

Repertoire

JUNE 2012

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



You're invited to Don's Party!

David Williamson's
Don's Party
21 - 30 June 2012

An iconic Australian play set amidst the backdrop of the widely anticipated Whitlam victory in the 1969 Federal Election.

This is a play about broken dreams – Whitlam's election loss and those of the characters we meet at the Party.

Labor supporter, Don Henderson and his wife Kath, host a party for their friends on election night 1969. The guests are in their 30s and are facing the reality that they have not achieved what they set out to do after leaving university. They had dreams and aspirations. Yet now they find themselves stuck in suburbia.

Williamson has said that the play is about the reality check that happens to people in their thirties when all their dreams are facing the cold hard test of time.

During the party it becomes clear that Labor aren't going to win the election, and most of the small "L" liberal guests begin to drown their sorrows. As the drinking increases, harsh realities are raised amongst the group of friends. They snipe at each other and begin to criticise to the point of ugliness. They become crass, beer-swilling, womanising men and they show no respect towards women. It provides us with a unique snapshot of Australia at the end of the 1960s.

Don's Party shocked audiences when it was first performed in 1972 with its use of course language and gratuitous themes of sex, marriage and infidelity.

The group we meet at Don's Party is diverse, from conservative middle class professionals, to wilder, more liberated artists and young professionals who are experimenting with the great sexual revolution of the 1960s.



photo by Norm Caddick

Don's Party was made famous by Bruce Beresford's film portrayal starring Graham Kennedy in 1976. The film was a lot more risqué than the play; although audiences should expect course language and adult themes.

Williamson has been called "the great man of Australian theatre". *The Club* and *Don's Party* are iconic plays, both having been made into successful films. Williamson is still writing and recently produced *Don Parties On*, a sequel to *Don's Party* nearly 40 years on. His screenplays have brought aspects of Australia's history into living rooms around the nation, *Gallipoli*, *Phar Lap*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and the recent *Balibo*, to name just a few.

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Join us in celebrating this remarkable era by
dressing up in your favourite fashions from 1969!

Meet our Board Members

The Board is working hard on your behalf to assist our clever, talented directors to present for your enjoyment, four productions of the highest critical acclaim. At the AGM in March, a number of new members were elected and we thought you might like to meet some of them. This is part one of our special feature. Part two will appear in the next edition of Repertoire.

Penni Hamilton-Smith (President)

Penni has been a devotee of local community theatre since her first appearance in Noel Coward's *Hands Across the Sea* for the Little Theatre in Crawford Lane in 1964. She spent many years working in Adelaide as a professional actress and almost two decades in children's television as a close confidante of that "funny old fellow" Humphrey B. Bear. Penni is enjoying her second year as a board member and this year is privileged to be the chair.



Michelle Hickey (Vice President)

Michelle is a familiar face to many as our Front of House Manager. She initially became involved with the Rep as a Front of House volunteer in 2006 and joined the board in 2010. Since that time she has been chair of the publicity/general marketing committee and has overseen the wardrobe, and social committees. Michelle has been Vice President since 2011. In her spare time, Michelle helps other community theatre companies with front of house duties!!



Stephen Dean

Stephen has been active in theatre from a young age and has gained skill in all of the backstage arts. He has designed the lighting for many shows and works at a variety of venues around town as a multi-skilled venue technician. This year Stephen designed the lighting of many of the shows that appeared at the Bakehouse Theatre as part of the Fringe. Stephen is the author of the technical theatre blog "Ramblings of a Techie", and also writes for Encore and the trade magazine CX. Stephen has been on the board of the Rep for over 10



Brian Knott

Brian has long been involved in the Adelaide theatre scene. He has acted for the Rep, St Judes, and Therry. Brian directed his first show, *Heroes*, for the Rep in 2010. If you don't recognise Brian you would probably recognise his voice because he is responsible for taking ticket bookings over the phone for the Rep's shows!! Brian is the office manager for the Rep and has been on the board since 2009.



Madeleine Marin

Madeleine has been involved in community theatre since 1982 and has acted for Burnside Players, Independent Theatre and the Rep. Madeleine has previously managed Front of House for the Rep and has been a volunteer with the Rep and Independent Theatre. Madeleine is also on the committee of Independent Theatre and is appearing in their upcoming production *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Madeleine is looking forward to working with the Board.



Jude Brennan

Jude has featured in numerous productions, working with theatre companies which include La Mama, Therry, The Rep and the Q Theatre. Most recently, Jude has performed in the Martin McDonagh plays, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *A Skull in Connemara* for the Rep. Jude has previously been a board member with the Rep and has been involved in the play reading committee over the years. Jude is passionate about theatre and enjoys reading and selecting scripts.

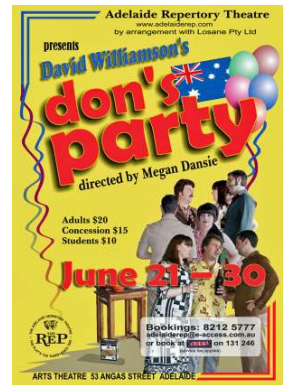


Special Car-parking Rates

Patrons to the ARTS Theatre are entitled to the special rate of \$8 parking at the Moore St Carpark. Whilst many of the car parking spaces are reserved by day, this only applies until 6pm. This means theatre-goers can park there any time after 6pm and disregard the "Reserved" signage.

