chicago but we are confident the same will be said of our production because Lyn Wilson, Andrew Horwood, Laura Antoniazzi and Simon Lancione bring a wealth of experience to their roles.

Rose's Dilemma explores the relationship of two literary figures and the depth and consequence of their enduring love. In a beach house in the Hamptons, Rose, a celebrated author, is suffering from writer's block. She needs to write a blockbuster -- she wants it to be brilliant, but she also needs the money. Walsh McLaren, the love of her life and a famous writer himself visits her each night but, for reasons which unfold in the beginning of the play Walsh must leave her. Before he leaves Walsh comes up with a plan to secure Rose's financial future. It's an extraordinary proposal that promises to change everything.

Season – 3 – 5 and 9 – 12 August

St Jude's Hall 444 Brighton Road Brighton.

Evenings @ 8pm Saturday Matinees @ 2pm.

Simon and Laura

**Cast working
hard at
rehearsal**



Lyn and Andrew



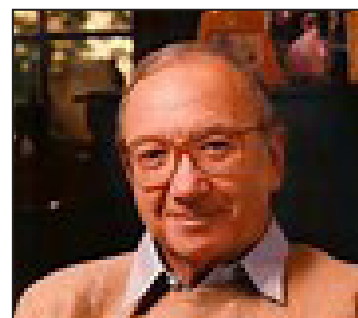
Director Brian Godfrey

Brian has more than 40 years experience in the Adelaide amateur theatre scene. In that time he has acted, directed or stage managed for practically every community theatre group. Where acting is concerned, Brian specialises in comedy roles but when he tries his hand at drama he prefers meaty roles such as psychopaths, serial killers and "not nice" guys. Brian is currently a well respected reviewer on the Adelaide theatre circuit and his reviews can be read in Adelaide Theatre Guide and Glam Adelaide.

We last saw Brian onstage in our 2015 production of *Soul Mates* and we are happy he will be working with us as Director for *Rose's Dilemma*.

Playwright Neil Simon has written over 30 plays and screen plays and has been nominated for more Tony awards and Oscars than any other writer.

His stories are of universal interest and, somehow they express the serious concerns of most average people. His comedies centre on subjects such as marital conflict, infidelity, sibling rivalry, adolescence, and fear of aging - not usually considered to be funny topics but, Neil Simon has a special ability to write witty and poignant dialogue. This gives his stories a rare blend of realism, humor and seriousness which appeals to audiences around the world.



PREFERENTIAL POSTAL BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR SUBSCRIBERS (form enclosed).

GENERAL BOOKINGS OPEN 12th JULY

Telephone: 0436 262 628 or 8296 2628 or

On-line: www.stjudesplayers.asn.au click buy tickets

HOW DO WE SELECT OUR SEASON OF PLAYS EACH YEAR?

At St Jude's Players we pride ourselves on being a progressive community theatre company. We do not restrict ourselves to any one particular genre of play but we stage a wide selection including contemporary and historical drama, period and contemporary comedy, farce and the occasional musical as part of our ongoing repertoire.

We are often asked how we choose our program and this has been asked more frequently following our recent production of *M Butterfly*. We thought it might be of interest to you, our audience to know just how we go about choosing our plays.

We have a Play Reading and Selection Group consisting of five members who are independent of the greater Committee. We believe this number is representative enough to establish a well-rounded view.



The criteria by which we fill a position is somewhat specific. We need people who love reading and discussing plays, who are theatrically experienced in a general sense e.g, acting, directing, technical, back- stage, who have worked on committees and can work to tight time lines and importantly, can see the big picture of a play in their mind's eye.

Planning for any year begins about two years ahead. This allows enough time to consider those scripts submitted by directors who want to work with us or to approach directors with script suggestions for plays which we consider would be ideal for our group. Potential directors might submit as many as 6 or 8 scripts and every script is read, discussed, evaluated and may be short-listed for consideration.



The Players have established Terms of Reference for the group to assist in the selection of a play. The play's attraction, plot and sub-plot interest levels, number of roles, role gender, the play's age and relevance of its subject matter and "patron appeal" are all considered. Is the play technically within our capacity? Can we build a set? Does it have an interval? We generate a significant portion of revenue through refreshment sales so it is an important factor. When evaluating a play's strengths and weaknesses each member completes a script- evaluation sheet for discussion at meetings. The final outcome of this process is to ensure that our 3 productions each year are well balanced and provide an entertaining experience for our audience.

All recommendations are taken to the Committee who then read and discuss the selections prior to making the final decision for the following year's program in June .

The reading group's members are:-

Chair -Andrew Horwood: Almost forty years of stage experience, an active Committee member over ten years and approximately twelve years leading the reading group to its present state. Andrew has had a love of theatre since his mid-teens and has a strong belief in the Players, their quality of product and their continued success.

Harold Minear: Harold has a wealth of experience over many decades of active involvement of almost every facet of the theatre. A doyen of Adelaide Theatre.

Robert McCarthy: a former director of straight and musical theatre. Robert has a wonderful theatrical sense and has the gift of seeing the finished product in his mind.

Jo St Clair: Experienced actor who has a solid background in performance and has worked with most theatre companies in Adelaide.

David Rapkin: A bass-baritone of note, David has been involved in theatre for years and brings advice and knowledge from both a musical and straight theatre background.

The quality of our plays and the production values we set as our standard are measured by the feedback received from our patrons, the reviews received from theatre critics and the significant number of nominations for various theatrical awards.

