

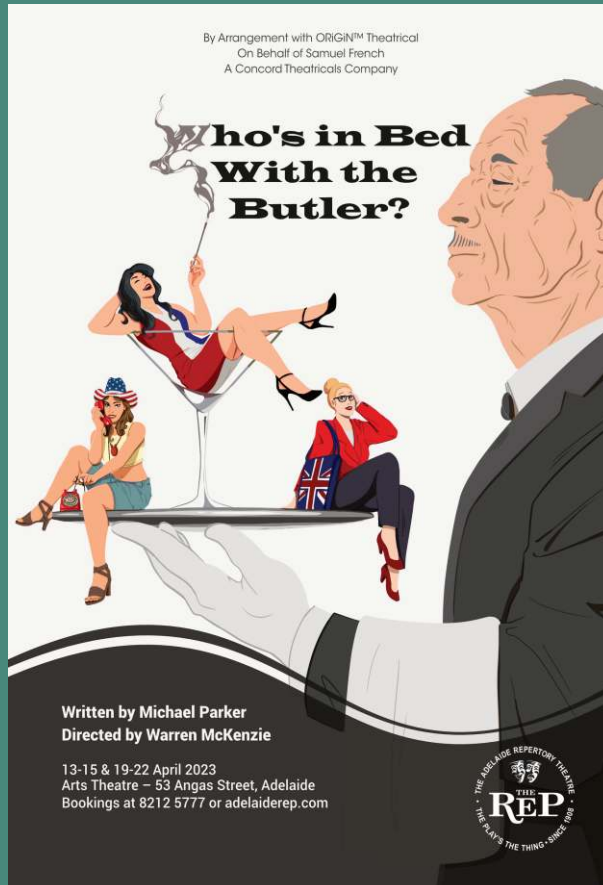
Issue No 1



March 2023

# R E P E R T O I R E

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



## Michael Parker's Who's in bed with the Butler

Directed by Warren McKenzie

A funny story of the very complicated love life  
of a butler named Clifton.

BOOK NOW at [www.adelaiderrep.com](http://www.adelaiderrep.com) for:

13 - 15 and 20 - 22 April at 7.30pm

Sun 16 at 4.00pm and

Sat 22 April, Matinee at

2.00pm and again at 7.30pm

Tickets purchased from Box Office

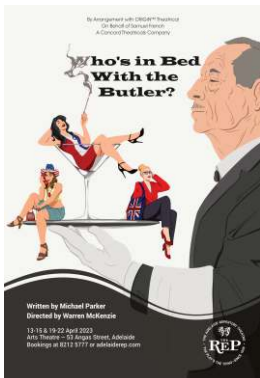
\$28 and \$25 concession

Tickets purchased online

\$25 and \$22 concession incl. program

## Who's in bed with the Butler

Adelaide Repertory Theatre  
presents  
**Who's in bed with the Butler**  
Written by Michael Parker  
Directed by Warren McKenzie



A California billionaire bequeaths nearly all his assets to his only daughter, Constance, except what he left for his three lovers- the \$22 million yacht he wanted Josephine to have, a \$25 million art collection left to Renee, and some priceless antique automobiles willed to Marjorie.

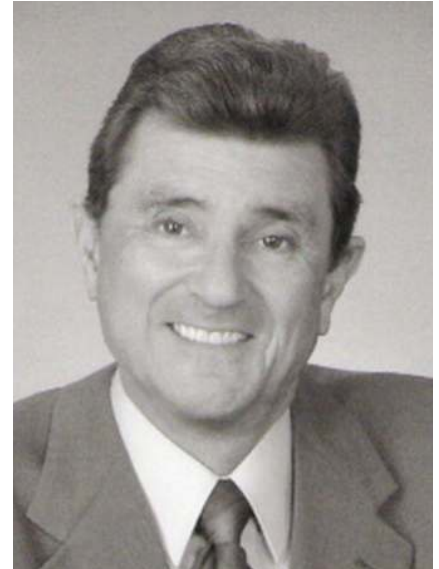
Constance arrives at her father's mansion with her lawyer, determined to find out who these women are and to buy them off or contest the will. The elderly, deaf housekeeper has a pet rat, and the butler has hired an actress to play his wife? Is the butler behind all the shenanigans? *'Who's In Bed With the Butler?'* is one of the best American farces!

