

Repertoire

JUNE 2014

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



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Quotes

for
August: Osage County

"Sisters are probably the most competitive relationship within the family, but once the sisters are grown, it becomes the strongest relationship."

-Margaret Mead,
US anthropologist

Family likeness has often a deep sadness in it.

-George Eliot,
Adam Bede

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

is the dark, hilarious and deeply touching story of the strong-willed women of the Weston family whose lives have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Midwest house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them.

Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-Winning play made its Broadway debut in December 2007 after premiering at Chicago's legendary Steppenwolf Theatre earlier that year. It was first produced in Australia by the Sydney Theatre Company in 2010.

Beverly and Violet Weston inhabit a rambling rundown house in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Beverly was once a celebrated poet – now he's a full-time drunk. Violet has cancer of the mouth and is addicted to prescription drugs.

"She takes pills and I drink" is how Beverly explains his relationship with his wife. One day Beverly disappears, leaving prescription drug-addicted Violet in the care of a newly hired live-in domestic.

The resulting crisis is the impetus for Beverly and Violet's three daughters Barbara, Ivy and Karen to return to their childhood home.

"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."
- George Bernard Shaw

Mattie Fae, Violet's younger sister, returns to support the sister she loves bringing her husband Charlie and son Little Charles.

For Violet, the return of her daughters and the presence of her sister presents a perfect opportunity - and possibly her last chance - to set the record straight.

High on painkillers, she lets rip, shooting down her family, one by one, with barbs poisoned by a lifetime of

anger and pain.

There are skeletons in any family closet, but the skeletons in the Weston closet rattle louder than most.



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY was adapted for screen in 2013 as a film of the same name, with **Meryl Streep** as the dysfunctional and manipulative mother **Violet**, and **Julia Roberts**, **Juliette Lewis** and **Julianne Nicholson**, playing the daughters.

Margo Martindale, currently starring in the television series *The Millers*, played Violet's overbearing younger sister **Mattie Fae**. The screen cast was rounded out with a brace of well respected male actors including **Ewan McGregor**, **Benedict Cumberbatch**, **Dermot Mulroney** and **Sam Shepard** as the patriarch of the clan, **Beverly Weston**.



from The Chairman

Dear friends,

As Chair of the Rep's Board, I am delighted to share with you some results of our AGM held in March this year, 2014. The meeting received a theatre report, and we are encouraged by the strategic approaches and positioning of the ARTS theatre by the Manager, Barbara Messenger, and her team.

Welcome to the new "boardies", Elizabeth Olsson, Sue Wylie, Glenn Vallen, Joshua Coldwell and James Sadler. I congratulate our subscribers and voting members for electing a truly diverse, and inter-generational Board. This diversity will benefit us all at the Rep.

Already Sue has taken on the editing of this newsletter in between rehearsals for August: Osage County, Glenn is updating our data base at long last, Joshua is busy reading plays as a new member of the play reading committee and James is hard at work preparing the publicity and marketing for our productions and planning for his June wedding.

As a Board we adopt key priorities for our term in office, which include producing four quality works each year for your entertainment. We have also adopted new ways of working focusing on a Board that provides thoughtful leadership as we maintain our core responsibility of oversight to the organisation.

As you may know we are using social media to amplify the Rep's collective voice – so please follow us on Facebook.



The Board has given its full support to the June production of August: Osage County. It is an honour to spend quality time with the wonderful cast of actors that director David Sinclair has brought together.

We encourage our members, their partners and friends to actively engage with us by coming along to see August: Osage County and indeed all of our shows and by giving us feedback or by volunteering to assist with our exciting productions.

Thankyou to all our wonderful, hardworking volunteers and Board Members, making bold decisions for fostering the Rep's mission. I am inspired for the future and look forward to seeing members and subscribers in the audience this year.

Best wishes,

Penni Hamilton-Smith, Chair, Rep. Board

Rodger Clarke awarded Life Membership



Congratulations to Rodger Clarke on being awarded Life Membership of The Rep at the recent March 2014 Rep AGM.

