

# Repertoire

SEPTEMBER 2012

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



## Family Secrets Revealed

Arthur Miller's

All My Sons

6 - 15 September 2012

*All My Sons* is set immediately after World War II and is said to be based on a true story. Joe Keller (played by Brian Knott), is accused of profiting from the war and of providing faulty aircraft parts to the US Air Force. His business partner is convicted and ends up in prison but Joe pleads his innocence.

His two sons enlist to fight. One never returns. Joe's wife Kate, never gives up believing that their son Larry will turn up alive some day. Julie Quick who plays Kate, displays the heart-wrenching optimism that only a mother can have when a son is lost at war.

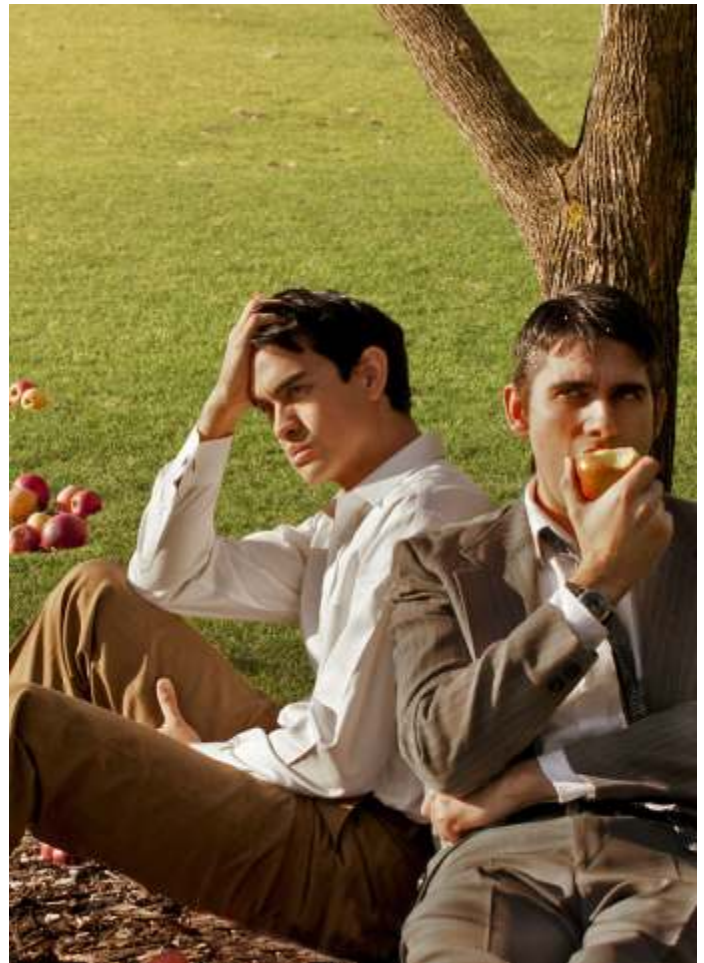
That her returned son, Chris (played by Ben Brooker) has fallen for Larry's girl Ann, is another blow for Kate. To make matters worse, Ann is the daughter of Joe's business partner.

The play explores idealism, denial and self destruction, blame and the conflict between mother, father and son about how to move on after World War II. The symbolism is strong and our award-winning director Dave Simms is focusing on the symbolic, "Joe's children are the apple of his eye and he tells himself that everything he has done has been for them".

Dave Simms says that "over sixty years on, the themes are still relevant!" and adds "businessmen still profit from war; we still send our young to wars that are not ours; mothers still hold out hope for their children, missing in action." And then there are themes common to drama across the ages: love, grief, guilt, denial.

*All My Sons* made Arthur Miller a success. It opened in Broadway in 1947 and won the *Tony Award* for Best Author and the *Tony* for Best Director. It also won the *New York Drama Critics' Circle Award* and Miller went on to write a screenplay for a film that was made in 1948 starring Edward G Robinson and Burt Lancaster.

It is a study of the failings of the human condition and it's as American as apple pie!



*photography by Norm Caddick*

Generational change is a theme of the 20th century. In *All My Sons*, the patriarch of the family, Joe Keller is a self-made man. He has worked hard for what he's got and he's done it on little formal education. His children on the other hand, and those of the neighbourhood, are college educated and see a wider world. They have a social conscience and are believers in ideology. Joe and his contemporaries believe in what they know and don't trust modern thinking.

When *All My Sons* opened on Broadway in 1947 it was new and fresh – a no holds barred look at the machinations of American society. The criticism of the American Dream which lies at the heart of the play, led to Arthur Miller being questioned by The Congresses Un-American Activities Committee during the 1950s, when America and much of the western world, were gripped by anti-communist fervour.