Cast for the show

Clifton/The Butler	Patrick Clements
Susie	Laura Antoniazzi
Connie	Maxine Grubel
Vance	Stephen Bills
William Davis JR	Josh Van't Padje
Renee	Anita Pipprell
Josephine	Kayla Cranfield
Marjorie	Jessica McGaffin
Agnes	Julie Quick

## The Author Michael Parker

Michael Parker was active in the theatre almost all his life. At age fourteen, in England where he was born and raised, he won the title role in a regional production of Terrence Rattigan's play, "The Winslow Boy", for which he received a "Best Actor of the Year" award. By age



seventeen he was touring with The National Shakespearean Youth Company. He graduated in the top 3% of his class from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, but describes his five years of military service as "uneventful". There being few employment opportunities in civilian life for infantry anti-tank specialists, at age twenty-three he emigrated to Canada where he began a Temporary Office Help business, which proved so successful that he was able to retire ten years later and move to the Caribbean.

Over the succeeding years, while living in Bermuda, Grand Cayman, and The Turks and Caicos Islands, he was free again to indulge his passion for the theatre. Never far from The United States, he was able to audition for roles in many Florida Theatres.

As an English actor, working in America, Michael became acutely aware of the difficulties experienced by American theatre companies, in producing English works, in particular modern farces. Re-creating the wide range of English dialects is almost impossible, and many of the best farces simply do not "translate" well into "American". The subject matter of the British political and social systems, or scandals of which the American public is unaware, are other examples which seemed to deter many theatres from producing farces.

SO...Michael challenged himself to write a play which would integrate all the best loved and most familiar devices of the traditional British farce into a distinctly American setting. This had to be a play in which the verbal, visual, and above all, the circumstantial humor would be immediately available to American audiences.

**SA's own internet  
guide to Theatre  
in and around  
Adelaide**



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Official Website for the Theatre Assoc of South Australia

# R E P E R T O I R E

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## What the Critics said

### What the Critics have said

*"Excellent physical comedy.  
Truly remarkable characters."*

*"Full of laughs and mile-a-minute dialogue. The hilarity builds. Whoever comes to see this play needs to bring lots of tissues for the tears of laughter"*

*"Innuendos, one-liners and jokes abound"*

*"You'll find your head agreeably spinning with all the comings and goings"*

*"The action and the laughs are non-stop "*

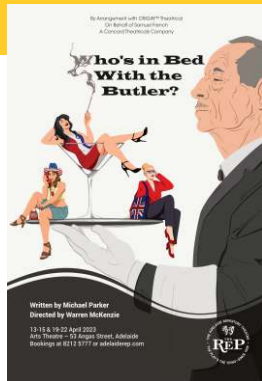
*"Who's In Bed with the Butler? is a wild ride. This play is a hilarious success"*

*"You must see this romp!"*

*"Get ready to giggle. An elderly deaf housekeeper, her pet rat, and a bumbling detective add to the hilarity, stealing the show with their hijinks"*

*"Fasten your seat belts. It's time to experience another hilarious bedroom farce by noted playwright and actor, Michael Parker."*

*"It's just mad-capped hilarity, but the audience is in for some titillating secrets as well."*



## What is a Farce?

Farce, is a comic dramatic piece that uses highly improbable situations, stereotyped characters, extravagant exaggeration, and violent horseplay. The term also refers to the class or form of drama made up of such compositions. Farce is generally regarded as intellectually and aesthetically inferior to comedy in its crude characterizations and implausible plots, but it has been sustained by its popularity in performance and has persisted throughout the Western world to the present.

Antecedents of farce are found in ancient Greek and Roman theatre, both in the comedies of Aristophanes and Plautus and in the popular native Italian fabula Atellana, entertainments in which the actors played stock character types—such as glutton, graybeard, and clown—who were caught in exaggerated situations.

It was in 15th-century France that the term farce was first used to describe the elements of clowning, acrobatics, caricature, and indecency found together within a single form of entertainment. Such pieces were initially bits of impromptu buffoonery inserted by actors into the texts of religious plays—hence the use of the Old French word farce, "stuffing." French farce spread quickly throughout Europe, notable examples being the interludes of John Heywood in 16th-century England. Shakespeare and Molière eventually came to use elements of farce in their comedies.

