

Repertoire

JUNE 2011

Newsletter of the oldest continuous amateur theatre company in the southern hemisphere



MULTI AWARD WINNER OUR JUNE PLAY

Irish charms – and chills – in the ‘Queen’

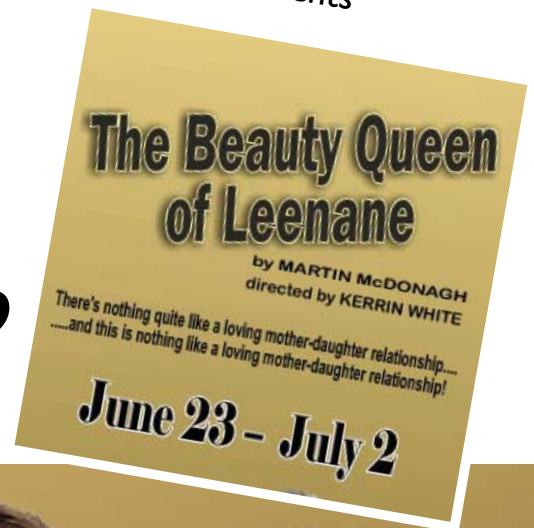
A black comedy with romance, rich language, tragedy and shocks. They're the enticing elements of the award-winning *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, to be presented by Adelaide Repertory at the Arts Theatre in June.

The Beauty Queen is by brilliant young playwright Martin McDonagh, the first since Shakespeare to have four works running at the same time in London.

The play is set in the Irish village of Leenane, Connemara, in the 1990s. It takes place in a shabby kitchen, with a claustrophobic sense of entrapment. Maureen Folan, a 40-year-old spinster takes care of her 70-year-old, selfish and manipulative mother Mag. Maureen, with a history of mental illness, is trapped in a seriously dysfunctional relationship with her mother. When Maureen discovers romance, things go out of control.

The plot is full of deceptions, secrets, betrayals and turnabouts that keep surprising the audience.

• More on Page 3 and on www.adelaiderep.com



Helen Geoffreys and Peter Davies in rehearsal for The Adelaide Repertory Theatre's June production, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Photo: Norm Caddick

Laughs served up to big audiences

Mrs Slocombe and the rest of the Grace Brothers gang are as popular as ever. Adelaide Rep's 2011 season opener, *Are You Being Served?*, directed by Ian Maitland, attracted record audiences. It was a nostalgic out-

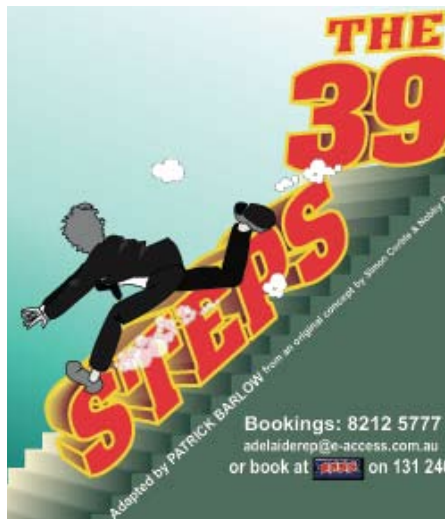
ing for many, judging by the number of English accents heard among the crowds!

Thanks to our ensemble of character actors, backstage crew and front-of-house team for this flying start to 2011.

Take 39 Steps on the way to 100 Lunches

The Rep is proud to welcome young director Esther Lamb for the SA premiere of *The 39 Steps* (August 18-27), the hilarious spy thriller spoof on John Buchan's 1915 novel and Hitchcock's 1935 film. Sarah Agius, Tom Bayford, Sean Flierl and Sam Rogers play 139 characters in a frenetic feat. "I have always been drawn to working on highly physical pieces," Esther says.

Later, director Jude Hines returns to do what she does best: sophisticated romantic comedies. *100 Lunches* (November 17-26) is set in New York where playwright



Chuck Reynolds takes sweet revenge on arch critic Charity Starr at the best restaurants in town.

A role for lunch

WANTED: A delicious femme fatale, aged in her thirties to mid forties, to sizzle in *100 Lunches*. For your chance to grab this prize part, contact director Jude Hines on 0413 093 319 for an audition.