The car park operates on a pay and display arrangement. The Moore St Carpark is the closest public carpark to the Theatre and is located behind the Royalty Theatre on Moore St (and is opposite our stage door!!)

A Classic Australian Comedy by the iconic David Williamson



Don's Party arrived on the theatre scene in Australia in 1972 with the same impact of the character Cooley when he arrives at the party in the play. It's energetic, fun and exhilaratingly frank. Set on federal election night 1969, the play reflects Williamson's interest in struggle and conflict in group situations – but in a particularly Australian way.

David Williamson's work as a playwright focuses on themes of politics, loyalty and family in contemporary urban Australia. He is probably the most well-known Australian playwright, having written over 40 plays and over 20 screenplays.

Director, Cast & Crew

Megan Dansie joins the Rep to present this classic Australian play. Megan's directing credits are diverse and she won the *Adelaide Critics Circle Individual Award* in 2011 for her production of Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* for Adelaide University Theatre Guild.

Megan has assembled an impressive cast for Don's Party which includes: Steve Marvanek, Georgia Stockham, Celeste Aldahn, Jamie Wright, Claire Glenn, Jaye Gordon, Ben Crisp, Thorin Cupit, Sarah Agius, Anthony Vawser and Paul Rodda. Stage Manager, Ushmo Hunter will lead our team of dedicated crew.

Performances

Thursday 21 June at 8pm
 Friday 22 June at 8pm
 Saturday 23 June at 8pm
 Wednesday 27 June at 8pm
 Thursday 28 June at 8pm
 Friday 29 June at 8pm
 Saturday 30 June at 2pm *Matinee performance*
 Saturday 30 June at 8pm



Booking Information

Adults \$20, Concession \$15, Students \$10
 Special rates for group bookings apply.
 Bookings open Tuesday 11 June 2012.
 Phone 8212 5777 between 10am and 2pm Monday to
 Friday or email your booking request to:
adelaiderep@e-access.com.au.
 You can also book at BASS on 131 246
 (service fee applies).

The play goes for approximately two hours plus interval.

Don's Party contains coarse language and adult themes.





All My Sons

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by Dave Simms

The play that launched Arthur Miller's career, *All My Sons* tells a powerful story about the American dream. It is a family drama about moral responsibility in the wake of World War II and the companies that profited from it.

Joe Keller is a self-made businessman. He is embroiled in controversy because his company supplied faulty parts to the Air Force during the War, causing twenty-one planes to crash. His business partner was incarcerated over it however Joe was exonerated of any crimes.

Joe and his family must deal with this knowledge and try to reconcile their guilt. This is complicated by the fact that son Larry is missing in action and his brother Chris has fallen for his girl Ann.

All My Sons is a captivating tale which has recently experienced a revival on both the West End and Broadway. When it was first produced in 1947, it won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the Tony Award for best author and best direction of a play at its opening in 1947.

Helen Geoffreys was to direct *All My Sons* for the Rep, however owing to unforeseen circumstances she has reluctantly withdrawn. Dave Simms, who most recently directed *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* for Mixed Salad has stepped in to direct and is looking forward to bringing this classic American play to Adelaide audiences.



The Woman in Black

The Rep is not the only one who thinks Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black* is a good story! It seems that Hollywood agrees with the release of a feature film starring Daniel Radcliffe, of *Harry Potter* fame.

The film is directed by James Watkins and also stars Roger Allam. Unlike the play however, the film has a few more cast members involved. The Rep produced the two-man play in 2010 to critical acclaim.



The Rep acknowledged all of their volunteers on Sunday 20 May with an afternoon tea. We could not produce the plays we do without the support of wonderful and dedicated people who make it all possible.

The ever popular *The 39 Steps* has been extended in the West End until March 2013. Anyone who saw The Rep's version last year will agree that there's no wonder this show is doing so well!

Matilda the Musical won a record-breaking seven awards at this Olivier Awards, held at the Royal Opera House where guests were treated to performances including *The Lion King* and *We Will Rock You* with Brian May.

A new revival of the 1967 comedy *What The Butler Saw* has just opened on the West End.



Speaking of award nominations, *Nice Work If You Can Get It* has been nominated for 10 Tony awards, 9 Drama Desk Awards and 9 Outer Critic's Circle Awards, making it the most nominated musical of the year. Starring Matthew Broderick, Kelli O'Hara and a team of other award winning performers.

The Tonys will be held on the 10th June, and you can check out the nominees online now at www.tonyawards.com.

Hollywood star, Danny Devito has made his West End debut in Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys*. Richard Griffiths also stars in the show which is on at the Savoy Theatre.

There are a number of interesting shows to hit Broadway this year which follow on from successful films. The list includes Tim Burton's *Big Fish*, *Little Miss Sunshine* – *The Musical* (based on the film, not the Mr Men character!), *The King's Speech*, *The Nutty Professor* and *Rocky*.

Let us know if you see anything interesting when you're overseas next!

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

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