## 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

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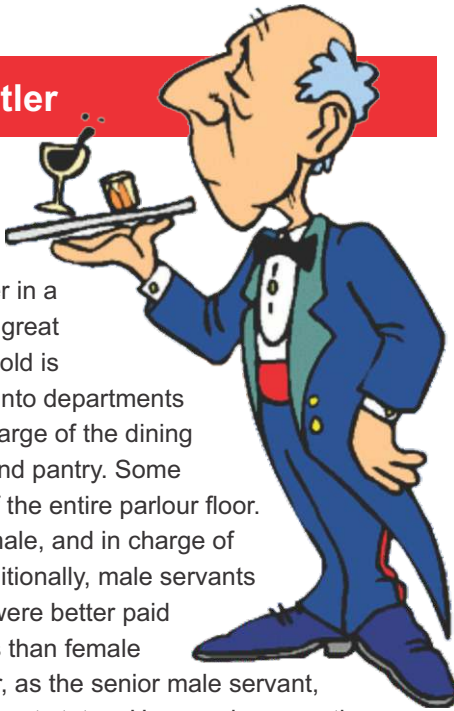
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for more information

[floral-image@hotmail.com](mailto:floral-image@hotmail.com)

## What is a Butler

A butler is a person who works in a house serving and is a domestic worker in a large household. In great houses, the household is sometimes divided into departments with the butler in charge of the dining room, wine cellar, and pantry. Some also have charge of the entire parlour floor. A butler is usually male, and in charge of male servants. Traditionally, male servants (such as footmen) were better paid and of higher status than female servants. The butler, as the senior male servant, has the highest servant status. He can also sometimes function as a chauffeur.



## Meet Director Warren McKenzie

A long time ago in a galaxy far away, star date 1986.453, Warren had a strange calling. A voice whispered to him to join a group of people that celebrated life by means of imitating other people and singing for no apparent reason. His first foray into this strange and wonderful



world was a holodeck environment called South Pacific. Since then he has worked his way through the ranks of enlisted personnel completing accomplishments in subjects called acting, singing, directing, choreography, producing, lighting, sound and the mystic arts of backstage crew. He even captained the helm as President of a group of misfits during his career and encountered many life forms called actors. Strange and wonderful creatures that could inspire great achievements.

Warren's enjoyment now comes from leading his band of merry "Actors" and "Tech Crew" for the latest experience of "Who's in Bed With the Butler" and is forever grateful for their companionship, sense of family and inspiration they bring to all.

## Front of House News



Congratulations to Front of House manager Skye Wild and her partner Zane on the arrival of little Alexxi in January.



## What the Critics say about Warren

*"I am going to heap praise on the director Warren McKenzie for steering his large cast through a complicated plot, enabling them to make the most of its comic possibilities. He also headed up a very creative production team whose subtle touches add immensely to the overall effect. A great and funny night out."*

Eddy Knight, *Broadway World*

## Moore St Parking

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6pm 'til midnight

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opposite the Arts Theatre  
stage door!!



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# R E P E R T O I R E

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## Message from the chair

Hi fellow theatre lovers,

The Rep's 2022 season was very well received by patrons and critics. It had a bit of something for everyone, a very black comedy - *'Loot'*, a Period Piece - *'The Madness of George III'*, An Australian Drama - *'Sweet Road'* and a Neil Simon comedy - *'Laughter on the 23rd Floor'*. Our Audiences slowly built up again over the year after the COVID debacle.

We hope that our 2023 "Season of Comedies" for our 115th Birthday will attract even more discerning theatre goers to the Adelaide Rep at the Arts Theatre. You've just read all about our first show for 2023 - *'Who's in Bed with the Butler?'* But check out the rest of our season at [www.adelaiderep.com](http://www.adelaiderep.com)



■ Above and Below - Our poor Butler under duress



June/July - A glittering comedy of manners - *'An Ideal Husband'*

Aug/Sep - A delightful backstage farce - *'Noises Off'*

Nov - Fast-paced, gripping and packed full of action - *'Treasure Island'*

Come out to the Theatre we, as always, need your support.

Cheers *Rose*



## Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc will be held on Monday 20th March 2023, at 7.00pm at The Arts Theatre 53 Angas Street Adelaide. The business of this meeting will be to:- confirm the Minutes of the last AGM, receive the President's report, receive the Treasurer's report, elect Board Members and receive the ARTS Theatre report. The purpose of the annual general meeting, is for the president to give an overall status of the Rep. The secretary will prepare the minutes and read any important papers. The treasurer will present a financial report. All welcome.



## The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

**Patron:** Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

**Venue:** ARTS Theatre, 53 Angas St, Adelaide 5000

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**Editor:** Penni Hamilton-Smith

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Rose Vallen, Therese Hornby, Penni Hamilton-Smith, Brian Nolan, Elizabeth Olsson, Gaynor Kowald, Sam Christodoulou, David Sinclair.