Meal and show deal

Rep showgoers can enjoy a 50%-off-any-second-main-meal deal at The Wakefield Hotel, 76 Wakefield Street, city. Just present your Rep show ticket to take advantage of this offer.

Broadway goes wild about Oscar – and so will we

NEW YORK: Brian Bedford, nominated for a Tony Award, is playing Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Broadway. (For a lot less than the price of a trip to NY, you can see this dazzling performance on film at Palace Cinemas, June 11 and 12.)

The 2011 Tony Award nominees for best play are: *Good People* by David Lindsay-Abaire; *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth; *The Motherf.....r with the Hat* by Stephen Adly



Guirgis; *War Horse* by Nick Stafford (Five nominations. Stunning theatre. Take a box of man-size tissues!) **Nominated for best revival:** *Arcadia*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Merchant of Venice* (set in Las Vegas), *The Normal Heart*. Winners announced June 12.

Chance to join Repertoire Club

We are launching the Repertoire Club and want to get in touch with as many theatre lovers as possible by email or mail.

Repertoire Club members will receive four newsletters a year and special offers throughout our season. (Everyone on our current mailing list will automatically become a Repertoire Club member).

Join the club by emailing us at adelaiderep@e-access.com.au, with "Rep Club" and your name in the subject line, or phone us with your postal address or drop us a line. (Contact details, Page 4). We have one double pass to give away to four new or current club members who contact us in June. We look forward to keeping in touch with information about our plays and the people who bring them to you!

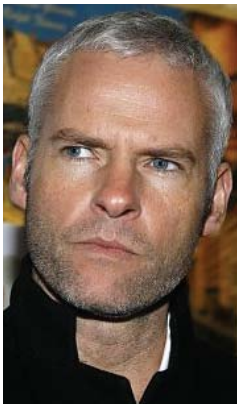
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LONDON: **The Olivier Award for Best New Play has been scooped by Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park*.** It also won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

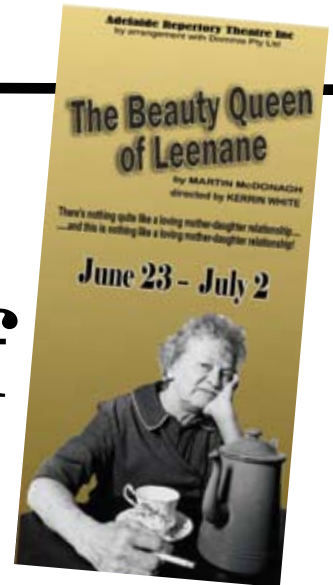
Which Aussie theatre company will be the first to present this great new drama?

ADELAIDE: Visit **The Adelaide Theatre Guide** website (www.theatreguide.com.au) or pick up its brochure at our Arts Theatre for show listings of all our fellow amateur theatre companies.



Martin McDonagh

McDonagh's masterpiece of black comedy



A masterpiece stands the test of time. The Rep's audiences will be able to apply that test when Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* is staged in June.

The *Beauty Queen* won a haul of Tony awards for its actors on its New York debut in 1998. The play took out a swag of honours, including the New York Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Broadway Play. A prolific playwright, filmmaker and screenwriter, McDonagh was declared the Critics' Circle most promising playwright in 1996. He has also won an Oscar in 2006 for his live-action short film *Six Shooter*.

But does McDonagh's talent shine on after the passing of a decade? All the signs are that the *Queen* has lost none of her beauty.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

Wildly funny, deeply affecting and grotesquely macabre, all at the same time. Daily Telegraph, London.

Blazingly masterful...full of twists. USA Today

Brilliant, dark, very funny. Daily News, New York.

The cleverest, most cunningly constructed, most assured play in many years. Wall Street Journal, New York.

Violently lyric. Newsday, New York.

Scintillating, and any kid who is lucky enough to see such theatre must surely be turned on to the live stage forever. Stage Noise.

OUR DIRECTOR, CAST & CREW

Kerrin White, director of the Rep's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, will make an immediate impact on audiences by his decision to limit the Arts Theatre seating space, to emphasise the play's theme of claustrophobia and control.

