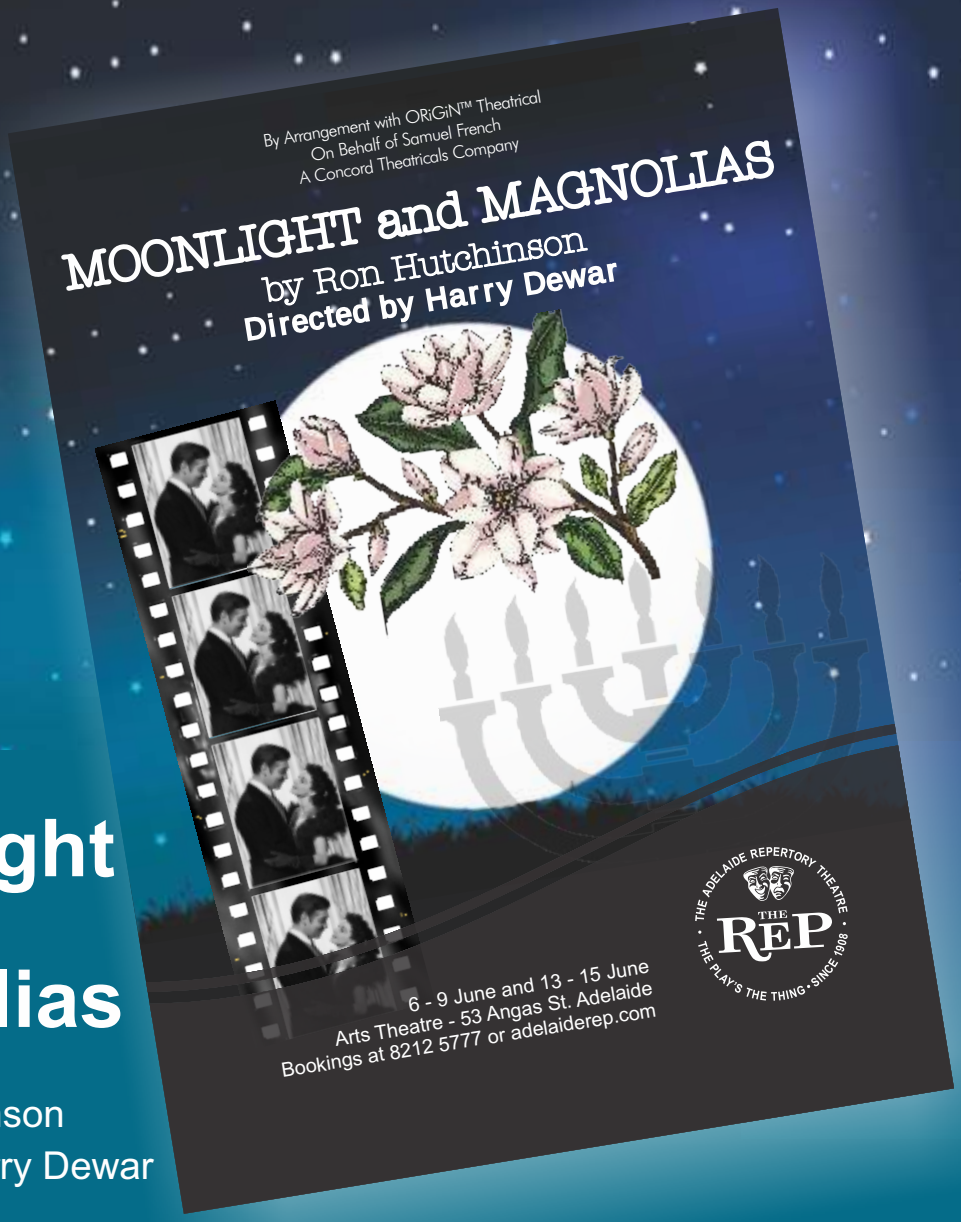
Issue No 2 June 2024

REPERTOIRE

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



Moonlight and Magnolias

By Ron Hutchinson
Directed by Harry Dewar

David O. Selznick has a problem: his production of *'Gone With The Wind'* is bleeding money, the script is unfilmable, and the production has been shut down. Disaster looms!

