

Issue No 1



March 2021

# REPERTOIRE

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



**Crimes of the Heart** is a play by American playwright Beth Henley. It is set in Hazlehurst, Mississippi in the mid-20th century.

The play won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play. In 1986, the play was novelized and released as a book, written by Claudia Reilly. This play is a Dramey, a comedy with dramatic moments.

Three eccentric sisters from a small Southern town are rocked by scandal when Babe, the youngest, shoots her husband. The sisters unite with an intense young lawyer to save Babe from a murder charge, and overcome their family's painful past.

Babe's husband, Zackery, whom she has just shot, is a powerful and wealthy lawyer. Eventually, she reveals that the shooting was the result of her anger at Zackery's cruel treatment both of her and of Willie Jay, a 15-year-old African American boy with whom she's been having an affair.

Pictured above:

1. Georgia Stockham as Lenny Magrath
2. Allison Scharber as Babe Botrelle with Adam Schultz as Barnette Lloyd
3. Cheryl Douglas as Meg Magrath and Steve Marvanek as Doc Porter
4. Cheryl Douglas
5. Allison, Cheryl and Georgia
6. Allison Scharber

**Sessions: NEW START TIME FOR ALL SHOWS THIS YEAR.**

**All evening sessions start at 7.30pm  
Matinee at 2pm on Sat 17 April**

# R E P E R T O I R E

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## What the critics say about director Geoff Brittain



"The direction from Geoff Brittain is stimulating and the engaging performances will hold your attention."

"Geoff Brittain shows his wealth of successful directing experience by eliciting superb performances from each of the talented actors."

"Director, Geoff Brittain, has assembled a strong ensemble cast. Every character is brought to life with strong direction and clear understanding of their character by all cast members."

"Brittain has done a very good job keeping the action flowing, and the final scene is riveting. Geoff is a casting agent's dream. He not only knows how to pack a punch with his storytelling, but he knows how to cast to perfection."

## VALE BARBARA SAUNDERS 25.4.1922 - 15.1.2020

### "I've had a fortunate life"

Barbara Saunders, a life member of the Adelaide Rep, passed away following an operation at the RAH last Wednesday, 15 January 2020. Her funeral was held on Friday 31 January.

Barbara shared many decades of enjoyment with the REP, as a player, a board member and in more recent years as an audience member.

Barb Saunders as a young woman was in 'Pride & Prejudice' with the late Keith Michelle, as an actress she was most prolific during the 1970s and 80s being in over a dozen Rep productions during that period. Norm Caddick directed her in 'Ghost Train' in 1988 where she spent the majority of Act 2 asleep on a table in the station waiting room. (not very comfortable for a by then, elderly actress)

Barbara was a former Miss South Australia, who went on to have a career in television and marketing. She was still doing television commercials as she approached 90. Barbara was Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

She was the loved wife of the late Reg. Loving mother and mother-in-law to Robert (deceased), Nigel and Helen, Penny and Rod, Ngaire and Wayne.

Adored Grandma Barb to Rebecca and Andrew, Ben and Helen, Eddie and Theo, Michael and Jemima, Helen and Macca, Jacqui and Steve, Kat and Michael, Gen and Nick, Sam and Aisling, Patrick and Sophia, Joshua (deceased), and Tess.

Much loved Great-Grandma Barb to 15 Great-Grandchildren.

Dearly loved and respected by her family and friends in Australia and overseas.

An inspiration to us all.

Barbara is seen here (right) with the late Frank Ford (director) on the left during the Rep's 100th year production of 'Inherit the Wind'.



## VALE PHYL SKINNER

Phyliss Joyce (nee Skinner) BOER OAM  
23.10.1922 - 23.10.2020

Passed away on her 98th birthday. Beloved wife of Max (deceased). Dearly loved Aunty Phyl to Vicki, Greg and Jill. Great-Aunty to Madi. Friend of all but especially Peter Goers and Malcolm Harslett. A long life well-lived, entertaining and helping others. Now resting peacefully and dearly missed.

Some snippets from an article written by Katie Spain, Lifestyle reporter, the Advertiser.

The Adelaide-born Vaudeville legend first hit the stage as a snowflake in a local production, aged five. She was a natural tickler of funny bones but had her heart set on ballet.

"I could dance, do acrobats and the splits at the drop of a hat but I was a ballerina," she said. Until she hit puberty. When womanly curves appeared, family friend Mary Helpmann (mother of Sir Robert Helpmann) suggested she try Vaudeville. "Vaudeville! They were common girls ... ew, they told dirty stories," Ms Skinner recalled, laughing. "We were ballerinas."

The artform's music, sequins and cheeky elements eventually won the performer over and she went on to tour with Australian greats such as George Wallace and Roy 'Mo' Rene whose iconic statue can be seen on Hindley St.