NEWS FROM THE ST JUDE'S FAMILY!!

Our very own **Mary-Jane Minear** had a 'special' birthday last month.

Mj has been associated with the Players almost since she could walk and has performed every backstage job imaginable. In addition she has designed and operated both lights and sound, directed critically acclaimed plays, acted, fallen off the stage into the audience, served on committee forever, is current Treasurer and is designing the set for *Rose's Dilemma* – her first official set design. Pictured here (second from the left) with her amazing family including her parents Harold & Deidre Minear. St Jude's Players – truly a family group.



Richard Norton – son of our own Issy Norton, is pictured here with his very pregnant partner Imogen at a garden party at Buckingham Palace. They both work for the Welsh National Opera of which Prince Charles is Patron. HRH actually stopped to speak to Imogen because he felt there was a distinct possibility she just might have the baby at the party! Issy is still awaiting the birth of this latest grandchild.

Andrew Horwood, well known to regular St Judeans, has recently won a new job. I couldn't resist this photo of Andrew who now works for the CFS as the Light Fleet Manager and he gets to wear this uniform to work every day. Ya gotta love a man in uniform!!



Robert & Brenda McCarthy recently holidayed in Japan. They were celebrating Robert's retirement from the Player's committee and his role as Treasurer and Brenda's 70th birthday. Here they are at Matsumoto Castle – I don't think their friend travelled with them!

If you came to see *M Butterfly* then you are well aware of the huge kitchen renovation that was undertaken by the Parish earlier this year. We are still working out the best ways to work in the kitchen for interval and we are looking forward to utilising the external servery in the warmer months.

Friday April 21st the kitchen was officially opened by David Spiers, pictured here with Councillor Susan Lonie, representing the Mayor, Nicole Flint and Rev Sophie Relf-Christopher. As you can see from the photos, it was a fun evening.



Vale Laurie Crooks

We are saddened by the passing of Laurie who was a Life member of the Players. Laurie and his wife Eileen were key members of the group for over 50 years. Laurie served on the committee and acted in many productions, sometimes directed by Eileen. Their active involvement slowed down with a move out of the metropolitan area and with increasing health issues. They still attended as audience members and we will miss seeing them. Our thoughts are with Eileen and the family.

M. BUTTERFLY

AN AMAZING PLAY, FINE DIRECTION and OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Russell Starke OAM wrote

"This 1988 multi award winning play by Chinese American playwright David Henry Hwang, based on a true story, still has shock value for some audiences. John Graham as Director of this triumph for St Jude's has shied away from nothing in his masterly conception in every possible piece of this brilliant presentation. Don Oakley's Oriental jigsaw of a set concisely fits and carries motion and intent with ease aided in no small part by Leigh Wheatley's complex lighting. and Paul Tossell's careful sound backgrounds. Graham has chosen a near perfect cast for a show which could easily transfer to The Space at Festival Centre."



Stage Whispers Lesley Reed was equally impressed as the excerpts from her review demonstrate

".... St. Jude's has demonstrated that, like all fine and independent theatre companies, they will never shy away from a good script."

"James Whitrow produces a stellar performance as Rene Gallimard,"

"James Edwards is riveting in a towering performance as Song Liling,"

"Although *M. Butterfly* is a very long play, the audience on opening night remained completely absorbed in the story and performance.

Highly recommended for all theatre lovers who enjoy confronting yet deeply affecting drama."

Both reviewers had very positive reviews of the support cast members.



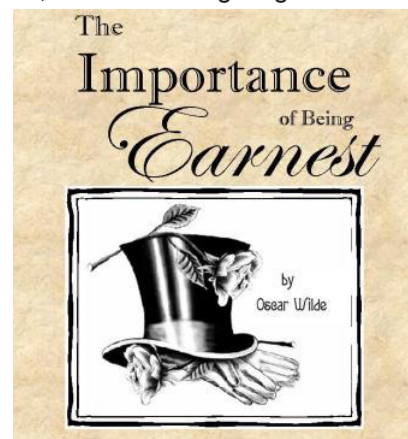
Oscar Wilde's 'trivial comedy for serious people', *The Importance of being Earnest*, has been delighting audiences for more than 100 years.

Set in Edwardian England, two young bachelors have taken to bending the truth to add a dash of excitement to their lives.

Jack has invented a miscreant brother 'Ernest' as an excuse to leave his dull country life and woo Gwendolen, the delectable daughter of the formidable

Lady Bracknell. However, when Algernon learns of Jack's beautiful young ward Cecily, he too adopts the name Ernest in order to gain her affections. When each gentleman is forced to unwind his web of lies and reveal himself they truly discover the 'vital Importance of Being Earnest'. The formidable Lady Bracknell is one of Wilde's best known characters and in recent professional productions the role has been played by both David Suchet and Geoffrey Rush.

We are giving 'Lady B' our own interpretation with the wonderful Andrew Clark taking up the challenge. Don't miss this!!!



The PLAYERS Bar

THE BAR IS OPEN FOR ALL PERFORMANCES

A glass of Red, White or "Bubbly" is available from our Box Office Bar – for just \$5. You are welcome to take your glass into the hall during the performance.

Our ever-popular coffee, tea, orange juice and biscuits are still available from the kitchen servery.

Red or White
Hugh Hamilton Wines
 a top quality drop

Photographs in this issue of
Spotlight taken by Les Zetlein
 and Rosie Aust.

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HUGH HAMILTON
WINES
 McLaren Vale

"Every family has one"