He needs a new script and a new director now! In a play which blends farce, fantasy and fact, *'Moonlight & Magnolias'* reimagines that week in 1939 when three greats of Hollywood came together to make movie history!

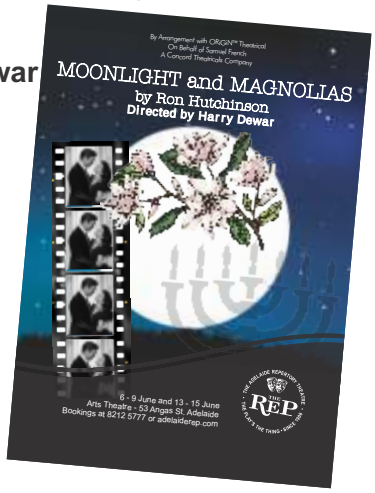
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Thu 6 Jun to Sat 8 Jun at 7:30pm
Sun 9 Jun at 4.00pm
Thu 13 Jun & Fri 14 at 7:30pm
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Tickets purchased from Box Office
$28 and $25 concession
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$25 and $22 concession incl. program

R E P E R T O I R E
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MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS

Adelaide Repertory Theatre presents
'Moonlight and Magnolias'
By arrangement with ORiGiN™ THEATRICAL on behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company.

By Ron Hutchinson
Directed by Harry Dewar



Legendary Hollywood producer David O. Selznick has a problem. Five weeks into shooting *'Gone with the Wind'* he has fired a clueless director and the script needs to be completely rewritten in 5 days or the production will shut down! The writer he wants has never read the novel. The replacement director has to be called away from the set of '*The Wizard of Oz'*.

The three men, supported by Selznick's assistant, frantically work to craft one of the most beloved screenplays of all time.

An hilarious insight into the five madcap days that brought a Hollywood classic to the screen.

(Loosely) Based on real events, this fast-paced comedy recreates the finalization of the 1939 screenplay for *'Gone with The Wind'*. Based on a true story—loosley!

The play tells the story of how, in 1939, Hollywood producer David O. Selznick locked himself, director Victor Flemming, and screenwriter Ben Hecht in his office for five days where the three men, subsisting on nothing but peanuts and bananas, completely rewrote the screenplay for *'Gone with the Wind'*.

dfk gray perry
We make it happen!
LEADING ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

Theatre adaptation by RON HUTCHINSON



Ron has written extensively for theatre.

In 2004, Hutchinson wrote *'Moonlight and Magnolias'*. The play at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, Illinois was nominated for the 2004 Joseph Jefferson Award for New Work. The Irish Play was performed in a Royal Shakespeare Company production at the Royal Shakespeare Company Warehouse Theatre in London, England with Ron Cook, Brenda Fricker, and P.G. Stephens in the cast. Barry Kyle was the director.

Reviewing the Tricycle Theatre's production of the play for The Daily Telegraph two years later, Charles Spencer called it a "delightful screwball comedy that is also a valentine to the golden days of Hollywood".

A prolific screenwriter himself, who knows what it is to be holed up in a hotel room at two in the morning with a script to a doctor for the following day's shoot, Hutchinson has come up with a comedy of panache that's certainly worth giving a damn about.

Hutchinson was brought up and educated in Coventry. He now lives in Los Angeles, California with his second wife and adopted daughter.

WANT TO EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?