Skinner wowed audiences all over the nation with her physical feats, cheeky stage presence and shock of red hair.

She never looked back, surviving war, a heart attack, a pacemaker and diabetes during her ongoing career.

"In all these years I've never stopped," she said "I don't fear death," she said. "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is the present and today is a gift."

Her signature move was to strum her raised leg like a banjo. When she's on stage, the years dropped away. "I come to life in front of an audience," she said.

"The magic of the lights and the music has never been lost. It was drummed in to me as a child ... when the music starts and you know your routine you have to forget everything. The audience has paid money to be there."

Skinner prided herself on lifting people's spirits.

Phyl's final show for The Rep was 'The Mystery of the Hansom Cab' in 2013.



## 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, **Sandy Verschoor**

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# R E P E R T O I R E

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## Message from the Chair Ray Trowbridge



Well what a year 2020 was!

Devastating for most businesses and the ARTS Theatre was no exception. We managed to barely finish our Fringe booking when the world went into lockdown. Without any income from hiring companies we realised it was going to be a very difficult year but at the same time we would never have a better opportunity to do much needed maintenance and renovations.

Starting backstage, we have completely worked over the two dressing rooms with new paint, mirrors, carpets as well renovating the actors toilet/shower areas. The backstage kitchen also had a complete makeover thanks to the very generous donation of our board member, Liz Olsson. We then moved to the foyer. I am confident you will all agree it is a substantial improvement with new paint, a TV display and theatre curtains. The foyer toilets have also had a major makeover with new paint, tiles and wash-hand basins.

The board are extremely pleased with our new-look theatre but there is just one thing still missing – YOU. Of course, when you do return, your safety, and that of our volunteers will also be our main concern. As we all are very well aware, the health regulations change constantly. As things stand at the moment we have QR Codes in the foyer and backstage for everyone to check in. (This can be done manually if you do not have a mobile phone). Social distancing means the number of people allowed in the foyer is largely restricted so this is to be managed. Checkerboard seating in the auditorium restricts our capacity to 50%. These are all things that are manageable and we feel is a small price to pay to keep our valued patrons and volunteers safe and to get theatre in Adelaide up and running again.

As I believe most of you are aware, our planned 2020 season has now been moved to 2021. All subscriber books purchased in 2020 are also moved to 2021. Of course the dates on each voucher will be incorrect but current dates are on our 2021 season brochure as well as our website, [adelaiderep.com](http://adelaiderep.com). It is because of the constantly moving rules and regulations, that we are now only putting up one play at a time online for booking tickets. Our first play, Crimes of the Heart will have checkerboard seating but this may change throughout the year.

It was very satisfying to notice our yearly attendance figures had gradually been increasing over the last few years. We would like to say a huge thank you to our loyal patrons of The Rep and we are confident this trend will continue when we once again return to the theatre.

Rehearsals were well underway for our first production of the year, Crimes of the Heart when we had to shut down. Award winning director, Geoff Brittain is one of Adelaide's most respected directors. For The Rep he brought us the hugely popular Diary of Anne Frank and The Miracle Worker and late last year he directed Things I Know To Be True for St. Jude Players. I am confident Crimes of the Heart will be equally popular with our patrons.

After three years of holding the position of Chairman, I will be stepping down from the board. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman working alongside a very dedicated and hard working group of people on the board. I will still be around the place, staying on as ticket secretary and taking on the new role of Office Manager. Personally I would like to thank you all for the friendship and support you have afforded me during my time as Chairman.

Cheers *Ray*

## VALE GORDON POOLE

Gordon built a repertoire of movies and television. As a film actor he is known for 'Wolf Creek' 2005, 'Shine' 1996 and 'The Last Bastion' 1994. He also appeared in 'Ebbtide' 1994. 'Old Man' 1993. 'Bad Boy Bubbly' and 'Penniless Drunk' 1993. 'Golden Fiddles' (TV Mini-Series) 1991. 'Captain James Cook' (TV Mini-Series) 1988. 'A Country Practice' (TV Mini-Series) 1981-87. 'Charlie McCarthy/Roy 'Stumpy' Black' 1986. 'Bodyline' (TV Mini-Series) 1986. 'Major Domo' 1984. 'Tale of a Tiger Harry' 1983. 'Sons and Daughters' (TV Series) and 'Doctor' 1982. '1915' (TV Mini-Series) and 'Schoolmaster' 1981. 'Menotti' (TV Series) 1979. 'Barnaby and Me' (TV Movie) and 'Ticket Seller' 1978. 'Case for the Defence' (TV Series) and 'Neighbours' 1978. 'Glenview High' (TV Series) 1975. 'Silent Number' (TV Series) and 'Perkins' 1973. 'Matlock Police' (TV Series) and 'Ted Reid'.



So much for his film and TV work.

In the theatre he worked for the Bunyip Childrens Theatre and a Shakespearean Repertory theatre.