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## Meet our Board Members (cont. from June edition)

Louise van der Merwe (Treasurer)

Louise has been involved with the theatre for over 6 years, looking after the processing of the monthly accounts. She's served previously on the Board for a two-year period as Treasurer. She assisted with the Wardrobe for the Rep's Centenary play *Inherit the Wind* and was responsible for the wardrobe for *Heroes* and *Enjoy*. Louise also helps with front of house. Besides her accounting abilities she is also an award winning artist.



Brian Godfrey (Secretary)

Brian has been involved with Adelaide theatre for over forty years. He has played many lead roles in many, many shows for companies all around Adelaide and directed everything from drama and comedies to musicals. The past few years have seen Brian being an extra in the feature films "The Boys Are Back" and "The Place Between"; playing the male lead in the short films "Work Ready" and "Waiting For Trains"; appearing in two music videos; and playing one of the Christian Brothers in the movie "Oranges and Sunshine". He has been a director's mentor for the recently formed "Adelaide Youth Theatre"; is currently a reviewer for the Adelaide Theatre Guide and Theatre People.



Allison Scharber

Allison developed an interest in theatre at a very early age and began drama classes with the Hills Youth Theatre when she was 6. She continued there until she was 21, performing in many of their productions. Her love of theatre continued to develop and she studied theatre and film with Actors Ink. In 1999 Allison became involved with the Stirling Players. Since this time, Allison has performed with many of the Adelaide amateur theatre groups such as The Rep, Therry, St Judes, the Theatre Guild, Blackwood Players and ACTAD as well as being involved in Adelaide fringe performances, film and commercial work. As well as acting, Allison has a passion for voice artistry and has completed training in voice over and radio. Allison now teaches drama to children and hopes to encourage and develop young people's interest in performing arts.



Ray Trowbridge

Ray's involvement with community theatre started about 15 years ago when he attended his first show at The Promethean Theatre. He was so enthused by what he saw he volunteered to help out wherever needed. As it happened that was the coffee shop! From that beginning, Ray worked backstage in Props, Lighting, Sound, Stage Manager and just about any other job you can think of behind the scenes. Ray was delighted and honoured to be asked to join such a talented group of people who are the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Board.



Constantine Raptis

Constantine comes from a business background and is married with grown up children. Having gained a Bachelor of Arts in English and Fine Arts from Adelaide University, Constantine went on to study teaching. However he found he was more suited to the business world which he has spent most of his career in. Now that his children are grown up, Constantine felt that it was time to return to the arts and is looking forward to being involved with the Rep and learning about theatre.



## Scenes from All My Sons



Alicia Zorkovic (Ann) and Ben Brooker (Chris)

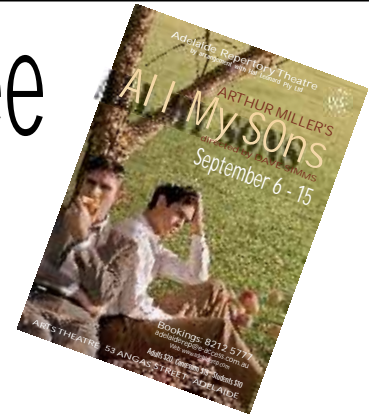


Brian Knott (Joe) and Julie Quick (Kate)



Ben Brooker (Chris) and James Edwards (George)

# Don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me...



*All My Sons* is a classic family drama which explores relationships between sons and fathers, mothers and sons, brothers, neighbours and friends. Not to mention romantic relationships!

Chris has returned from the War and with his brother missing in action, he has fallen for his brother's fiancée. And she has fallen for Chris. How will those closest to them react when they reveal their love? What secrets will be revealed?

*All My Sons* has twice been Revived on Broadway and recently appeared on the West End. In 1987 it won the *Tony Award* for Best Revival of a Play along with several other *Tony Nominations*. It was again revived in 2008 with an all-star cast of John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest, Patrick Wilson and featured Katie Holmes in her Broadway debut.

The West End's Revival production of *All My Sons* in 2010 starring David Suchet and Zoë Wanamaker (both stars of the British TV series *Agatha Christie's Poirot*) as Joe Keller and his wife Kate. David Suchet was nominated for the *Olivier Award* for best actor and the play was nominated for the *Olivier* for Best Revival.

Arthur Miller is one of the most successful playwrights of the 20th Century. His other works include *The Death of a Salesman*, which won him the *Pulitzer Prize*, *The Crucible* and *A View from the Bridge*. He also wrote the script for the movie *The Misfits* as a starring vehicle for his wife, Marilyn Monroe!

## Performances

Thursday 6 September at 8pm  
 Friday 7 September at 8pm  
 Saturday 8 September at 8pm  
 Wednesday 12 September at 8pm  
 Thursday 13 September at 8pm  
 Friday 14 September at 8pm  
 Saturday 15 September at 2pm \*Matinee performance\*  
 Saturday 15 September at 8pm

## Booking Information

Adults \$20, Concession \$15, Students \$10  
 Special rates for group bookings apply.  
 Bookings open Monday 27 August.  
 Phone 8212 5777 between 10am and 2pm  
 Monday to Friday or email  
 your booking request to:  
 adalaiderep@e-access.com.au.

