

Repertoire

AUGUST 2011

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



AFTER GREAT CRITICAL SUCCESS WITH *THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE*, IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR A ...

Riotously funny romp



A chase on the Flying Scotsman train or a bi plane crash. Nothing is impossible in *The 39 Steps*, which will have its SA premiere at The Arts Theatre, August 18 to 27.

Director Esther Lamb squeezes every laugh out of her dynamic

young cast of four who change roles more than 130 times in a riotously funny compressed sendup of the famous Hitchcock film, based on John Buchan's novel. The Rep is proud to present this theatrical tour de force of farce.



ABOVE: The fab four of *The 39 Steps*: Sean Flierl, Tom Bayford, Sarah Agius and Samuel Rogers in full flight.

Photo: Matthew Craig

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‘Woman in Black’ runs white hot

THE Adelaide Rep’s 2010 production of *The Woman in Black* has followed up its Theatre Association of SA’s DramatiCAL Award by being nominated for a Curtain Call Award by the *Adelaide Theatre*

Guide. The play was directed by Michael Croome, with Pam O’Grady, Tony Busch and Adam Tuominen in the cast. Laraine Wheeler did lighting for the show; Hugh Hunkin the sound.

Acclaim rains on reign of ‘The Queen’



Critics showered praise on The Rep’s June/July production of *The Queen of Leenane*, directed by Kerrin White. The cast – Jude Brennan (“a tour de force”),



Kerrin White

Helen Geoffreys (“great sensitivity”), Peter Davies (“beautifully timed and gestured comedy”) and Mark Drury (“captured the nuances of the character excellently”) – was highly commended. Maggie Wood, in *The Adelaide Theatre Guide* review, reflected the general praise for the technical backup: “The set by Vinnie Eustace, Bill Ramsay and Phil Hart encapsulates the entrapped feeling of the play, while lighting and sound by Laraine Wheeler and Hugh Hunkin work well to complete the picture.”

White is blessed in his cast. There is no weak link ... Laraine Wheeler’s lighting design sets moods and is ever complementary ... a very rewarding night in the theatre, to be sure.

Samela Harris, *The Advertiser*

This production does not put a foot wrong. From beginning to end, it engages the audience ... If you don’t see any other theatre this year, make sure you see this play.

Maggie Wood, *Adelaide Theatre Guide*

The performances were wonderful, but the production was also stylish. The single set was cleverly designed ... Director Kerrin White and The Rep have come up trumps with this one.

Kym Clayton, *Theatre Association of SA (TASA)*

Director, Kerrin White, has done a great job with Martin McDonagh’s black comedy ... Mag (Jude Brennan) and Maureen (Helen Geoffreys) ... capture you from the beginning.

Kathryn Noble, *Glam Adelaide*

Theatre’s wood better than Hollywood

• Score a victory for live theatre over films. Steven Spielberg has found a drawback in making his film version of the fantastic award-winning play *War Horses*. The real live horses used in the film aren’t as expressive, Spielberg says, as the big wooden puppets that are brilliantly manipulated in the live theatre show.

• Now playing in London’s West End: 61 dramas, 18 comedies, 34 musicals. Among them – *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Woman in Black* and *The 39 Steps* – all 2010/2011 Rep shows.



• *Mary Poppins* dominates this year’s Helpmann Awards (12 nominations). The revival of *The Diary of a Madman* (five nominations for Belvoir) is up for best play, best male actor (Geoffrey Rush), and best director (Neil Armfield). Others for best play are Belvoir’s *The Wild Duck* (four nominations), Sydney Theatre Co’s

Uncle Vanya (four nominations) and Melbourne fortyfivedownstairs company’s *Do not go gentle*. Candidates for best new Australian work, include Declan Greene for *Moth* and Eddie Perfect for *Songs from the Middle*.

• Recipients of the prestigious JC Williamson Award, presented at the Helpmann Awards, will be Nancye Hayes, Toni Lamond and Jill Perryman.

• Author Tim Winton’s play, *Rising Water*, will be opening in August at the Melbourne Theatre Company.



The 39 Steps cast (clockwise from top right) Sarah Agius, Tom Bayford, Sean Flierl and Samuel Rogers will play more than 130 characters.

