

Issue No 3



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R E P E R T O I R E

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



Left: (L to R) Sailor Tyler (Yasmin), Damien White (Michael), Cheryl Douglas (Jo)



Above: (L to R) Kathy Strauts (Asst Director), Erik Strauts (Director), Sailor Tyler (Yasmin), Cheryl Douglas (Jo), Damien White (Michael)



Left: (L to R) Sailor Tyler (Yasmin), Erik Strauts (Director), Damien White (Michael), Cheryl Douglas (Jo)

Sweet Road

Written by Debra Oswald
Directed by Erik Strauts

'The Australian outback is a great place to come if you want to lose yourself – for a short time, or until things start to make sense. In *'Sweet Road'*, five stories of love, loss and grief converge and intertwine as characters search for answers, reasons and purpose amongst the saltbush and blowflies.

This bittersweet Australian drama, from Australian author Debra Oswald, will captivate and take us on an unforgettable journey – as only an Aussie outback road can.

BOOK NOW at www.adelaiderep.com for:

8 - 10 and 14 - 17 September at 7.30pm

**Saturday 17 September, Matinee at
2.00pm and again at 7.30pm**

Tickets purchased from Box Office

\$28 and \$25 concession

Tickets purchased online

\$25 and \$22 concession incl. program

Sweet Road

Adelaide Repertory Theatre
presents
Sweet Road
Written by Deborah Oswald
Directed by Erik Strauts



Cast: Jackson Barnard, Amelia Brzezicki, Cheryl Douglas, Gabi Douglas, Eilish Maguire, Josh van't Padje, Sailor Tyler, Malcolm Walton, Damien White

From the Director:

What I love about this play is that it is about ordinary people who aren't normally dramatized – what

we might call “ordinary Australians”, just getting on with their lives.

There are many “big dramas” around – plays about significant social challenges; plays about massively dysfunctional relationships; plays about events that have played out on the world stage. While these may well be relevant, educational and enthralling, the audience primarily plays the part of an observer. What they see on stage is seldom anything that is likely to happen to them. Now this is fine, because one of the roles of theatre is to take us to places where we don't usually go. However, another role of theatre is to prompt us to take a closer look at events that we may all encounter in our own personal lives, and how these effect and shape us. At some stage we all experience both love and loss in its many forms.

“Sweet Road” is a “small drama” about six different characters, each facing their own individual challenges and looking for a direction forward. As their lives interweave and disperse and plans go awry, each of them discovers that the road they are travelling may not always take them where they expected, and if they are lucky, the destination may be more wonderful than any of them could ever have dreamed. Full of vitality and good humour, this play explores the aspirations and idiosyncrasies of seemingly ordinary people as they cross the vast and far from ordinary Australian landscape, with an easy manner and a determinedly lovable eccentricity.



About the Author Debra Oswald



Renowned as the creator and head writer of the phenomenally popular and successful TV show “*Offspring*”, now on Netflix, for which she won the 2011 NSW Premier's Literary Award and the 2014 AACTA Award for best TV screenplay, Debra Oswald had already carved a fine reputation for her witty and darkly humorous plays, most notably “*Mr Bailey's Minder*”.

Born in 1959, Debra is an Australian writer for film, television, stage, radio and children's fiction; In 2008 her “*Stories in the Dark*” won Best Play in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Her novel “*Useful*” was released in 2015, followed by her novel “*The Whole Bright Year*” in 2018, both published by Penguin Random House. Her novel “*The Family Doctor*” was published by Allen and Unwin in March 2021.

Oswald's one-woman stage show, “*Is There Something Wrong With That Lady*”, premiered at Sydney's Griffin Theatre in April 2021.

Her plays “*Sweet Road*”, “*Gary's House*” and “*The Peach Season*” were all short-listed for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards. “*Mr Bailey's Minder*” and “*The Peach Season*” both premiered at Griffin Theatre Company. “*Mr Bailey's Minder*” toured nationally in 2006 and premiered in the United States in 2008 at The Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. “*Gary's House*” was staged in Japanese in Tokyo by Rakutendan Theatre in 2008 .

Oswald began writing as a teenager. Her first play was workshopped at the 1977 Australian National Playwrights Conference when she was 17, and then broadcast on ABC Radio. She studied at the Australian National University and at the Australian Film Television and Radio School and has since made her living as a writer. She lives in Sydney with the author and radio personality Richard Glover; they have two sons.

Director Erik Strauts

Here are just some of Erik's many reviews:

"Erik Strauts has directed this production without a missed beat or unnecessary move...it manages to grip from soup to nuts...ensemble work at its best" - Glam Adelaide

"Erik Strauts directs a likewise memorable production."