He worked at the Neutral Bay Music Hall with Anne Semler whom reviewers said "makes a saucy ornament to the play... her associates are two amusingly quaint mountebanks played by David Waters and Gordon Poole."

For the Adelaide Repertory Theatre, Gordon appeared in 'Dad's Army' 2005 and 'The Sneeze' in 2009. Had to stop production when he was taken away to have his gall bladder removed. Ever the trouper, he was back soon after to finish the season.

Gordon appeared in many shows for the Therry Society. Jill Bartlett, the President of the Therry Society says, "Gordon was a reprobate but we loved him to pieces.

Gordon died on the 8th July, just 5 days before his 95th birthday. We will remember you Gordon with much love and also with your favourite saying – "Yachidar Boobie!!!!!"

# R E P E R T O I R E

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## REVIEWS

### Crimes of the Heart



"How is it possible to laugh so hard, and so often, when witnessing so many miseries heaped upon a good country family? That's the gift of playwright Beth Henley" *New York Theatre Guide*

"The portrait of these goofy if pained small-town characters is quite remarkable, and it well informs the journey they must take to better days. The audience is in stitches pretty much throughout, using the blackest of humour to illuminate the sisters' struggles, their rivalries and ultimately their bonds" *Curtain Up*

"The most powerful element of this play is its faithful rendering of the ability of family to accommodate all our secret shames, our murderous impulses and our questionable decisions, the bond strong enough to get us through even the real bad days. It's a hit. It will get you right in the guts, and in the heart as well." *The Buzz*

## NEW THEATRE MANAGER Catherine Reid



Catherine is thrilled to have taken on the exciting role of Theatre Manager for the Arts Theatre. A graduate of the Centre for Performing Arts in Technical Theatre, Catherine has worked as a Production Manager, Stage Manager and Event Manager in Adelaide and in Melbourne and was General Manager of Ranters Theatre in Melbourne from 2000 to 2007.

Alongside her new role at the Arts Theatre, Catherine coordinates Events, Hires and Front of House for the Mercury Cinema.

Growing up in the Adelaide Arts milieu, Catherine developed a deep love and respect for the amateur societies that form the backbone of the Arts Theatre. After spending several decades working professionally for different companies, Catherine has a wide experience to draw on in her new role.

Catherine is passionate about storytelling and the sense of unity that live theatre creates. She looking forward to helping create a vibrant and exciting venue for companies, performers and audiences.

## The Rep's AGM

The Rep's AGM will be held at the ARTS Theatre on Monday 22nd March at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the annual general meeting, is for the president to give an overall status of the Rep. The secretary will prepare the minutes and read any important papers. The treasurer will present a financial report. All welcome.

Did you know that Lord Mayor of Adelaide - Sandy Verschoor is the Rep's Vice Patron?

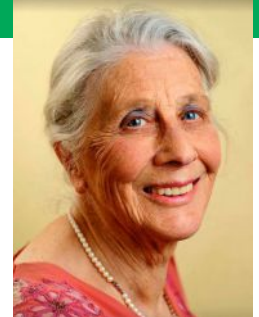
Sandy has contributed to the success of Adelaide's thriving arts and culture community for more than two decades, including having been CEO of the Adelaide Fringe and the Adelaide Festival, as well as producer of the Adelaide Festival of Ideas in 2018.



## VALE

### ISABELLA NORTON, (nee Woollard)

Passed away unexpectedly on the 27th February 2020. Aged 93.



Beloved wife of Charles (deceased). Loving mother of Cassandra, Christine, Janine, Brian (deceased), Rupert and Brigitta, Richard and Imogen.

Adored Issy of Briony, Alison, Tim and Catherine, Edward, Alistair, Monique, Phoebe, Esme, Clementine and Nate. Great-grandmother of Charlie, Malcolm and Alysha.

The Adelaide Theatre Guide's 2009 Gala Dinner and "Curtain Call" Awards Night were celebrated in style in 2009 at the Adelaide Festival Centre Banquet Room.

Congratulations were extended to the winner of the Curtain Call award for Best Female Performances: Isabella Norton for 'Driving Miss Daisy', produced by Matt Byrne Media.

Issy's early performance with the Rep was in 1995 in 'Towards Zero', directed by Loriel Smart.

Issy will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all her family and friends. - Exit stage left.



## WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

Here are 2 great offers for Rep patrons

The Wakefield Hotel on Wakefield Street offers 50% off the 2nd meal when you produce your Rep tickets

Gurkhas Restaurant on Angas Street offers 10% discount on the total bill for Rep ticket holders

## SA's own internet guide to Theatre in and around Adelaide

Supporting local theatre productions. What's On in Drama, Musicals, Comedy and more

[www.theatreguide.com.au](http://www.theatreguide.com.au)

Official Website for the Theatre Assoc of South Australia



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