

Repertoire

AUGUST 2018

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



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*If you're receiving your
copy of Repertoire by
post and would prefer to
receive it by email, please
send your details to
enquiries@adelaiderep.com
and we'll update our
database.*



Adelaide Repertory Theatre
by arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd presents

RULES FOR LIVING by Sam Holcroft

Directed by: **Megan Dansie**

CAST: **Norm Caddick, Megan Doherty, Chris Eaton, Jaye Gordon, Penni Hamilton Smith, Steve Marvanek** and featuring **Emily Hodgkinson** and **Alicia Hammond**.

Christmas day will never be the same again. "Rules for Living" is a dark comedy about family dysfunction and societal norms. It owes much to the theory of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy exploring the family dynamics and social constructs that limit our behaviours. It is also one of the funniest and truest comedies you'll see for ages.

"Rules For Living" follows a family preparing for Christmas lunch and the tensions that arise as they deal with underlying family issues. Each character's movement, gesture, or voice is dictated by a set of "rules" which the actors must follow to function correctly. It starts with a recognisable nod to Alan Ayckbourn's Season's Greetings and then rockets to a delicious eruption of anarchy.

Edith (**Penni Hamilton-Smith**) and her family are gathering for lunch on Christmas Day. Her husband a retired judge (**Norm Caddick**) is coming home from hospital for the day. Edith plans everything with military precision, but her plans are destined to be thrown into disarray. Her son Matthew (**Chris Eaton**) arrives partnered by nervously jocular, aspiring actor Carrie (**Megan Doherty**), but secretly nurses a passion for his sister-in-law, Sheena (**Jaye Gordon**). And Sheena, a compulsive drinker, is unable to contain her anger at her cynical, underachieving husband, Adam, (**Steve Marvanek**) or her concern for their psychologically damaged daughter, Emma (**Emily Hodgkinson** and **Alicia Hammond** alternating).

After the short opening scene, each subsequent scene is introduced with a 'rule' (eg 'Matthew must sit to tell a lie', 'Edith must clean to keep calm'), which is displayed to the audience for the duration of the scene. The characters adhere to these rules, even as they accumulate alarmingly (each rule, once it appears, applies throughout the rest of the play). As the family gathering descends into chaos, all the rules are obscured by the words 'ANARCHY RULES'.



Above Right:
L-R Penni
Hamilton-Smith,
Jaye Gordon,
Emily Hodgkinson
(seated),
Megan Doherty,
Steve Marvanek,
Chris Eaton.



Left:
L-R Penni
Hamilton-Smith,
Norm Caddick,
Steve Marvanek,
Chris Eaton.



The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide
Aug 30 – Sept 1 and Sept 5 - 8 at 8pm,
Matinee Saturday Sept 8 at 2pm.
Tickets: \$22 adult, \$17 conc., plus special discounts
for groups of 10+
Book at adelaiderep.com or call 8212 5777



Photos in the Arts Theatre foyer at opening night of "Perfect Wedding"



Left:
Di Chamberlain
and Gordon
Poole

Right:
Brendan and
Ashley Merriel



Below:
Greg Janzow,
Adrian Barnes
and Pat Wilson



Above:
After the show the cast, director Sue Wylie (right) and Rep President Ray Trowbridge (left) cut a wedding cake for opening night guests.

Photos by Richard Parkhill

Message from the Chair

Ray Trowbridge



Congratulations to the team that brought us the very popular, "Perfect Wedding".

Director Sue Wylie and her dedicated cast and team produced a fabulous night of entertainment that was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who saw it. It was most gratifying to hear the positive comments and congratulations from our patrons as they left the foyer, with a couple even commenting how it was their second visit.

Megan Dansie (aka Daphne, the mother of the bride in "Perfect Wedding"), is now busy directing our next production, "Rules for Living". I'm certain you will be equally pleased with this next production, a quirky comedy about a dysfunctional family on Christmas Day.

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre has now purchased and installed a defibrillator in the foyer. This is same model used throughout the CBD by the Adelaide City Council and whom we thank for their guidance on the purchase. This is a very user-friendly device which we hope we will never have the opportunity to use.



The defibrillator in the foyer of The Arts Theatre with Bar Manager and Life Member of The Rep Rodger Clarke

The Rep is always most grateful to all our volunteers who help put each of our productions on the stage. We would particularly like to make mention of those who help Front of House (FOH). These are the faithful who, each night greet our patrons serving tea and coffee, sell programs or show them to their seats.

We are always looking to add to this list. If you would like to be added to our FOH volunteer database please email our FOH manager Julie Quick at:

juliequick99@gmail.com

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at "Rules for Living".

Cheers Ray

Your subscription gives you 5 ticket vouchers for \$70. That's \$14 per ticket - a saving of \$8 on each adult ticket.

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

Vouchers can be used for any show - use one for each show or use them all for one show.

Subscribers receive invitations to Opening Night suppers in the Thomas Nave Room and Membership of the Rep - so you can vote at the AGM.

Subscribers can book for friends at concession rate of \$17/ticket.



What are your..... RULES FOR LIVING?

Sam Holcroft was commissioned to write the play for the National Theatre in 2011, however, it took her a year to come up with the concept.