- The Advertiser

"A drama in 30 scenes under the acute direction of Erik Strauts who has created a tense production with a chilling darkness ..." -

Broadway World

"Erik Strauts has directed an impressive production team and a solid cast presenting fine performances... the overall theme and production of the play is exciting and entertaining and is bound to be a winner with the majority of audiences." - Weekend Notes

More about ERIK STRAUTS - DIRECTOR (adapted from St Judes Players newsletter)



Most boys are testing the water with the opposite sex at the age of 15 or so. But not Erik Strauts. His parents allowed the young Erik to get involved in community theatre as his first social activity without being chaperoned, but what mum and dad probably didn't know was that theatre crowds hold fantastic parties !!

Erik has been associated with well over 100 productions. He has done it all, he has been an actor, a producer and a committee man. He has stage managed many shows, designed and constructed stage sets, designed, built and operated lighting plots as a technician and has even been a theatre company president.

It won't surprise you to see him at the theatre volunteering as Front of House.

From the comprehensive list of plays directed by Erik, the following are some highlights: 2010 Stirling Players Female of the Species (Adelaide Theatre Guide Best Comedy Award), 2012 Stirling Players "Mr Bailey's Minder" (Adelaide Theatre Guide Best Ensemble Award Nominee), 2014 Galleon Theatre "Loves and Hours" (Adelaide Theatre Guild Best Comedy Award Nominee), St Jude' players, "It's Just Sex", 2015, "The Psychic", 2017 (Adelaide Repertory Theatre)

WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

Here is a great offer for Rep patrons



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

Floral Image

Flower rentals
for your home
or office



1300 136 066

for more information
floral-image@hotmail.com

R E P E R T O I R E

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group

Vale Ole Weibken

10.5.1943 - 1.06.2022

AKA , dad,wahl, ollie, wahl-do, wally, farfar, maufa, auld whal, and many more.

Dr Ole Weibken was not only a designer but also a retired University research scientist .

He was an honorary titleholder in two University departments (Microbiology and Dentistry). After his retirement, Dr Weibken was able to further indulge his other passion: set design.

Ole considered himself very lucky in that both his parents were very talented artistically – his father was a very competent landscape painter and his mother was an outstanding embroiderer.

He started out designing in the 1960s in England and kept at it when he came out to Australia to study and eventually live. He really enjoyed being creative, and using colour and space to create the appropriate setting and atmosphere for productions.

Some of Dr Weibken's design credits include the South Australian Jubilee 150 production of Duncan McKie's "Emperor's Nightingale", numerous Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, the sell-out season of "Les Miserables" featuring Normie Rowe and for the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's production of "Entertaining Mr Sloane", Joe Orton's black comic "Ménage-à trois" set in 1960's London.

For "Entertaining Mr Sloane", he sought to recreate the look and feel of a London flat, circa the early 1960s.

Ole considered designing sets to be a lot of fun. He liked to use as much authentic material as he could find, so he would find for example an old-style iron from the 1950s which you used to plug into the ceiling light globe socket, and an old ironing board, and so on for his historical productions.

He worked closely with many directors and designed with their surprises in mind.

Adapted from a Story by Ben Osborne in the 'Adelaidean'.

Here's what some of his many theatre friends said about him.

"We became chums after only a couple of meetings and I was so looking forward to working with such a distinguished artist and an impossibly nice person. I loved his signature cluttered sets!

(DAVE GYBROWSKY, Director, Laughter on the 23rd Floor.)

"He was a wonderful gentleman in every sense of that word - a truly talented, creative, generous human being. So, so sad that he had to leave his family and the Adelaide theatre community in the way he did.

(Jill Bartlett, Therry Society)



David Sinclair

Newest Rep. Board Member



David joined the Board this year and brings a diverse range of skills and experience to The Rep. His career has focused on delivering management and information technology services to the legal profession throughout Australia and across the ditch in New Zealand.

He has served as General Manager to one of Adelaide's leading commercial law firms, held positions on various Boards and Committees within The Law Society of South Australia and managed the practice management legal services consulting team for LexisNexis Asia-Pacific. David now runs his own consultancy business offering practice management, accounting and information technology advice to legal and accounting firms and is highly regarded by these professions.

In his "spare time", David has been a major contributor and supporter of Adelaide's amateur theatre community as committee member for The Met and as a performer and Director for many of the Adelaide theatre companies including Therry, Independent Theatre, Mixed Salad, Mayfair Theatre, The Met and The Hills. He has appeared in and directed a number of plays for The Rep with his personal highlight being the award winning Australian premier production of "August: Osage County" which he directed.