Rodger has been involved with the Adelaide Repertory Theatre for over 10 years including stints as Treasurer, Board member and amazing Bar Manager. He has been involved in working bees, arranging and cataloguing the props bay, assisting with publicity, catering, set building and painting. Rodger's involvement is often in the "above and beyond" category.

We sincerely thank this valued member of the Rep community for his dedication.

Director's comment

The circumstances of the Weston family create a "Perfect Storm" of dysfunction; played out in front of us.

On a daily basis so many families deal with depression, alcoholism, drug addiction, infidelity, physical and emotional abuse and terminal illness.

It would be rare for all such conditions to be visited on a single family. In his beautifully worded play, Tracy Letts shows us how one family chooses to deal with them.

Over and above all these terrible and horrific afflictions, at the very centre, at the very core of this play, it is the poison generated by family secrets, lies and unspoken truths, that really feeds this dysfunction. Is "truth" always important?

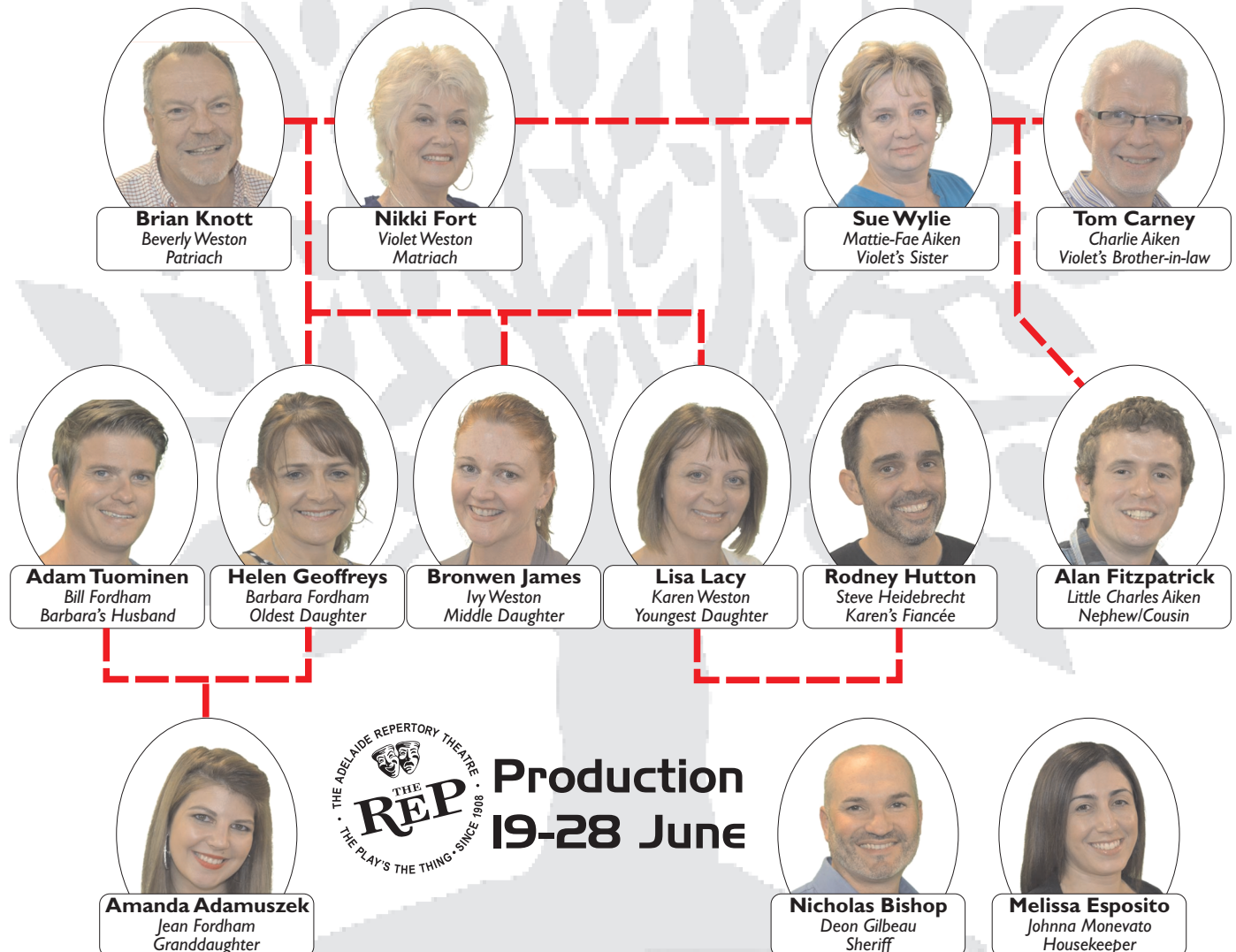


Nikki Fort
plays Violet Weston

Violet Weston says *"It's time we had some truths told around here"*, and in this darkly comedic play we see what happens when "truths" are told at the most inappropriate time.

David Sinclair
Director August Osage County

The Weston Family of August: Osage County



The Rep's June 2014 production of this darkly funny and touching play is directed by **David Sinclair**.

Nikki Fort returns to the Adelaide stage in a bravura performance as Violet Weston.

Rep stalwart **Brian Knott** appears as the patriarch Beverly Weston.

The three daughters are played by **Helen Geoffreys**, **Bronwen James** and **Lisa Lacey**. **Sue Wylie** appears as Violet's sister Mattie Fae Aiken.

Adam Tuominen returns to the Rep in the role of Bill Fordham; **Tom Carney** and **Alan Fitzpatrick** appear as father and son, Charlie and Little Charles Aiken.

Amanda Adamuszek makes her stage debut as Barbara and Bill Fordham's 14 year old daughter Jean.

Melissa Esposito, **Rodney Hutton** and **Nicholas Bishop** complete the cast.

Performance details

Note: evening performances start at 7.30pm;
SUNDAY 22 June 2014 performance at 4.00pm

* No Saturday matinees