It's all go in 'Steps'

The pace is a cracker! *The 39 Steps* by Patrick Barlow is stylish physical theatre at its best. Cramming John Buchan's novel, later filmed by Alfred Hitchcock, into two hours of theatre demands super-quick (hilarious) character changes by the cast of four and very inventive staging of action including the Royal Scotsman train and a plane crash.

At a music hall, main character Richard Hannay meets a woman running from secret agents. He agrees to hide her in his flat but



Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll in Hitchcock's 1935 film.

she is murdered overnight. Fearing that he might be accused of her murder, Hannay goes on the run to Scotland to break the spy ring.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

A joyous version of the Hitchcock classic.

The Sunday Times, London

Clever, very funny, imaginative.

The Guardian, London

Winner: Best New Comedy - Olivier Awards 2007

Winner: Best New Comedy - whatsonstage.com 2007

OUR DIRECTOR, CAST & CREW

Director (also singer/songwriter and Mercedes College drama teacher) Esther Lamb has enjoyed seeing the young cast rise to *The 39 Steps'* challenges of fast stunts and costume/accent changes. Esther is well versed in Hitchcock's style, which is part of her drama course. Great backstage support will be given by Heather O'Dea (stage manager), Laraine Wheeler (set design; lighting), Bill Ramsey (construction), Barbara Sherwood and Desiree Lee (props), Hugh Hunkin (sound), Louise Van Der Merwe and Ian Rigney (wardrobe) and Penni Hamilton-Smith (production manager).

PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, August 18, 19, 20 at 8pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, August 24, 25, 26, 8pm

Saturday, August 27 at 2pm and 8pm

at The Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide.

The play goes for about two hours plus interval.

Strobe lighting and gunshots are used in the production.

TICKETS

\$20/\$15 concession

Student Rush \$10 (from 45 mins before show).

Group booking discounts available.

HOW TO BOOK

Phone 8212 5777 now or email your booking request to adelaiderep@e-access.com.au

Brian will be at the theatre between 10am and 2pm weekdays from Monday, August 8, for phone bookings and ticket sales.

BASS bookings 131 246 (service fee applies).

Quality theatre for \$20 and less

As the reviews for *The Queen of Leenane* confirm, The Adelaide Rep can present quality theatre, in every sense, for the standard ticket price of \$20 – or even less.

Our subscribers, who sign up to the four-plays season, receive a 35% discount on tickets. Details of our 2012 season and subscriber benefits will be in our next newsletter.

Discounts also apply to group bookings of more than 10. Group booking prices can be used to raise funds for your club or charity.

Also, be our friend on Facebook to receive occasional special ticket-price offers and meal deals.

We've introduced a Student Rush to encourage young theatregoers. Students with ID can obtain \$10 tickets at the box office from 45 minutes before the start of a show.

Concession tickets at \$15 continue to apply.

Jude to do menu for '100 Lunches'

Director Jude Hines is returning to The Rep do what she does best: sophisticated romantic comedies.

100 Lunches (November 17-26), the final play of our 2011 season, is set in New York where playwright Chuck Reynolds takes sweet revenge on arch critic Charity Starr at the best restaurants in town.



Ah, times have changed! It was all silks, furs and dinner suits for this opening night cast party for The Adelaide Rep in 1932. The picture is part of our large collection of memorabilia from a proud history spanning 103 years.

Helping The Rep to grow greener

We would like to reach as many of you, our valued theatre lovers, as possible by email. Less paper and less postage is more efficient and greener.

We'll continue sending a printed newsletter to those who prefer it, but, if you would like to get it in the identical electronic

version, just email us at adelaiderrep@e-access.com.au with "Repertoire Club" in the subject line.

For a chance to win a double pass to a Rep play, tell us on the email your three all-time favourite plays and we'll publish the Top 10 in our next newsletter.



Our thanks to Barry Lenny for adding to the Irish greenery in The Arts Theatre foyer at the opening of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with his traditional music group members: Liam Flynn, Pat Organ, Jack Brennan and Caitlin Brennan.

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

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email booking requests to adelaiderrep@e-access.com.au

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm; Monday to Friday during booking period.

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