## Director, Cast & Crew

Dave Simms is no stranger to The Rep having acted in a number of shows over the years. More recently Dave's been at the helm of Mixed Salad Productions acting and directing many of their award-winning and critically acclaimed productions including *Rabbit Hole*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *The History Boys*, *Lips Together Teeth Apart*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Feelgood*.

The cast have responded really well to this play and have been delving into the motivations of their characters. Dave has assembled an impressive cast for *All My Sons* which includes: Ben Brooker, Andrea Carr, Peter Davies, James Edwards, Therese Hornby, Brian Knott, Benjamin Maio Mackay, Julie Quick, David Wiesner and Alicia Zorkovic.

Our very talented Stage Manager, Ray Trowbridge will lead our team of dedicated crew.

The play goes for approximately two hours plus interval.

Grief Justice Denial  
 Love Heartache Success  
 Forgiveness Loathing  
 Conscience Lies Belief  
 Betrayal Shattered Dreams  
 Hope Trust Honour  
 Loss *Comfort* Humanity  
 Secrets Money Law  
 Duty Blame Guilt  
 Father & Son



# Star Quality

Written by Noel Coward

Directed by Barry Hill

Opens Thursday 15 November at the Arts Theatre

To round out the Rep's Year of Classics, we bring you *Star Quality* – the play that almost never was! Originally written by Coward in 1951 as a short story about the theatre business, Coward later adapted it for the stage (1967). However the play was never produced during Coward's lifetime.

Famed for the line "Star quality: I don't know what it is, but I've got it", Noël Coward is one of the esteemed playwrights of the 20th Century. His biographer, Christopher Luscombe became a close friend of Coward's and adapted *Star Quality* for the modern stage.

Coward's last play takes us behind the scenes of a new West End production, *Dark Heritage* (the play within the play!), conjuring up a wickedly observant satire of the backstage world of talent and treachery. There's a gallery of unforgettable characters: the temperamental leading lady, the ruthless director, a jaded old trouper and caught in the middle, an innocent young playwright. From the first rehearsal to triumphant opening night, both leading lady and director are determined to get their own way and the resulting clash of egos becomes increasingly bloody.

It has been suggested that Coward wrote this play at the end of his career when the world of theatre was changing. Indeed the world was changing. The role of Lorraine is said to have been modelled after Coward's great friend and colleague Gertie Lawrence. Who better to write a play about actors, directors and playwrights, than one of the most prodigious talents theatre has ever seen!

The biggest news in theatre at the moment has been the passing of Marvin Hamlisch, multi-award winning theatre and film composer and famed song writer. He wrote the scores for *A Chorus Line* (of which he won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award), *They're Playing Our Song* and *The Way We Were* (which won him Academy Awards, Grammy Awards and a Golden Globe) and this is just to name a few. Marvin passed away on the 6th August and as a mark of respect, theatres throughout Broadway dimmed their lights for one minute.

The OzAsia Festival begins in Adelaide on the 14th September, so make sure you soak up the atmosphere.



And a Shakespeare adaptation with a difference! *Silent Shakespeare* will open in London in September and will feature some of the most famous Shakespearean scenes, characters and lines, performed almost entirely without words!

The result is a physical, sensual experience, designed to give audiences both familiar and unfamiliar with Shakespeare the opportunity to engage with the characters, the drama of their stories and their underlying humanity on a whole new level.

We're sure it will be interesting!!

It's Festival time in Edinburgh! A number of local headed over for the festivities and we are likely to have many of them here at the Adelaide Fringe next year when it becomes a 4 week festival-extravaganza. Stay tuned for more details.

The travelers amongst us have been raving about August Osage County since it opened on Broadway in 2008. The play by Tracy Letts has won the Pulitzer Prize and a number of other notable awards. And it is set to be made into a Hollywood Blockbuster, starring Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Dermot Mulroney, Juliette Lewis and produced by George Clooney!

Don't forget to let us know if you see anything interesting when you're overseas next!

## News from Abroad

Long-standing board member, Stephen Dean is a professional theatre technician and lighting designer. During this year's Fringe Festival he designed the lighting for several shows and was asked to go to Edinburgh and work for the producers of the Fringe shows. He is currently enjoying the Festival atmosphere of our unofficial sister-city in Scotland!!

## Special 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 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](http://www.adelaiderep.com)

Email: [adelaiderep@e-access.com.au](mailto:adelaiderep@e-access.com.au)

Editor: Michelle Hickey Printer: Black Cat Printing, Blackwood