The cast – Jude Brennan, Helen Geoffreys, Mark Drury and Peter Davies – is attracting rave reviews



Jude Brennan plays Mag in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

within the Rep for its rehearsals. Giving great support backstage will be Ray Trowbridge (stage manager), Meri Warneke (production manager), Laraine Wheeler (lighting), Lenny Ceniuch (sound operator), Hugh Hunkin (sound design), Vinnie Eustace (set construction), Barbara Sherwood (props) and Mollie Birch (wardrobe).

PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, June 23, at 8pm

Friday, June 24, at 8pm

Saturday, June 25, at 8pm

Wednesday, June 29, at 8pm

Thursday, June 30, at 8pm

Friday, July 1, at 8pm

Saturday, July 2, 2pm and 8pm

The play goes for about two hours plus interval.

HOW TO BOOK

Bookings open Tuesday, June 14. Phone 8212 5777 between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday or email your booking request to adelaiderep@e-access.com.au or book at BASS on 131 246 (service fee applies).

Lyn in Rep lead role

Lyn Pike is the new president of The Adelaide Repertory Theatre, after a much-valued two years by previous president Brian LeCornu.

Lyn has been a stalwart actor for the Rep since 1963 when she appeared in *Separate Tables*. Other roles have included *Pride and Prejudice*, *Arms and the Man* and

The Sentimental Bloke. In 1982, Lyn started her own business as an actor's agent, casting consultant and crewing agent for film, stage and TV. "About two years ago, I decided to return to my first love, acting, and to give back to an industry that has given me my life's work," Lyn said.



New president Lyn Pike with the Rep's patron, SA Governor Kevin Scarce, at the premiere of *Are You Being Served?*

Photo: Norm Caddick

Tracks cross from stage to board for 'Rails' players

Last year they were both tramping the boards in the Adelaide Rep's melodrama *Love Rides The Rails*. This year Penni Hamilton-Smith and Vicki Arnold are on the board of the Adelaide Rep.

Another board member is Pam O'Grady, who directed *Love Rides The Rails*. The links between Pam, Penni and Vicki doesn't end there.

Pam and Penni first appeared on stage together in the 1970s production of Jack Hibberd's *Dimboola* at the Olde King's Music Hall. Pam played the flowergirl to Penni's bridesmaid.

Penni's introduction to the Adelaide Repertory goes back to the 1960s after the opening of the brand-new Arts Theatre in Angas Street when she was at a get together of young actors in the Thomas Nave Room.

"I was a teenager who had appeared in a production of *David Copperfield* as Mrs Gummidge and in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* with Miki Porter," Penni recalls.

"It was Miki's idea to spell my first name with an 'i' to match hers on the program."

Vicki's association with Pam O'Grady goes back to the 1980s when they were both in a Rep Christmas revue, *Let's Get This Show*



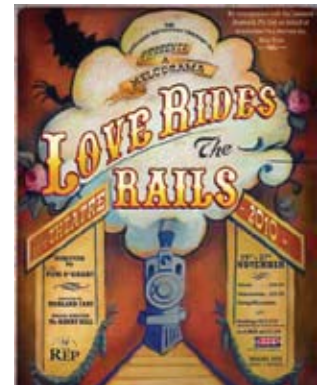
Penni Hamilton-Smith as Carlotta and Vicki Arnold as Fifi the maid in last year's Adelaide Rep melodrama, *Love Rides The Rails*.

Photo: Norm Caddick

On the Road, directed by Loriel Smart and written by Michael Noblet.

• Other Adelaide Rep board members this year are Lyn

Pike (president), Michelle Hickey (vice president), Ian Maitland, Trish Clarke, Rodger Clarke, Stephen Dean and Brian Knott.



Poster wows US troupe

When someone from Mansfield Music & Arts Society in Massachusetts, USA, "fell in love" with the poster used by Adelaide Rep for its melodrama *Love Rides the Rails* last year, they emailed us to ask permission to use it for their production of the show. The poster was designed by young Bluey Byrne, who also has had good reviews for sets at the Arts Theatre.

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

Home venue: Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street, Adelaide, 5000

Phone: 8212 5777 **Website:** www.adelaiderep.com

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

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