Here is a great offer for Rep patrons



R E P E R T O I R E
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THE MAIN CHARACTERS

David O. Selznick



Was a passionate meglomaniac and a powerful and ledgendary American film producer, screenwriter and film studio executive. He produced *'Gone With The Wind'* (1939) and *'Rebecca'* (1940), both of which earned him an Academy Award for Best Picture. He also won the Irving Thalberg Award at the 12th Acadeny Awards, Hollywood's Top honour for a producer, in recognition of his shepherding "Gone With The Wind" through a long and troubled production and into a record-breaking blockbuster.



Victor Fleming

Was a famous American film director, cinematographer and producer. His most popular films were "Gone With The Wind", for which he won an Academy Award for Best Director and 'The Wizard of Oz' (both 1939). He was a legendary director and a historical figure who was successful, defensive and an opinionated artist.

Ben Hecht



Was an American screenwriter, director, producer , playwright, journalist and novelist. A journalist in his youth, he went on to write 35 books and some of the most enjoyed screenplays and plays in America. He received screen credits, alone or in collaboration, for the stories and Screenplays of some seventy films. He was witty, sophisticated and brilliant.

Miss Poppenghul

Was David O. Selznick's long suffering secretary, the woman behind David's empire. Overworked underpaid but loyal to the core.

The Arts Theatre

Built in 1963 by The Adelaide Repertory Theatre, The Arts Theatre is the city backbone of Adelaide's thriving community theatre groups, with a jam packed variety of shows throughout the year. It is also a major venue of the Adelaide Fringe each year, hosting world renowned stand up comedians and entertainers.

Every ticket sold for a production staged at the Arts Theatre carries a small seat levy. This nominal $1 fee contributes directly to the Arts Theatre redevelopment fund, with the aim of improving accessibility and upgrading the overall experience of patrons and hirers.

Please consider supporting us. No matter how small, every donation towards the revitalisation of the Arts Theatre will help to provide a flourishing space for creativity and cultural enrichment for years to come. **Donations over $2 are tax deductible.**



The term, "Moonlight and Magnolias" refers to a mythology about the slaveholding South of America: That it was a land of cultured and aristocratic slave owners, delicate and genteel ladies, and childlike yet loyal slaves.



Theatre Association of SA

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WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY

"An affectionate portrait of the legendary movie producer David O. Selznick and his collaborators…a lot of fun…dispenses a good deal of insider's dope on the professional and personal dynamics that fueled the production of (*'Gone with the Wind'*)…plenty of genuine wit in the dialogue, and the characters are drawn with such affection that one can't help but cheer for them."

—New York Post.

"…A Hollywood dream-factory farce…At once a hyperventilating slapstick comedy, an impassioned love song and a blazing critique of Hollywood…just when you think it's all fun and games…(Hutchinson) turns the tables…he has a gift for enveloping you in blackness. And then, with a single line…he also can lift the heavy cloud and get on with the hilarity."

—Chicago Sun Times.

"Consumers of vintage Hollywood insider stories will eat up Hutchinson's diverting conjecture as to what actually happened behind those closed doors, a scenario given extra spark by the fractious interplay among the three men and their wildly contrasting demeanors…it's the hellbent determination and entrepreneurial insanity of the independent producer to which Hutchinson pays tribute."

—Variety.

"Frankly, my dear, this is one funny play…a rip-roaring farce…(with) witty, pointed dialogue and hilarious situations…"

—New York Daily News.

The greatest movie in Hollywood history has script troubles and movie mogul David O. Selznick is bleeding a fortune. Five days, he figures, is all he has before his goose is cooked. But he's got Hollywood's best rewrite guy, Ben Hecht; he's got big-time director Victor Fleming; he's got a typewriter; he's got a supply of bananas; and he's got the key to the office door. No one's going nowhere until the script is fixed.

The perfect brainstorm. Ron Huchinson's thrilling and hilarious *'Moonlight and Magnolias'* captures the truelife madness behind the scenes of *'Gone with the Wind'*.

GONE WITH THE WIND



'Gone with The Wind' is a 1939 American epic historical romance film adapted from the 1936 novel by Margaret Mitchell.

