

# Repertoire

JUNE 2016

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



*What's inside  
this issue*

**Wardrobe Warriors  
WANTED!**

Page 1

**A word from the  
Chair**

**AGM Report and the  
new Board**

Page 2

**Cat on a Hot  
Tin Roof**

**by Tennessee  
Williams**

Page 3

**What the critics  
said about The  
Elephant Man**

**2016 season**

Page 4



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copy of Repertoire by  
post and would prefer to  
receive it by email, please  
send your details to  
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and we'll update our  
database.*

## Wardrobe Warrior WANTED!

**Our beloved (and publicity shy)  
Wardrobe co-ordinator Bev George (Bevo)  
has decided to step away from the Rep  
wardrobe after many years of dedicated  
service.**

Bevo tells me she remembers from when she was about ten or so accompanying her mother Iris Hart up a spiral staircase to rehearse in the Tivoli Theatre.

"I used to get so worked up when she was doing a drama I once threw up in the aisle.

My first role was aged 18 for Ruby Litchfield and over the years I played in the three theatres they used before opening the Arts.

You had to be asked to audition then.

Apart from acting roles I did props, set dressing, crew, front of house, wardrobe, archiving, the lot. You had to provide your own clothes then unless it was a period piece and then Mimi Matten or Vivienne Cundell made the most superb gowns".

It really is 'been there, done that' for Bevo. Cheers Bevo; and thanks for all the fish.

Bevo's departure leaves a big gap for the Rep to fill.

We desperately need someone to take over where Bevo left off. Bevo and her team of volunteers spent much of 2015 culling and sorting through the Rep's extensive wardrobe room leaving us with a highly organised and accessible wardrobe department. We certainly don't want all that hard work to go to waste.



The wardrobe co-ordinator's role is pretty broad:

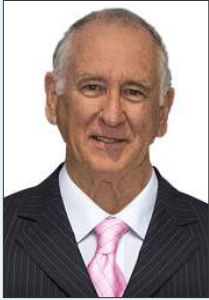
**Take care of the Wardrobe Room and costumes.**

- Are you the one to take on this daunting task?
- Are you bored?
- Enjoy being organised?
- Love clothes?
- Can untangle 45 wire coat hangers without breaking a sweat?
- Understand the difference between donations and junk?
- Maybe sew a little bit?
- Can you wield an iron and handle an elderly ironing board without damage to yourself or those around you?

**WE NEED YOU!**

Email your details to [enquiries@adelaiderep.com](mailto:enquiries@adelaiderep.com) and put Wardrobe Warrior in the subject line

*\*Out-of-pocket expenses e.g. telephone, parking and stationery will be reimbursed by the Rep.*



## A word from the Chair

**Ray Trowbridge, Vice President**

Welcome to the June edition of your Repertoire. Our Chair of the Board, Penni Hamilton-Smith, is currently holidaying in Europe and has entrusted me with her column for this edition.

It is incredible to think that our first play of the year is behind us and we are well into rehearsing our second, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The Elephant Man proved to be a play of exceptional quality with wonderful performances on stage, creative set and a dedicated, attention-to-detail crew. Put all this in the safe hands of director Megan Dansie and it is little wonder you have so many positive comments in the foyer at interval and show's end. Thank you to all involved.

Those of you who attended *The Elephant Man* may have noticed a change in personnel Front of House. Michelle after many years of dedicated service retired to the life of being a mum. We thank Julie Quick for stepping up and taking on the role, organising her amazing band of volunteers to serve us our coffee, show us to our seats or sell us a program... and all with a smile.

Thanks to all those who entered our free raffle in the foyer and added their name to our email list. Winner of the wine and double pass was Lola Bennett of Woodville South. As I'm sure you can appreciate the rising cost of postage is starting to become an issue and we at The Rep are using every effort to reduce costs without losing any benefits to our members and supporters. So if you would prefer to receive your Repertoire and updates by email, please let us know. Email [enquiries@adelaiderrep.com](mailto:enquiries@adelaiderrep.com) with your details.

While on the subject of all things internet, it is most encouraging to see approximately half the tickets now sold per show are through our online booking service TryBooking. More and more people are realising the benefits of booking online. They choose their seats, pay online and print their tickets. No fuss in the foyer, just head for a coffee and biscuit and relax. Head to our website [www.adelaiderrep.com](http://www.adelaiderrep.com) and click the link. Try it you'll like it!