David knows and understands the importance of having a vibrant and creative theatre scene and the positive effect it has on the overall wellbeing of society. He believes The Rep is in the unique position of being both a production company producing quality plays, as well as being the owner of The Arts Theatre which hosts many other company's productions. He hopes his contribution to The Rep Board will help to allow the Adelaide theatre community to continue to strengthen and grow far into the future for the enjoyment of actors, singers, performers, producers and theatre goers alike.



The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, 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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Why not volunteer for the Rep.

If you like theatre and drama, you are just at the perfect place. If you do not know how beneficial it is to join a theatre group, this one is for you.

There are a lot of benefits to joining a theatre group. So, let's go through the seven most important ones...

1. Self expression: People into theatre become more expressive.

2. Confidence: Some people are really shy. Volunteering at the Rep will help you to shed your shyness and boost your confidence.

3. Social: Volunteering at the Rep will help you to meet new people; and to make new friends.

4. Creative: Helping out with our productions will make you become a lot more creative as you enter into the world of imagination.

5. Fun: You might feel a bit self conscious at first. But after a few days, it will be a great deal of fun.

6. Work Benefits: Learning new things and being a part of a group, creates a positive impact on your career.

7. New hobby: If you are tired of everything and if you are looking out for a new hobby, volunteering at the theatre could be the hobby for you and it's great fun.

Now that you know the benefits of volunteering at the Rep, join us as soon as possible. If you are serious contact us at enquiries@adelaiderrep.com

Have you ever considered joining a nonprofit board of directors? Maybe you're not sure why you should join a board when you can volunteer or donate in other ways. One of the best ways to give back and have a voice in your community is by serving on a nonprofit board. Board service empowers you to ensure the health, equity, and stability of the community you serve. Board members who bring diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and personal experiences add tremendous value to elevating the mission and work of nonprofit organizations.

While there are many reasons to serve on a nonprofit board, here are three that stand out.

Three Good Reasons to Join a Nonprofit Board Make an Impact in Your Community

You already know there are many ways to give back to your community, but joining a nonprofit board maximizes your impact and supports a cause whose mission aligns with your beliefs. While serving on a nonprofit board of directors, you use your professional skills to help guide and shape an organization over time. It may not seem as impactful as serving meals to the homeless or reading to children; however, the board is critical to strategizing an organization's direction to ensure those services can be delivered effectively and efficiently.

Professional Development

Joining a nonprofit board can build and enhance your professional skills. You may leverage your existing expertise or branch out and learn new skills such as marketing or nonprofit finance. It can provide you with new experiences you may not have in your current or past profession. Either way, becoming a nonprofit board member will offer many opportunities for leadership development as you work with other professionals to guide the organization strategically.

Expand Your Network

Joining a nonprofit board of directors allows you to meet many new people, including other nonprofit board members, community partners, and leaders. Building your connections can be a nice perk to serving your community and can open doors for future endeavours.

Did you know that the Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC is the Patron of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre?



The governor of South Australia is the representative in the Australian state of South Australia of Elizabeth II as the queen of Australia. The governor performs the same constitutional and ceremonial functions at the state level as does the governor-general of Australia at the national level.

Her Excellency, repeatedly ranked as one of South Australia's most influential people, was Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2016 until earlier this year. Before her appointment as Secretary, she was International Adviser to then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Her Excellency will be attending Sweet Road in her official capacity. We are all very excited to be welcoming her on her first visit and we would love you to be there to join us. So Book now for Thursday, September 8th.

Moore St Parking

\$8.00 Undercover parking 6pm 'til midnight

Located on Moore St opposite the Arts Theatre stage door!!



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

Official Website for the Theatre Assoc of South Australia

REPERTOIRE

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group

Message from the chair

Hi there members, subscribers and theatre goers. Well it has again been an "interesting" couple of months in the theatre world since our last Repertoire. Our thoughts are with our Theatre friends who had to cancel some of the performances of their shows or close early due to our ever present bane COVID. It must be heart-breaking. We all know how much money, time, sweat and tears go into putting on a show. I can only ask that we all rally round to support all of Adelaide's Theatre Community.

The Rep's last show "*The Madness of George III*" was well received by audiences and critics alike.

'MGM has nothing on the cast of thousands involved in this Alan Bennett history drama. The stage of The Arts is a spectacle of red coats, insignia, and period wigs.'

- Samela Harris, Barefoot Review, June 18 2022.

'The performance of Lindsay Dunn as King George was incredible. His portrayal of the raw emotional vulnerability of a monarch reduced to a tortured patient losing control of themselves was immaculate.'

- Ekkia Evans, The Adelaide Show, June 18, 2022

Check our rest of the Repertoire for all the goss about our next show "*Sweet Road*" in September and stay safe and COVID free, until we speak again.



Cheers *Rose* 

More rehearsal pics