The film was produced by David O. Selznick International Pictures and directed by Victor Fleming.

Set in the American south against the backdrop of the Civil War and the reconstrucion era, the film tells the story of Scarlett O'Hara (Vivienne Leigh), the strong willed daughter of a Georgia plantation owner, following her romantic pursuit of Ashley Wikes (Leslie Howard), who is married to his cousin Melanie Hamilton (Olivia de Havilland, and her subsequent marriage to Rhett Butler (Clarke Gable).



David Selznick added the "O" to distinguish himself from an uncle with the same name, and because he thought it had flair. The "O" stands for nothing, and he never had his name legally changed to incorporate it.

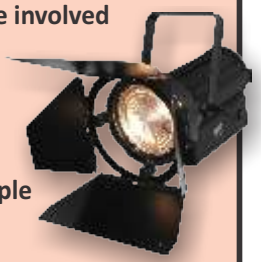
Become Involved Why not be part of the Rep Team

You don't need to be an actor to be involved with the Rep.

Every production is supported by teams of behind the scenes volunteers.

We need people who can prompt, paint, design, construct, show people to their seats; move sets, or sew costumes.

People who like to play with sound and lights, people to make tea and iron costumes.



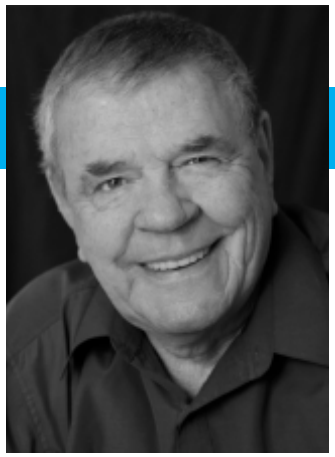


Email your details to

enquiries@adelaiderep.com

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VALE BRIAN WENZEL





Sgt Frank Gilrow

Best known for his role as Sergeant Frank Gilroy in the Channel Seven show *'A Country Practice'*, the actor's death was confirmed on Monday by his agent Jennifer Hennessey.

"It is with great sadness that we remember the life of beloved Australian actor Brian Wenzel," she said in a statement.

"His iconic and revered performances spanned multiple Australian generations with his wit and humour shining through to the end.

He starred in the series for 12 years, and won the Silver Logie for the role in 1981. The television series ran from 1981 to 1993. Wenzel appeared in more than 2,000 hours of Australian TV over his career.

His other TV credits include Neighbours, Rove Live, The Young Doctors and Matlock Police.



Brian on stage in uniform

Brian Wenzel was born in 1929 of German descent to Harold Wenzel, a grocer who served with the RAAF, and Kathleen Wenzel. One of eight children, he grew up in the South Australia suburbs Mile End, Torrensville and Thebarton. He had an unsettled early life and spent much of his childhood in remand homes run by various organisations including the Christian Brothers and the Salvation Army. Wenzel ran away several times. At age 14, he left school and joined the Sole Brothers' Circus as a pony groom and dog trainer, before becoming a professional actor at age 17, according to his agency.

He was also a prolific theatre performer, starring in numerous stage productions including *'Death of a Salesman'*, *'The Crucible'*, and *'The Imaginary Invalid'*. And for the Adelaide Repertory Theatre, his work was prolific: Wenzel appeared in the musical, *'The Ballad of Angel's Alley'* for the Rep in 1996, *'Come Blow Your Horn'* in 1967, *'Lola Montez'* in 1968, he directed '*Tom Jones'* in 1969, and later returned for, *'The Ballad of Angel's Alley'* in 1996, and in 2001, *'Travelling North'*, a play written by David Williamson and directed by Richard Lane. And Wenzel's contribution to the Rep was a family affair. Brian's father, Henry Wenzel, was in the Rep's play, *'A Hundred Years Old'* in 1931!

