

# Repertoire

AUGUST 2015

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



## The Cripple of Inishmaan

by Martin McDonagh  
Director Kerrin White

"... hysterical, smart, wicked, wildly original work." – *Newsday*

"The play is very, very funny. McDonagh's talent for taking banal dialogue and giving it a subtly demented twist is given free reign." – *The New York Daily News*

On the small island community of Inishmaan off the Western Coast of Ireland in 1934, the inhabitants are excited to learn of the arrival of a Hollywood film crew on the neighbouring island of Inishmore, to make a documentary about life on the islands.

Director **Kerrin White** has assembled a wonderful cast for this modern masterpiece.

**Matt Houston** is 'Cripple' Billy Claven, whose chief occupation is gazing at cows and yearning for a girl who wants no part of him. Billy is determined to cross the sea and audition for the film, to escape the gossip, poverty and boredom of Inishmaan.

Featuring **John Leigh Gray** as Johnypatteenmike, a scrofulous gossip who makes a flourishing trade of snooping out and peddling his pieces of 'news'; **Eleanor Boyd**, his poteen drinking 90 year old Mammy, and **Tracey Walker** and **Sue Wylie** as Cripple Billy's dotting foster aunties, **The Cripple of Inishmaan** is must-see theatre for 2015.

**Alan Fitzpatrick** returns to the Rep as the taciturn boatman Babbybobby and introducing **Mary Angley** as Helen, the object of Billy's affections. She's a tough, foul-mouthed egg-thrower who physically torments her brother Bartley (**Benjamin Maio Mackay**) and shamelessly teases all the horny priests on the island. **Ben Todd** as Dr. McSharrie, completes the talented cast.

Nothing is exactly as it seems; not even Billy's reckless scheme to get himself cast in the movie and transported to Hollywood.



Above: **Mary Angley** (Helen), **Alan Fitzpatrick** (Babbybobby), **Matt Houston** (Cripple Billy)



Above: **Matt Houston** (Cripple Billy) and **Tracey Walker** (Aunt Kate)



Above: **Eleanor Boyd** (Mammy) and **John Leigh Gray** (Johnypatteenmike)

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by Martin McDonagh  
Directed by Kerrin White

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**Season at the Arts Theatre: 53 Angas Street Adelaide**  
**8 performances only: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
**at 8.00pm. Matinee 2pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**Book now: [www.adelaiderrep.com](http://www.adelaiderrep.com) or phone 08 8212 5777**



### Chair's Message

Welcome to the August 2015 issue of the Rep's newsletter – Repertoire. Breaking news! We're thrilled to have secured Director Megan Dansie for our first play for 2016 - The Elephant Man. Audition details are on our website and in this edition of Repertoire.

Also, in this edition of Repertoire we're delighted to introduce you to our hard working Board members and give you an insight to their responsibilities.

On Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> May the Board met for a Strategic planning day. We reviewed all the roles and responsibilities of the Board and re-worked the descriptions and duty statements. Apart from the obligatory office bearers of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer there are many other roles filled by Board members or volunteers. Roles such as: Ticketing and Box Office, Office administration, Front of House manager, members of the Play reading and Production committees. All these roles are voluntary and members give up great amounts of their time to ensure the Rep continues to deliver high quality productions to delight, entertain and challenge our audiences.

Our second production for 2015 'It's Just Sex' certainly got people talking: Sebastian Cooper writing for In-Daily said: *'..flows beautifully, with well-timed gags and believable characters. A great night out and definitely a conversation starter for the car ride home!'*

Our next production 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' is well into rehearsal. The laughs come thick and fast in this sublime tragicomedy masterpiece as it stealthily advances toward a bitterly ironic ending. I'm sure you will enjoy the show.

Our final production for the year will be the rip roaring melodrama – 'Only an Orphan Girl'. Keep an eye on our website for details and book early as this is a sure fire sell out.

#### **Penni Hamilton-Smith** Chair of the Board

*Back Row: Joshua Coldwell, Therese Hornby, Ray Trowbridge, Constantine Raptis, Brian Knott.  
Seated: Sue Wylie, Penni Hamilton-Smith and Elizabeth Olsson*



### Meet the Board

#### **CHAIRPERSON - Penni Hamilton-Smith**

Penni has been a devotee of local community theatre since her first appearance in Noel Coward's Hands Across the Sea for the Little Theatre in Crawford Lane in 1964. She spent many years working in Adelaide as a professional actress and almost two decades in children's television as a close confidante of that "funny old fellow" Humphrey B. Bear. Penni is enjoying her fourth year as a board member and is privileged this year to be re-elected chair.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT - Ray Trowbridge**

Ray's involvement with community theatre started in the late 1990s when he attended his first show at The Promethean Theatre. He was so enthused by what he saw he volunteered to help out wherever needed. As it happened that was the coffee shop!

From that beginning, Ray worked backstage in Props, Lighting, Sound, Stage Managing and just about any other job you can think of behind the scenes. Ray was delighted and honoured to be asked to join such a talented group of people who are the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Board.