Thursday	June 19	7.30pm
Friday	June 20	7.30pm
Saturday	June 21	7.30pm
Sunday	June 22	4.00pm
Wednesday	June 25	7.30pm
Thursday	June 26	7.30pm
Friday	June 27	7.30pm
Saturday	June 28	7.30pm

Tickets: Adult: \$22 Concession: \$17

Bookings: www.adelaiderep.com Ph: 8212 5777

WARNING

**CONTAINS
STRONG LANGUAGE
DRUG REFERENCES AND SMOKING**



Season 2014

Audiences loved the first show of the year – Bram Stoker's Dracula - adapted for stage by Liz Lockheed and directed by Kerrin White. Critic Barry Lenny wrote:
"Forget those awful films and television shows and go back to where it all began, with Bram Stoker's Dracula, live on stage, if that term can in fact be used of the un-dead."



September 11-20
The George Bernard Shaw Classic
MISALLIANCE

November 20-29
Hilarious Ray Cooney farce
TOM, DICK & HARRY

Check the website for more details
www.adelaiderep.com

Misalliance

Written by George Bernard Shaw
Directed by Brain Knott

11-20 September 2014



Director Brain Knott

Hypatia is engaged to a young aristocrat, and has even had a scandalous proposal from her intended's debonair father but she is restless.

Her fiancé is clever and definitely the most interesting man she's had a choice of so far, but is that enough?

She longs for some adventure to drop out of the sky. And so it does; when a plane lands in the conservatory during a weekend house party.

The plane's passengers, a handsome young pilot and a Polish acrobat, shake up the house party considerably.

Misalliance continues Shaw's exploration of his ideas on "The New Woman": i.e. women intent on escaping Victorian standards of helplessness, passivity, stuffy propriety, and non-involvement in politics or general affairs.



wakefield
hotel

Want to eat before the show?

The Wakefield Hotel is offering 50% off the 2nd meal when you produce your Rep tickets.

Dinner from 5.30pm

**76 Wakefield Street
Adelaide
08 8223 1622**

Special Car Parking Rates

Moore St Parking



Undercover parking
6pm 'til midnight for **\$8.00**

The Moore St Carpark is the closest carpark to the Theatre and is located behind the Royalty Theatre on Moore St (and is opposite the stage door!!)

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia


Vice Patron: The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Stephen Yarwood

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