Did you know that being on our mailing list (either post or email) puts you in the running to win a double complimentary pass to our next production? While you are at our website checking out the plays for the year have a look at our monthly competition on the front page (just scroll down). A name from our list appears at the start of each month and that person has till the end of the month to phone the number on the screen to claim their prize.

I look forward to seeing you in the foyer at our next production; come up and say hello.

Please remember... if you enjoyed your experience with us, tell your friends. If you didn't, tell us. We want to do everything possible to make you want to come back again.

### The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

**Patron:** His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO  
Governor of South Australia

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


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

**Ph:** 8212 5777 **Web:** [www.adelaiderrep.com](http://www.adelaiderrep.com)

**Email:** [enquiries@adelaiderrep.com](mailto:enquiries@adelaiderrep.com)

**Repertoire Photography:** Norm Caddick

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## AGM Report 21 Mar 2016

Congratulations to **Brian Messenger** on being awarded Life Membership of The Adelaide Repertory Theatre. Brian has been a long standing member and enthusiastic supporter of The Rep, and the award of Life Membership recognises his contribution.

New Board Members elected unopposed at the AGM: **Gaynor Kowald** and **Philip Lineton**.

**Gaynor** has been involved with the Australian Marching Association and more recently Drill Dance Australia for the past 45 years.

From the rigours of performance through to the rigours of administration in a volunteer organisation Gaynor brings experience to

the Board that is quite unique. She has a lifelong love of theatre and is excited by the opportunity to assist the Rep with their fabulous productions by bringing her expertise to the Board.

Gaynor works as an accountant for Adelaide Airport Limited and is married with two wonderful children. She's looking forward to being part of the Rep's future.

**Philip** has been involved in community theatre since first appearing as a Russian dancer in a production of *"Fiddler on the Roof"* in FNQ some thirty years ago.

Before making the move to Adelaide he was involved both as an actor and board member of various theatre groups.

Outside of the theatre he is a solicitor in private practice, a member of other boards and has two adult children and a granddaughter.

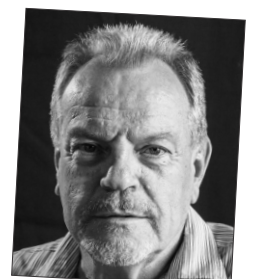
Your Rep Board members for 2016, from the left: Penni Hamilton-Smith, Chairperson, Philip Lineton, Elizabeth Olsson, Sue Wylie, Ray Trowbridge, Vice President, Gaynor Kowald, Constantine Raptis, Treasurer, Therse Hornby, Secretary.



■ Chairperson Penni Hamilton-Smith and Brian Messenger



At the 2016 AGM we said farewell to Board Member **Josh Caldwell** and to Board stalwart **Brian Knott**. Brian stepped down from the Board after many years service. Thanks Brian for your considerable contribution to the Board of the Adelaide Rep. Brian continues his involvement with The Rep as Director of our third play for the 2016 season: *'Oscar and Felix'*.





# Adelaide audiences get a taste of southern discomfort with Tennessee Williams purrfect play

**JUNE 23** TO **JULY 2**  
2016

Audiences will be transported from wintry Adelaide to steamy southern America when Tennessee Williams' classic play **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF** opens at the Arts Theatre.

Widely regarded as Williams' best play, **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF** is a masterful exploration of love, lies and family relationships from one of the giants of 20th century drama.

Set in the Mississippi plantation home of wealthy cotton tycoon Big Daddy Pollitt (**RUSSELL STARKE**), the play examines a southern family in crisis, charting the emotional devastation as



● Anita Pipprell - "Maggie The Cat"

their carefully constructed world collapses over the course of a single muggy evening.

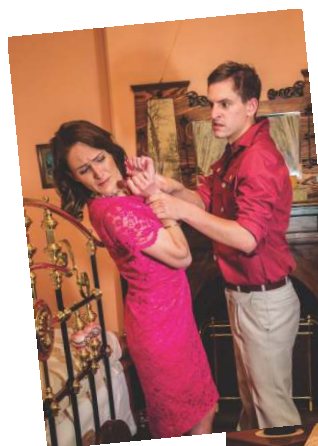
Former football star and favourite son Brick (**JOSHUA COLDWELL**)

and his gorgeous wife Maggie "the cat" (**ANITA PIPPRELL**), along with Brick's brother Gooper (**ALAN FITZPATRICK**), his wife Mae (**NICOLE RUTTY**) and their five children, have gathered at the family estate to celebrate Big Daddy's 65th birthday.

But what is supposed to be a celebratory evening soon turns into a night of despair and desperation as secrets are revealed, lies are exposed and the Pollitts' web of deceit slowly unravels.

Veteran South Australian actor **Russell Starke** heads up the talented cast as Big Daddy, in a triumphant return to the Arts Theatre stage after his critically acclaimed role in The Rep's 2015 comedy Quartet.

"Big Daddy is the most complex character I have ever played, bar none," Starke says.



● Above and right Anita Pipprell and Joshua Coldwell



● Left Russell Starke and Joshua Coldwell

"Williams' writing gradually reveals multiple, subtle layers of a life which at first glance seems boorish and violent - but all lives conceal secrets."

Director **Barry Hill** says CAT is "a thinking person's play" that takes the audience on an emotional ride.

"**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** is one of the greatest dramas of the last century; it was Tennessee Williams' favourite of his own plays, and it's one of mine," he says.

"It's more than 60 years old but its themes are still so relevant today, dealing with homosexuality, alcoholism, old age, death and family relationships."

Mr Hill says audiences familiar with the famous 1958 Elizabeth Taylor film will find new meaning in the stage play, which features a far more nuanced exploration of sexuality.

"Tennessee Williams was reportedly never happy with the film as it removed almost all of the original play's exploration of sexism and homophobia," he says. "Unlike the film there is no reconciliation between the characters in the stage version, so the audience will be

dragged screaming through this one fateful night and have to make their own conclusions as to what happens the next day."

A poignant meditation on death, sex, love, family and deceit, **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF** is an essential theatrical experience from one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century.



● Russell Starke - "Big Daddy"

**Adelaide Repertory Theatre by arrangement with ORiGiN Theatrical Ltd presents**  
**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**  
by Tennessee Williams

June 23 to July 2, 2016 The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas St, Adelaide

June 23-25 & June 29 to July 2 at 8pm,  
matinee Saturday July 2 at 2pm.

Tickets: \$22 adult, \$17 conc.,  
plus special discounts for groups of 10+

Book at [adelaiderep.com](http://adelaiderep.com) or call 8212 5777

Directed by: Barry Hill

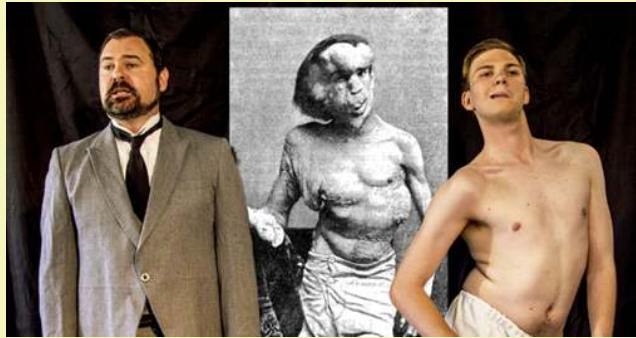
Starring: Russell Starke, Anita Pipprell, Joshua Coldwell, Jude Brennan, Alan Fitzpatrick, Nicole Rutty, David Rapkin, John Matsen, Alicia Hammond, Zara Blight, Rachael Homes-Vickers, Jimmy White & Thomas Hamilton-Smith.

# What the Critics said about "The Elephant Man"

## Directed by Megan Dansie Arts Theatre 14 – 23 April 2016

"Robert Bell as Merrick and Steve Marvane as his rescuer/ benefactor, Doctor (later Sir) Frederick Treves excel equally in this production.

"Altogether a fine production of an important story, with a great cast, which is a credit to all involved, and which should be seen by large audiences".  
*Peter Bleby, Australian Stage.*



"a beautifully-mounted production,.....intelligently -wrought and moving..."

*Samela Harris, The Barefoot Review.*

"an ultimately grim yet wholly enthralling experience"

*Rosie Van Heerde, The Clothesline.*

## Rep 2016 Season



### OSCAR AND FELIX

by Neil Simon

A New Look at The Odd Couple

Director: Brian Knott



### DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

by Marc Comoletti

A riotous comedy to finish off the year

Director: Norm Caddick



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### You Rep subscription includes

- Rep membership - vote at the AGM
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Click on the "book now" button

Choose your seat; pay online and print your tickets

It's that simple!

Note: Sorry - subscribers can't print tickets from the online site but we are working on it!

## WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

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

76 Wakefield Street, Adelaide



wakefield  
hotel

Dinner from 5.30pm  
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## Special Car Parking Rates Moore St Parking

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'til midnight



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