#### **SECRETARY - Therese Hornby**

Therese is an Adelaide actor whose performances with the Adelaide Rep have included "Are You Being Served?" and "All My Sons". Therese has worked in film, both foreign and Australian, television and voice-over. She has been locked in the stocks, stalked an AFL football player, murdered and done "that famous table scene" from WHEN HARRY MET SALLY – just to name a few memorable moments. She says it is a privilege and honour to be a Board Member for the Adelaide Repertory Theatre. Therese is married with 2 teenage children.

#### **TREASURER - Constantine Raptis**

Constantine comes from a business background and is married with grown up children. Having gained a Bachelor of Arts in English and Fine Arts from Adelaide University, Constantine went on to study teaching. However he found he was more suited to the business world in which he has spent most of his career.

Now that his children are grown, Constantine felt that it was time to return to the arts and is looking forward to bringing his business acumen to the Rep.

## Board Members

### JOSHUA COLDWELL - Board Member

A wildlife biologist turned high school chemistry teacher who uses theatre as a coping mechanism. You may have seen him tread the boards for various Shakespearean productions and comedies and for the Rep: Star Quality, Dracula and the Master of Ceremonies for The Mystery of the Hansom Cab. Joshua is also a nationally published writer, currently working on a novel he'd like to read someday. Don't let his youth fool you he happens to be a very old soul.

### SUE WYLIE - Board Member

Sue has been active in the local theatre scene since the late 1970's when she returned to Adelaide from living and working professionally in Sydney. A trained secondary teacher, she was one of the original members of the Theatre-in-Education team working out of the Festival Centre in its very early days. She trained at NIDA and since her return to Adelaide has worked professionally, and with The Rep in numerous productions, as well as appearances for St Judes, Therry, The Met and Mixed Salad Productions. As part of her duties as a Board Member, Sue is the editor of Repertoire.



*The Board at play – Back Row: Sue Wylie, Therese Hornby, Elizabeth Olsson, Constantine Raptis, Penni Hamilton-Smith.  
Seated: Brian Knott, Ray Trowbridge, Joshua Coldwell.*

### BRIAN KNOTT - Board Member

Brian has long been involved in the Adelaide theatre scene. He has acted for the Rep, St Judes, and Therry. Brian directed his first show 'Heroes' for the Rep in 2010.

If you don't recognise Brian you would probably recognise his voice because he was the office manager for the Rep and has been on the board since 2009.

### ELIZABETH OLSSON - Board Member

For over 30 years Liz has lead a double life. By day, mild mannered lawyer for a great metropolitan law firm but by night, all things theatre! Starting out in the chorus of The Mikado in 1985, Liz has worked in every area of backstage and administration. For five years until 2007, Liz was President of the G&S Society and in the last six years has branched out into repertory theatre, working not only

for the Rep but also Therry.

In recent years, she had developed a love of props co-ordination, but at heart she has always been a frustrated actress and was thrilled to tread the boards in the Rep's first 2014 production Dracula (she played a lunatic.) Liz is very excited to be part of the Rep's Board and to contribute to its future.

## AUDITIONS

### The Elephant Man

Written by Bernard Pomerance

Winner! 1979 Tony® Award for Best Play

The Rep's first production for 2016 will be **Bernard Pomerance's** award winning play **The Elephant Man**.

**SEASON:** 14 - 23 April 2016

Based on the life of John (Joseph) Merrick, who lived in London during the latter part of the nineteenth century, **The Elephant Man** will be directed by **Megan Dansie**. A horribly deformed young man, victim of rare skin and bone diseases, he is the star freak attraction in traveling side shows. Abandoned and helpless, he is admitted to London's prestigious Whitechapel hospital. Under the care of celebrated young physician Frederick Treves, Merrick is introduced to London society and slowly evolves from an object of pity to an urbane and witty favourite of the aristocracy and literati only to be denied his ultimate dream, to become a man like any other.

**NEEDED** - a diverse cast of at least 6 men and 2 women.

The actors playing Frederick Treves and John Merrick play only those parts; all other actors will play multiple roles.

**Auditions will be held at the Arts Theatre on Saturday 25 July 2015 by appointment.**

**More Information and Bookings:** Sue Wylie via 0439 868 199 or 8244 0638 or [susanjwylie@bigpond.com](mailto:susanjwylie@bigpond.com)

## ATG Awards

The Rep is delighted to once again be among the talented group of theatre companies to be nominated for the 2015 "Curtain Call" Awards.

Rep productions nominated are:

- Tom, Dick & Harry - **Best Comedy**
- August: Osage County - **Best Drama**
- Helen Geoffries - **Best female actor** (August: Osage County)

The awards will be presented at a gala dinner at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

More information at: <http://theatreguide.com.au/>



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## Want to eat before the show?

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Dinner from 5.30pm



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**Vice Patron:** The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese

**Home Venue:** ARTS Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide 5000

**Ph:** 8212 5777 **Web:** [www.adelaiderep.com](http://www.adelaiderep.com) **Email:** [enquiries@adelaiderep.com](mailto:enquiries@adelaiderep.com)

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