Brian had been suffering poor health since 2018. He revealed in 2021 that he had suffered two mini strokes and could no longer walk unaided. "I got old all of a sudden. I couldn't work anymore, which I found really frustrating," he told media outlet New Idea.

7 News reported Wenzel had been living in a nursing home for the past 15 months. He leaves behind his wife Linda, who he married in 1957.



Brian (colour pics)appearing in 'Travelling North', at left with Michael Croome and right with Lyn Crowther. The Black and white pic right, from the archives.

R E P E R T O I R E
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Message from President David Sinclair



Can you believe we are almost half way through 2024. Our Annual General Meeting in March confirmed the appointment of two new members to the Board, Skye Wild and Gary Anderson. Skye, who is also our Front of House manager has taken on the position of Secretary whilst Gary will be responsible for the companies Marketing, Work Health and Safety and Risk Management policies. I am absolutely delighted to have them join the team.

After many years of dedicated service to the REP, due to professional work commitments, Liz Olsson decided not to stand for re-election this year and has stepped down from the Board. Liz will be greatly missed as will her counsel, expertise and enthusiastic contribution to the running of the REP. However, I am pleased that Liz will continue her involvement with the REP as Publicity coordinator for each of our productions.

I am also pleased to announce Sue Wylie was unanimously voted in as a new life member of the REP. Sue's contribution over the years includes actor, director, caterer and Board member to name a few. Congratulations Sue and thank you for the years of support you have given to the REP.

South Australia's History Festival was held during May and as part of festival's program, the REP mounted "Behind the Scenes Tour" of the ARTS theatre. Lise Windsor and her team transformed the Thomas Nave room into a spectacular museum of REP and ARTS theatre history. The event was sold out and judging from the comments from the attendees, a huge success. Special thanks must go to Lise, Rose Vallen, Penni Hamilton-Smith and Cathy Reid.

Our first production for 2024 *'Baskerville – A Sherlock Holmes Mystery'* was a great success and enjoyed by all. A very difficult play wonderfully staged. Once again we had an increase in ticket sales, which hopefully means our audiences are returning to live theatre following the COVID years. Congratulations to Director Geoff Brittain and his wonderful cast.

The "Arts Theatre Redevelopment Project" is moving forward. At the very core of the project is funding, without which the redevelopment cannot progress. We have received donations from a number of individuals and organizations. Every dollar is important. However I would like to make particular mention of "Adelaide Theatre And More" (ATAM) for their very generous donation to the rebuilding fund.

Fire at the ARTS

Did you know that there was a fire at the ARTS in 1978? We didn't, until Lise Windsor, (Rep historian and treasurer) and her team discovered that PHD student Lorraine Pearce had written a thesis on the history of the Rep.

Disaster struck on Sunday, September 18, 1978. The stage area of the theatre was badly damaged by fire and the Rep was extremely lucky not to lose the whole theatre. According to the Advertiser, September 19, police believe that an arsonist had started the blaze after breaking in to the theatre. (Some of you may remember that the Olde Kings Music Hall burnt down in similar style some years before)

Damage was estimated at $20,000 and disrupted the performance of "Career" which had opened the night before. The play was subsequently transferred to the Royalty Theatre for the remainder of the season. In typical Rep fashion, the members came to the fore to help with demolition and restoration.

It was just as well the stalwarts were there, because the Rep was underinsured and the willing hands helped to defray some of the costs. An appeal was made to the government for assistance and resulted in a payment of $6,932.50 towards the shortfall between cost of repairs and the insurance payout.

Lorraine Pearce, if you are out there we would love to hear from you.

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Adelaide Theatre and More



Adelaide Theatre & More Social Club is an audience based Club offering members tickets for amateur theatre performances around Adelaide including theatres like St Jude's, The Arts Theatre (home of the Adelaide Rep), Stirling and Elizabeth.

The Club also attends a variety of other outings including films, dinners and lunches.