According to Holcroft, the play was *"born out of learning about Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.....I'd wanted to write about it for a long time. And also a sort of love of family comedies and dinner-party farces. ...I wondered whether I could bring together a family and assign each one of them a personality trait or rule, and an underlying core belief that they might be struggling with, and (that) if they lived by that rule throughout the course of the drama very strictly, would they rub up against each other, would they set each other off, would we end up in the inevitable... climax of the family dinner party as we've come to expect it, and would I be able to marry the two?"*



Megan Dansie

Megan Dansie, Director of the Rep's production of *"Rules For Living"*, said *"I was fascinated by the layers in this play and in its ability to continually surprise its audience. Whilst the actor's words are completely sincere and appropriate in the context of the scene, once you apply the 'Rule' you realise how funny it is"*. The play debuted at the National Theatre in London from March 24 to July 8, 2015.



Above: L – R Penni Hamilton-Smith, Steve Marvanek, Jaye Gordon, Megan Doherty, Chris Eaton, Emily Hodgkinson (seated).

Michael Billington's review of the National Theatre production in the Guardian:

"Like Ayckbourn's Season's Greetings, the play confirms that Christmas is often a cue for self-revelatory crisis.... this is an intelligent comedy that leaves us questioning at what point the rules for living we all adopt become a form of entrapment".

Cameron Woodward in The Age reviewing the Melbourne production:

The play is a *"wildly funny...domestic comedy in the mould of Alan Ayckbourn's Seasons Greetings."*

School visit to Arts Theatre

A group of around 40 Year 5 students from St Peters Girls School visited the Arts Theatre with their teacher Sarah Mulraney. Their tour of the theatre included a special visit to the stage to look at the set for *Perfect Wedding*. The girls enjoyed their visit; especially the view from the stage.

The girls posed for a photograph on the steps of the theatre with the *Perfect Wedding* sign board in the background.



Photo courtesy St Peters Girls School

What the Critics said about "Perfect Wedding"

Directed by Sue Wylie.

Arts Theatre

June 21 – June 30 2018

'Under Sue Wylie's direction and the ensemble's excellent comedic chemistry and skills, the show is an hilarious romp that had the audience in peals of laughter'.

.....Sarah Westgarth – Adelaide Theatre Guide

'The Adelaide Repertory Theatre can be relied on to present good theatre and Perfect Wedding at the Arts Theatre until the 30th June is another feather in their cap'.

.....Valerie Lillington – Australia Stage

'The Rep' have every right to be proud of Perfect Wedding. Farce is one of the most difficult theatre styles and they have done a magnificent job. I loved the Chicken Dance!'

.....Barry Hill – Stage Whispers

'This is an easy going, light hearted, well performed piece which is well worth the effort of braving the cold and venturing out. If laughter is the best medicine, this is just what the doctor ordered'.

.....Trish Francis – Glam Adelaide

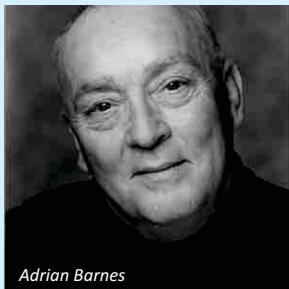


Final Production for 2018 season

Our Final production for 2018 is from the pen of Agatha Christie - the worlds' bestselling Murder Mystery writer

"AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"

A deadly game of human skittles is played out on an isolated island



Adrian Barnes

Directed by **Adrian Barnes**
Agatha Christie's book of the same name is widely considered to be her masterpiece although described by her as the most difficult of her books to write. With more than 100 million copies sold it is also the world's best-selling mystery and one of

the best-selling books of all time.

Agatha Christie herself dramatized the book and it was first produced on the West End in 1943.

Season:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
15 - 17 November 2018 at 8pm

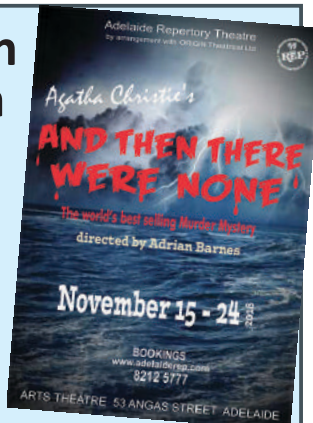
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
and Saturday 21 - 24 November
2018 at 8pm

Matinee Saturday 24 Nov 2017
at 2pm

BOOK NOW To avoid disappointment:

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

Book at adelaiderrep.com or call 8212 5777



Become Involved Why not be part of the Rep Team in 2018

You don't need to be an actor to be involved with the Rep.

Every production is supported by teams of behind the scenes volunteers.

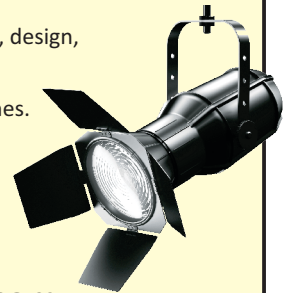
We need people who can prompt, paint, design, construct, show people

to their seats; move sets, or sew costumes.

People who like to play with sound and

lights, people to make

tea and iron costumes.



Email your details to

enquiries@adelaiderrep.com

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**


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WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

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



wakefield
hotel

Dinner from 5.30pm
08 8223 1622

Special Car Parking Rates Moore St Parking

\$8.00 Undercover
parking 6pm
'til midnight

Located on Moore St
opposite the Arts Theatre stage door!!



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LEADING ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