A regular newsletter, the 'Theatre News' offers about 20 events for members to enjoy every few months. There is no need to purchase tickets, however we hope members attend events. Most tickets are available on a concessional basis.

ATAM is run by volunteers for the benefit of members. The Club operates from an office in Netley where John or Christine are in attendance Monday and Friday between 1.00am and 3.00pm. At other times, the phone is answered by a receptionist and messages passed on.

Membership

Membership can be for half or a full year, renewable each September or March. Membership starts at $20 per half year for singles, $30 for a joint membership, doubled for annual fees. New members are welcome to come to 3 outings before joining.

The main advantage of membership is;

- To meet and make new friends with a common interest.
- Convenience of booking either online or direct with the Club
- Not having to collect tickets as they are given to members at the function.
- The Theatre News brings information of coming shows, which helps in deciding what to book for.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Club via the following contact the details.

Club Office Phone: 8234 1176
Club Mobile: 0410 753 187
Secretary, John Phone: 8272 1180
Assistant Secretary, Christine Phone: 8235 0393
Email – info@atam.org

Movies | Meals | Performances | Friendship
The Rep is indebted and grateful to ATAM as they are one of the main contributors to our Building fund. Thank you ATAM.

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
Ph: 8212 5777 **Web:** www.adelaiderep.com
Email: enquiries@ adelaiderep.com
Rep Photography: Richard Parkhill
Editor: Penni Hamilton-Smith

Board:
David Sinclair, Penni Hamilton-Smith,
Skye Wild, Linda Williams, Gary Anderson,
Sam Christodoulou, Lise Windsor, Jaye Antoney.

Moore St Parking
$10.00 Undercover parking 6pm 'til midnight
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The Rep AGM

The Rep's Annual General Meeting was held on 25th March. Some points of interest.

- In 2025 the Rep will produce 3 plays only.
- The play reading committee has been disbanded as next year the Rep will engage an Artistic Director.
- We welcome 2 new members to the Board.
- Sue Wylie has been appointed a Life Member of the Rep for her services to our organisation.
- President David updated those present on the ARTS Theatre redevelopment plan.


Sue Wylie

Members of the Rep's Board for 2024-25 are:

- David Sinclair
- Penni Hamilton-Smith
- Skye Wild
- Gary Anderson
- Lise Windsor
- Sam Christodoulou
- Jay Antoney
- Linda Williams

The Rep welcomes 2 new Board Members for the next year, Skye Wild and Gary Anderson.

Skye Wild



Some of you would know Skye as the Adelaide Rep's Front of House Manager who joined us back in June 2022. Skye has a double bachelor degree in event management and business, with a background in music and theatre that started back in 2000, working with different companies and building an impressive resume. This coffee fuelled mother to her 17 month old girl is now the Secretary for the Rep. Hoping to bring a new perspective, Skye looks forward to what she can offer the board.

Gary Anderson



Gary has extensive board experience as well as serving on the Rep board in the past. He also consults to businesses and is very active in the disability sector.

He is married to Jude Hines one of our fine directors, and is an excellent set designer and performer.

He has many strong business attributes and will be an asset to the board and the future work around the redevelopment project. He is passionate about theatre and is a like minded person to the rest of the team.

History Festival

On Tuesday 14 May the Arts Theatre opened its doors to the public, as part of South Australia's History Festival.



Visitors had a rare chance to see behind the scenes, including stepping on stage among the set of the *'Addams Family'* musical.

Tour guides explained the rich history of the theatre, which opened in 1963, as well as the history of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Company – the oldest surviving amateur theatre company in the Southern Hemisphere, which dates back to 1908.

Visitors were able to immerse themselves in the historic photo displays, the wardrobe room and the collection of plays and programmes, while navigating their way around the rehearsal room, currently set up for the upcoming Rep show *'Moonlight and Magnolias'*. Feedback from visitors was extremely positive: the most common response to what they liked most was "All of it".

Thanks to the volunteers and staff who made it happen:

